

sef: Stiftung
Entwicklung
und Frieden
Development
and Peace
Foundation



: Russia and the European Union in international relations - Common challenges, common interests?

FORUM Frauenkirche Online

20 May 2021, 19.00-20-15 hrs (CEST)

Conference languages

German/English (simultaneous translation)

THE TOPIC

European-Russian relations are at a low point at the moment. Not only since the annexation of Crimea have relations seemingly been on a downward spiral. Current conflicts such as the construction of Nord Stream 2 or the arrest of Alexei Nawalny dominate the discourse.

At the same time, the international situation has become increasingly complex and diffuse. Governments and societies need to find solutions for different kinds of global challenges and geopolitical conflicts – from climate change and the current pandemic situation to arms control, cybercrime, resource conflicts and refugee movements. Relevant international actors need to cooperate on a constructive level to overcome these challenges.

Without neglecting the differences between the European Union and Russia, we would like to focus in this event on the external challenges facing both partners. Which global problems are of particular importance, especially in the field of peace and security policy? Can common interests be identified? How could it be possible to find a coordinated or even joint approach with regard to these common interests? How could such cooperation help ease the constrained relationship in other fields?

PROGRAMME

CHAIR

Sabine Adler

Correspondent and Author
Deutschlandfunk, Berlin

19.00 HRS

MUSICAL PRELUDE WITH A VIRTUAL TOUR OF THE FRAUENKIRCHE

Samuel Kummer

Organist of the Frauenkirche Dresden

WELCOME

Oliver Krauß MdL

Chairperson of the Executive Committee
Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn

19.05 HRS

DISCUSSION

Rüdiger von Fritsch

Former German Ambassador in Moscow, Berlin

Dr Irina Kobrinskaya

Head of the Center for Situation Analysis at
Primakov National Research Institute of
World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO) of the
Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow

Professor Angela Stent

Director
Center for Eurasian, Russian and East European Studies
Professor of Government and Foreign Service
Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.

19.55 HRS

INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE AUDIENCE

20.15 HRS

MUSICAL FAREWELL

Samuel Kummer

Organist of the Frauenkirche Dresden

SPEAKERS' BIOS



Rüdiger von Fritsch

Rüdiger von Fritsch worked for over 35 years in the German Foreign Service. From 2010 to 2014 he was the Ambassador in Warsaw and from 2014 to 2019 the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Russian Federation and Head of the Embassy in Moscow.

Recently he published a book based on his experiences during his time in Moscow “Russlands Weg. Als Botschafter in Moskau”. Today, he is a partner at “Berlin Global Advisors”, a geostrategic and government affairs advisory firm.



Dr Irina Kobrinskaya

Irina Kobrinskaya is a head of the Center for situation analysis at Primakov National Research Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO) of Russian Academy of Sciences and Executive director of the Foundation for prospective studies and initiatives (Russian NGO). She is the author of four and co-author of nearly 40 monographs. She has edited more than 30 books and has written more than 100 articles in periodicals on domestic policy, foreign policy, and international security.



Professor Angela Stent

Angela Stent directs the Center for Eurasian, Russian and East European Studies at Georgetown University and is a senior non-resident fellow at the Brookings Institution. She has also served in the State Department’s Office of Policy Planning and as National Intelligence Officer for Russia and Eurasia at the National Intelligence Council. She is the author of several books on Russian foreign policy, the last two being *The Limits of Partnership: U.S.-Russian Relations in the Twenty-First Century* (2015) and *Putin’s World: Russia Against the West and with the Rest* (2020).