

Conference Report of the Jung-Königswinter Conference 2006

Berlin, 15-20 August 2006

Uncertain future: Are we (our countries, societies) prepared to meet the challenges of a globalised world?

The Doha round had just come to a halt, 21 suspect bombers had been arrested in London and Birmingham, and another crisis in the Middle East had shaken Europe – the central question by the 46th Young Königswinter Conference was whether Germany and Great Britain were prepared to meet the challenges of a globalised world. 45 British and German young professionals assembled in the picturesque area of Berlin-Grünwald to discuss three broad themes: *globalisation, security, and diversity*. Former Ambassador Gebhardt von Moltke, Chairman of the Deutsch-Britische Gesellschaft, and Former Ambassador Sir Nigel Broomfield warmly opened the Young Königswinter Conference and encouraged the participants to debate openly.

Georg Boomgaarden, Secretary of State at the German Foreign Office, held the opening speech in which he addressed both countries' capabilities and problems they were facing in a globalised context. He identified growing complexity as the main challenge, globalisation being just one challenge among many. Touching on complexity and its intransparency, he called for a need to encompass multilateralism and more co-operation. Albeit globalisation could be painted in gloomy colours in terms of criminal networks, we should also look at the benefits. Mr Boomgaarden pointed out that Germany, in particular, had benefited from globalisation as the top exporting nation. Germans should also be proud of their advancements when it comes to renewables and other technological innovations. Closely connected to this is the call to improve quality in research, development, and education. However, Germany has to face that its social security system is not sustainable. "The UK has all the ingredients to be optimistic," Georg

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Boomgaarden said. Still, both societies were not well enough prepared to meet the challenges of globalisation. He called for more preparedness and willingness to experiment in order to resolve the upcoming problems.

Hugh Mortimer, Deputy Head of Mission, approached the three themes of the conference in the second opening speech. He also embraced the idea that both countries had benefited from globalisation, especially Germany as "Exportweltmeister". The main challenge he identified was demographics. He stressed that diversity was the key to innovation. In this respect, Mortimer emphasised the central role of innovation, quality, and education. In the global race, Germany and the UK could not compete with China in terms of wage costs but in terms of knowledge. Therefore, he demanded a pragmatic approach to face globalisation.

The notion of European societies' being too risk averse was also present in the opening session. It was Europe's premium not to make mistakes, however, in the global race, we should dare to experiment and do something different. These ample inputs served as an excellent starting point for the group discussions.

Globalisation

Introductory Speakers Fran Dowling and Ralph Seemann emphasised the need to touch on the growing competition between countries and regions, environmental issues, and generating innovations through elites. They also stated that, from a European perspective, China and India were considered a threat.

Andreas Schaal of the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology shared these concerns. China and India could rise because of successful economic reforms. Looking at the growth performance of Germany and the UK, he maintained that Germany still had to cope with the costs of reunification. With regard to the labour market, Schaal attributed to the UK a greater flexibility whereas Germany lacked that flexibility. The low-skilled and unemployed are the losers of globalisation. Main elements to succeed in the global race are therefore education and qualification; both countries will have to make more efforts in this respect.

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As a representative of a successful enterprise (the Würth Group) Manfred Kurz, Director of the Würth-Haus, revealed how to remain competitive on a global market. As other speakers he pointed out that flexibility and the preparedness to take risks play a key role. In this every single employee contributes to the success story of an enterprise.

A speech given over by lunch by Rainer Schlageter of the Department of Communication and Information at the Federal Foreign Office, illustrated the importance of public perception. The FIFA World Cup '06 helped to foster a positive view on Germany abroad and changed the public perception in the country as well.

The study group identified three interdependent key areas: *energy and environment, social justice and inequalities, and competitiveness*. Facing climate change and the fast-rising demand for energy which currently is mainly supplied by politically unstable countries, most participants agreed that a strong leadership is required to take the lead on this topic. Many felt that environmental issues are more urgent than perceived by the public. Public awareness and public acceptance were a matter of high priority in the group discussion. The British side saw shortcomings in the British media to address environmental issues which would ideally have to be linked to every day life. Some British participants pointed out that the UK is not energy sufficient. At the same time, some referred to Germany as being years ahead of time when it comes to environmental protection, partly owing to the fact that mandatory regulations to reduce packaging, such as the development of the "Dosenpfand" had been introduced. Also, public awareness has increased over decades, which is reflected in the rise of the Green Party. What could be done to improve public awareness was environmental education in school and labelling products to promote well-informed and environmentally conscious consumers. In this sense, the group called for a sustainable lifestyle. In particular, the participants identified air travel as an urgent environmental issue. Imposing taxes was considered a possible solution, however, it was a puzzle to many how to best respond to (low cost) air travel in the long run. The conference participants postulated that we would need a strong EU-wide leadership on energy and environmental policy, not just single country solutions.

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The second area of interest was *social justice and inequalities*. The notion of risk taking was actively canvassed in the course of various speeches but adversely criticised by some participants: what would happen to those who could not afford to take risks?. Some favoured therefore a stronger role of the state. On a domestic level, the group addressed the problem of how to compensate job losses for the low-skilled workforce. Re-skilling workers in the low-skilled labour market was recommended. On a global scale, it was asked how to balance between ensuring minimum social standards and a sustainable development. Most participants felt that redistributive efforts would have to take place, globally through fair trade terms. WTO rules, currently protecting Western economies against competition from the South, were seen as barriers to many problems. Additionally, an increase of aid was taken into account, supporting education and infrastructure projects rather than merely transferring money.

The concept of competitiveness sparked an intense debate throughout the conference. Some participants were concerned about the likely inability of our societies to cope with future challenges; they feared that our societies might "run to stand still". There was a clear sense at Jung Königswinter that we would have to broaden the definition of competitiveness. Just looking at indicators of well-being such as the GDP alone will not do. Focussing on economic growth alone, the constant drive for maximizing the GDP, ever-expanding profit, exploiting natural resources in a finite world would clash with the notion of sustainable competitiveness. Therefore, social and environmental goals should be considered in addition to economic growth. It was argued that the EU should use its influence to set standards in the WTO. This should ensure a worldwide "race to the top" rather than a "race to the bottom" in which we would lose. The group agreed that this might mean less short-term growth but could secure long-term competitiveness. Also, innovation is the key to competitiveness and could be promoted by creating work places where people feel valuable and become more creative. Furthermore, the state was asked to step in and invest in education and research. Environmental technology was already regarded our today's strength to cope with tomorrow's problems.

Security

Charlie Edwards, the first introducer to the security group, described the current environment a “violent peace” with security being one of the highest concerns of daily living. Great Britain’s and Germany’s security was no longer primarily about defending their borders from invasion; extending the zone of peace was now amongst the central issues. Peace would not be achieved by acting alone, instead, it would always involve acting in concert, for example, in preventing the proliferation of dangerous weapons and terrorism. The need for a more robust European security strategy came into play. Along with the second introducer to the topic, Claudia Major, he stated that we were suffering from a severe lack of debate on the subject. Lack of public debate led to a lack of public trust which resulted in an even wider gap between “felt” security and “real” security and safety.

Dr. Karl-Heinz Kamp, Coordinator Security Policy at the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, urged to look at the transatlantic relations, as international challenges could only be faced together with the U.S. He was confident about the current situation as Chancellor Merkel is both a close friend and a critic of George Bush. Dr. Kamp felt that terrorism and its portrayal as the supreme threat might neglect other issues.

The key problems identified by the security study group were terrorism, weapons proliferation, regional instabilities, and global issues such as poverty. The conference participants agreed that the world was not more unstable than during the Cold War. Risks might be more random, but the overall stability has increased. In recognising such a trend, the participants re-emphasised the importance of the media. The group concluded that media coverage made us feel more insecure. We should respond to that challenge with “fear management”. The group further addressed the dangerous perception of global terrorism as Islamic terrorism.

The debate raised the issue of weapons proliferation. The group felt that there was an increased risk of criminal and political debate. The Non Proliferation Treaty was identified to have shortcomings. The past decade had been marked by a weakening of the non-proliferation regime. Existing treaties were not suffi-

cient and, unfortunately, important actors such as the U.S. were not committed. The group asked for the renewal of the NPT, the strengthening of the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) in monitoring and enforcement of non-proliferation, and the creation of nuclear free zones as incentives.

Focusing on regional instabilities, the group highlighted that the necessary instruments such as development aid and institution building already existed. But they also asked whether we could afford to intervene in every regional conflict. To improve the situation in failing states, our countries should strive for a long-term and a comprehensive approach including exit strategies.

It became clear that security was a field of common interest. Both Germany and the UK were facing the same threats. Closer co-operation was desirable in all areas. The conference participants recommended a closer British-German co-operation in the EU: military and intelligence-wise.

Diversity

Introductory Speakers Joseph Dancey and Sven Roeben underlined that cultural diversity had become part of the mainstream. Concerns were raised about how to better integrate immigrants of the second and third generation. In contrast, they wondered how we could explain the motives of British bombers with a Muslim background. But then, those bombers with a British nationality seemed to be fully integrated. Integration should be understood as a two-way process; Dancey asked for more acceptance in the receiving country as well as by immigrants.

In the discussion, Omid Nouripur, Speaker of the Committee on Migrants and Refugees, The Green Party, maintained that multiculturalism as a concept was difficult to achieve in Germany. He acknowledged that Germany was a multicultural and multi-religious country, but that it has not had much experience in coping with parallel societies. He stressed that religion is a central issue. Nouripur also addressed the subtle and overt racism, particularly in East Germany. With a less democratic tradition and fewer visible minorities, people simply were not acquainted with diversity. He also recommended that we should talk about more immigrants working in the public service. Focusing on the positive aspects of di-

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versity, Nouripur stressed that we should appreciate the fact that immigrants bring in different views and knowledge and inspiration.

Pointing out the positive and negative effects of diversity was amongst the central issues of the diversity group. The participants also felt we should value the positive effects. The influx of immigrants was also considered a means to tackle demographic decline and to solve our pension problems. Cheap and low-skilled labour as well as highly-skilled people would enrich our countries. Some participants argued that diversity would come only with the first generation of immigrants. Negative aspects of diversity were considered to be the fear of the unknown, discrimination, segregation, the pressure to conform, parallel societies and jealousy about social benefits.

Clear distinctions could be made between how Germany and the UK were coping with diversity and immigration. The group found that, in this debate, Germans were primarily concerned about the access to the labour market. Germans feared job losses due to immigration. It was asked how to make immigration more acceptable to Germans. Possible solutions were mixed income housing, improvements in the legal framework such as more anti-discrimination laws, educating people about the history of immigration. This could lead us to truly celebrate different backgrounds and to celebrate diversity. Most participants agreed that there was a more advanced debate in the UK. The former Empire and the Commonwealth were seen as responsible for the British embracing diversity. Central to the advanced integration was the existence of role models in the public. In this respect, people at the grassroots could easily be targeted. However, the notion of the glass ceiling and an increasing sense of alienation closely connected to the British foreign policy were criticised.

The group also debated about the concept of a European identity vis-a-vis Turkey joining the EU. Most participants agreed that it was difficult to define European values; however, they mentioned the commitment to human rights and the rule of law as well as the opposition to death penalty. Again, the media played a significant role in promoting Europeanness. The British side stated that the British media fostered remoteness and an anti-European gusto, whereas the German me-

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dia was seen to slightly better cover the issue. Regarding Turkey, it was mentioned that Turkey indeed could render the EU more diverse, but its values, lifestyles and the political culture were considered in between Europe and Asia. It would also become the biggest member state and the biggest recipient of funding.

Are we (our countries, societies) prepared to meet the challenges of a globalised world? Lively debates revolved around this question at the Europäische Akademie Berlin. The answer is: we are trying. Contrary to popular belief tending to paint globalisation in gloomy colours, there was a sense of optimism at Jung Königswinter. Both, Germany and the UK have many strengths and potentials; and they have started to set the course for change where required in order to remain competitive in the global race in the long run.

PROGRAMME

Jung-Königswinter Conference 2006

Uncertain future: Are we (our countries, societies) prepared to meet the challenges of a globalised world?

Berlin, 15-20 August 2006

Conference Venue /Accommodation	Europäische Akademie Berlin Bismarckallee 46/48 D-14193 Berlin Tel.: ++ 49 (0)30 - 89 59 51 -0 Fax: ++ 49 (0)30 - 89 59 51 -95 E-mail: eab@eab-berlin.de www.eab-berlin.de
Organiser	Deutsch-Britische Gesellschaft e.V. Am Kupfergraben/Bauhofstr. 1 100117 Berlin Tel. ++49 (0) 30 – 203 985-0 Fax. ++49 (0) 30 – 203 985-16 E-mail: headoffice@debrige.de www.debrige.de
Date	15. - 20. August 2006
TOPICS	Uncertain future: Are we (our countries, societies) prepared to meet the challenges of a globalised world? <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Globalisation2. Security3. Diversity

Tuesday, 15 August 2006

19:00 *Light dinner at the EAB*

As of 21:00 *Opportunity for a welcome-get together at n.n.*

Wednesday, 16 August 2006

08:00	Breakfast
09:00	Opening of the conference by the Chairman Sir Nigel Broomfield, Former Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic and Gebhardt von Moltke, Chairman of the Deutsch-Britische Gesellschaft
	Key note Speakers Staatssekretär Georg Boomgaarden, Auswärtiges Amt Hugh Mortimer, Deputy Head of Mission LVO, British Embassy
10:30	Coffee Break
11:00	Introductions to the study group topics by selected participants
	Globalisation: Fran Dowling, Ralph Seemann Security: Charlie Edwards, Claudia Major Diversity: Joseph Dancey, Sven Roeben
12:30	Lunch at EAB
14:00	Globalisation <u>Speaker</u> : Andreas Schaal, Deputy Head of Division – Office of the German Sherpa for G8, World Economic Summit, Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology
15:00	Coffee / Tea
15:30	Study group sessions begin Selection of Chair and Rapporteur
17:30	Transfer to Würth Haus, Schwanenwerder
18:00 – 23:00	Würth Haus , Schwanenwerder – Concert Lecture, <u>Speaker</u> : Manfred Kurz, Director of Würth Haus, Dinner

Thursday, 17 August 2006

08:00	Breakfast
09:00	Continuation of working groups
11:00	Coffee break

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- 11:30 **Diversity**
Speaker: Omid Nouripur, Speaker of the Committee on Migrants and Refugees, Member of the Bundesvorstand Bündnis90/Die Grünen
- 12:30 Lunch at EAB
- 14:00 **“German Foreign and Security Policy under Chancellor Merkel”**
Speaker: Dr. Karl-Heinz Kamp, Coordinator Security Policy, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung
- 15:00 Coffee/Tea
- 15:30 **Continuation of study groups**
- 17:00 End of study groups
- 19:15 Walk to Hugh Mortimer’s Residence,
Taubertstr. 13, 14193 Berlin-Grunewald
- 19:30 **Dinner hosted by the Deputy Head of Mission, Hugh Mortimer**
- As of 22:00 Walk back

Friday, 18 August 2006

- 08:00 Breakfast
- 09:00 **Continuation of study groups**
- 10:30 Coffee break
- 10:45 **Continuation of study groups**
- 12:30 Transfer to **Haus Sanssouci, Am Großen Wannsee 60**
- 13:00 **Lunch** at the invitation of **Rainer Schlageter**,
Director-General for Communication, Public Diplomacy and the Media, Federal Foreign Office
- 15:00 Pick up for **City tour**
- 17:00 Drop-off in Berlin-Mitte
- 20:30 **Young Königswinter Alumni Summer Soirée at “Watergate”** (Falckensteinstr. 49, Kreuzberg, right next to the river Spree, U-Bahn: Schlesisches Tor) at the invitation of the **Young Königswinter Alumni**; a light buffet will be served on the floating terrace
- 23:00 Opportunity to stay on the „Watergate“ to sample six of Berlin’s finest drum and base DJs

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Saturday, 19 August 2006

09:00	Continuation of study groups
10:30	Coffee/Tea
11:00	Preparation of study group reports
13:00	Lunch at EAB
14:30	Transfer to Berlin-Mitte
15:15	Holocaust Mahnmal Guided tour Walk to Friedrichstr / am Weidendamm
19:00	Boat trip through the historical centre of Berlin with buffet, Friedrichstr., am Weidendamm Boat will leave at 19:00 sharp
As of 22:00	Transfer back

Sunday, 20 August 2006

08:00	Breakfast and check-out
9:00-12:15	Presentation of working group results Plenary session
12:15-12:45	Young Königswinter Alumni – an opportunity to maintain the link Introduction by Patrick Barton, Matthew Robinson and Antje Korsmeier
12:45	Wrap-up Feedback
13:15	Lunch at EAB
14:00	Transfer to Berlin-Tegel
16:35	Flight to London (BA 985)