

DEUTSCH-BRITISCHE GESELLSCHAFT

73RD KÖNIGSWINTER CONFERENCE

14TH – 16TH SEPTEMBER 2023



THE UK AND GERMANY –
READY FOR THE CHALLENGES OF 2024?

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THE UK AND GERMANY – READY FOR THE CHALLENGES OF 2024?

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THE UK AND GERMANY – READY FOR THE CHALLENGES OF 2024?

THURSDAY, 14TH September 2023

14:30 – 15.30

Registration at Schloss Neuhardenberg Hotel Reception

15:30

Opening of the Conference (Großer Saal)

Thomas Matussek

Chairman, Deutsch-Britische Gesellschaft e.V., Berlin

Ambassador (ret.)

Rt Hon Sir David Lidington KCB CBE

Chairman, British-German Königswinter

15:45

Opening Speeches

Dr Anna Lührmann, Minister of State for Europe and Climate

Leo Docherty MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Europe)

followed by a

Panel Discussion moderated by

Anna Sauerbrey, DIE ZEIT

16:15 – 17:45

Introduction to the four working groups

by their Chairs moderated by

Anne Ruth Herkes, State Secretary (ret.), Ambassador (ret.), Non

Executive Director, Quintet Private Bank, Brookfield Private Equity

Business Partners

18:30

Guided tour of the Schinkel Church (on demand)

19:30

Dinner (Gartensaal/Salon Bülow)

Speakers:

Prof Jörg Rocholl, European School of Management and Technology

and Rt Hon Greg Hands MP

FRIDAY, 15TH September 2023

9:00 – 10:45

Group 1: Leading technological change (Reventlow-Zimmer)

- The opportunities and perils of artificial intelligence
- The role of global financial markets in sustainable transformation
- The prerequisites and chances of innovation as driver against climate change

Chair: *Rt Hon Amber Rudd, Equinor plc*

Rapporteur: *Dr Philipp von Randow, Obligate; Darvis Inc.*

Group 2: The challenge of global governance in a competitive world
(Pappenheim-Zimmer)

- Navigating US-China tensions
- Engaging the Global South
- Multilateral cooperation in an age of geopolitics

Chair: *Stefan Kornelius, SZ*

Rapporteur: *Patrick Horgan, Rolls-Royce plc*

Group 3: Looming challenges in 2024 (Hardenbergsaal)

- Elections in EU, UK, US
- The end-game in Ukraine
- Whither European strategic autonomy?
- Towards a new European security architecture – aims and contributions of the UK and Germany

Chair: *Dr. Jens Zimmermann, MdB*

Rapporteur: *Bim Afolami MP*

Group 4: Making democracy resilient (Salon Schulenburg)

- Strengthening democracy at home
- The battle of narratives: fake news, disinformation, deep fakes
- Preserving growth and prosperity

Chair: *Mehreen Khan, The Times*

Rapporteur: *Prof. Dr. Andreas Rödder, Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz*

10:45 – 11:15

Break for coffee and tea (Vestibül)

11:15 – 12:45

Continuation of group discussions

13:00 – 14:30

Lunch (Vestibül/Terrasse Gartensaal)

15:00 – 16:30

Continuation of group discussions

16:30 – 17:00

Break for coffee and tea (Foyer Großer Saal)

17:00 – 18:30

Plenary (Großer Saal)

Reports from the study groups

moderated by *John Kampfner, RUSI*

18:30 – 18:45

Winding-up address by

Anneliese Dodds MP

19:30

Dinner (Gartensaal/Salon Bülow)

hosted by the British Embassy

Speakers: *Seema Malhotra MP*

and *Dr Norbert Röttgen, MdB*

22:30 End of conference



INTRODUCTION

The 73rd annual Königswinter Conference was held at Schloss Neuhardenberg near Berlin. The house and grounds were given to the Prussian Chancellor Karl August Prince von Hardenberg, who had previously served King George III. in Hannover, by his grateful King in 1814, and provided a reminder of the long-lasting nature of relations between the UK and Germany. The historic dimension of the conference was further echoed by the title, which featured a numeral year for the first time. 2024 will be a decisive political year, because of (but not solely due to) the elections in the U.S., the UK and the European Parliament, and, as Thomas Matussek, Chairman of the Deutsch-Britische Gesellschaft, reminded the audience a "Schicksalsjahr" or fateful year for Anglo-German relations, Europe, the West and more largely the world.

The conference discussions covered technological, geopolitical, economic, democratic and climate-related challenges that were regarded both as bilateral as well as multilateral issues. The importance of German and British leadership in this context was repeatedly underlined. This was accompanied by a mutual understanding that future challenges would need to be addressed jointly in order to create coalitions and develop solutions. Königswinter allowed for stimulating and enriching discussions that undoubtedly will guide participants in future decision-making and enhance cooperation between the UK and Germany.



OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

The Conference was formally opened by Ambassador Thomas Matussek and Sir David Lidington. After warmly welcoming the participants, they both underlined the central role of Königswinter as a forum of discussion and exchange of ideas. They stressed the urgency around existing and future challenges for Anglo-German relations and more globally for the international order, and particularly made reference to the conflict in Ukraine as an ongoing challenge for peace and security in Europe with wide-ranging ramifications.

This was echoed by Dr Anna Lührmann, Minister of State for Europe and Climate in the German Foreign Office, and Leo Docherty MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Europe in their respective addresses later that afternoon. They highlighted the necessity of discussion between stakeholders to foster bilateral cooperation and present proposals on challenging issues. Both underlined the role of Königswinter to create this type of forum and especially to strengthen Anglo-German relations. Shared geopolitical interests and strategic planning, particularly in defence policy and energy transition, create a common framework that ensures that a continued cooperation between both countries. The ministers mentioned youth

exchanges as a priority for the coming years to establish connections between young British and German people.

Several challenges that arose in the last few years will become particularly critical in 2024 with known and unknown unknowns. The known unknowns include elections in the European Union for the European Parliament, in the US, the UK and other countries like India. These elections will have consequences beyond the borders of the states in which they are taking place. Their outcomes have the potential to change the dynamics of international relations and global diplomacy. Within the unknown unknowns the war in Ukraine, the tensions in the South China Sea and around Taiwan, climate change and the state of the global economy as well as the ever-precarious state of affairs in the Middle East deserve mention. 2024 will be the year where these challenges will continue, intensify and possibly come closer to a resolution. This makes 2024 a year with high stakes and big risks that require continued and informed decision-making. Far from being limited to bilateral solutions, the challenges will require engagement with global partners as broad international alliances can provide stable cooperation around the world. The growingly multipolar nature of the international order



means that challenges are as much overlapping as combined with each other creating an interrelated polycrisis. Favoured settings of response for both the UK and Germany are multilateral institutions like the United Nations and NATO. The global dimension of these multilateral structures means that they are adapted to react to the most pressing challenges of the war in Ukraine and the climate crisis, which both are direct threats to national security and interdependent as shown by their mutual impact on energy policy. International institutions have limitations that need to be addressed in order to achieve effective crisis management. The UK and Germany have long pressed for a reform of the Security Council of the United Nations.

The current state of relations between the UK and Germany was described as being in a dynamic phase with significant and visible milestones. The Windsor Framework shows a new period marked by cooperation between the UK and members of the EU like Germany. The UK is additionally supportive of the announced *Zeitenwende* by Germany, which would align both countries closer in terms of security and defence policy. King Charles III visit to Germany, his first international state visit as monarch, was widely perceived as a particular honour and led to wide public interest. At a more regional level, the recent signing



of cooperation agreements between the UK and some German States highlighted the multidimensional nature of Anglo-German cooperation taking place at various levels throughout both countries.

Broad consensus emerged regarding energy policy and the need to set the conditions to fruitfully engage for a sustainable transition. The recent impact of the war in Ukraine on the import of resources like gas put Germany, the UK and more widely European and global economies under intense pressure. It required most of these economies to rethink internal energy distribution and resources supplies, especially in political terms as to reduce dependencies on less democratic states. This process requires countries to jointly work upon becoming energetically independent in order to initiate a climate-friendly energy transition that will provide for economic actors while being geopolitically viable. They focus bilaterally on energy policy with a memorandum to be signed in 2023 at the UK-Germany Hydrogen Partnership Conference. Anglo-German meetings have been intensified with Strategic Ministerial Dialogues, State Secretary Consultations, Expert-Level Meetings and Civil Society Cooperation particularly for culture. In this context, the role of China as technological provider in this transition, the relationship between economic actors and regulators, the responsibility of financial markets given the huge investments required were seen as particularly important questions to focus on.

A final discussion point was the question of enlargement of the EU and, as observed by one participant, the potential place for the UK should be introduced when timely. This brought forward issues such as geopolitical manoeuvre, budgetary questions and agricultural policy that would be impacted by enlargements of the EU. As allowed by the European treaties, candidate states can cooperate in certain areas before fully joining as part of a gradual accession process. Such processes are currently being debated to allow countries like Ukraine to

participate; the European Commission is set to soon make a proposal on this. Participation in the Single Market requires adopting parts of the *acquis communautaire*, which could mean that it would not be part of a gradual accession process. One idea would be participation in the Foreign Affairs Council without voting rights. During dinner, Greg Hands MP, Chairman of the Conservative Party, and Professor Jörg Rocholl reviewed some of the challenges previously mentioned. The war in Ukraine was discussed as a pressing issue where the UK and Germany are united in their support as allies of Ukraine. The historic responsibility of both countries to ensure a respect for the international rules-based order and to secure a stable peace were repeatedly underlined. Both speakers also shared ideas about the economic intertwining of the UK and Germany in which it was argued that both countries could benefit from continued cooperation in critical sectors like security, energy and youth exchanges.



LEADING TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE

Group 1 came together to discuss technological change and the linked leadership opportunities for the UK and Germany. As technological breakthroughs are becoming increasingly sophisticated, their transformative use and potential intrusiveness require decision-makers to rethink their approach of technology in order to understand how to best take advantage of the opportunities offered and to limit possible negative outcomes. The group first discussed artificial intelligence (AI). AI has evolved rapidly in the last few years and is set to become an influential tool in modern societies. The extent of the impact requires a degree of international cooperation to frame and structure the upcoming uses of AI. This is echoed by the AI Summit to be held in the UK in a few weeks during which potential opportunities and perils will be discussed. The summit will take place at Bletchley Park, where codebreakers worked during World War II, and will be attended by diplomats from around the world. The EU has recently announced the introduction of an AI legislative text and the creation of an AI expert group. Most of these initiatives have focussed until now on the political impact of AI in terms of national security and in relation to China.



In addition to the political considerations, the group focussed on AI through the prism of the economy. The rise of AI will most probably impact the economy in a fundamental

manner with both potential opportunities and perils. Regarding opportunities, productivity gains were regarded as the most positive outcome of using AI. A wide-ranging implementation and deployment could help economic actors to intensify specific activities by letting AI take over the necessary tasks. Such use would be even more beneficial through complementary applications with different AIs simultaneously in action. The productivity gains could help maintain a certain level of economic growth and prosperity. One participant noted that this would necessarily involve a wide-ranging domestic societal impact as AI could take over tasks otherwise dedicated to complementary immigration and consequentially preserve inland jobs. Another opportunity would be education and health as AI could be applied to rationalise certain complex or time expensive activities. This would create more room for learning, improvement and concentration on tasks requiring extensive or complete human involvement.

Regarding perils, AI presents various dangers. The functioning of AI can be lacking transparency with a difficulty to understand the intricate algorithmic mechanisms underpinning its functioning. This makes the development stage extremely important as this is where it is possible to control the scope AI could take and the extent to which it could become intrusive. Geopolitically, this means that competing AIs could exist with separate uses and could create direct confrontations between diverging systems. Another danger would be the impact on

unskilled labour as it could gradually replace certain jobs and create a clear distinction from those skilled enough to benefit from AI. Similar consequences on the job market are visible with digitalisation and robotisation. It is up to economic actors to integrate this possibility and mitigate the impact of AI on the lower-skilled jobs.

In the next step, the group addressed the issue of climate change by discussing the role of financial markets and of innovation. An initial focus was made on current green investment practices. As public actors have divested from such schemes, the market place left behind was picked up by private investors placing them at the forefront of the climate change mitigation. The urgency of the transition towards a green economy means that private actors often resort to PR campaigns to raise awareness for the actions that they are taking. Such PR campaigns can sometimes limit the content of the undertaken actions by being more about 'greenwashing' than actual implemented changes.

This raises the need for public authorities to strongly intervene in order to guarantee the efficacy and results of green investments. The additional size of the needed investments requires a stronger regulation of



private markets to incentivise effective green transition mechanisms and subsequent social regulation to impact individual behaviour. Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance is an integral part of this approach. The recent overhaul of domestic energy strategies due to the war in Ukraine shows the extent to which cooperation between public and private actors can produce fruitful results orientated towards a full climate and energy transition.

In the current policy-making context, taxonomy was identified as a central element. The EU Emissions Trading System can serve as an example for how taxation or pricing is helpful in climate change policies. Even if the pricing might be too low and doesn't cover all types of emissions such as at the consumption stage, the system provides a precedent on which to build possible new structures. For effective reform, a political alignment on climate and



transition issues is needed such as in the UK and in Germany. Comparatively, some countries such as the USA or Italy don't have such alignment, which limits the effectiveness of more impactful global strategies. It is essential to create broad political coalitions at the local and national levels to allow for an international consensus to

emerge. Furthermore, the current classification of taxonomy as good or bad for climate simplifies investment strategies since most decisions are more complex in terms of impact on the environment. Financial markets should integrate detailed transition plans into their finance strategies to account for the climate impact of their activities. These plans would be crucial to create a finance transition within a wider green transition by making financial actors more aware and responsible for their planned investments. One participant mentioned the German regional Landesbanken as a possible model as they can guide investments by indirectly involving taxpayers. Here again, the role of politics to forge alliances around supporting financial markets with additional fundings and create sustainability goals is essential.

THE CHALLENGE OF GLOBAL GOVERNANCE IN A COMPETITIVE WORLD

Group 2 started with a discussion on the current state of the international order. After 1945, countries agreed to rely on rules and regulations to organise international relations. The context of the Cold War and the subsequent prevalence of the United States of America after the collapse of the Soviet Union meant that some countries were used as models for others to align themselves on. These models provided moral authority by respecting or creating rules in place and economic standing by generating considerable prosperity. This approach of international relations is increasingly undermined by the absence of influential role models as shown by the diminished international role of the USA in the last years. Models remain important as a way to provide a political, economic and moral horizon within the international order. Due to the changing nature of global governance, it is likely that several models will compete with each other for specific spheres of influence. Variable geopolitical geometry would possibly come to dominate the scope and nature of interactions between states.

The continuation of globalisation in such a multipolar competitive world should become increasingly complicated. Economic structures might follow existing regional models of influence and decrease the globally interconnectedness of supply chains. Currently, the USA and Chinese economic models seem to be on the path towards becoming such regional models of influence. One participant advocated for the need to make a decision now between these two blocs in order to better anticipate future challenges. Proximity with the economic models,



political culture and values system of the USA means that European countries should be more inclined towards cooperation or alignment with the USA instead of China. The difficulty for Europe is to geopolitically face China despite economic dependencies contrarily to the USA who have a greater reactive capacity allowed by more diverse economic partners. The potential for tensions between such blocs might create crises that will put existing multilateral international institutions under strain. Such institutions will experience more frequent global crises for which they weren't necessarily set up or don't have the adequate response mechanisms. A reform of these international institutions could provide for a degree of stability and rules-based order as a way to reduce potential conflicts between states. Proposals included restructuring the United Nations Security Council or extending voting rights in the World Bank.

Much of the future international developments are linked to decision-making and to the political will of addressing issues now that will increase in intensity later. A prerequisite would be for the political debate to review existing challenges, recognise their impact and develop measures to alleviate them. Forms of compensation could be proposed to the impacted actors such as a climate resilient debt clause for countries impacted by



climate-related events. These countries could be exempted from debt repayment for the duration of catastrophe management. Political will is essential for such proactive crisis management and to



create support for it. The influence of electoral considerations and polls tends to limit decisionmakers in long-term planning. One solution would be to integrate the wider public more through more transparency in the decision-making process. One participant used the example of the peace negotiations for the war in Ukraine that should take place at a later stage in the conflict and during which it might be difficult to justify the continuation of military support for Ukraine. Another indicated some influential policies in Germany like the Ostpolitik were unpopular and still implemented by the Chancellor in office at the time showing existing historic precedents for proactive political will. Global challenges require leadership from politicians to prepare public opinion and to face current as well as future problems.

To sum up, it evolved that the Brexit period is over and that the two countries are determined to face the momentous challenges together in a spirit of close cooperation.

LOOMING CHALLENGES IN 2024

Group 3, the group dealing with future scenarios and planning for an uncertain future, first discussed the elections planned in the coming months. The focus was primarily on the European Parliament elections, the USA presidential elections and the UK general election. The elections in Slovakia, Poland, Austria, the Netherlands and India were briefly touched upon. The US presidential elections were considered to be the most consequential ones since they would have the widest geopolitical ramifications. The possible victory of the previous White House incumbent on an isolationist platform would drastically reduce the American presence in Europe and around the world. For the European security architecture, this would force European countries either to pressure the USA to keep a minimal support base or to explore the strategic autonomy idea developed by France. For some participants, the second option wasn't seen as applicable given the trend towards a more globalised security architecture. One participant also noted that in practice

the USA presidential elections wouldn't fundamentally change American foreign policy as there is a bipartisan consensus particularly over China. The European Parliament elections were regarded as the second most influential geopolitically as they might bring about a new political landscape in the European Parliament as well as a new European Commission President, and they will coincide with the election of a new President of the European Council. The functioning of the European Union will likely



be fundamentally altered following the elections. The election in the UK was discussed in light of the possibility of a change in government. From a geopolitical perspective, UK foreign policy was agreed to probably remain continuous in regards to the support for Ukraine and the decision to remain outside of the EU given that both main parties share the same view on these topics. One participant underlined that Brexit might nevertheless feature in the electoral campaign to stir up emotions on a possibly closer relationship between the UK and the EU. Concerning Anglo-German relations, the lack of a high-level meeting between Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Chancellor Olaf Scholz was seen as regrettable and a possible Labour victory considered potentially beneficial to hold such a meeting since both governing parties would be ideologically closer.



In the second session, the group delved into the war in Ukraine. They discovered similarities between the British and the German approaches as both countries have significantly contributed to the military support of Ukraine and called for a tougher stance towards Russia. It was agreed that making territorial concessions to Russia could risk splitting the Western bloc as the Baltic States and Finland would consider such a move as putting their own position at risk of possible military aggression. One participant noted that a much longer war in Ukraine could require the presence of Western troops for training or military purposes, which could change the current Western position of logistical and defensive support. The integration of Ukrainian refugees was considered as there is a lack of clarity over their behaviour in case of the war ending. In the last years, many Ukrainians already left their country to live abroad for economic reasons and might prefer to stay where they currently are instead of going back to a potentially destroyed Ukraine. Such a trend would limit Ukraine's capacity for reconstruction due to a shortage of workforce and could strain the asylum

system in hosting countries. The Ukrainian desire to join the EU was seen to open questions over the accession of Turkey as it might lead the country to relaunch its candidacy or it might push European leaders to formally exclude Turkey in order to focus on Ukraine.



Further geopolitical security challenges were reviewed such as the situation in the Western Balkans, since many of these countries want to join the EU

and might feel emboldened by Ukraine's possible accession. The Sahel was determined not to be a French problem only. The evolving situation since the different military coups in the region with Russian military involvement and existing Chinese economic presence pushes for a wider European debate over its geopolitical role around the world. Lastly, the migration deal with Turkey was discussed given ongoing concerns over its possible end. It was simultaneously explained that the deal would probably continue given the ongoing balance of payment deficit of Turkey and the need of foreign financial flows.



MAKING DEMOCRACY RESILIENT

Group 4 dealt with democracy and the pressing issue of adapting to the various challenges it currently faces. The group started by discussing the different conceptions of democracy in the UK and Germany. The philosophical traditions of liberalism and their influence on the democratic understanding were considered influential as well as historic events in shaping the current political systems in both countries. The position of the UK as democratic example with the so-called Westminster model was put into perspective with the exemplary evolution of Germany since 1945. Liberalism was regarded as the central common feature of democracy in both countries. The presence of liberalism in the democratic system was defined as the holding of free and fair elections, the protection of minority rights and peaceful transition of power between elections.

Such type of democracy dominated in the West in the last 80 years and has seen its influence increasingly weakened in the last few decades. The rise of populism undermined constitutionally established guarantees of liberal practices to focus on a supposed 'will of the people'. Technological transformations such as the introduction of social media or generalisation of edited news to fake news contributed to destabilise the information flows on which democratic

decisions could be made. The polarisation of the political debate in this context creates conditions in which consensus is not seen as desirable anymore and decisions as a 'winner takes it all' situation. These trends have become visible in most Western countries including countries previously considered role models like the USA or the UK and as exemplary like Germany. The weakening of leading democracies has multiple implications. It creates domestic tensions that have the potential to turn violent. It could lead to the political and economic exclusion of societal groups deemed undesirable by the new decision-makers possibly fostering socio-economic inequality, especially if these are already existing. It could cause increasingly confrontational international relations between democratic and non-democratic systems. It undermines the global promotion by these countries of democracy as a model to follow and risks other types of political systems being seen as more favourable.



When discussing the topic, the group shared the need to strengthen democracy and discussed multiple solutions that could achieve this

goal. Output legitimacy was considered central amongst the public in a democratic system of government. Citizens would favour a political system where living standards are secured next to political rights. Creating favourable economic opportunities, fighting against inflation and unemployment are central in working on these so-called 'bread and butter' issues. The implementation of an output legitimacy would need to be complemented by a political

narrative capable of unity and carried by courageous politicians. Given the growing influential anti-democratic narratives, democratic actors must develop a positive discourse around democracy and liberalism as an



inclusive and respectful system. Politicians with a sense of leadership and political courage should take this narrative into the public debate and establish it in a convincing manner. Such sense of courage would equally be needed to implement reforms of the democratic system in order to stabilise and secure it even if unpopular with the public upon their presentation or introduction. The media would play a role in this context as they would allow this narrative to be shared more widely by limiting the reflex to jump on the next issue or in a few cases to use an ideological reading of the situation. The difficulty in this process will be to allow for spaces facilitating dialogue without adopting a paternalistic stance and letting populist or anti-democratic forces take over. In this context, some attention was given to the current rise of the populist party AfD in Germany.

CONCLUSION

At the **closing plenary**, the different groups presented the outcome of their discussions and shared ideas on how to tackle the various existing challenges that were covered. Participants reacted by adding ideas and proposals. After the plenary and a winding-up address by Anneliese Dodds MP, the final dinner took place in presence of Seema Malhotra MP and Dr Norbert Röttgen, MdB. Both echoed discussions throughout the conference by underlining the importance of Königswinter as an Anglo-German forum for discussion and exchange. Germany and the UK have a path of convergence next to individual challenges which allow for each country to learn from the other and add dynamism to British - German relations. The conference ended with a wider reflection on the structure and format of Königswinter in a changing geopolitical context. This was reflected by a discussion about the potential inclusion of members of the Alternative für Deutschland party, which has entered political institutions at different levels in the last years despite being watched by the German domestic intelligence agency and with some of its parts being classified as right-wing extremist groups. The debate on this question showed that the conference is a crucial arena for high-level discussions as well as integrated in the more widely changing political landscape. In its long history, Königswinter has embodied the importance of a specific set of shared values that allow for discussion, disagreements and debates in a trusted and respectful environment. This has been the mission of the conference in its 73 years of existence and will continue to be the case in the future.

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THE KÖNIGSWINTER CONFERENCE

The Königswinter Conference was established in 1950 with the aim of improving the troubled relationship between Germany and Great Britain. It takes its name from the Rhineside town opposite Bonn where the Conference took place initially. Since then the Conference has convened once a year bringing together German and British politicians, high-ranking government officials, business managers, academics and journalists for a profound and stimulating exchange of views. Königswinter has created bonds and friendships helping to improve the understanding of policy differences on topical issues and challenges and to work towards common approaches.

The issues discussed over the years have ranked from security policy, the Atlantic alliance, a desirable degree of European integration, societal changes and upheavals in an increasingly globalised world to the future of the welfare state, education policy, the integration of ethnic minorities and international economic policy. The Conference is held alternately in Germany and Great Britain. The 74th Königswinter Conference will take place in the UK in 2024.

THE DEUTSCH-BRITISCHE GESELLSCHAFT

The Deutsch-Britische Gesellschaft wants to contribute to an ever closer relationship between Germany and Great Britain and to improve the mutual understanding of its people.

The Gesellschaft aims to

- ▶ initiate and support debate on political, economic, cultural and social issues of concern to both countries
- ▶ help overcome mutual prejudices and encourage British-German friendship
- ▶ strengthen and promote European co-operation and the transatlantic relationship in co-operation with its British partners.

The Deutsch-Britische Gesellschaft is a Berlin-based, non-profit, non-governmental, non-party, independent organisation which has been organizing lectures and conferences since 1949. Its Königswinter Conference enjoys a high reputation and has served as a model for many other bilateral conferences.

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