

 #istanbulconf2023



Berlin
Bosphorus
Initiative

II. ISTANBUL CONFERENCE 9-10 October 2023, Istanbul

Rethinking the Future
The EU – Germany –
Türkiye Relations

Rethinking the Future | *The EU – Germany – Türkiye Relations*

While the EU and Türkiye both are undergoing through challenging times, it remains imperative to discuss more inclusive, reflective and agile tools. We need to successfully navigate in a world that is constantly evolving towards a new geopolitical paradigm taking on a whole new importance for Europe after the Russia’s war on Ukraine, in a context of rising populism and nationalism in the EU and Türkiye.

At the dawn of Türkiye’s Republic’s centenary, the second Istanbul Conference of Berlin Bosphorus Initiative (BBI) aims to bring BBI Board members, experts and opinion leaders from Türkiye, Germany and wider Europe together, for addressing some major dimensions of the bilateral cooperation, as well as discussing the pertinent challenges and opportunities the EU, Germany and Türkiye are facing with the aim of identifying strategic takeaways for a common future.

9 October, Monday

*Residences of Embassy of Germany in Tarabya
Yeniköy Caddesi No. 88 Tarabya/İstanbul*

18:30 Cocktail

19:00 Welcome Notes

Dr. Hüseyin Gelis, BBI Executive Board President

Orhan Turan, TÜSİAD President

H.E. Jürgen Schulz, Ambassador of Germany in Ankara

10 October, Tuesday

Turkish – German University Merkez
Şahinkaya Cd. No:106, 34820 Beykoz/Istanbul

09:00 Opening Session

Welcome Notes

Prof. Dr. Aysel Uzuntaş, Vice Rector, Turkish German University
Cansen Başaran Symes, BBI Advisory Board Co President

09:30 SESSION I: Geopolitical Dimension

Towards the European Parliament elections next year and in the context of "permacrisis". Takeaways on multilateralism, rules-based democratic world order that is at stake giving rise to the great power rivalries and the short-term transactionalism; the future of the EU; insights Türkiye – EU relations after the elections in Türkiye

Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Ebru Turhan,
European Studies, the Department of Political Science and International Relations,
Turkish-German University & Senior Fellow & Member of the Academic Advisory
Board, Institut für Europäische Politik (IEP), Berlin

Speakers:

Prof. Evren Balta, Lecturer, Özyeğin University & Academic Coordinator,
TÜSİAD Global Politics Forum & BBI Advisory Board member
Hans Kundnani, Associate Fellow, Europe Programme, Chatham House
Dr. Andreas Nick, Partner, Brunswick, Stiftung Mercator IPC Senior Fellow 2022-23,
former Head of German Delegation and Vice President of Parliamentary Assembly
of the Council of Europe PACE 2018-22; Member of the Bundestag, CDU 2013-21
Dr. Jens Bastian, Fellow, SWP/CATS

10:45 Coffee Break

11:00 SESSION II: Economic Dimension

Bilateral relations in a rapidly changing global business environment, the future of the Green Deal, digitalization and decarbonization in the aftermath of Russian sanctions, CBAM, Customs Union modernization, supply chain near-shoring, startup ecosystems

Moderator: Dr. Hüseyin Gelis, BBI Executive Board President and CEO, Siemens Türkiye

Speakers:

Ingrun Alsleben, CEO & CFO, Bayer Turkey & Germany Working Group President, TÜSİAD

Tolga Demirözü, CEO, BASF Türkiye

Pınar Ersoy, President, German-Turkish Trade and Industry Chamber

Dr. Ahmet Lokurlu, Turkish German Energy and Environmental Institute (GTEI)

Director & Advisory Board Member, BBI

12.45 Lunch Break

14:15 SESSION III: New Generation Partnerships

Smart city partnerships, the importance of data collaborations, cultural cooperations, civil society initiatives that strengthen bilateral cooperations at local level

Moderator: Barçın Yinanç, Journalist, T24 & Scientific Committee Member, Institut du Bosphore

Speakers:

Erol Özgüner, Chief Information Officer, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality

Petra Colmorgen, International Affairs Advisor, The Governing Mayor of Berlin

Görgün Taner, General Director, IKSIV (Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts)

Mani Pournaghi Azar, Director, Goethe Institut Istanbul

Özcan Mutlu, President, Turkish German Twin Cities Association

15:30 Closing Session

Dr. Hüseyin Gelis, BBI Executive Board President & CEO of Siemens



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