



TIERGARTEN CONFERENCE

DEBATING NEW TRENDS IN
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



FES' ANNUAL CONFERENCE AT THE TIERGARTEN

The concept With its new format, the Annual Conference at the Tiergarten, the FES aims to address and highlight new trends in international affairs. Drawing on its extensive global network of offices in around 100 countries, the FES seeks to facilitate dialogue between decision-makers, decision-shapers and decision-takers from around the world on some of the key topics of our times. Informing and inspiring partners from around the world, while at the same time contributing to a more globally informed debate in Germany are the main

aims behind this endeavour.

While FES's international activities usually proceed without too much publicity, the Tiergarten conference is meant to combine an in-depth expert conference with a wider outreach to the public. To this end, a live debate between Members of Parliament, experts and civil society will bring the crucial questions of global governance and international politics to the attention of a broader German audience at the end of the conference.

The Tiergarten – A Venue for International Affairs and Home of FES International. With the relocation of government from Bonn to Berlin, Berlin's Tiergarten district has again become home to the diplomatic community. Reminiscent of Germany's past and promising in terms of a European and multilateral future this place at the heart of Berlin is an especially suitable backdrop for candid debates. It also recently became the new home of FES's International Headquarters.



Sept. 13, 2012 **1ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE AT THE TIERGARTEN**

A FUNDAMENTAL GEOSTRATEGIC SHIFT? Consequences of US rebalancing towards the Asia-Pacific region for regional and global security policy

Background International relations scholars and analysts alike have been discussing the coming of an Asian Century for decades, predicting a shift of the centre of gravity from Transatlantic to Asia-Pacific. Until last year, however, the notion remained contested, despite the new economic dynamics unfolding in the Asia-Pacific region at the turn of the twenty-first century.

With last year's strategy statements from US President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, however, there is a renewed and pressing sense of a fundamental strategic shift in international relations and global governance. And while in earlier debates the emphasis was often put on economic dynamics, this latest adjustment of US policy clearly

demonstrates a geostrategic move with, potentially, very significant implications for security policy at the national, regional and global levels. In light of recent armaments dynamics and territorial disputes in the wider Asia-Pacific region, the US Defence Review in January 2012 explicitly stated:

»Accordingly, while the US military will continue to contribute to security globally, we will of necessity rebalance toward the Asia-Pacific region. Our relationships with Asian allies and key partners are critical to the future stability and growth of the region.« Source: 2012 Strategic Guidance for the Department of Defence (http://www.defense.gov/news/Defense_Strategic_Guidance.pdf)

Aim of the Conference Against this background, FES wishes to assess the significance of this supposed shift for global peace and security governance.

Primarily we want to reflect on the origin and depth of this latest dynamic in the United States and assess the consequences for traditional alliances (namely, Europe and the wider Transatlantic world), as well as for the supposed new centre of geostrategic gravity in the Asia-Pacific region. Germany's current role and responsibilities in this regard will be given special attention.

In addition to this, we also want to look beyond the supposed old and new

centres of gravity and discuss the consequences and interdependencies of a fundamental geostrategic shift for other regions as well, in order to provide a more comprehensive picture for our partners in Germany and around the world.

Finally, we want to introduce a critical non-mainstream perspective on the supposed geostrategic shift: Critical Geopolitics will help us to frame this crucial debate in a way that reflects on the limitations and pitfalls of the strong geostrategic and geopolitical narratives that influence foreign policy decision-making.



AGENDA 13 SEPTEMBER 2012

09.00 Opening Remarks

Dr. Peter Struck

Head of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung

Opening Remarks

09.15 Preliminary Intervention via video message

Dr. John Agnew

Professor of Geography at the University of California, Los Angeles

This preliminary intervention is meant to put into question some of the very basic everyday assumptions of international relations scholars and foreign policy decision makers. It will not only critically reflect about the narratives and conceptualizations of the shift towards the Asia Pacific but also about those narratives and conceptualizations that are supposedly in danger of becoming sidelined by notions of a shift to the Asia-Pacific: The transatlantic partnership and world order.

09.35 Key Transatlantic Panel

Ambassador J. Stapleton Roy

Director of the Kissinger Institute on China and the United States

Julianne Smith

Deputy National Security Advisor to US Vice President Joseph Biden

Almut Möller

Head of the Alfred von Oppenheim Center for European Policy Studies at the German Council on Foreign Relations

Chair: Dr. Rolf Mützenich

Member of German Parliament, Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs, SPD Parliamentary Faction

The transatlantic world in the Asia Pacific Century – US and German views of how an Asia Pacific World shall look like

The key panel of this conference is meant to provide central insights into – and competing perspectives of – the US and German approach to global security policy and possible geostrategic reorientations. Coming from the perspective of a still predominant global power, recent US policy statements indicating a substantial reorientation arouse high international interest with regard to the relevance for existing institutions, partnerships and geostrategic dynamics. This will also have consequences for the foreign and security policy of transatlantic partners such as Germany, who simultaneously has to review its own approaches to international security policy. Therefore this panel is meant to provide a genuine US and German take on the relevance and consequences of the announced shift.

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11.15 Coffee Break

11.45 Comments and high-level debate on relevance and implications for practical politics

Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier

Head of SPD Parliamentary Faction

Hon. Kevin Rudd

Member of Australian Parliament, Former Prime Minister

Chair: Dr. Michael Werz

Senior Fellow, Center for American Progress

This session is meant to relate the policy debates on the supposed new pivot to Asia to the necessities and limitations of real-time day-to-day politics. It shall draw on the first panel and shed light on this supposed trend from a US and German practitioner's perspective. It shall in particular contrast this supposed sweeping rebalancing towards Asia with current developments in other regions like the Arab Spring, the Iran-nuclear-standoff or the row about Ballistic Missile Defence between NATO and Russia since all of these developments might put into question the supposedly fundamental nature of the reorientation towards the Asia-Pacific.

12.45 Lunch Break

14.15 Breakout sessions

Consequences of a supposed shift of the US towards the Asia-Pacific for global and regional security governance?

A debate with FES directors and Experts from the regions

Latin America

Input: H.E. Ambassador Luis Maira

Former Minister of Planning and Cooperation of the Republic of Chile and Ambassador to Mexico and Argentina

Comment: Dr. Wolf Grabendorff

FES Resident Director in Ecuador

Chair: Sebastian Sperling

FES Department Latin America and the Caribbean

The US has long been the most prominent foreign actor in Latin America, and Latin America has been a primary focus of US foreign policy. However, in recent year, the US seemed to have lost both interest and influence in Latin America, and in turn, Latin American countries have redefined their relations to the Northern neighbour. What has changed in US-Latin America relations? What are the consequences, of the US shift for Latin American countries, for regional integration in Latin America, and for Latin America's role in the global arena?





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Emerging Powers

Input: Prof. Ummu Salma Bava

Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Comment: Marius Müller-Hennig

*FES Department Global Policy and
Development*

Chair: Henrik Meyer

FES Global Peace and Security Policy Program

In this session we want to assess the consequences of the rebalancing of US security policy towards Asia Pacific for the role of – and relationship among – emerging powers in global security governance. Especially against the background of weak regional institutions for multilateral security governance in the Asia Pacific Region itself, the focus of this discussion shall be on the role of the United Nations as a venue for multilateral security governance by rising powers. In addition the role of groupings like IBSA, BRICS, the G20 and E 11 might be reflected, too.

Middle East and North Africa

Input: Ambassador Afif Safieh

*Deputy Commissioner for International
Relations of Fatah*

Comment: Achim Vogt

Resident Director FES Jordan

Chair: Hajo Lanz

*Head of FES Department for the Middle East
and North Africa*

The Middle East currently is, without doubt, a key strategic region for the US. Already a playfield between the two world powers during the Cold War, it became the very center of US foreign policy since the 1990s. The ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the resources of the Middle East suggest no change for the near future. However, the US shift might lead to a changing balance of power in the Middle East. How is this going to affect developments in the region? Is China on the way to become a major player in the Gulf or will it use its growing influence in dealing with regional conflicts? How will other actors like Europe or Russia react? Could the strategic shift create new opportunities for the Middle East?

Asia

Input: Shada Islam

Head of Policy at Friends of Europe

Comment: Jürgen Stetten

*Head of FES Department for Asia and
the Pacific*

Chair: Konstantin Bärwaldt

FES Department for Asia and the Pacific

The announced US American policy shift towards the Pacific will affect the regional power balance in Asia. Current tensions in Asian regional security institutions, such as in the ASEAN Regional Forum, underscore that the unfolding power dynamics in Asia are everything but certain. Caught between security cooperation with the United States on the one hand and economic dependency on China on the other, (notably Southeast) Asian states will find it difficult to side too much with either the United States or China for their future development. To what extent will the US rebalancing towards the Asia-Pacific region strengthen or weaken the existing regional security frameworks? Is the European Union able to play any credible role for supporting multilateral security regimes in Asia in the spirit of Common Security?

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Africa

Input: Prof. Anthoni van Nieuwkerk
*Centre for Defense and Security Management,
University of the Witwatersrand*

Comment: Arne Schildberg
Resident Representative, FES Ethiopia

Chair: Katharina Hofmann
Resident Representative, FES Mozambique

African affairs have never been a top priority for US policy neither in terms of security nor in terms of economy. This perception seems to have been further reinforced by the geostrategic shift of the US, announced in 2011, towards the Asian-Pacific region. In recent years however, the interest in Africa experienced an upgrade due to the scramble for African resources and the increasing occurrence of terrorism. Although officials have stressed that the US will maintain a light footprint in Africa, increasing covert activities of its 2008 established Africa Command and oil-related interventions by the US administration raise doubts whether this assertion is true.

Eurasia I: Nato

Input: Dr. Rolf Mützenich
*Member of German Parliament,
Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs,
SPD Parliamentary Faction*

Chair: Niels Annen
*FES International Policy Analysis,
European Foreign Policy*

NATO has gone through significant changes over the last years. A new strategic concept has been developed and currently, at a summit in Chicago, the organization published a report on its defense and deterrence posture review. While NATO still assumes a leading role in Afghanistan, this role is coming to an end with the withdrawal deadline in 2014 approaching fast. We will discuss the consequences of these changes and the announced US rebalancing towards Asia-Pacific for the future strategy of NATO.

Eurasia II: CSTO, SCO

Input: Dr. Alexander Nikitin
*Director, Centre for Euro-Atlantic Security,
MGIMO University Moscow*

Comment: Dr. Hans Joachim Spanger
*Head of Research Department,
Frankfurt Peace Research Institute*

Chair: Dr. Ernst Hillebrand
*Head of FES Department for Central
and Eastern Europe*

Russia has been trying hard over the last couple of years to establish strategic alliances with states of the former Soviet Union. The Collective Security Organization Treaty and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization are the two most prominent endeavors. The corresponding relations however are far from stable and crucial ambiguities remain: the impacts of NATO's withdrawal from Afghanistan and of China's rise as a regional and global power are far from clear-cut. We want to discuss what consequences these developments and the supposed US rebalancing might have for the strategic calculus in Russian foreign policy.

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16.00 Coffee Break

16.30 Consequences for German Foreign Policy

Hans-Ulrich Klose

*Member of German Parliament, Member of
the Executive Board of FES*

Pia Bungarten

Head of FES Washington

Jürgen Stetten

Head of FES Asia Department

The aim of the final session is to reflect on the insights from the key panel, the breakout sessions and to draw conclusions for progressive foreign and security policy.

17.30 End of conference

Transfer to Akademie der Künste

18.30 Public Debate - live at the Tiergarten

Prof. Jin Canrong

*School of International Studies,
Renmin University Beijing*

Julianne Smith

*Deputy National Security Advisor to
US Vice President Joseph Biden*

Dr. h.c. Gernot Erler

*Former Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Deputy Head of SPD Parliamentary Faction*

Hon. Kevin Rudd

*Member of Australian Parliament, Former
Prime Minister*

Ambassador J. Stapleton Roy

*Director of the Kissinger Institute on China
and the United States*

Moderator: Judy Dempsey

Carnegie Europe

Consequences for Germany

The aim of this public debate is to reach out to a broader public, discussing about the supposed new US rebalancing towards Asia. It shall bring together US perspectives with perspectives from the Asia Pacific region and discuss the relevance of the latest dynamics; also with particular regard to consequences for German and European Foreign and Security Policy. It shall draw on the in-depth debates of the conference, provide a genuine political assessment of the trends and discuss relevant policy options for German decision makers.

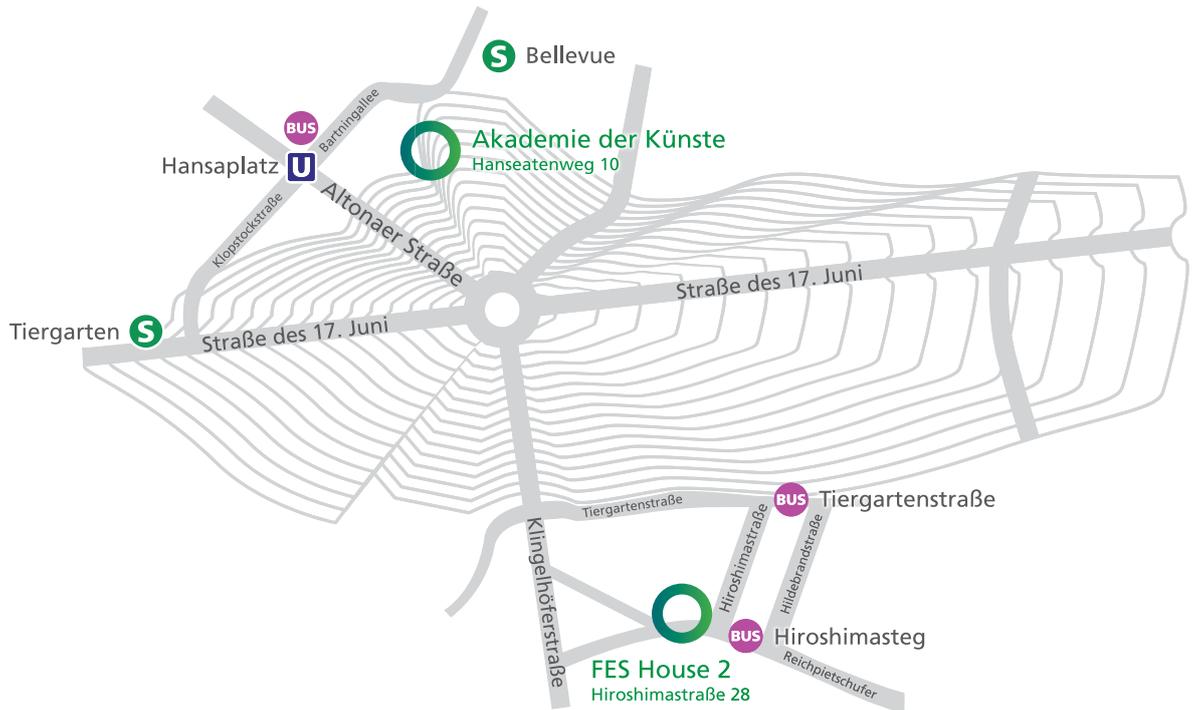
20.30 Reception at Akademie der Künste

Reception at the evening venue



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Venues



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Registration for the conference by invitation only.