



east forum Berlin

18 & 19 April 2016



Berlin, 16 March 2016

Press release

4th east forum Berlin on 18 and 19 April 2016

- Europe's economic future, China's Silk Road Initiative and the trade relations between the EU and the Eurasian Economic Union are the main focus of the conference
- Keynotes by Federal Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, the Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs Witold Waszczykowski and Davos Managing Director Philipp Rösler

Under the heading "**An economic area in transition – Shaping the future between Europe and the East**", the **4th east forum Berlin** on **18 and 19 April 2016** is exploring the changed political and economic realities between Lisbon and Vladivostok, at the same time turning the spotlight to focus beyond the borders of the region. This year's conference picks up on the activities associated with Germany's **Chairmanship of the OSCE**. The keynotes and the panel discussions will focus on Europe's economic future, trade relations between the European Union and the Eurasian Economic Union, together with the opportunities and risks of China's Silk Road Initiative.

The **east forum Berlin** is a dialogue platform initiated by **UniCredit**, the **Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations** and **METRO GROUP** and is hosted together with the **Federal State of Berlin**. Over **300 participants** from approximately **30 countries** are expected to attend, including high-ranking opinion leaders from business, politics and international organisations. For the first time, the **Federation of German Industries** (BDI) and the **German Chambers of Industry and Commerce** (DIHK) will also join the east forum Berlin as cooperation partners in 2016.

Agenda

Michael Müller, the Governing Mayor of Berlin, will open the conference at 7 pm on 18 April 2016 in the Berliner Rathaus; the programme ends at 4 pm on 19 April 2016 in the AXICA Forum at Pariser Platz. The welcome reception will feature speeches by German Foreign Minister and OSCE Chairperson-in-Office **Frank-Walter Steinmeier** and his Polish counterpart, **Witold Waszczykowski**.

east forum Berlin





east forum Berlin

18 & 19 April 2016



High-ranking representatives from the **People's Republic of China**, the **European Union**, the **Eurasian Economic Union** and a number of other **countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia** have confirmed their participation in the sessions on the second conference day. **Philipp Rösler**, the former Federal Minister of Economics and Technology and current Managing Director of the World Economic Forum in Davos, will close the **4th east forum Berlin** with a keynote speech at 2.30 pm on 19 April.

Conference topics

The **4th east forum Berlin** is addressing the dramatically changing realities of our continent in the context of Germany's OSCE Chairmanship. On the one hand, these are characterised by economic divides, which have become more evident in the wake of the Ukraine crisis. Competing economic agreements and reciprocal economic sanctions have deepened the rift in Europe. The Energy Union will enable the EU to strike out in a new direction in this sector. On the other hand, new stakeholders and alliances are gaining a foothold in the region, unleashing fresh dynamics between Europe and Asia that can hardly be contemplated as yet. Characterised by projects like China's Silk Road Initiative 'One Belt, One Road', these developments open up opportunities for growth; however, they may also give rise to geo-economic challenges.

The current agenda of the **4th east forum Berlin** and further information can be found at www.eastforum-berlin.de. The conference will be held in English; translation services are available for German and Russian.

Participation in the **east forum Berlin** is by personal invitation only. Interested parties may apply to the organisers. Journalists may be granted accreditation within the scope of existing capacities.

Follow us on [@eastforumberlin](https://twitter.com/eastforumberlin)

Press contacts:

Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations

Andreas Metz
Tel. +49-(0)30-2028-1441
A.Metz@bdi.eu

METRO GROUP

Rüdiger Stahlschmidt
+ 49 (0)211 6886-2947
stahlschmidt@metro.de

UniCredit Bank AG (HypoVereinsbank)

Margret Riedlsperger
Tel. +49-(0)89-378-29319
margret.riedlsperger@unicredit.de

east forum Berlin

