

Berlin Conference 2023

Resilient Futures: Building a Sustainable Europe

8/9 November 2023

Berlin Conference 2023 – “Resilient Futures: Building a Sustainable Europe”

The impacts of pandemic, economic fragility, autocratic regimes, political corruption, and the climate crisis determine more than ever the international discourse. At this important moment for Europe, the Berlin Conference 2023 asks: What is the role and responsibility of Europe? What can we as civil society do to gain and create awareness and impact on these important topics? What are some effective strategies for incorporating cultural values and practices into sustainable policies? How can we effectively join forces between citizens and create bridges with politics? We deeply believe that Europe is made, even more than by governments and treaties, by the lively and curious urban exchange from the cities. And equally, we believe that it is this cultural space that gives the opportunity and possibility to sustainably build Europe’s future together, over, and again.

The Berlin Conference 2023 therefore presents the theme of **Resilient Futures: Building a Sustainable Europe**. Individuals from diverse backgrounds and fields will have the chance to present and exchange insights for building a sustainable Europe that thrives on collaboration, diversity, and a shared commitment to a resilient future. By discussing them with decision-makers and carrying them from the local to the European level, the outcomes of the conference can have a lasting effect in shaping the European agenda in 2024.

Recognising Europe as an ever-evolving alliance of collaborative people, the conference will be transdisciplinary, cooperative and low-threshold. It will open this discourse from three perspectives:

The banner features a purple and white geometric pattern of squares and rectangles. The text is in green.

Berlin Conference 2023 **Democracy and its communities**

“Democracy and its communities” will examine contemporary challenges in fostering cooperation between civil society and politics. How can Europe encourage and support people's active participation in civil society especially from the young generation? What dynamics influence collaboration between different generations? Can artificial intelligence and other technologies serve as a catalyst for citizen engagement, amplifying democratic processes and empowering individuals to shape their communities?

The banner features a green and white geometric pattern of circles and vertical lines. The text is in orange.

Berlin Conference 2023 **Sustainability as a holistic model**

“Sustainability as a holistic model” will delve into sustainability within the context of democracy, which is fundamental for creating safe ecological futures. How can local communities effectively organise themselves and advocate for sustainable public spaces and improved wellbeing? What alternative models of social and economic cooperation can drive environmentally compatible practice, balancing environmental conservation, social equity, and economic prosperity?

The banner features an orange and white geometric pattern of triangles and vertical lines. The text is in purple.

Berlin Conference 2023 **Arts & Culture as a vision**

“Arts and Culture as a vision” will point out the diverse power of cultural and artistic expression as a basis for human existence, which gives us the possibility to imagine and develop alternatives for a desirable future. How can international cooperation in the arts contribute to fostering dialogue, mutual respect, and peaceful coexistence? How can societies uphold the right to freedom of artistic expression while respecting diverse cultural values? How can arts and culture be integrated into broader frameworks of sustainable development and social cohesion?

Wednesday, 8 November

Allianz Forum, Pariser Platz 6, 10117 Berlin

3:15 p.m.

Entrance

4 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Opening and welcome:

Markus Dröge, Spokesperson of the Board, Stiftung Zukunft Berlin

Michael Roth, Member of German Bundestag, Chairman Foreign Affairs Committee

Georg Pfeifer, Head of German Office, European Parliament

Nele Hertling, co-founder and member of the “A Soul for Europe” initiative

4:30 p.m. – 6 p.m.

How can innovation lead to more sustainability?

Format by the *Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung*

Dr. Julia Köhn, Entrepreneur

Dr. Christoph Weber, Founder and Managing Director of EPICO Klimainnovation

Christopher Sieler, Head of Government & Public Affairs for Syngenta

Dr. Jan Cernicky, Head of the Economy and Innovation Department of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

6 p.m.

Pitch presentation

On November 9th we will work in six different working groups throughout the three different pillars with experts in each group. The pitches inform participants about the topics in the working groups:

Democracy and its communities:

- **“Urbanity and culture. A city is not a country” by Eric Corijn** (zoologist, cultural philosopher, sociologist and author, Belgium)
- **“AI and the Future of European Culture” by Haris Pašović** (theatre director, Bosnia)

Sustainability as a holistic model:

- **“Doughnut Economy Rehab: How can we overcome our addiction to economical growth and learn to meet the needs of all people within the means of our planet?” by Marieke van Doorninck** (director of Kennisland - social innovation lab, former Deputy Major on Urban Planning and Sustainability of the City of Amsterdam)
- **“How can we win a just, green future & beat the far-right at the same time? A story of hope from Poland” by Dominika Lasota** (climate justice activist Friday For Future, Poland)

Arts and Cultures as a vision:

- **“Art as a vehicle of hope” by Bartosz Szydłowski**
(Director, Artistic Director of the Łaźnia Nowa Theatre
Krakow, Poland)
- **“To hear the world in a grain of sand. Embracing Europe
as an aural reality” by Jelle Dierickx** (Director and
artistic leader of the Flanders Festival
Mechelen/Kempen)

8 p.m. **Closing speech: Wolf Plesmann**, Head of Federal and European
Affairs and International Affairs, Senate Chancellery

8.10 p.m. - 9 p.m. **Get together at Allianz Forum**

Thursday, 9 November

Allianz Forum, Pariser Platz 6, 10117 Berlin

9:15 a.m. **Entrance**

10 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **Opening**

- **Markus Dröge**, Spokesperson of the Board, Stiftung
Zukunft Berlin
- **Michelle Schmitz**, Head of Representative Office Berlin
Allianz SE

10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. **Working group Part I**

*All participants will start working in their previously selected thematic
groups (six groups, two subtopics of each pillar, will work
simultaneously).*

Democracy and its communities

presented by: **Eric Corijn** and **Haris Pašović**

Sustainability as a holistic model

presented by: **Dominika Lasota** and **Marieke van Doorninck**

Arts and culture as a vision

presented by: **Bartosz Szydłowski** and **Jelle Dierickx**

1 p.m. – 2 p.m. Lunch Break

2 p.m. – 3.30 p.m. **Working Group Part II**

Further processing of the topics in the thematic groups.

3.45 p.m. **Plenary session in European House**

Results of working groups are collected and presented.

6 p.m. Entrance Europe speech in Allianz Forum

7 p.m. **Start Europe Speech held by Roberta Metsola**

organised by Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and Stiftung Zukunft Berlin

Conference language is English; simultaneous translation will be provided.

Contact: Laura Urbanek (+49 30 2639 229 41, urbanek@stiftungzukunftberlin.eu)

Project and conference partners:



We thank the following partners for their support:



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Executing organization:

