



A CULTURAL PROJECT

EUROPE

**20 Years
Berlin Conference**

**Join us in shaping
the future of Europe!**

**7 and 8 November
2024**

Where:

Allianz Forum
next to the

Brandenburg Gate

AGENDA

CONFERENCE DAY ONE



7 November 2024

Allianz Forum, Pariser Platz 6, 10117 Berlin
European House, Unter den Linden 78, 10117 Berlin

12.00 pm **Entrance & Registration at Allianz Forum**

12.30 pm **WORDS OF WELCOME**

Dr. Tobias Lindner, Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office, Germany
Florian Hauer, Permanent Secretary for Federal and European Affairs and International Affairs, Senate Chancellery Berlin
Dr. Dr. h.c. Markus Dröge, Spokesperson of the Board, Stiftung Zukunft Berlin
Ana Benavides and **Stephanie Bonnici**, Memeber of the “A Soul for Europe” strategy group

01.00 pm **CONVERSATION: 20 YEARS OF BERLIN CONFERENCE & EU ENLARGEMENT**
The role and place of arts and culture in Europe

Introduction by **Nele Hertling**, Co-founder and member of the “A Soul for Europe” initiative

Video Message by **José Manuel Barroso**, Former President of the European Commission

Jo Leinen, former Member of the European Parliament, former President of the European Movement International (EMI)

Dr. Hans-Gert Pöttering, former President of the European Parliament

Dr.h.c. Doris Pack, former Chair of the Committee on Culture and Education of the European Parliament

Dr. Hannes Swoboda, former Chair of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament

Hosted by

Dr. Volker Hassemer, founder of Stiftung Zukunft Berlin & former Senator for Urban Development and Environment and

Yuriy Vulkovsky, former Deputy Minister of Culture (Bulgaria) & Executive Director of Narodni Chitalishta Foundation

02.15 pm **Coffee Break**

02.45 pm **CONVERSATION: Understanding the Now**
How are arts & culture driving today's political debates & the future of Europe?

Lisa Batiashvili, Georgian-born German violinist

Mariya Gabriel, former European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth & former Minister of Foreign Affairs (Bulgaria)

Michael Roth, Member of the German Bundestag & Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

Salome Zurabishvili, President of Georgia

Hosted by **Farid Tabarki**, Founding Director of Studio Zeitgeist

04.00 pm **Change of location to European House**
Unter den Linden 78, 10117 Berlin
170m from Allianz Forum

04.30 pm **PITCH, CONNECT AND SHARE: Introduction to tomorrow's conversations**

The speakers who will hold their breakout sessions on the next day will pitch their topics

07.00 pm **End of day one**

CONFERENCE DAY TWO

8 November 2024

Allianz Forum, Pariser Platz 6, 10117 Berlin

The day's programme is designed to interconnect different formats, linking personal experiences with policy-making in four steps. First, European leaders share their personal stories in conversations with political, cultural, and civil society actors, exploring their visions for the future. This is followed by breakout sessions, where small groups can engage in open discussions with session leaders, reflecting on the insights shared. In the third step, political and cultural analysts synthesise the day's discussions into actionable policy proposals. Finally, decision-makers from local, national, and EU levels explore synergies and opportunities to create a joint agenda.

08.15 am **Entrance & Registration at Allianz Forum**

09.00 am **WORDS OF WELCOME**

Michelle Schmitz, Head of Representative Office Berlin Allianz SE and
Dr. Dr. h.c. Markus Dröge, Spokesperson of the Board, Stiftung Zukunft Berlin
Thomas Krüger, President of the German Federal Agency for Civic Education
Dr. Max Oliver Schmidt, Director of Studies for Migration and Europe,
Evangelische Akademie zu Berlin

09.20 am **PRESENTING: A SOUL FOR EUROPE STRATEGY GROUP**

How has A Soul for Europe utilised the power of art and culture for Europe over the last 20 years?

IN CONVERSATION WITH:

EXPECTATIONS AND DECEPTIONS, COMMITMENTS AND DECISIONS

Highly personal conversations between actors from the political and the artistic and cultural fields, and from civil society.

09.40 am **IN CONVERSATION WITH**

Dr.h.c. Doris Pack, former Chair of the Committee on Culture and
Education of the European Parliament
Mariya Gabriel, former European Commissioner for Innovation, Research,
Culture, Education and Youth & former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bulgaria
Haris Pašović, Theatre Director from Sarajevo, Bosnia

Hosted by **Kathrin Deventer**, Secretary General of European Festivals
Association & Strategy Group Member of A Soul for Europe

10.40 am **Coffee Break**

11.00 am **IN CONVERSATION WITH**

Aiva Rozenberga, Lielā Talka, Riga, Latvia

Alison Mooney, Poet and former Speechwriter at the President of the European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium

Lirak Çelaj, actor, director, and screenwriter, former Deputy Minister for European Integration, former Deputy Minister of Justice, Kosovo

Hosted by: **Nicolas Bertrand**, Member of A Soul for Europe

12.00 pm **Coffee Break**

12.15 pm **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

During parallel sessions, participants will engage in discussions to consolidate what was shared in the plenary conversations. Divided into smaller groups, they will explore diverse perspectives and address key concerns about Europe's future. Each group will be guided by a speaker and a host, to allow for a focused exchange of ideas.

GROUP 1:

Urszula Bertin, XENION – Psychosoziale Hilfen für politisch Verfolgte e.V., Berlin, Germany

Hosted by **Susana Marques**, Strategy Group Member of A Soul for Europe

GROUP 2: EUROPE A DECOLONIAL PROJECT?

The paradigm of looking at oneself through others' eyes and the adventure of pluriversity

Fernando Dias Costa, Musician, Grupo Sal, Tübingen, Germany

Hosted by **Dr. Max Oliver Schmidt**, Director of Studies for Migration and Europe, Evangelische Akademie zu Berlin

GROUP 3: Interconnectedness in the realm of culture

– How the new types of connectivity in arts and culture can shape the future of Europe.

Dr. hab. Dominika Kasprowicz, Villa Decius, Krakow, Poland

Hosted by **Dejan Ubovic**, Strategy Group Member of A Soul for Europe & Director of KC Grad, Belgrade, Serbia

GROUP 4: CREATIVE LABORATORIES OF CULTURAL DISCOVERY:

Festivals – our very own cultural large hadron colliders.

James McVeigh, Festivals Edinburgh, Scotland

Hosted by **Simon Mundy**, Strategy Group Member of A Soul for Europe

GROUP 5: CREATIVITY FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

How creativity can influence the societies we are living in and spark systemic change from the bottom up

Adama Sanneh, Co-Founder and CEO Moleskine Foundation, Milan, Italy,

Hosted by **Giusy Chierchia**, Strategy Group Member of A Soul for Europe

GROUP 6: DECENTERING EUROPEAN CULTURE. CONTRIBUTIONS OF NON EUROPEAN VOICES

How can non-Western actors challenge the Eurocentric gaze and contribute to a more inclusive, decolonized understanding and practice of culture?

Necati Sönmez, Film critic & documentary filmmaker, Istanbul, Turkey

Hosted by **Özlem Cengel Götzelt**, Strategy Group Member of A Soul for Europe

02.00 pm **Lunch**

03.00 pm

PLENARY: FROM CONVERSATIONS TO ANALYSIS

Political and Cultural analysts synthesise the day's discussions into actionable policy proposals for the local, national, and European levels.

Lars Ebert, Secretary General for Culture Action Europe, Brussels, Belgium

Adelheid Feilcke, Director of Programs for Europe at Deutsche Welle, Berlin, Germany

Davinia Galea, Founder and Managing Director for ARC Research & Consultancy, Malta

Elena Polivtseva, Co-Founder Culture Policy Room and Research Expert for Goethe Institute, Brussels, Belgium

Rarita Zbranca, Programme Director for Cluj Cultural Center, Cluj, Romania

Dr. Paweł Zerka, Senior Policy Fellow for European Council on Foreign Relations, Paris, France

Hosted by **Kathrin Deventer**, Secretary General of European Festivals Association & Strategy Group Member of A Soul for Europe and

Stephanie Bonnici, Strategy Group Member of A Soul for Europe

04.15 pm **Coffee Break**

- 04.30 pm** **PLENARY: FROM ANALYSIS TO ACTION**
Decision-makers from local, national, and EU levels commit to political processes by exploring synergies and opportunities to create a joint agenda.
- Dr. Samuel Azzopardi**, President of the Gozo Region, Malta
John Boxall, Mayor of Birgu, Malta
Xavier Cester Vidal, Director de l'Àrea de Música at Institut Català de les Empreses Culturals (ICEC) in Barcelona, Spain
Dr. Stefan Fassbinder, Mayor of Greifswald, Germany
Órsi Gergely, Mayor of Budapest District II, Hungary
Barbara Gessler, Head of the European Commission Representation in Berlin, Germany
Katti Hoflin, Director for cultural affairs in Västra Götaland, Sweden
Jacek Jaśkowiak, Mayor of Poznan, Poland
Gilles Pelayo, Head of Unit Creative Europe Culture at EACEA for European Commission, Belgium
José Ribau Esteves, Mayor of Aveiro, Portugal
Marcos Ros Sempere, Member of the European Parliament, Spain
Shaqir Totaj, Mayor of Prizren, Kosovo
Sarah Wedl-Wilson, Permanent Secretary for Culture in Berlin, Germany
- Hosted by **Farid Tabarki**, Founding Director of Studio Zeitgeist
- 05.45 pm** **CLOSING WORDS**
- Rarita Zbranca** and **Mahir Namur**, Strategy Group Members of A Soul for Europe
Dr. Dr. h.c. Markus Dröge, Spokesperson of the Board, Stiftung Zukunft Berlin
- 06.00 pm** **Reception**

Project and conference partners:



This project is funded by:



We also thank the following partners for their support:



Executive organization:

