

DISCUSSION THEMES 2015

**70 Years of Peace, 65 Years of Partnership:
European and Global Challenges to Britain and Europe**



Group 1: How do Britain and Germany envisage Europe's path ahead?

Chair: Almut Möller, Head of the Alfred von Oppenheim Centre for European Policy Studies, German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP)

Rapporteur: Charles Grant, Director, Centre for European Reform

- Where are the main differences and where do we see common approaches to key EU policies?
- Why is the EU attractive for asylum seekers, refugees and immigrants? How should the EU respond to these hopes? What is the right balance of national vs European policy on asylum, refugee and immigration policies?
- Are the EU institutions capable of reforming EU procedures and of fighting over-regulation?
- What are the key criteria for future EU energy policy? What should Brussels do, what should member states do? How does the EU respond to energy scarcity?
- Will the result of Paris 2015 be more geopolitically or more climate-policy oriented? What are the possibilities to promote a common German-British approach?

Group 2: Europe in an unstable and unpredictable world

Chair: Omid Nouripour, Member of Parliament, Deutscher Bundestag

Rapporteur: Dr Robin Niblett, Director, Chatham House

- Where is the Eastern boundary of the European polity? What is Russia's game-plan? How should we respond?
- Can we have material impact on the Sunni/Shia conflicts? If not, what consequences for us?
- How does Middle Eastern instability threaten our interests? Are we losing Turkey? What future for the Maghreb?
- What is our toolbox of policy options in response to these challenges? What is the right mix in all three cases? How do these impact on our domestic policies?

Group 3: Continental competition: The next stage of globalisation?

Chair: Sir Simon Fraser, Permanent Under-Secretary of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Rapporteur: Rupert Graf Strachwitz, Vice-Chair, Deutsch-Britische Gesellschaft; Executive Director, Maecenata Foundation

- Are Britain and Germany strong enough to act as national partners with China and India or do we need a EU-coordinated approach?
- How should a 'European nation' pursue best its foreign and security policy? What is the right mix between a unilateral and common EU foreign and security policy?
- Must CFSP mean an agreement/action at 28?
- How can we anchor the rules-based international economic order? What are the prospects for TTIP: for global free trade; can the UK and Germany help achieve stable reform of the International Financial Institutions (IFIs)?