



# EUROPE 2026 17.-18. März

**DAY 1**

Status: 11 March 2026. The final program is subject to change

**EUROPE 2026 – Day 1**Hosts: **Nicole Bastian**, Co-head of Podcast, Video and Live Journalism, Handelsblatt  
**Hannah Grünewald**, Podcast Editor and Host, DIE ZEIT

09:45 – 09:55	<b>Europe Forward: Shaping a New Era Opening &amp; Welcome (in German)</b> <b>Nils von der Kall</b> , CEO, ZEIT Publishing Group <b>Nicolas Köhn</b> , CEO, Tagesspiegel <b>Andrea Wasmuth</b> , CEO, Handelsblatt Media Group
09:55 – 10:20	<b>A Stronger Europe in an Age of Geopolitics</b> <b>Roberta Metsola</b> , President, European Parliament Moderation: <b>Dr. Anna Sauerbrey</b> , Foreign Editor, DIE ZEIT
10:25 – 10:45	<b>Europe's Internal Security: Common Action, Stronger Capabilities (in German)</b> <b>Magnus Brunner</b> , Commissioner, Internal Affairs and Migration, European Commission Moderation: <b>Anja Wehler-Schöck</b> , Member of the Editorial Board, Tagesspiegel
10:45 – 11:10	Coffee & Networking Break
11:10 – 11:30	<b>Europe's Security Horizon: Building a Stronger European Defense for 2026 and Beyond</b> <b>Andrius Kubilius</b> , Commissioner for Defence & Space, European Commission Moderation: <b>Dr. Anna Sauerbrey</b> , Foreign Editor, DIE ZEIT + Q&A
11:35– 12:15	<b>Sovereignty and Resilience: The Digital Foundations of Critical Infrastructure</b> <i>Introductory 1on1:</i> <b>Martin Merz</b> , President Sovereign Cloud, SAP SE <i>Followed by Discussion:</i> <b>Cathryn Clüver Ashbrook</b> , Executive Vice President and Senior Advisor, Bertelsmann Stiftung <b>Jonatan Vseviov</b> , Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Estonia Moderation: <b>Lisa Hegemann</b> , Head of Digital, DIE ZEIT
12:20 – 12:50	<b>Strengthening Europe's Shield: Industrial Agility for a New Security Era</b> <b>Sandra Krusch</b> , Managing Partner, EY-Parthenon Germany <b>Philippe Knoche</b> , Chief Operations and Performance Officer, Thales Group <b>Marco Herre</b> , CEO, DEUTZ Defense, Deutz AG Moderation: <b>Nicole Bastian</b> , Co-head of Podcast, Video and Live Journalism, Handelsblatt
12:50 – 13:45	Lunch & Networking Break



# EUROPE 2026

## 17.-18. März

### DAY 1

13:40 – 13:45

#### Healthy Returns: A Catalyst for Economic Growth and Resilience

(in German) *Impulse:* **Christoph Glaetzer**, Chief Global Value and Access Officer, Johnson & Johnson Innovative Medicine

13:45 – 14:20

#### From Potential to Performance: How Europe's Key Industries can Drive Future Prosperity (in German)

**Christoph Glaetzer**, Chief Global Value and Access Officer, Johnson & Johnson Innovative Medicine

**Prof. Dr. Martin Keller**, President, Helmholtz Association,

**Stefan Rouenhoff**, Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, Germany,

Moderation: **Nicole Bastian**, Co-head of Podcast, Video and Live Journalism, Handelsblatt

14:20 – 14:30

#### Made in Europe: Local Content for Strategic Resilience

**Christoph Hinrichsen**, Vice President Public Affairs Enlarged Europe, Stellantis

Moderation: **Zacharias Zacharakis**, Business Editor, DIE ZEIT

14:35 – 15:10

#### Unlocking Global Capital: What it Takes to Seize the "Invest in EUROPE" Opportunity (in German)

*Impulse:* **Maria Luis Albuquerque**, Commissioner, Financial Services and the Savings and the Investments Union, European Commission

*Followed by Discussion:*

**Thuy-Ngan Trinh**, Managing Director, A11

**Vincenzo Vedda**, Chief Investment Officer, DWS Group

**Michael Schrodi**, Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Finance, Germany

Moderation: **Mark Schieritz**, Deputy Editor Politics, DIE ZEIT

15:10 – 15:30

Coffee Break

15:30 – 15:55

#### Unlocking Economic Potential: How Digitalization and AI Drive Growth

**Dr. Karsten Wildberger**, Federal Minister for Digitalization and Government Modernisation, Germany

**Dr. Gonçalo Matias**, Minister in the Cabinet of the Prime Minister and of State Reform, Portugal

Moderation: **Horst von Buttlar**, Editor-in-Chief, WirtschaftsWoche

16:00 – 16:30

#### Scaling Startups Through Industry Collaboration

**Maya Noël**, CEO, France Digitale

**Verena Pausder**, Chairwoman of the Board, German Startup Association

**Milos Rusic**, CEO & Founder, deepset.ai

Moderation: **Nadine Schimroszik**, Reporter for Technology & Start-ups, Handelsblatt Media Group

16:30 – 17:00

Networking Break



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## DAY 1

16:30 – 17:00 Networking Break

17:00 – 17:15 **Europe's Sovereignty: A Look Toward Kyiv**  
Pavlo Klimkin, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ukraine

17:15 – 17:30 **Europe's Sovereignty: A Look Toward Washington and Paris**  
Sonja Alvarez, Foreign Correspondent Washington, WirtschaftsWoche  
Friederike Hofmann, France Correspondent, Handelsblatt

17:30 – 18:30 **Europe at a Turning Point: A Franco-German View of Europe's Sovereignty**  
Dr. Johann Wadephul, Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs, Germany  
Jean-Noël Barrot, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, France  
Moderation: Christian Tretbar, Editor-in-Chief, Tagesspiegel  
Anja Wehler-Schöck, Member of the Editorial Board, Tagesspiegel  
+ Q&A from the Audience

18:30 **End of Day 1**

# EUROPE 2026

17.-18.  
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## DAY 2

### EUROPE 2026 – Day 2

Hosts: **Maria Kotsev**, Editor Eastern Europe, Tagesspiegel, **Henrike Adamsen**, Reporter for Economics, Monetary and Climate Policy, WirtschaftsWoche

09:45 – 10:00

#### Welcome and Morning Briefing (by Zoom)

**Matthias Krupa**, Foreign Correspondent France, DIE ZEIT

**Torsten Riecke**, Foreign Correspondent Great Britain and Ireland, Handelsblatt

10:00 -10:25

#### EUROPE 2026 - Economic Insights

**Prof. Philippe Aghion**, Nobel Prize Laureate for Economic Sciences, Professor of Economics at Collège de France and London School of Economics (by Zoom)

**Prof. Dr. Monika Schnitzer**, Professor in Economics, Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich; Chairwoman, German Council of Economic Experts

Moderation: **Sebastian Matthes**, Editor-in-Chief, Handelsblatt

10:25 – 10:35

Q&A with Prof. Philippe Aghion and Prof. Dr. Monika Schnitzer

10:40 – 11:15

#### Innovation Made in Europe: More Regulation or Becoming an Innovative Powerhouse

**Jens Spahn**, Chairman of the CDU/CSU parliamentary group in the German Bundestag

**Dr. Ingeborg R. Borgheim**, Senior VP General Manager, Takeda Germany

**Dr. Amit Datta**, General Counsel, Aleph Alpha

**Dr. Michiel Scheffer**, President of the EIC Board, European Commission

Moderation: **Christian Tretbar**, Editor-in-Chief, Tagesspiegel

11:20 – 11:35

#### Europe's Chance: Stop Delaying, Start Competing

**Michael Lohscheller**, CEO, Polestar

Moderation: **Zacharias Zacharakis**, Business Editor, DIE ZEIT

11:35 – 12:00

Coffee & Networking Break

12:00 – 12:30

#### Europe's Lifelines: Strengthening Critical Industries for a Sovereign Continent

**Matthias Ecke MEP**, Member of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

**Oliver Schenk MEP**, Member of the Committee on the Environment, Climate and Food Safety (by Zoom)

**Kevin Berghoff**, CEO, QuantumDiamonds

**Richard Williams**, VP of Environmental Health and Safety, Organon

Moderation: **Ruth Ciesinger**, Managing Editor Online, Tagesspiegel



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## DAY 2

### Can Europe become a Global Leader in Life Sciences?

12:35 – 12:45

**Olivér Várhelyi**, Commissioner for Health and Animal Welfare, European Commission  
Moderation: **Gunnar Göpel**, Editor, Tagesspiegel Background

### Rebuilding Europe's Economic Strength: A Competitiveness Agenda

12:45 – 13:15

**Kerstin Jorna**, Director-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, European Commission  
**Patrick van der Loo**, Country President, Pfizer Germany  
**Prof. Dr. Moritz Schularick**, President, Kiel Institute for the World Economy  
Moderation: **Anja Wehler-Schöck**, Member of the Editorial Board, Tagesspiegel

13:15 – 14:15

Lunch & Networking Break

### The Race for Resources: Oil, Gas and Minerals

14:15 – 14:45

**Tom Høyem**, Former Danish Minister for Greenland  
Moderation: **Henrike Adamsen**, Reporter for Economics, Monetary and Climate Policy, WirtschaftsWoche

### Turning Climate Risk into Strategic Resilience: Europe's Role for Blue Innovation

14:50 – 14:55

*Impulse* **Prof. Dr. Katja Matthes**, Director, GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel

### Still a Hot Topic: Navigating Environmental Politics in Heated Times (in German)

15:00 – 15:30

**Carsten Schneider**, Minister of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of Germany  
Moderator: **Anke Myrrhe**, Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Tagesspiegel

15:30

End of Conference