



THE ATLANTIC COUNCIL
OF THE UNITED STATES
PROGRAM ON TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS

presents a

Transatlantic Economic Forum:
“Merkel’s Moment of Truth -
Restarting the German Economic Locomotive”

Dolly Madison Ballroom - The Madison Hotel
1177 15th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20005

AGENDA

Friday, October 27

8:45 am Registration

9:00 am **Welcome Remarks**

Frederick Kempe, Assistant Managing Editor, The Wall Street Journal
and Atlantic Council President Designate

9:15 am **Panel I – Reforming Germany’s Economy – What Needs to be Done?**

Adam Posen, Senior Fellow, Institute for International Economics
Bernhard Welschke, President, Representative of German Industry
and Trade

Gustav Horn, Director, Macroeconomic Policy Institute,
Hans-Böckler Stiftung

Richard Burt, former U.S. Ambassador to Germany (Moderator)

- Which key economic reforms has the Merkel government put in place?
- What, if any, are the effects?
- Is the government willing to go beyond the initial labor market reforms to further liberalize the labor market?
- What effect will the VAT increase have on domestic consumption?
- Will the corporate tax reform spur investment?
- What is the role of education and immigration policy in reforming the German economy?

- Is full economic integration of the Eastern Laender key to Germany's economic recovery, and, if so, how can this be achieved? Is the "solidarity tax" still the way to go?
- What other reforms need to be tackled in order to make Germany the engine of European growth? Should traditionally closed sectors of the economy (banking, capital markets, etc.) be opened up? How can so-called "sunrise industries" be promoted?

10:45 am Coffee Break

11:00 am **Panel II – Prospects for Greater Economic Reforms –
Creating Political Consensus?**

*Dirk Schattschneider, Deputy Head, North-Rhine Westphalia
Representation to the Federal Government and former candidate for
the Bundestag for the Free Democratic Party (FDP)*

Rüdiger Lentz, Bureau Chief Washington, Deutsche Welle (invited)

Michael Backfisch, Deputy Chief Editor, Handelsblatt

Stephen Szabo, Director of Research, AICGS (Moderator)

- What is the feasibility of broad economic reforms in a grand coalition government?
- How divided is the German public over the necessity of further economic reforms?
- Will Merkel call early elections in hopes of forming a center-right, pro-reform government?
- How does the opposition influence economic reform policy?
- In Germany's federalist system, what role do the Länder-governments play in economic reform? Is there ground for a "grand bargain" between the Länder and Berlin?
- Can Germany's Unions and Industry Lobbies play a constructive role in communicating the need for further reforms? What is the role of the media?

12:30 pm Buffet Lunch

1:00 pm **Keynote Speaker: Dr. Klaus Scharioth**, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United States of America

1:45 pm Coffee Break

2:00 pm

Panel III – Germany in the European and Global Economies

*Wolfgang Jakubek, Managing Director, Washington Office,
Deutsche Telekom*

Günther Burghardt, former EU Ambassador to the United States

Bruce Stokes, International Economics Columnist, National Journal

Fran Burwell, Atlantic Council (Moderator)

- Does Brussels limit Germany's economic policy-making?
- How does European monetary policy, the European Growth and Stabilization Pact, and continued appreciation of the Euro affect Germany's economy and what are the lessons that need to be drawn from that?
- What lessons can Germany learn from other reforming economies in Europe and the U.S.?
- Given current economic conditions, can Germany be a partner for the U.S. in providing leadership in the global economy? What does this leadership look like?
- How can the U.S. and Germany cooperate on promoting global trade after the collapse of the Doha talks?
- Can the U.S. and Germany develop a transatlantic free trade area between the U.S. and Europe?

3:30 pm

Closing Remarks

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the German Marshall Fund of the United States, and the
German American Business Council*

