

New World Disorder

Germany's and Europe's Challenges and Opportunities for economic Competitiveness and new Technologies

Symposium

Monday to Tuesday, 6 – 7 October 2025

Platz vor dem Neuen Tor 6 | 10115 Berlin



© vectorpouch / Freepik

In recent decades, Germany and its exports have benefited greatly from the open and rule-based global trade. However, the geopolitical situation and hence the international economic framework has dramatically changed in recent years. China strives for a new world order; the USA threatens with punitive tariffs and Russia pursues a war on Ukraine. These developments and domestic problems with our infrastructure and regulatory framework have far-reaching consequences for the structure and value creation of the economy in Germany and Europe, under special consideration of climate change and energy supply.

Fundamental challenges such as the limited availability of raw materials, changes in value chains and the given path dependency of investments particularly affect the success of innovative

new technologies and related transformations in all sectors of the economy. The symposium is dedicated to these urgent issues and addresses both an analysis of the current situation and possible solutions as to how Germany and Europe can act successfully.

Venue

Adina Hotel Berlin Mitte

Platz vor dem Neuen Tor 6 | 10115 Berlin | Germany

Further information and the
registration form is online available.
Please register for the Symposium.
www.leopoldina.org/en/new-world-disorder



Programme

6 October 2025

13:00-13:10 | Welcome

Regina Riphahn ML, *Vice President of the Leopoldina*

Session 1: Global perspectives and regional positions in the international economic framework

Chair: Veronika Grimm, *University of Technology Nuremberg*

13:10-13:40

Global geopolitical developments

Harold James, *Princeton University*

13:40-14:10

EU competitiveness and economic security

Jeromin Zettelmeyer, *Bruegel, Bruxelles*

14:10-14:40

The economic situation in Germany

Clemens Fuest, *ifo Institute, Munich*

14:40-15:30 | Coffee break

15:30-16:00

Stress, Excess, Success: China's Political Economy in the next phase of globalization

Mikko Huotari, *Mercator Institute for China Studies, Berlin*

16:00-16:30

Resilience in a Shifting Global Order

Markus Brunnermeier, *Princeton University*

16:30-17:00

International Trade and Customs Policies

Gabriel Felbermayr, *WIFO, Vienna*

17:00-17:30

Artificial Intelligence – Developments, Failures, Opportunities

Dietmar Harhoff ML, *Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition, Munich*

7 October 2025

09:00-09:10 | Welcome & Introduction to Deep Dives

Ottmar Edenhofer ML, *Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research*

Session 2: Recent sectoral developments in view of industrial use and scientific progress

Deep Dive 1: Chemical Industry

Chair: Ferdi Schüth ML, *Max-Planck-Institut für Kohlenforschung, Mülheim*

09:10-09:30

Green transformation and competitiveness of the chemical industry in Germany

Stefan Henn, *Wacker Chemie*

09:30-09:50

Defossilizing an industry producing carbon-based products: Challenges and opportunities

Stephan Schunk, *hte GmbH and Leipzig University*

09:50-10:20

Questions & Answers

10:20-10:50 | Coffee break

Deep Dive 2: Steel Industry

Chair: Ulrich Wagner, *Technical University of Munich*

10:50-11:10

Resilient Energy for Green Steel: Securing Europe's Industrial Future with Hydrogen

Miguel Ángel López Borrego, *Thyssenkrupp*

11:10-11:30

CO₂-free steelmaking – Pathways and Challenges

Johannes Schenk, *Montanuniversität Leoben*

11:30-12:00

Questions & Answers

12:00-13:00 | Lunch

Deep Dive 3: Automotive Industry

Chair: Christoph M. Schmidt ML, *RWI Leibniz Institute for Economic Research, Essen*

13:00-13:20

Competitiveness – Aspects/Prospects

Heinrich Hiesinger, *BMW*

13:20-13:40

The Future of Batteries

Jürgen Janek ML, *Gießener University*

13:40-14:10

Questions & Answers

Deep Dive 4: Energy Systems

Chair: Veronika Grimm, *University of Technology Nuremberg*

14:10-14:30

Securing the Future: Energy Technology and Industrial Resilience in a Multipolar World

Christian Bruch, *Siemens Energy*

14:30-14:50

Pathways for the energy transition in challenging times

Frank-Detlef Drake, *RWTH Aachen*

14:50-15:20

Questions & Answers

15:20-15:50 | Coffee break

15:50-16:50

What do we learn? Strategies for securing the transformation in Europe

Chair: Wolfgang Marquardt ML

Irene Bertschek, *Leibniz Center for European Economic Research, ZEW*

Marie-Christine Ostermann, *Die Familienunternehmer*

Andreas Löschel, *Energy Systems of the Future, ESYS*

Siegfried Russwurm, *Federation of German Industries, BDI*

Robert Schlögl ML, *Alexander von Humboldt Foundation*

16:50-17:00 | Closing remarks & farewell

Christoph M. Schmidt ML, *RWI Leibniz Institute for Economic Research, Essen*