



Germany-Israel Strategic Forum 2017

Biographies of Participants



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From Israel:

Keynote speakers

Amb. Jeremy Issacharoff

Ambassador of Israel to Germany

Brig. Gen. Dror Shalom

Head, Research and Analysis Division (RAD),
Intelligence, Israel Defense Forces (IDF)

Participants

MK Rachel Azaria

Member, Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee

MK Omer Barlev

Member, Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee

Eran Etzion

Executive Director, Forum of Strategic Dialogue
(FSD)

Dr. Amichai Magen

Senior Lecturer, Lauder School of Government,
Diplomacy and Strategy; Head, Governance &
Political Violence Program, Institute for
Counter-Terrorism (ICT), Interdisciplinary Center
(IDC), Herzliya

Shimrit Meir

CEO, Link – the Center for Strategic Communication
in the Middle East

Barak Ravid

Senior Diplomatic Correspondent, *Channel 10
News*

Dr. Dan Schueftan

Director, National Security Studies Center,
University of Haifa

Amb. Shimon Stein

Senior Research Fellow, Institute for National
Security Studies (INSS); former Ambassador of
Israel to Germany

Gen. (ret.) Haim Tomer

Former Chief of International Operational Division,
Prime Minister's Office

Col. (ret.) Rami Yungman

Deputy Head, Policy & Political Military Bureau,
Director for International Cooperation, Ministry of
Defence

Haim Waxman

Instructor, National Defense College

Asaf Zarmi

Representative, Strategic Planning Department, IDF



From Germany:

Keynote speakers

Volker Bouffier

Prime Minister of the State of Hessen

Dr. Ralf Brauksiepe

Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Defense (FMOD)

Dr. Ole Diehl

Vice President, Bundesnachrichtendienst

Participants

Dr. Marwan Abou-Taam

Analyst, State Criminal Investigation Department, Rhineland-Palatinate; Research Associate, Berlin Institute for Integration and Migration Research (BIM)

Amb. Dr. Philipp Ackermann

Regional Director for the Near and Middle East and the North Africa, Federal Foreign Office

Dr. Wilfried Buchta

Independent Political Analyst and Middle East Consultant

Judy Dempsey

Editor-In-Chief, *Strategic Europe*, Carnegie Europe

Dr. Fritz Felgentreu MdB

Member, Defense Committee (2013–17)

Dr. Richard Herzinger

Political Correspondent and Columnist, *Die Welt* and *Die Welt am Sonntag*

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Deputy Head, Berlin Office, *SPIEGEL*

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Deputy Director General, Security & Defense Policy Matters, FMOD

Josef Joffe

Editor, *DIE ZEIT*

Dr. Karl-Heinz Kamp

President, Federal Academy for Security Policy

Roderich Kiesewetter MdB

Member, Foreign Affairs Committee (2013–2017); Representative of Foreign Affairs for the CDU/CSU Parliamentary Group

Dr. Tobias Lindner MdB

Member, Defense Committee (2013–17)

Michael Link MdB

Former Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR); former Minister of State, Federal Foreign Office

Rudolf Rogg

Director, Division Middle East, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

Antje Schippmann

Editor Politics, *BILD*

Dr. des. Anna Sunik

Associate Research Fellow, GIGA Middle East
Institute Hamburg

Dr. Johann David Wadephul MdB

Member, Committee on Foreign Affairs (2013–17);
Rapporteur for the Middle East, Iran and the West
Balkan States of the CDU/CSU Parliamentary Group



Israeli Keynote Speakers



Amb. Jeremy Issacharoff
Ambassador of Israel to Germany

Amb. Jeremy Issacharoff has been Ambassador for the state of Israel in Germany since August 2017. He has been a diplomat in Israel's Foreign Service since 1980 and served among other roles as the vice director general and head of the Multilateral Affairs Directorate in the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) from 2014 to 2017, and deputy chief of mission to the Israeli embassy in Washington D.C. Between 2003 and 2008, Amb. Issacharoff was asked by the United Nations Secretary General to serve on his Advisory Board for Disarmament Affairs. He was Israel's first deputy director general for strategic affairs in the Foreign Ministry, established to cope with politico-military affairs in the post 9/11 world. He is considered an expert on Iran and in US strategic relations and had a central role in the negotiations with the EU on the European Neighborhood Policy Agreement in 2004 and in expanding contacts with NATO. Amb. Issacharoff graduated from the London School of Economics with an LLB and MSc in international relations.



Brig. Gen. Dror Shalom
Head, Research and Analysis Division (RAD),
Intelligence, Israel Defense Forces (IDF)

Brig. Gen. Dror Shalom is the Head of the Research and Analysis Division in the Israeli Defense Intelligence. He has served in several key positions in the Israeli Defense Intelligence in the Israel Defense Forces. He served as a special advisor to the Chief of Israel Defense Intelligence as well as the deputy for analysis in the RAD. In his previous position he served as Chief Instructor in the Israeli National Defense College and as a research fellow in the College. Brig. Gen. Shalom has a BA in Middle Eastern studies & history of the land of Israel from Tel Aviv University, an LLB from the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC), a legal training in international law, an IDF Military Advocate International Law, and an Executive MBA from Tel Aviv University.

German Keynote Speakers



Dr. Ralf Brauksiepe

Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Defense

Dr. Ralf Brauksiepe is Parliamentary State Secretary at the German Ministry of Defense since December 2013. Between 2009 and 2013, he held the same position at the German Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. Since 2009, Dr. Brauksiepe is Deputy Chairman of the CDU/CSU (Christian Democratic Party/Christian Social Union) parliamentary group of North Rhine-Westphalia in the German Bundestag, where he is member of the CDU/CSU party group already since 1998. He is member of the Federal Executive Board of the CDU and Federal Chairman of the Christian Democratic Workers' Association (CDA). Before his political career, he was research assistant at the Faculty of Economics at Bochum University. Dr. Ralf Brauksiepe has a MA in Economics from Bochum University and got his PhD in 1995.



Dr. Ole Diehl

Vice President, Bundesnachrichtendienst

Dr. Ole Diehl is Vice President of Bundesnachrichtendienst (Intelligence) since 2016. Before that, he was serving as Consular General in Mazar-e Sharif, Afghanistan. From 2009 to 2014, Dr. Diehl was posted at the headquarter of the Federal Foreign Office, heading the Central Europe Division, the office of Minister of State Prof. Dr. Maria Böhmer and the parliament and cabinet division. Since the beginning of his career as a diplomat, he has been assigned to various missions in New Zealand, the United States of America as well as providing council to German Parliament and the Federal President. Dr. Diehl studied political science, public law and Slavic studies in Kiel and completed his PhD at the Free University of Berlin.



Special Keynote



Volker Bouffier

Prime Minister of the State of Hessen

Mr. Volker Bouffier is Prime Minister of the State of Hessen since August 2010. After elections in 2013, for the first time in Germany, he started a black-green coalition (CDU-Alliance 90/the Greens) in a German federal state. During this time, he also was President of the Bundesrat from November 2014 to October 2015. Before he became Prime Minister of Hessen, he was Minister of the Interior and Sport in Hessen until 2010. Besides his positions as a minister, he has been chairman of the Hessian CDU since July 2010 and one of the five deputy party heads of the federal CDU since November 2010. From 1987 to 1991, he worked as undersecretary at the Ministry of Justice of Hessen and held different other political positions. He is a lawyer by training and gained his state examination at law in 1977 at the University of Giessen. Hessen is one of the most important economic German partner for Israel, e.g. having a partnership in cyber-security between the Hebrew University Jerusalem and the Fraunhofer Institute for Secure Information Technology, the leading institute for applied cybersecurity research in Germany, based in Hessen.

Israeli Participants



MK Rachel Azaria

Member, Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee

MK Rachel Azaria represents the Kulanu party in the 20th Knesset, ranking fifth on the party list. She was recently appointed the chair of the Knesset Reforms Committee, serves as a member of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Ethics Committee. She is identified by her liberal-social approach and her opposition to religious legislation by other coalition members, particularly bills that undermine the status quo. Before entering the Knesset, MK Azaria headed Mavoi Satum, which provides legal counseling and support to women who have been refused a Jewish bill of divorce. Between 2008 and 2013, she served as a member of the Jerusalem City Council. In 2013, MK Azaria was appointed Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem. In addition, she was one of the initiators of the establishment of an Orthodox Kashrut supervision – an alternative to the Rabbinate – Hashgacha Pratit. MK Azaria holds a BA in psychology and an MA in conflict resolution from Hebrew University Jerusalem.



MK Omer Barlev

Member, Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee

MK Omer Barlev was first elected to the 19th Knesset in 2013 as a member of the Israeli Labor Party and was reelected to the 20th Knesset in 2015. MK Barlev is member of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, heading the Subcommittee for Military Readiness and Routine Security, and member in other subcommittees, including the subcommittees on intelligence and cyber. Prior to his political career he enjoyed a long career mainly in the Israeli medical hi-tech industry. MK Barlev was appointed the commander of the IDF's Special Forces in 1984. He also served as a member of the IDF's delegation for the negotiations between Israel and the PLO and afterwards took part in negotiating the peace agreement with Jordan (1994). He holds a BSc in agronomy from the Hebrew University Jerusalem and a MA in international relations and strategy from Tel Aviv University. After the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, MK Barlev founded the movement Acharai, which has become one of the biggest and most successful Israeli youth organizations.





Eran Etzion

Executive Director, Forum of Strategic Dialogue (FSD)

Eran Etzion is executive director of the Forum of Strategic Dialogue (FSD). He is a former diplomat who held senior positions, including the head of policy planning at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and deputy head of the National Security Council in the Prime Minister's office. He has extensive experience in the fields of strategy, policy planning and diplomatic execution across all dimensions of national and international security. Mr. Etzion has led strategic and policy planning dialogues between Israel and its major international counterparts including the US, China, Russia, France, Britain, and Germany. He is currently involved in a number of start-up ventures in the fields of strategy and clean technologies. Mr. Etzion holds a BA in philosophy and Far Eastern studies from the Hebrew University, and an MBA from the University of Phoenix.



Dr. Amichai Magen

Senior Lecturer, Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy and Strategy; Head, Governance & Political Violence Program, ICT, IDC, Herzliya

Dr. Amichai Magen is a senior lecturer (US Associate Professor) and head of the MA program in diplomacy & conflict studies at the Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy and Strategy. He also heads the governance & political violence program at the Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT), and is a visiting fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University. Between 2005 and 2009, he was a lecturer in law at Stanford Law School, and a research fellow at the Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law (CDDRL) at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies (FSI). Dr. Magen received the Yitzhak Rabin Fulbright Award (2003) and the National Fellow Award from Hoover Institution. In 2016, he was named Richard von Weizsäcker Fellow by the Robert Bosch Academy. Dr. Magen is a member of the Board of Directors of the Israel Council on Foreign Relations.



Shimrit Meir

CEO, Link – the Center for Strategic Communication in the Middle East

Shimrit Meir is the CEO of Link – the Center for Strategic Communication in the Middle East. She is a leading Middle East analyst and longtime journalist with more than 15 years of experience researching and covering the Arab world, and the Palestinians in particular. She is also the founding editor of Israel's largest Arabic media outlet *Al-Masdar*. Fluent in Arabic, Hebrew, English and French, Ms. Meir was the Arab affairs correspondent and commentator for *Galei Zahal*, one of Israel's top news channels, and worked for both Israeli public television and for *Channel 2 News*, the country's largest commercial station. Based in Tel Aviv, Ms. Meir heads a Jewish-Arab team of young journalists that delivers stories from Israel to the Arab world, using web and social media platforms. The team has a facebook community of more than 2.2 million people across the region and operates a highly popular news website.



Barak Ravid

Senior Diplomatic Correspondent,
Channel 10 News

Barak Ravid is the Senior Diplomatic Correspondent of *Channel 10 News*. He joined *Channel 10 News* in October 2017. Mr. Ravid is covering the Prime Minister's Office, the Foreign Ministry and the Ministry of Defense, dealing with issues such as U.S.-Israeli relations, EU-Israeli relations and the peace process. Before joining *Channel 10 News*, he worked for 10 years as diplomatic correspondent for *Haaretz* newspaper. Before joining *Haaretz*, Mr. Ravid worked for two years for *Maariv* daily newspaper, spending a year covering the Palestinian Authority and a year as a diplomatic correspondent. Mr. Ravid has a BA in the history of the Middle East from the University of Tel Aviv. He served for six years as an officer in the Israel Defense Forces and concluded his service with the rank of Captain.





Dr. Dan Schueftan

Director, National Security Studies Center,
University of Haifa

Dr. Dan Schueftan is director of the National Security Studies Center at the University of Haifa, a lecturer at the Israel Defense Forces National Defense College and was a Goldman Visiting Professor between 2012 and 2014 at the Department of Government at Georgetown University. For the last four decades, he has been a consultant to Israeli decision makers and to the top echelon of Israel's Prime Minister's Office, Foreign Ministry, Defense Ministry and the National Security Council. He has also been briefing senior members of the executive branch, legislators, political leaders, senior officers, defense and intelligence officials and government advisors in the United States and Europe since the 1970s.



Amb. Shimon Stein

Research Fellow, Institute for National Security
Studies (INSS); former Ambassador of Israel to
Germany

Amb. Shimon Stein is currently a research fellow at the Institute for National Security Studies. From 2001 to 2007, Amb. Stein served as Israel's Ambassador to Germany. Prior to this appointment, he served in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) as Deputy Director General for the CIS, as well as Eastern and Central Europe. Amb. Stein held additional MFA posts in Washington, Germany, and Israel, and was a member of Israel's delegation to multilateral negotiations on arms control. He is also an international consultant, working for American, German, and Israeli organizations. He publishes articles regularly in the German press on foreign and security issues.



Gen. (ret.) Haim Tomer

Former Chief of International Operational Division,
Prime Minister's Office (PMO)

Gen. (ret.) Haim Tomer is a strategic consultant for Israeli and non-Israeli companies, firms and governmental agencies. Before that, he was consultant for leading cyber-intelligence companies, a member of the AWZ ventures investment fund, and chairman of The Fifth Dimension start-up. Until 2014, he was chief of the International Operational Division (General rank), and Chief of the Intelligence Division (personal intelligence officer of the Israeli Prime Minister). Before that, he headed the counter-terrorism directorate and held various staff and field positions in Israel and overseas at the PMO. From 1973 to 1981, he completed the Israeli Defence Force service and from 1981 to 1987, he was Army Reserve Battalion Commander at the Israeli Defense Force. He obtained a BA in Middle Eastern studies from Tel Aviv University in 1985 and completed a senior management studies within the PMO.



Col. (ret.) Rami Yungman

Deputy Head, Policy & Political Military Bureau;
Director for International Cooperation, Ministry of
Defense (MoD)

Rami Yungman is the Deputy Head of the Policy & Political Military Bureau and Director for International Cooperation at the Ministry of Defense. In this capacity, he is responsible for policy planning & implementation, defense cooperation and strategic dialogues. Since he joined the MoD in 1996, he has been involved in strategic policy planning and international cooperation. In 1972, he started his military service in the IDF's military intelligence where he served for 24 years in various positions. He took part in the 1973 Yom Kippur War, the 1982 First Lebanon War and the 1991 Gulf War. He studied history of the Middle East and East Africa, has an MBA and is a graduate of the IDF's Brigade Commanders course, Command and Staff College and NESAs (US-NDU) Executive Seminar.





Haim Waxman

Instructor, National Defense College

Haim Waxman is the head of foreign affairs studies in the Israel National Defense College, where he has been serving in the past three years as an instructor. A career diplomat, Mr. Waxman was Israel's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations from 2010 to 2013. Prior to that posting, he served as the Director of the Department for Non-Proliferation in the Strategic Affairs Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). While heading the Department for Defense Export Controls in the MFA between 2005 and 2007, Mr. Waxman was closely involved in the reform of the national system of export controls and legislation. Mr. Waxman served as counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations office in Geneva from 1999 until 2004. He holds a BA in Russian and General studies from the Hebrew University Jerusalem (1990) and an MA in public policy from Tel Aviv University (2005).



Lt. Col. Asaf Zarmi

Representative, Strategic Planning Department, IDF

Lt. Col. Asaf Zarmi works in the Strategic Division of the IDF's Planning Directorate. Before he started to deal with the complexity of the strategic viewpoint, he started his military career in the Planning Directorate's Operations Research, dealing primarily with issues related to force buildup. He then moved to be an intelligence officer in the Israel Defense Intelligence (IDI) Research Division. Lt. Col. Zarmi received his M.Sc. in applied mathematics from Tel Aviv University.

German Participants



Dr. Marwan Abou-Taam

Analyst, State Criminal Investigation Department, Rhineland-Palatinate; Research Associate, Berlin Institute for Integration and Migration Research (BIM)

Dr. Marwan Abou-Taam is a scholar of Islamic studies and political science. Born in Beirut (Lebanon), he took his PhD under Bassam Tibi at the University of Göttingen, submitting a dissertation on Islamist terrorism. He works at the Landeskriminalamt (LKA), the State Criminal Investigation Department of Rhineland-Palatinate, with a focus on Islamist extremism, Salafism/Jihadism, and internal security. Dr. Marwan Abou-Taam is an associated member of the Institut für empirische Integrations- und Migrationsforschung (BIM), the Berlin Institute for Integration and Migration Research at the Humboldt University Berlin. Since 2014, he has also been a visiting lecturer at the University of Applied Sciences.



Amb. Dr. Philipp Ackermann

Regional Director for the Near and Middle East and the North Africa, Federal Foreign Office

Amb. Dr. Philipp Ackermann has been the Regional Director for the Near and Middle East and the North Africa at the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin since August 2016. Before that, he was Minister and Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Washington, D.C. From 2010 to 2014, he held the position as Head of Task Force Afghanistan-Pakistan in the Federal Foreign Office and as German Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan. Several other postings have been to Rabat (Morocco), New York (German mission to the UN) and New Delhi (India). Between 2002 and 2006, Amb. Dr. Ackermann worked in the offices of the Federal Foreign Ministers Joschka Fischer and Frank-Walter Steinmeier. From 2006 to 2007, he headed the German Provincial Reconstruction Team in Kunduz, Afghanistan. He studied art history and economics in Bonn, Heidelberg and Utrecht, and received his doctorate in art history in 1993.





Dr. Wilfried Buchta

Independent Political Analyst and Middle East Consultant

Dr. Wilfried Buchta is a political analyst and Middle East consultant. He was engaged as a senior political affairs officer by the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) in providing expertise and assistance to the Government of Iraq (2005–2011). He was based in Baghdad liaising with leading Iraqi politicians, officials and clerics. Prior to this, Dr. Buchta's publications placed him into a small circle of leading world experts on the politics of the Islamic Republic of Iran, e.g. *Who Rules Iran? The Structure of Power in the Islamic Republic* (2000). Dr. Buchta gives lectures and has served as a consultant for a number of state and non-governmental institutions, such as the UN Department for Political Affairs (DPA) in New York, the German Bertelsmann-Foundation, the SPD-affiliated Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation (FES) and the Geneva Centre for Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF). Dr. Buchta studied Islamic studies, political science and religious studies at the Friedrich-Wilhelm-University Bonn and received his PhD in 1997. He is also a certified translator for Arabic and Persian.



Judy Dempsey

Editor-In-Chief, *Strategic Europe*, Carnegie Europe

Judy Dempsey has been a senior fellow at Carnegie Europe and editor-in-chief of Carnegie's *Strategic Europe* since 2012. Prior to that, she was a columnist for the *International New York Times* after serving as the *International Herald Tribune's* Germany Correspondent in Berlin between 2004 to 2011. From 2001 to 2004, she was the *Financial Times's* Diplomatic Correspondent in Brussels covering the NATO and European Union enlargements. Between 1996 and 2001, she was the *FT's* Jerusalem bureau chief, its Berlin correspondent from 1992 to 1996 and its Eastern European correspondent from 1990 to 1992. During the 1980s, Dempsey reported from Vienna on Central and Eastern Europe for the *Financial Times*, the *Irish Times*, and the *Economist*. She graduated from Trinity College, Dublin, where she studied history and political science. She has contributed to several books on Eastern Europe. In 2013, her book on Chancellor Angela Merkel *Das Phänomen Merkel* was published. She has been awarded several journalism prizes.



Dr. Fritz Felgentreu MdB

Member, Defense Committee (2013–2017); Member, Committee on Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (2013–17)

Dr. Fritz Felgentreu MdB has been the deputy spokesman on defense policy of the SPD parliamentary group since May 2015. Being a member of the German Bundestag since September 2013, he is a member of the Defense Committee and the Committee on Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. In addition, Dr. Felgentreu MdB acts as secretary at plenary sittings. From 2001 until 2011, Dr. Felgentreu MdB was a member of the Berlin House of Representatives, deputy chairman of the SPD parliamentary group and spokesman on legal policy affairs. Since 2014, he is deputy chairman of the German Bundestag's working group on reservist affairs and chairman of the Berlin national association of the German War Graves Commission. Furthermore, Dr. Felgentreu MdB is member of the executive committee of the German Atlantic Association and chairman of the German-Moldovan Forum since November 2015.



Dr. Richard Herzinger

Political Correspondent and Columnist, *Die Welt* and *Die Welt am Sonntag*

Dr. Richard Herzinger is political correspondent and columnist for *Die Welt* and *Welt am Sonntag* in Berlin, focusing on international politics (Middle East, EU, Ukraine-Russia, transatlantic relations). Between 2004 and 2005, he worked as German correspondent for the Swiss weekly *Die Weltwoche*. From 1996 to 2004, he was working as author and editor for the weekly *Die Zeit* in Hamburg. He wrote numerous articles and essays for German and international newspapers and magazines, among others *Internationale Politik*, *Jüdische Allgemeine*, *Foreign Policy*, and *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*. He is author of several books on western liberalism and anti-western ideology, among them *Endzeitpropheten oder Die Offensive der Antiwestler* (1995, with Hannes Stein), and *Republik ohne Mitte* (2001). He achieved a PhD in German literature in 1991 and lectured for several years at the Free University of Berlin.





Amb. Prof. Dr. Hans-Dieter Heumann

Director, Center for International Security and Governance (CISG), University Bonn; former President of the Federal Academy for Security Policy (BAKS)

Ambassador (ret.) Dr. Hans-Dieter Heumann is Director at the Center for International Security and Governance (CISG) of the University of Bonn. He is the former President of BAKS in Berlin and a former Ambassador of Germany (to the Council of Europe). He served in both the policy planning staffs of the German Foreign Office and the German Ministry of Defense as well as at the German embassies in Washington D.C., Moscow and Paris. In Washington D.C. he taught at Georgetown University. His areas of expertise include international relations and security, European security, US foreign policy, Russia. His publications focus on these issues.



Christiane Hoffmann

Deputy Head, Berlin Office, *SPIEGEL*

Christiane Hoffmann is the Deputy Head of the Berlin Office of German news magazine *SPIEGEL*. She is a specialist on Foreign and Security Policy. From 1994 to 2002, she was with *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* and *Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung*, among other postings she was a correspondent to Moscow from 1996 to 1999, Tehran from 1999 to 2004 and Berlin from 2009 to 2014. Christiane Hoffmann is the author of a book on Iran *Hinter den Schleiern Irans* (Behind the veils of Iran). She is married to Swiss diplomat and politician Tim Guldemann and has two daughters.



Dr. Rüdiger Huth

Deputy Director General, Security & Defense Policy Matters, Federal Ministry of Defense (FMOD)

Since February 2017, Dr. Rüdiger Huth is the Deputy Director General for Security & Defense Policy Matters at the FMOD. Prior to this position, Dr. Huth has been working as division chief of Policy Division II – Security and Defense Policy Matters at the FMOD. From 2012 until 2015, Dr. Huth was the deputy director of the Bundeswehr Planning Office. Between 2004–2012, he held various positions both at the FMOD and the Armed Forces. From 1996 till 2004, Dr. Huth was the specialist for security and defense policy at the Christian Democratic Party/ Christian Social Union parliamentary group in the German Bundestag. Dr. Huth joined the Army Signal Corps in 1978 as a temporary-career volunteer for 2 years. Today, Dr. Huth holds the rank of Major of the Reserve. From 1980 to 1985 he studied at the University of Cologne.



Josef Joffe

Editor, *DIE ZEIT*

Josef Joffe is editor of the German weekly *DIE ZEIT*. From 1985 to 2009, he was columnist/editorial page editor of *Süddeutsche Zeitung*. Mr. Joffe obtained his PhD in Government in 1975 from Harvard. Abroad, his essays and reviews have appeared in: *New York Review of Books*, *New York Times Book Review*, *Times Literary Supplement*, *Commentary*, *New York Times Magazine*, *New Republic*, *Weekly Standard*, *Prospect* (London), *Commentaire* (Paris).





Dr. Karl-Heinz Kamp

President, Federal Academy for Security Policy (BAKS)

Dr. Karl-Heinz Kamp has been president of the Federal Academy for Security Policy (BAKS) since October 2015. Prior to that, he worked as academic director at the academy from 2013. In 2009, he has been appointed as advisor into the “NATO Group of Experts on the new Strategic Concept” by Madeleine Albright during his work as research director at the NATO Defense College in Rome. From 2003 to 2007, he was security policy coordinator at the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Berlin. He held different posts in the field of political science research as well as a temporary assignment with the planning staff at the Federal Foreign Office. He is a member of numerous international institutions and academic bodies. He has published extensively on security policy issues – including articles in *Foreign Policy*, *Survival*, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, *International Herald Tribune* (and others). He studied history and political sciences at the Friedrich-Wilhelms-University of Bonn and he holds a PhD from the University of the German Armed Forces, Hamburg.



Roderich Kiesewetter MdB

Member, Committee of Foreign Affairs (2013–17);
Representative of Foreign Affairs for the CDU/
CSU-Parliamentary Group

Roderich Kiesewetter MdB has been member of the German Bundestag since October 2009. In the Bundestag he is member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and holds the position of Foreign Policy Representative for the CDU/CSU parliamentary group. He is also substitute member of the Defense Committee. In addition to that, he is part of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference for the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy. Before his career in the German Bundestag, he served in various command and staff positions, including at the EU Council in Brussels, NATO HQ in Brussels and Mons, the German Federal Ministry of Defense, the position of battalion commander, and several operations abroad. He was Head of the Chief of Staff's office (Executive Offices) at NATO Headquarters from 2006 to 2009. Mr. Kiesewetter MdB underwent the general staff officers' training from 1995 to 1997 and was awarded the General Heusinger Award.



Dr. Tobias Lindner MdB

Member, Defense Committee (2013–17); Member, Budget Committee (2013–17)

Dr. Tobias Lindner MdB is a member of the German Bundestag since 2011 for the party Alliance 90/The Greens. He is member of the Defense Committee and member of the Budget Committee as well as member and spokesperson in the Audit Sub-Committee. Serving in both committees, he is the rapporteur for the budget of the Federal Ministry of Defense for the parliamentary group of Alliance 90/The Greens. Between 2012 and 2013, he was spokesman for economic policy of the Alliance 90/The Greens parliamentary group in the German Bundestag. Before he entered parliament, he worked as research assistant at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) at the chair of Economy Theory and as tutor for statistics and econometrics. He entered Alliance 90/The Greens in 1998. He graduated in economics engineering at Karlsruhe University in 2007 and got his PhD in economics at the KIT in 2011.



Michael Link MdB

Former Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR); former Minister of State, Federal Foreign Office

Michael Link is member of the German Bundestag for the Liberals. Before his reelection to the Bundestag, he has been the director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). From January 2012 to December 2014, Mr. Link served as 1st Deputy Foreign Minister, the Minister of State for European Affairs and member of the Cabinet of Ministers of the German Government. Between 2005 and 2013, he was a member of the German Bundestag. Mr. Link studied Russian, French, political science, public law and Eastern European history at the University of Augsburg, the University of Lausanne and Heidelberg University.





Rudolf Rogg

Director, Division Middle East, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

Rudolf Rogg is Director of the Division Middle East at the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). In previous postings, he served as Country Director for GIZ in the Palestinian Territories, in Jordan and in multiple capacities at the German Development Service (DED) prior to its merger with GTZ to form GIZ. Among other positions, he headed the Sectoral Department and the Regional Department and was Country Representative of DED in Mali. He has also worked for DED and GTZ as program coordinator and advisor in Burkina Faso and Benin. His academic background is in sociology of development, economics, land use planning and in forestry. As expert in natural resource management he monitored programs in Africa, Asia and Latin America.



Antje Schippmann

Editor Politics, *BILD*

Antje Schippmann is editor at *BILD* politics, focusing on Iran and the Middle East as well as human rights issues. She runs *BILD*'s facebook channel on women's rights. Prior to her career in journalism she worked at the Israel Project in Jerusalem and the Israeli embassy in Berlin. She graduated in political science at Marburg University and journalism at the Axel Springer Akademie (Berlin).



Dr. des. Anna Sunik

Associate Research Fellow, GIGA Middle East Institute Hamburg; Lecturer, Heidelberg University

Dr. des. Anna Sunik is a lecturer at Heidelberg University and associate research fellow at GIGA Middle East Institute Hamburg. Her research interests include Middle East (esp. Gulf) politics, international relations and authoritarianism. She also specialized in studying monarchies around the Persian Gulf, particularly Saudi-Arabia and Katar.



Dr. Johann David Wadephul MdB

Chairman, Committee for Rules of Procedure, Immunity and Scrutiny (2013–2017); member, Foreign Affairs Committee (2013–2017); Rapporteur for the Middle East (including Israel-Palestine Conflict), Iran, and the West Balkan states

Dr. Johann David Wadephul MdB is a member of the German Bundestag since 2009. In the 2017 national elections, he obtained the direct mandate for the CDU in his constituency in Schleswig-Holstein for the third time. Since the past 18th legislative period, he is the head of the Committee for Rules of Procedure, Immunity and Scrutiny and a member of the Council of Elders. Further, he is a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and within his parliamentary group the main rapporteur for the Middle East, Iran, and the West Balkan states. Since 2009, he is a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and since 2011 member of the federal executive of CDU Germany. Dr. Johann David Wadephul MdB is a lawyer by profession, specialized in medical and social law.



Germany-Israel Strategic Forum



The Germany-Israel Strategic Forum is an annual roundtable organized by ELNET-Germany and the Federal Academy for Security Policy (BAKS). The Forum brings together around 30 participants from Germany and Israel: senior figures from the ministries of foreign affairs and defense, members of parliament and representatives from think tanks and media. The Germany-Israel Strategic Forum is part of the Conference Series “Forum of Strategic Dialogue” (FSD) that facilitates high-level strategic dialogue between Europe and Israel.



The Germany – Israel Strategic Forum is jointly organized by ELNET-Germany and the Federal Academy for Security Politics (BAKS):



ELNET-Germany is an independent non-profit organization. It facilitates closer relations between Germany and Israel on the basis of shared democratic interests and values. Together with its affiliates in Israel, France, Poland and Belgium, ELNET-Germany fosters the ties between European and Israeli decision makers and builds a network with its dialogue programs and delegations.

The Federal Academy for Security Policy (BAKS) is Germany's topmost inter-departmental institute for advanced studies, education and training in security policy aiming at present and future senior executives from Federal and State ministries, as well as representatives from the civil society with an interest in security issues. The Academy is directly mandated by the Federal Security Council through its Board of Trustees, which is chaired by the Federal Chancellor. The Federal Academy sees itself as a prominent forum for discussion and, as such, promotes a proactive and open exchange of views on national and international security issues.

The Germany-Israel Strategic Forum thanks the Federal Ministry of Defense for its support of this year's forum:



The Ministry of Defense is the central command and control instrument of the Minister of Defense in exercising her function as commander in chief of the armed forces in peacetime and as head of the defense administration. The Ministry's activities are guided by the constitutional principle of the primacy of politics. "Thinking and acting together" for joint success is the guiding principle of the members of the Federal Ministry of Defense and the standard to which they aspire.



Forum of Strategic Dialogue



The Forum of Strategic Dialogue (FSD) provides a forum for Track “One and a Half” diplomacy, beyond the constraints of formal intergovernmental relations. It fosters open communication that encourages participants to develop breakthrough ideas which enhance bilateral cooperation and relationship-building. It has become a unique vehicle for informal consultations between Europe and Israel’s top governmental officials and experts and allows for out-of-the-box problem-solving thinking in the fields of defense, security, foreign affairs and economy. In so doing, the FSD contributes to the development of policy based on the mutual understanding of European and Israeli strategic environments, needs and common interests.

