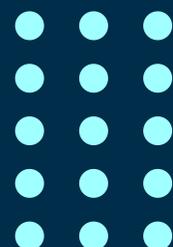




12 March 2026

5



KEY LEARNINGS

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

FINANCING EUROPEAN SOVEREIGNTY

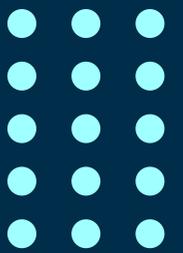
 Frankfurt School
Centre for European
Transformation

 DWS

Börsen-Zeitung



1

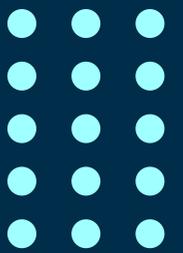


THE INVESTMENT GAP IS DEEPENING – AND THE CLOCK IS TICKING.

Europe now needs over EUR 1 trillion per year for the next 7-10 years to close its competitiveness and sovereignty gap. German transformational CapEx has more than doubled since 2021 - from EUR 31bn to EUR 64bn. Yet net Foreign Direct Investment flows turned negative (EUR -34bn in 2024), and just 10% of firms drive 90% of transformation investment.



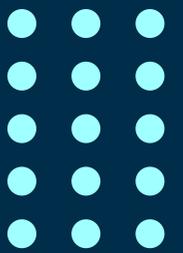
2



DEFENCE CAPABILITY IS A BLIND SPOT – AND MORE THAN JUST A SECURITY ISSUE.

Europe's defence procurement and industrial readiness lag far behind strategic needs. Stockpiles are thin, procurement cycles are measured in years while conflicts unfold in months, and the cost asymmetry between offence and defence has fundamentally shifted. The challenge is not defence budgets. It is industrial speed and scale.





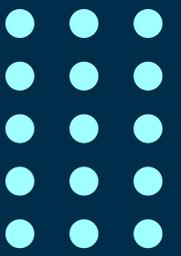
3

POLICY CREDIBILITY IS A CAPITAL MULTIPLIER – OR A DEAL-BREAKER.

When Germany's Constitutional Court struck EUR 60bn from the climate fund overnight in November 2023, private green investment announcements dropped 34% relative to total CapEx. Earnings call transcripts confirm: every policy reversal carries a measurable price tag in delayed private investment.



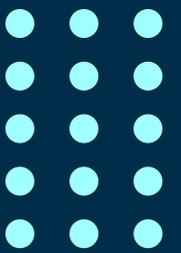
4



SPEED IS EUROPE'S MOST POWERFUL - AND MOST UNTAPPED REFORM.

ASML received its industrial permit in 7 weeks under a national-interest exception. The standard process? 6 years. Germany's rapid LNG build-out after 2022 proved what is possible when political will exists. Permitting reform requires no new capital and no new institutions - only the commitment to act.





5

THE CAPITAL EXISTS - BUT "INVESTABLE" MUST BE REDEFINED.

Europe does not have a capital shortage. Private infrastructure investors have demonstrated strong appetite for long-dated European projects. The missing link is not more fund announcements - it is a pipeline of scalable and investable projects with credible risk-sharing frameworks.



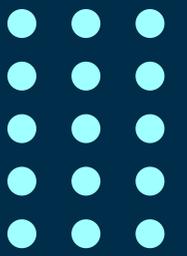


IMPRESSIONS



Photo Credit: Jonas Ratermann

NEXT STEPS



FIVE ACTIONS EUROPE CANNOT AFFORD TO POSTPONE

- Accelerate permitting via national-interest designations
- Establish credible, binding long-term policy commitments
- Build investable project pipelines through public-private coordination
- Restructure defence procurement for continuous production
- Scale European venture to close the growth-stage funding gap



JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Europe has the talent, the capital, and the ambition.
Now we need speed, scale, and risk appetite to turn potential into global competitiveness. The window to act is closing - but the path forward is clear.

The **Centre for European Transformation** bridges the gap between analysis and action - turning data-driven research into policy engagement and real-world impact.

Together, we can build a more competitive, secure, and sovereign Europe.

SAVE THE DATE - NEXT ANNUAL CONFERENCE
11 MARCH 2027