

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026 FINANCING EUROPEAN SOVEREIGNTY

12 March 2026, Frankfurt School

SPEAKER BROCHURE



ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

FINANCING EUROPEAN SOVEREIGNTY

//DWS Börsen-Zeitung



Thursday, 12 March 2026, 13:00–18:30 | Frankfurt School, Audimax

EVENT AGENDA

13:00–13:30	Registration & Welcome Coffee	15:25–16:10	Focus Session 1 Defence, Security & Crisis Preparedness
13:30–13:35	Welcome Address	16:10–16:30	Academic View from Firm Investment Plans
13:35–13:55	Launch of CfET's Transformation Compass	16:30–17:15	Focus Session 2 Energy Security & Transition
13:55–14:10	Fireside Chat	17:15–17:30	Closing Remarks
14:10–14:55	Opening Panel Europe's Economic Security in a Fragmenting World	17:30–18:30	Get-Together
14:55–15:25	Coffee Break		



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FOR FREE**

SPEAKER SPOTLIGHT

ANNUAL CONFERENCE – 12 MARCH 2026



Nicola Beer

Vice-President, European
Investment Bank

Nicola Beer serves as Vice-President of the European Investment Bank, where she oversees financing initiatives that support innovation, infrastructure, and Europe's strategic priorities. With experience in European and national policymaking, she works at the intersection of public mandates and capital mobilisation. Her role involves shaping instruments that de-risk investment and crowd in private capital across key sectors. At the conference, she will offer insight into how European-level financing tools can strengthen competitiveness, reinforce economic security, and sustain confidence in the single market.

Appearing in: Opening Panel — Europe's Economic Security in a Fragmenting World

SPEAKER SPOTLIGHT

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Martin Blessing

Personal Representative
of the Federal Chancellor
for Investments in
Germany

Martin Blessing serves as the Federal Chancellor's Personal Representative for Investments in Germany, focusing on attracting strategic investment and strengthening Germany's economic position. With extensive leadership experience in international banking and finance, he brings a deep understanding of capital flows, regulatory environments, and investor expectations. His work bridges public policy and private-sector decision-making. At the conference, he will contribute a national strategic perspective on how Germany and Europe can enhance industrial resilience while maintaining openness and investor trust.

Appearing in: Fireside Chat (co-moderated by Prof. Dr. Eckart Windhagen) |
Opening Panel — Europe's Economic Security in a Fragmenting World

SPEAKER SPOTLIGHT

ANNUAL CONFERENCE – 12 MARCH 2026



David Chinn

Partner McKinsey Israel,
co-leader European
Defence Mission

David Chinn supports clients across Europe in the government, armed forces, and defence industrial sectors in rising to the challenge of European rearmament. He works with private sector clients in Israel to shape their strategies and achieve substantial operational improvements. At the conference, he will provide a strategic and analytical perspective on how Europe can modernise its defence industrial base and ensure that increased spending translates into sustainable capability and resilience.

Appearing in: Focus Session 1 — Defence, Security & Crisis Preparedness

SPEAKER SPOTLIGHT

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**Dr. Lutz-Christian
Funke**

Secretary General, KfW
Group

Dr. Lutz-Christian Funke is Secretary General of KfW Group, Germany's leading development bank and a central actor in financing infrastructure and the energy transition. With nearly three decades at KfW, he has held senior roles across project finance, strategic equity investments, and federal and European affairs. His work sits at the intersection of public mandates and capital markets, structuring instruments that de-risk large-scale infrastructure and mobilise private investment. At the conference, he will bring a crucial public-finance perspective on how development banking can bridge funding gaps and accelerate Europe's energy resilience.

Appearing in: Focus Session 2 — Energy Security & Transition

SPEAKER SPOTLIGHT

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Julia Giese

Director on European
Infrastructure, KKR

Julia Giese joined KKR in 2019 and is a Director on the European Infrastructure team. She has been involved in KKR's investments in FiberCop, Calvin Capital (Calisen), European Locomotive Leasing (ELL), Caruna, Vantage Towers, Encavis, EGC and Green Mobility Partners. Prior to joining KKR, Ms. Giese spent three years with Macquarie's asset management division MIRA, working on transactions and asset management in the infrastructure space with a focus on German-speaking regions. Her contribution will provide insight into how private capital can be mobilised efficiently to support Europe's transition while maintaining attractive risk-return profiles.

Appearing in: Focus Session 2 — Energy Security & Transition

SPEAKER SPOTLIGHT

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André Loesekrug-Pietri
Chairman & Scientific
Director, Joint European
Disruptive Initiative J.E.D.I

André Loesekrug-Pietri, French and German nationalities, held leadership positions in private equity, industry, as an entrepreneur in Europe and in Asia, and in government (as former special adviser to the French Minister of Defense). He is currently Chairman & Scientific Director of the Joint European Disruptive Initiative (JEDI), the European advanced research projects initiative (European ARPA), with the mission to develop the breakthroughs that will ensure Europe's future competitiveness and sovereignty. He will contribute a forward-looking perspective on how mission-driven funding, disruptive technologies, and smarter capital allocation can enhance Europe's defence preparedness.

Appearing in: Focus Session 1 — Defence, Security & Crisis Preparedness

SPEAKER SPOTLIGHT

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Carolin Roth

International Business
Journalist

Carolin Roth is a seasoned international business journalist with a rich background in finance and economics. She has worked for CNBC International for over a decade, covering major economic and business stories. Her expertise includes live reporting on global financial markets, key economic events, and political developments. Roth's ability to navigate complex economic issues and her experience in the financial sector make her a valuable resource to guide this year's conference programme.

Appearing in: Conference Moderator | Closing Remarks

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Sven Smit

Chairman, McKinsey
Global Institute

Sven Smit is a senior partner at McKinsey & Company and chair of the McKinsey Global Institute (MGI), McKinsey's business and economics research arm, and a member of the McKinsey Board of Directors. He leads MGI research on global economic trends and topics such as productivity and growth, urbanization, innovation and technology, labor markets and the future of work, emerging markets, and Europe's economic outlook. At the conference, he will offer a macroeconomic and analytical perspective on how Europe can strengthen productivity, manage fragmentation, and maintain global influence in an increasingly volatile environment.

Appearing in: Opening Panel — Europe's Economic Security in a Fragmenting World

SPEAKER SPOTLIGHT

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**Dr. Georg
Stamatelopoulos**
CEO of EnBW

Dr. Georg Stamatelopoulos has served as CEO of EnBW since 2024, leading one of Germany's largest integrated energy companies across generation, grids, and customer solutions. With a background in engineering and energy infrastructure, he previously oversaw EnBW's sustainable generation portfolio, including renewables and system-relevant assets. As CEO, he is steering the company through large-scale investment in renewable expansion, grid modernisation, and hydrogen-ready infrastructure while ensuring security of supply. At the conference, he will ground the discussion in the operational and capital-allocation realities of delivering the energy transition at scale.

Appearing in: Focus Session 2 — Energy Security & Transition

SPEAKER SPOTLIGHT

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**Prof. Dr.
Sascha Steffen**

Co-Centre Director,
Centre for European
Transformation |
Professor of Finance,
Frankfurt School

Prof. Dr. Sascha Steffen is Co-Centre Director of the Centre for European Transformation and Professor of Finance at Frankfurt School of Finance & Management, where he also holds the DWS Senior Chair in Finance. His research focuses on banking, corporate finance, and financial intermediation. At the conference, he will co-present the launch of CfET's Transformation Investment Compass, deliver academic research on "From Public Commitments to Private CapEx," highlighting the need for credible public commitments for private capital, and deliver closing remarks.

Appearing in: Launch of CfET Transformation Investment Compass (with Prof. Dr. Eckart Windhagen) | Academic Presentation "From Public Commitments to Private CapEx" | Closing Remarks

SPEAKER SPOTLIGHT

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**Prof. Dr.
Nils Stieglitz**

President & CEO,
Frankfurt School

Prof. Dr. Nils Stieglitz has served as President and CEO of Frankfurt School of Finance & Management since 2020. Under his leadership, Frankfurt School has strengthened its position as a leading European business school with a focus on finance, management, and sustainable transformation. His academic expertise lies in innovation management, strategic decision-making, and organisational design. Prior to joining Frankfurt School, he held professorships at Copenhagen Business School and WHU – Otto Beisheim School of Management. At the conference, he will deliver the welcome address, setting the stage for discussions on financing European sovereignty.

Appearing in: Welcome Address

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Vincenzo Vedda

Global Chief Investment
Officer, DWS

In August 2025, Vincenzo Vedda was appointed as a member of the Management Board of DWS Group. As Chief Investment Officer, he is responsible for Liquid Portfolio Management (Active and Passive Portfolio Management), Trading, the Chief Investment Office and Economic Research. Prior to joining DWS, Vincenzo held various positions in Morgan Stanley's equities division in London and Frankfurt, where he most recently served large institutional clients. At the conference, he will provide insight into what sustains investor confidence in Europe and how policy credibility and competitiveness influence global capital allocation decisions.

Appearing in: Opening Panel — Europe's Economic Security in a Fragmenting World

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Susanne Wiegand
Former CEO of Renk

Susanne Wiegand is the former CEO of RENK Group, a leading supplier of propulsion and drivetrain technologies for military and industrial applications. She has extensive experience in managing complex manufacturing operations and navigating the regulatory and operational demands of the defence sector. Her leadership reflects deep engagement with industrial scaling, supply-chain resilience, and long-term capability planning. At the conference, she will bring practical insight into strengthening Europe's defence industrial capacity and ensuring that strategic investment supports reliable, scalable production and sustained readiness.

Appearing in: Focus Session 1 — Defence, Security & Crisis Preparedness

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**Prof. Dr.
Eckart Windhagen**

Co-Centre Director,
Centre for European
Transformation |
Professor of Practice,
Frankfurt School

Prof. Dr. Eckart Windhagen is a professor at Frankfurt School of Finance & Management and former Senior Partner at McKinsey & Company. He spent nearly 30 years advising financial services institutions across Europe and Asia where he led McKinsey's Global Banking Practice and was a member of the McKinsey Global Institute (MGI) Council. At the conference, he will co-present the launch of CfET's Transformation Investment Compass, moderate the exclusive Fireside Chat with Martin Blessing exploring Germany's strategic approach to attracting investment and participate in closing remarks.

Appearing in: Launch of CfET Transformation Investment Compass (with Prof. Dr. Sascha Steffen) | Fireside Chat (Co-Moderator with Martin Blessing) | Closing Remarks

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ANY QUESTIONS – REACH OUT TO US

Frankfurt School of Finance & Management gGmbH

Centre for European Transformation

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