

CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN TRANSFORMATION | ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

FINANCING EUROPEAN SOVEREIGNTY

Thursday, 12 March 2026, 13:00 – 18:30
Frankfurt School of Finance & Management

CONFERENCE MODERATOR

Carolyn Roth (International business journalist, freelance presenter and reporter)

EVENT AGENDA¹

13:00–13:30	REGISTRATION & WELCOME COFFEE
13:30–13:35	WELCOME ADDRESS Prof. Dr. Nils Stieglitz (President & CEO, Frankfurt School)
13:35–13:55	LAUNCH OF CFET'S TRANSFORMATION INVESTMENT COMPASS Prof. Dr. Sascha Steffen (Co-Centre Director, Centre for European Transformation) Prof. Dr. Eckart Windhagen (Co-Centre Director, Centre for European Transformation)
13:55–14:10	FIRESIDE CHAT Martin Blessing (Personal Representative of the Federal Chancellor for Investments in Germany) Prof. Dr. Eckart Windhagen (Co-Centre Director, Centre for European Transformation)
14:10–14:55	OPENING PANEL – Europe's Economic Security in a Fragmenting World Nicola Beer (Vice-President, European Investment Bank) Martin Blessing (Personal Representative of the Federal Chancellor for Investments in Germany) Sven Smit (Chair of McKinsey Global Institute) Vincenzo Vedda (Global Chief Investment Officer, DWS)
14:55–15:25	COFFEE BREAK
15:25–16:10	FOCUS SESSION 1 – Defence, Security & Crisis Preparedness David Chinn (Partner McKinsey Israel, Co-leader European Defence Mission) André Loesekrug-Pietri (Chairman & Scientific Director, Joint European Disruptive Initiative J.E.D.I.) Susanne Wiegand (Former CEO of Renk)
16:10–16:30	ACADEMIC VIEW FROM FIRM INVESTMENT PLANS – From Public Commitments to Private CapEx Prof. Dr. Sascha Steffen (Co-Centre Director, Centre for European Transformation)
16:30–17:15	FOCUS SESSION 2 – Energy Security & Transition Dr. Lutz-Christian Funke (Secretary General of KfW Group) Julia Giese (Director on European Infrastructure, KKR) Dr. Georg Stamatelopoulos (CEO of EnBW)
17:15–17:30	CLOSING REMARKS Carolyn Roth (International business journalist, freelance presenter, and reporter) Prof. Dr. Sascha Steffen (Co-Centre Director, Centre for European Transformation) Prof. Dr. Eckart Windhagen (Co-Centre Director, Centre for European Transformation)
17:30–18:30	GET-TOGETHER The event will conclude with an exclusive networking get-together – a great opportunity to connect with peers and industry leaders!

¹ Note: Times and speakers are subject to change.