

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

Carolin 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 (Principal on European Infrastructure, KKR)

Dr. Georg Stamatelopoulos (CEO of EnBW)

17:15–17:30 **CLOSING REMARKS**

Carolin 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.