

British-German Cities Summit „The Future of Europe and the Role of Cities“

20th October 2017 in Cologne

Draft (as of 17th July 2017)

On 20th October 2017 the City of Cologne will bestow the Konrad Adenauer Prize to the twin city Liverpool. With the prize the City of Cologne honours outstanding input and exemplary merits in the areas of living and working in a metropolis, innovative and courageous contributions towards the development of a liveable conurbation worldwide, towards European integration or towards preserving and strengthening local government in a tighter-knit Europe. These topics mirror the lifetime achievements of Konrad Adenauer during his time as local politician, statesman and convinced European.

Already in 1952, only a few years following the horrors of World War II, Liverpool reached out to the City of Cologne and signed a twinning agreement. Indeed, after 1945 the twinning agreements between British and German cities were crucial to furthering local self-administration and democratic structures and to rehabilitate Germany in a European community of shared values and ultimately embedding it firmly within the European Union. Until today, partnerships between British and German cities make important and innovative contributions to the integration of Europe.

On the occasion of the Konrad Adenauer Price Award 2017 the City of Cologne, in cooperation with the German branch of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), is organizing a British-German cities summit, which shall – in the context of the Brexit-negotiations and the public debate on the future of Europe - illuminate the perspectives of British-German city-to-city cooperation and underline the specific urban dimension in the political system of the European Union.

Date:

20th October 2017, 10.00 am to 16.00 pm

Venue:

FORUM Volkshochschule, Cäcilienstrasse 29-33, 50667 Köln

Conference Languages:

German and English (simultaneous interpretation)

Participation:

By invitation and after registration under eurocologne@stadt-koeln.de

Costs:

No conference fee. Costs of travel and accommodation are borne by the participants themselves.

Programme:

Moderator: N.N.

- 10.00 am Opening and welcome
- 10.05 - 10.15 PROF.DR. JOST DÜLFFER: Konrad Adenauer and his European mission as mayor of Cologne (1917-1933 and 1945)

Forum 1: “British-German Twin-City-Partnerships as Forerunners of European Integration”

- 10.15 - 11.15 Reports from selected partnerships (three / four)
- 11.15 - 12.00 The future cooperation between German resp. European and British cities after the Brexit; statements by
- RICHARD KITT, Local Government Association (*tbc*)
 - FREDERIC VALLIER, Secretary General of CEMR (*tbc*)
 - SABINE WEYAND, EU-COM, Deputy Chief Negotiator Task Force Article 50 (*tbc*)
 - DAVID MCALLISTER, MEP, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs in the European Parliament (*tbc*)
 - DR. PETER PTASSEK, Federal Foreign Office, Deputy Head European Directorate-General and Head of the United Kingdom Task Force (*tbc*)
 - N.N., Brexit-Commissioner of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (*tbc*)
- 12.00 – 13.00 Penal- and plenary debate
- 13.00 – 14.30 Lunch
Visit of the Rautenstrauch-Joest-Museums (optional)

Forum 2:

“Europe – Continent of Cities and the Future of Europe “

- 14.30 – 15.00 White Book on the Future of Europe and Scenario 6: Europe – Continent of Cities; with statements by
- DANIËL TERMONT, Mayor of Ghent and President of Eurocities
 - WALTER LEITERMANN, Deputy Secretary General of CEMR, German branch
 - MARTIN SELMAYR, Head of Cabinet of EU-Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker (*tbc*)
- 15.00 – 15.50 Panel- and plenary debate:
The EU urban agenda, current issues and challenges in the context of British-German twin-city-partnerships
- 15.50 – 16.00 Conclusion and closing remarks

Participants are cordially invited to attend the following Konrad Adenauer Award price ceremony in the Historic City Hall (17.00 pm).

Contact:

Frieder Wolf
City of Cologne
Mayor's Office
International Affairs
City Hall (Spanish Building), D-50667 Cologne

Tel.: +49-221-221-26031
Mobile: +49-173-8869232
Fax: +49-221-221-21849
Email: 1. eurocologne@stadt-koeln.de
2. frieder.wolf@stadt-koeln.de