

ANNUAL FOREIGN POLICY CONFERENCE 2008

Values and Interests in Foreign Policy

Date

Thursday 11 and Friday 12, September 2008

Venue

Beletage of the Heinrich Boell Foundation
Schumannstraße 8
10117 Berlin-Mitte

Registration

Please register by filling in the electronic registration form at www.boell.de/aussenpolitik or by fax at +49 (0)30 28534-109.

Registration deadline: September 8, 2008

Conference Fee

10 Euro, reduced 8 Euro

Conference Languages

All interventions will be simultaneously translated from English into German and vice versa.
PLEASE NOTE that not all workshops will be simultaneously translated.

Project Management and Information

Marc Berthold, Head of Department, Foreign and Security Policy, berthold@boell.de,
+49-30-285 34 393

Melanie Sorge, melanie@boellstiftung.org , +49-30-440 34 0779, +49-179-871 60 93

Background

Germany's foreign policy debate refers to basic political values or national interests partly as imperative, partly apologetically. In a specifically German tradition of *Realpolitik*, values and interests are often considered as conflicting. Accordingly, "lofty" values must take the back seat to concrete national interests. Any reference to values could lead to innumerable international engagements, while concrete interests call for specific action – for example in regions with vital resources.

Our conference will undertake a critical analysis of the apparent conflict between value-based and interest-guided foreign policy. International political, economic and civil society experts will explore the question of whether values and interests do represent separate spheres or rather are two dimensions of a rational and transparent process of foreign policy development and democratic decision-making.

This question is of great, practical relevance: On the one hand, it affects the response to humanitarian crises and acts of violence in other countries. On the other hand, it determines relations with important countries, which need to be involved to secure a stable world order, while not living up to democratic standards.

How much should criticism of deficits in democracy, rule of law and respect for human rights therefore shape foreign policy toward these states? Should the insistence on standards take priority over the interest in cooperation? Similar conflicts of interest evolve in the area of development policy: What kind of conditions must countries meet to receive official development aid?

Scientifically acknowledged and politically experienced speakers from around the world will discuss if the interests in stability and security take precedence over the promotion of democracy and freedom. We want to scrutinize the assumption whether the orientation along democratic values is in the best interest of German and European foreign policy. How can we secure a sustainable world order now that bloc confrontation no longer serves as an ordering mechanism?

AGENDA

Day 1, Thursday, September 11, 2008

16:30 Registration

17:00 Welcome

Ralf Fücks, Co-President, Heinrich Boell Foundation

17:30 Keynote

Ahmed Rashid, Journalist, Lahore

18:00 Panel 1: VALUES AND INTERESTS: CONFLICT OR CONVERGENCE?

- How do interests and values relate to one another in foreign policy? To what extent are interests values-bound and values guided by interests?
- Will there be a return to "values-free" geopolitics under a multipolar global order?
- The transatlantic alliance as a "community of values" – is it more than a catchphrase?

Joscha Schmierer, Publicist, Berlin

John Hulsman, Alfred von Oppenheim-Scholar, Alfred von Oppenheim-Centre for European Studies, German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP), Berlin

Lotte Leicht, Director, Human Rights Watch, Brussels

Ahmed Rashid, Journalist, Lahore

Facilitator: **Marc Berthold**, Head of Department, Foreign and Security Policy,
Heinrich Boell Foundation, Berlin

19:30 Reception

Day 2, Friday, September 12, 2008

9:00 Registration

9:30 Keynote Speech

Pawel Zalewski, Member of Sejm (Polish Parliament), Warsaw

10:00 Panel 2: VALUES AND INTERESTS IN GERMAN AND EUROPEAN FOREIGN POLICY

- How do we define German and European interests?
- What are the roles of human rights and democracy in German and European foreign policy

Thomas Risse, Center for Transnational Relations, Foreign and Security Policy,
Freie Universität Berlin

Christoph Heusgen, Advisor for foreign policy and security to Chancellor Angela
Merkel, Berlin

Dorothee Schmid, Senior Researcher, Institut Français des Relations
Internationales (Ifri), Paris

Cem Özdemir, Member of the European Parliament for the Greens/EFA
Parliamentary Group, Brussels

Facilitator: **Bastian Hermisson**, Head of Department, EU/ North America,
Heinrich Boell Foundation, Berlin

11:30 Coffee break

12:00 Parallel Workshops

1. Economic interests and political values

- Do political principles or foreign trade take precedence in international relations?
- How promising is the maxim of "change through trade" – the use of economic integration as an instrument in attaining political goals?
- Are trade agreements and export credits suitable political instruments?
- What consequences does this have for foreign policy toward Russia, China and Iran?

Petr Lebeda, Director, Prague Global Policy Institute – Glopolis, Prague

Heinrich Kreft, Senior Foreign Policy Advisor to CDU/CSU-Parliamentary Group,
German Federal Parliament, Berlin

Rainder Steenblock, Member of the German Bundestag, Spokesperson on European Policy, Berlin

Facilitator: **Julia Scherf**, Head of Department Asia, Heinrich Boell Foundation, Berlin

2. Global justice and foreign policy

- Is foreign policy the proper instrument with which to enforce social and ecological standards? Focus on conditional foreign aid
- Is development aid policy the new geopolitical battlefield? The Africa policies of China and the EU
- Which cooperative instruments and institutions can guarantee sustainable development and global access to resources?

Barbara Unmüßig, Co-President, Heinrich Boell Foundation, Berlin

Clovis Brigagão, Director, International Programme; Coordinator, Group of Analysis on International Conflict Prevention (GAPCon), Candido Mendes University, Rio de Janeiro

Dirk Messner, Director, German Development Institute (DIE), Bonn

Uschi Eid, Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Member of the German Bundestag, Alliance 90 /The Greens, Berlin

Facilitator: **Antonie Nord**, Director, Heinrich Boell Foundation South Africa, Capetown

3. Human rights, democracy and security policy interests

- What role should the promotion of human rights and democracy play in foreign policy?
- Is a convergence taking place between long-term special-interest politics and the promotion of democracy?

Citha D. Maass, Research Division Asia, German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Berlin

Ivan Doherty, Senior Adviser and Director of Political Party Programs, National Democratic Institute, Washington D.C.

Marieluise Beck, Member of the German Bundestag, Alliance 90/ The Greens, Berlin

Facilitator: **Klaus Linsenmeier**, Director of the International Division, Heinrich Boell Foundation, Berlin

13:30 **Lunch break**

14:30 **Keynote Speech**
“Climate Change and World Food Crisis – New Challenges for Foreign and Security Policy”

Renate Künast, MdB, Chairwoman, Alliance 90/ The Greens in the German Bundestag

14:45 **Panel 3: SPECIAL-INTEREST POLITICS AND VALUES IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

- International law and the UN as a normative framework for state policy: is the legal governance of international relations a realistic perspective?
- Is the confrontation between authoritarianism and liberalism a new global ordering mechanism?
- Do we need an “alliance of democracies”?
- Can compromise in interests and non-negotiability of values serve as the foreign-policy maxim of the EU?

John Kornblum, Senior Counselor, Nörr Stifenhofer Lutz, Berlin

Ulrich Schneckener, Head of Research Unit, Research Unit Global Issues, German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Berlin

Reinhard Bütikofer, Chairman, Alliance 90/The Greens, Berlin

Constanze Stelzenmüller, **Director, German Marshall Fund Berlin office, Berlin**

Facilitator: **Ralf Fücks**, Co-President, Heinrich Boell Foundation, Berlin

16:45

End of Conference