

75 years of the Basic Law. Is Our Federal System Still Fit for Purpose?

October 8th 2024, in Berlin

Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities

Jägerstraße 22-23, 10117 Berlin

Gefördert durch:



Bundesministerium
des Innern
und für Heimat

**aufgrund eines Beschlusses
des Deutschen Bundestages**

On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Basic Law, the conference will discuss current issues regarding the further development and modernization of the German federal state. Although federalism in Germany has always shown itself to be capable of change and adaptation, the conference will address the question of whether it is still fit for the challenges of the future in its current form, or whether there is a further need for reforms, including of the

Basic Law. In the past two decades alone, federalism has been the subject of a three-stage state reform. Since then, the federal government and the states have had to solve not only increasingly complex tasks. Rather, mutually reinforcing crises also remain on the agenda for a longer period of time. These challenges put the federal division of tasks as well as cooperation between the federal government and the states to the test.

The conference will deal with essential future tasks of the federal state, such as climate policy, energy policy, and the digitization of public tasks. What reform needs are there for the institutional framework of the federal state, and what obstacles must be overcome in order to master these tasks? The conference seeks answers to these central questions of our constitution in close exchange between science and practice.

Language: German with translation into English (for international guests)

Conference programme

From 9:00 a.m. *registration and coffee*

9:30 – 10:00 a.m. Welcome Address

10:00 – 10:30 a.m. Keynote: **Nancy Faeser**, Federal Minister of the Interior and Community

10:30 – 10:45 a.m. *Coffee break*

10:45 – 12:15 p.m. **Panel 1: Climate Policy and Federalism**

Prof. Dr. Lilian Busse, Vice President, The Umweltbundesamt

Prof. Alan Fenna, Ph.D., Curtin University, Perth, Australia

H.E. John Horgan, Ambassador of Canada to Germany, former Premier of British Columbia

Dr. Carsten Sieling, Board of Directors, Forum of Federations, former Mayor of the city of Bremen

Discussion Moderator: **Prof. Dr. Nathalie Behnke**, Technische Universität Darmstadt

12:15 – 1:30 p.m. *Lunch break*

1:30 – 3:00 p.m. **Panel 2: Energy Policy and Federalism**

Prof. Dr. Michèle Knodt, Technische Universität Darmstadt

Prof. Dr. Carsten Kühl, Scientific Director, German Institute of Urban Affairs, former Minister of Finance, Rhineland-Palatia

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Karl-Heinz Paqué, President, Friedrich-Naumann-Foundation for Freedom, former Minister of Finance, Saxony-Anhalt

Barbie Kornelia Haller, Vice-President, Federal Network Agency

Discussion Moderator: **Birgit Kolkmann**, freelance journalist

3:00 – 3:30 p.m. *Coffee break*

3:30 – 5:00 p.m. **Panel 3: Digitalisation and Federalism**

Dr. Esther Dweck, Minister of Management and Innovation in Public Services, Government of Brazil

Dorothea Störr-Ritter, Member of the National Regulatory Control Council

Thomas Minger, Deputy Secretary General, Conference of Cantonal Governments, Switzerland

Dr. Markus Richter, State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community and Federal Government Commissioner for Information Technology

Discussion Moderator: **Birgit Kolkmann**, freelance journalist

5:00 – 5:15 p.m. *Break*

5:15 – 6:45 p.m. **Roundtable: How robust and sustainable is the German federal state?**

Introductory Statement: **Prof. Dr. Norbert Lammert**, President, Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation, former Speaker of the *Bundestag*

Prof. Dr. Stefan Koriath, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

Prof. Dr. Sabine Kropp, Freie Universität Berlin

Discussion Moderator: **Korbinian Frenzel**, Deutschlandfunk / Deutschlandradio Kultur

Reception