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DEFUSE IT OR LOSE IT

HOW TO DEFUSE INTERDEPENDENCE WITHOUT
BLOWING UP THE LIBERAL WORLD ORDER

SIDE EVENT
MUNICH SECURITY CONFERENCE

12.02.2026 | 18:30 | AMERIKAHAUS

REGISTRATION
BY 9.2.2026





WELCOME GREETINGS FROM THE MSC
DR. BENEDIKT FRANKE (REQUESTED)
VICE-CHAIR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MUNICH SECURITY CONFERENCE



WELCOME REMARKS
PROF. DR. UDO HEBEL (CONFIRMED)
PRESIDENT UNIVERSITY OF REGENSBURG
CHAIRMAN FOKS

—IMPULS KEYNOTE



MARKUS BLUME, MDL (REQUESTED)
STATE MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND THE ARTS BAVARIA

—PANELISTS



PROF. DR. EUGÉNIA DA CONCEIÇÃO-HELDT (CONFIRMED)
FOKS FELLOW, CHAIR OF EUROPEAN AND GLOBAL GOVERNANCE
TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF MUNICH (TUM)



PD DR. ANDREAS KRUCK (CONFIRMED)
FOKS FELLOW, SENIOR RESEARCHER CHAIR FOR GLOBAL GOVERNANCE
AND PUBLIC POLICY
LUDWIG-MAXIMILIANS-UNIVERSITY MUNICH



PROF. ABRAHAM L. NEWMAN, PHD (CONFIRMED)
DIRECTOR BMW CENTER FOR GERMAN AND EUROPEAN STUDIES
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

—MODERATOR



PROF. DR. JANA HÖNKE (CONFIRMED)
MEMBER OF THE FOKS SCIENTIFIC STEERING COMMITTEE
CHAIR FOR SOCIOLOGY OF AFRICA
UNIVERSITY OF BAYREUTH



—VENUE



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States are increasingly exploiting existing interdependencies in their strategic pursuits. Global networks have become a new battlefield, where economic, technological, and security dependencies are weaponized. The very foundations of the liberal world order — free information flows, open trade, and international cooperation — are turning into geopolitical chokepoints.

Yet, as with any new “weapon” there are ways to counter and defuse its impact. In our panel, high-level politicians and leading scientists in the field will discuss what the mitigation of the weaponization of interdependence could look like, and how liberal democracies can restore resilience of open systems.

We will specifically discuss (a) Germany’s role in that context and (b), in relation to this, Europe’s role. One key example is Europe’s Global Gateway initiative and whether it can be seen as a strategic response to the growing weaponization of interdependence. By investing in sustainable, transparent, and values-based connectivity, the EU seeks to transform dependency into resilience and offer a credible alternative to coercive infrastructure and supply-chain control. In doing so, Europe aims to reclaim interdependence as a source of cooperation rather than vulnerability in the global order. But can the Global Gateway truly deliver on this promise and contribute to defuse interdependence?

Guiding Questions

- How can states counter the weaponization of economic, security and technological interdependence without undermining openness and innovation?
- What role can Europe play in strengthening resilience against coercive dependencies while preserving global connectivity?
- Which cooperative mechanisms or norms could help turn interdependence back into a source of stability rather than vulnerability?
- How can German politics not only navigate through but contribute to shape the restoration of the liberal world order?

DATE

Thursday
12 February 2025



TIME

18:30–20:00

A reception will follow the event.



VENUE

Amerikahaus
(Official MSC Venue)

Karolinenaal (first floor)

Karolinenplatz 3
80333 München



REGISTRATION

Please register by 9 February via the following link:
<https://eveeno.com/149652359>

