

International Conference

The Future of European Integration

After the Elections in France and Germany

A. Full name of the conference

The Future of European Integration After the Elections in France and Germany

B. Background, purpose, content, and significance

Over the past years, the European Union has been faced with multiple crises. 2017 is therefore a critical year - "The Year That May Decide Europe's Fate". On its political agenda are three general elections in major EU member states: the Netherlands, France, and Germany. With EU-skepticism becoming more prevalent, right wing populist forces on the rise and even outright anti-EU thoughts finding favour, there was widespread concern about whether right wing populist parties could further strengthen and finally perhaps even become members of the government in one of these elections. Although mainstream parties have narrowly prevailed in the elections in the Netherlands and in France, there is still no certainty that right wing populist parties will disappear any time soon. At the same time, the UK has formally submitted its application for Brexit, creating another challenge to the future of European integration.

In the *White Paper on the Future of Europe* presented by the European Commission, President Juncker set out five scenarios for discussion instead of indicating one clear direction for the Union's evolution. Although the concept of a "Multi-speed Europe" has been embraced by many and the "Rome Declaration" was adopted, further studies are required to decide if and how to implement a "Multi-speed Europe". This concept may appear to some as "putting old wine in a new bottle", and the jury is still out on how deeply it can influence the process of European integration.

In this particular context, the German Studies Center of Tongji University, the European Studies Center, School of Political Science & International Relations of Tongji University, the Shanghai Institute for European Studies, and the Center for Global Studies, University of Bonn propose to hold an international conference on “The Future of European Integration After the Elections in France and Germany” at Tongji University on September 27, 2017, together with three other academic institutions from Shanghai, i.e. the Shanghai Institute for International Relations, the Shanghai Institute for Russian, Eastern European and Central Asian Studies and the Shanghai Association of World History.

Experts and scholars of European studies from China, Germany, and other countries will take part in the interdisciplinary discussions on the theme of "The Future of European Integration After the Elections in France and Germany", involving an analysis of the French and German general elections and the consequences for the European project, a discussion i. a. about the future of European integration, some specific fields of EU policies, and trends in China-EU relations.

C. Topics of the conference

- 1 French and German general elections and the consequences for the European project
- 2 The future of European integration
- 3 Focus on some specific fields of EU policies
- 4 Trends in China-EU relations

D. Time and venue

Time: September 27, 2017, 09:00 AM-05:30 PM

Venue: Room 901, Sino-German Building, Siping Campus, Tongji University

Agenda

Time: Wednesday, September 27, 2017, 09:00 AM-05:30 PM
Venue: Room 901, Sino-German Building, Siping Campus, Tongji University
Languages: Chinese and English simultaneous interpretation

Organizers:

German Studies Center of Tongji University

European Studies Center, School of Political Science & International Relations, Tongji University

Shanghai Institute for European Studies

Center for Global Studies, University of Bonn

Co-Organizers:

Shanghai Institute for International Relations

Shanghai Institute for Russian, Eastern European and Central Asian Studies

Shanghai Association of World History

Time	Venue	Activities
09:00-09:15	Room 901, Sino-German Building	Group photo; opening speech and introduction of conference background 1. Dr. Jiang Bo, Vice President, Tongji University 2. Professor Xu Mingqi, President, Shanghai Institute for European Studies
09:15-10:45	Room 901, Sino-German Building	Unit 1: French and German General Elections and the Consequences for the European Project Moderator: Associate Professor Hu Chunchun, Vice Director, German Studies Center, Tongji University

		<p>Speakers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Wolfgang Röhr, Senior Research Fellow, German Studies Center, Tongji University: <i>German General Election and Its Impact</i> 2. Professor Jörg Blasius, Institute of Political Science and Sociology, University of Bonn: <i>Current European Political Pattern</i> 3. Professor Klaus Larres, Richard M. Krasno Distinguished Professor, UNC-Chapel Hill: <i>The French and German Elections from US Perspective</i> 4. Associate Professor Zhang Ji, Vice Director, Center for French Studies, Fudan University: <i>French General Election and Its Impact</i> <p>Commentator: Dr. Jiang Feng, Secretary of the Party Committee, Shanghai International Studies University</p> <p>Discussion</p>
10:45-11:00	Sino-German Building	Coffee Break
11:00-12:30	Room 901, Sino-German Building	<p>Unit 2: The Future of European Integration</p> <p>Moderator: Professor Chen Zhimin, Assistant President, Fudan University</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Professor Ludger Kühnhardt, Director, Center for European Integration Studies, University of Bonn: <i>The Future of the European Integration: Still Crisis-Driven</i> 2. Professor Ye Jiang, Shanghai Institute of International Studies: <i>The Future Trend of the European Integration</i> 3. Professor James D. Bindenagel, Director, Center for International Security and Governance, University of Bonn: <i>Donald Trump – Transatlantic Catalyst for a Deeper European Union</i>

		<p>4. Associate Professor Hu Chunchun, Vice Director, German Studies Center, Tongji University: <i>The Refugee Crisis and Its Impact on European Integration</i></p> <p>Commentator: Professor Dai Bingran, European Studies Center, Fudan University</p> <p>Discussion</p>
12:30-14:00	Sino-German Building	Lunch buffet
14:00-15:30	Room 901, Sino-German Building	<p>Unit 3: Focus on Some Specific Fields of EU Policies</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Enrico Fels, Center for Global Studies, University of Bonn</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Professor Cui Hongjian, Director, Department for European Studies, China Institute of International Studies: <i>Security Union and Eurozone Reform: Symbolic or Practical</i> 2. Research Professor Maximilian Mayer, German Studies Center, Tongji University: <i>Trends of European Common Security and Defense Policies</i> 3. Dr. Jiang Yunfei, Assistant Researcher, Institute of World Economy, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences: <i>The Future Prospects for European Economic and Monetary Integration</i> 4. Dr. Zhu Yufang, German Studies Center, Tongji University: <i>The EU's Foreign Economic Policy: Evolution, Future, and the German Position</i> <p>Commentator: Professor Men Honghua, Distinguished University Professor, Dean, School of Political Science & International Relations, Tongji University</p> <p>Discussion</p>

15:30-15:45	Sino-German Building	Coffee Break
15:45-17:15	Room 901, Sino-German Building	<p>Unit 4: Trends in China-EU Relations</p> <p>Moderator: Tim Wenniges, Head, Shanghai Office, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Professor Gu Xuewu, Director, Center for Global Studies, University of Bonn: <i>China-EU Relations from the Perspective of Global Power Transfer</i> 2. Professor Sebastian Bersick, Jean Monnet Chair & Head, Department, International Political Economy of East Asia, Faculty of East Asian Studies, Ruhr-Universität Bochum: <i>Trends in China-EU Relations</i> 3. Associate Professor Song Lilei, School of Political Science & International Relations, Tongji University: <i>The Current Trends of the Relationship between China and Central and Eastern Europe</i> 4. Professor Christoph Antweiler, Institute of Oriental Studies and Asian Studies, University of Bonn: <i>ASEAN@50 in European Perspective: Regional Integration in and beyond Southeast Asia</i> <p>Commentator: Professor Wu Yikang, Institute of World Economy, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences</p> <p>Discussion</p>
17:15-17:30	Room 901, Sino-German Building	Closing remarks Professor Gu Xuewu, Director, Center for Global Studies, University of Bonn
18:00-19:30	Restaurant Sanhaowu	Dinner