

PROGRAMME

International Conference**THE FUTURE OF EU ENLARGEMENT:
EU INTEGRATION AS A GEOPOLITICAL NECESSITY****The Political Discourse on Gradual Integration and
Russian Influence**

Monday, October 5, 2026

16:30 to 20:10, followed by reception

Academy of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Tiergartenstraße 35, 10785 Berlin, Germany

Conference languages: [English and German](#)

16:30–16:45 | WELCOME REMARKS

- **Mark Speich**, Secretary General, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
- **Marieluise Beck**, Senior Fellow, Center for Liberal Modernity

16:45–17:15 | KEYNOTES

- **Gunther Krichbaum MP (CDU/CSU)**, Minister of State for Europe, Federal Foreign Office, Germany
- **Maida Gorčević**, Minister of European Affairs, Montenegro

17:15–18:30 | PANEL 1**Gradual Integration and Associated Membership – A New Dynamic
in EU Enlargement Policy**

- **Maida Gorčević**, Minister of European Affairs, Montenegro
- **Liubov Akulenko**, Executive Director, Ukrainian Centre for European Policy (UCEP), Ukraine
- **Anastasia Pociumban**, Research Fellow, German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP)
- **David Preisendanz MP**, Rapporteur for EU Enlargement Policy, CDU/CSU Parliamentary Group in the German Bundestag

Moderation: **Matthias Hespe**, Policy Advisor Eastern Europe, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

18:30–18:45 | BREAK

18:45–20:00 | PANEL 2

Russia's Playbook Against EU Enlargement

- **Saba Brachveli**, Human Rights Program Manager, Civil Society Foundation, Georgia
- **Denis Cenusa**, Geopolitical Analyst, Associated Expert, Geopolitics and Security Studies Center, Lithuania
- **Chantal Kopf MP**, Spokesperson for European Policy, Alliance 90/The Greens parliamentary group in the German Bundestag
- **Areg Kochinyan**, President, Armenian Council, Armenia
- **Dmytro Shulga**, Director of the European Programme, International Renaissance Foundation (IRF), Ukraine

Moderation: **Khatia Kikalishvili**, Programme Director Eastern Partnership, Center for Liberal Modernity

20:00–20:10 | CLOSING REMARKS

Ralf Fücks, Managing Director, Center for Liberal Modernity

20:10 | RECEPTION

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