

13th Franco-German dialogue - Thinking tomorrow's Europe

5 and 6 May at the European Academy of Otzenhausen

An opportunity for the IRG and its partners to set off critical thinking on issues of power in Europe.

In the framework of the 13th edition of the Franco-German dialogue - Thinking tomorrow's Europe, the Institute for Research and Debate on Governance (IRG) facilitates, with the *Deutsch-Französisches Institut* (<http://www.dfi.de/en/start.shtml>) the workshop focusing on "The comeback of the Nation-State, populism and political disenchantment: the issues of EU legitimacy and traditional democratic models in Europe"

At a time when peoples - notably in the Arab world - rise up in the name of democracy, Europe is confronted to the menace of separatism and experiences a rise in communalist, populist, nationalist, or indeed regionalist trends against a background of disenchantment with politics, and economical and financial crisis. Between the European citizens and their national and supranational institutions, a rift has grown. What lies behind this popular disenchantment with the institutions and political power in Europe? The workshop will allow for exploring the causes, expressions and manifestations of this Europe-wide crisis of democracy and of the social contract on which it rested. What are today's criteria for the populations' trust in and support of power and political institutions?

In order to answer these questions, the IRG and its partners, (notably the Alliance for Rebuilding Governance in Africa-ARGA, and the *Latin American Association of Organizations for the Promotion of Development - ALOP*) wish to draw from the critical analyses carried out in the framework of the **International Cycle of Debate and Proposals on Governance** facilitated by the IRG in Africa and Andean America since 2007. The growing gap between the institutions and a society's own "social awareness" leads to State fragility and fires the crisis in political life on a world scale. On the basis of that observation, the Cycle proposes to identify criteria and processes for the legitimation of power with a view to develop proposals for a more legitimate governance enhancing the management of complex questions while respecting diversity. The colloquia of the Cycle are, as a rule, regional and organised as forums structured around a cross-disciplinary, multi-actor, multi-cultural and multi-scale approach. In this way and through an exchange facilitated by IRG partners from North and Sub-Saharan Africa, from Latin America and from Asia, the *Saarbrücken workshop will address, through the lens of power's legitimacy, the question of a collective sense as shared in Europe in 2011.*

Concerning the “Franco-German dialogue - Thinking tomorrow’s Europe”

The “Franco-German dialogue - Thinking tomorrow’s Europe” was thought up by the ASKO EUROPA-STIFTUNG in 1999 with a view to set up a Franco-German discussion forum so that debates on the future of Europe, hitherto run within a national framework, could henceforward be held in the framework of a forward-looking and productive Franco-German dialogue. Ever since, this yearly symposium has become one of the **most important Franco-German forums addressing questions on Europe’s future**. It supplements in an apposite way the dialogue taking place at governmental level.

The “Franco-German dialogue - Thinking tomorrow’s Europe” is organised by ASKO EUROPA-STIFTUNG, Saarbrücken in cooperation with:
Centre International de Formation Européenne, Nice/Berlin
Fondation Charles Léopold Mayer pour le Progrès de l'Homme, Paris
Deutsch-Französisches Institut, Ludwigsburg
Institute for European Politics, Berlin