



# KARLSPREIS EUROPA SUMMIT

30 September 2021  
DAS LIEBIG, Aachen

Die Landesregierung  
Nordrhein-Westfalen



**Charlemagne Prize**  
ACADEMY



# PROGRAMME

As the balance of power shifts away from the United States, Great Power politics is returning. The major players are the United States anxious to defend its primacy, an increasingly powerful China, Russia eager to prove its relevance on the world stage, and the European Union reluctant to assume a more active role in international affairs. These powers coexist with India, Brazil, Japan, Indonesia and Nigeria, whose policies can enhance or curtail the capabilities of the greater powers. For more than a generation, the European Union focused on internal affairs and economic development, at the expense of foreign policy. It must now adapt to the emerging multipolar world. Is the EU ready “to emerge stronger by creating opportunities for the world of tomorrow and not just building contingencies for the world of yesterday”? Is it ready “to make change happen by design – not by disaster” (Ursula von der Leyen)?

The digital transformation increasingly affects the ability of states to act independently in the digital world. This ability, often termed “digital sovereignty”, depends on political, legal, regulatory, financial and technical instruments. If the European Union lacks the political will and the capability to determine the necessary framework, it will lag behind competitors such as China and the US and thus gradually lose control over its data, over its capacity for innovation, and over its ability to shape and enforce legislation in the digital environment and, eventually, its security. What are the most important requirements and measures to enhance European autonomy in the digital field?

Migration remains one of the most contentious issues in European politics and a threat to Europe's cohesion. In 2015, it became obvious that the EU's migration and asylum policies are not sustainable. However, since 2015, the EU member states have failed to agree on a solution. The 2020 proposal of a “New Pact on Migration and Asylum” by the European Commission sets out improved and faster procedures throughout the asylum and migration system. And it sets in balance the principles of fair sharing of responsibility and solidarity. So far, member states have failed to agree on a common path forward. Thus, the main question remains unresolved: How can the EU reform its migration and asylum policies to achieve a fair, stable and sustainable system?

## Words of Welcome

15:00 – 15:10

MAIN STAGE

- Thomas Prefi, *Chairman of the Charlemagne Prize Foundation*

## The Return of Great Power Politics and the Role of the European Union

15:15 – 16:00

MAIN STAGE

- Hans-Gert Pöttering, *Former President of the European Parliament*
- Robin Niblett, *Director and Chief Executive of Chatham House*
- Anne Deighton, *Emeritus Professor of European International Politics and Fellow of Wolfson College, Oxford*
- Brahma Chellaney, *Professor of Strategic Studies at the Center for Policy Research, New Delhi*
- Iulian Romanyszyn, *Charlemagne Prize Fellow 2020/2021*
- Chair: Jana Puglierin, *Head of the Berlin Office & Senior Policy Fellow of the European Council on Foreign Relations*

## Europe's

## Digital Sovereignty

16:15 – 17:00

MAIN STAGE

- Georgios Kolliarakis, *Advisor for Research, Technology Security Defence at the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP), Berlin*
- Christoph Schmallenbach, *Board Member, Generali Deutschland*
- Axel Voss, *Member of the European Parliament*
- Photini Vrikki, *Charlemagne Prize Fellow 2020/2021*
- Chair: Michael Stabenow, *Journalist*

## Roundtable: EU Policies on Asylum & Migration

16:15 – 17:00

SILVER

- Comment: Catherine Woollard, *Secretary General of the European Council on Refugees and Exiles*
- Hannah Pool, *Charlemagne Prize Fellow 2020/2021*
- Marie Walter-Franke, *Charlemagne Prize Fellow 2019/2020*



Making the EU climate-neutral by 2050 is the predominant goal of the “European Green Deal”. As an intermediate step towards this objective, the European Commission presented the “Fit for 55” package to reduce emissions by at least 55 percent by 2030. By revising existing directives and regulations and by presenting new proposals, the implementation of the “European Green Deal” is becoming more concrete and legally binding. With the “Fit for 55 package”, EU climate policy will affect all EU citizens directly, and it will affect them in a big way. Setting a target is one thing, reaching it is another. Can the measures fulfil their purpose towards a climate-neutral Europe? What are the direct effects on citizens and the economy? How should Europe deal with regional and sectoral underachievers of this transformation process?

Our social interaction increasingly takes place in the digital world. This also applies to political debates. Consequently, the internet is becoming more and more politicized. Political content, including discussions on Europe and European issues, circulates more quickly. However, the example of the 2019 European election demonstrates that these discussions can differ significantly in form, quality and reach. The European Union added another forum to this digital landscape by creating a new digital platform to facilitate citizen participation in the framework of the Conference on the Future of Europe. What can we expect if political communication shifts largely to the digital world?

For one year, our Charlemagne Fellows 2020/2021 worked on their research projects directed at the framework topic “Europe’s Future at the Crossroads – New Perspectives of Solidarity?”. The results are briefly presented in this session. There will be space for questions, comments and discussions.

## “Fit for 55” – An Equitable Path towards Climate Neutrality? 17:15 – 18:00 MAIN STAGE

- Stefanie Hiesinger, *Member of Cabinet of the Executive Vice President Frans Timmermans*
- Veronika Grimm, *Professor of Economics, University of Erlangen–Nuremberg & Director of the Energy Campus Nuremberg (EnCN)*
- Marc Oliver Bettzüge, *Professor of Economics & Director of the Institute of Energy Economics at the University of Cologne*
- Sophie Pornschlegel, *Charlemagne Prize Fellow 2020/2021*
- Chair: *tbc.*

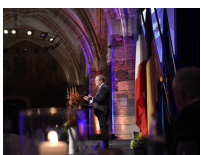
## Town Hall: Influencing Europe – A New Era of Political Communication? 17:15 – 18:00 COPPER

- Juri Schnöller, *Co-Founder and Managing Director of Cosmonaut and Kings, Berlin*

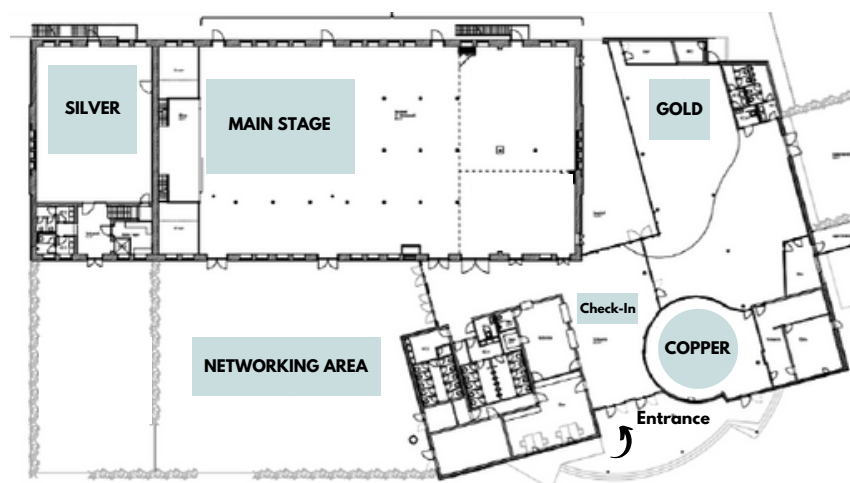
## Presentation: Research Results 2020/2021 Charlemagne Prize Academy 18:00 – 18:30 MAIN STAGE

**LIVESTREAM**  
Join us virtually:

[www.karlspreis.de](http://www.karlspreis.de)



**DAS LIEBIG**  
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# DINNER

**19:00 - 21:00**

GOLD

**DINNER**

## *Fellowship Award Ceremony*

- Stephan Holthoff-Pförtner, Minister for Federal, European and International Affairs of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia
- Jürgen Linden, Chairman of the Society of the Conferring of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen
- Thomas Prefi, Chairman of the Charlemagne Prize Foundation

MUSIC

*Franziska Groß (vocals/violin) and Nikolai Studenikin (guitar)*

- Jules Massenet - Méditation from the opera Thais (violin/guitar)
- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart - Aria of Susanna from the opera Le nozze di Figaro KV 492 (vocals/guitar)
- Astor Piazzolla - Libertango (violin/guitar)

## OUTLOOK:

### CHARLEMAGNE PRIZE FELLOWS 2021/22

**Nadina Iacob (RO)**

**& Alexandra Campmas (FR)**

*Seizing opportunities, mitigating risks: How can the digital euro foster a resilient and innovative future for the EU?*

**Vincent-Immanuel Herr (GER)**

**& Martin Speer (GER)**

*How to make European democracy and institutions stronger, more inclusive and resilient in a world of transformation?*

**Max Jacobs (GER)**

*How to use framing methods to protect our environmental resources?*

**Justinas Lingevičius (LT)**

*How is the EU shaping its AI governance for global competition?*

**Miriam Mona Mukalazi (GER)**

*Mind the GAP: How does the EU Gender Action Plan embrace diversity and intersectionality?*

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# MEET OUR FELLOWS 2020/2021

## **Sophie Pornschlegel (GER/FR)**

*What are the perspectives for EU solidarity after the COVID-19 crisis?*

Sophie Pornschlegel currently works as Project Lead for Connecting Europe, a joint initiative of the Brussels-based think tank European Policy Centre and the German foundation Stiftung Mercator, where she focuses on European politics and institutions, Franco-German relations and the future of democracy in the EU. She holds an M.Sc. Degree in European Affairs from Sciences Po Paris and the London School of Economics (LSE), where she focused on political theory and democracy in the EU.

## **Photini Vrikki (CY)**

*What would solidarity-based approaches mean for the creation of common European data spaces (CEDS)?*

Dr. Photini Vrikki works as lecturer in Digital Media and Culture at the King's College London, focussing on the links between social and digital inequalities; power and data; and algorithmic cultural developments. She has previously co-built the research and impact profile of Media What, an NGO committed to promoting media education through participatory media production activities.

## **Hannah Pool (GER)**

*How has movement shaped solidarity within the European Union? How does the inability to move alter perceptions of European solidarity?*

Dr. Hannah Pool is a researcher at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies. She has been a visiting scholar at Columbia University, USA, the WZB, Germany, and Tehran University, Iran. During the research year, she carried out her project at renowned research institutions such as the Berlin Centre for Social Sciences (WZB) and the COMPAS Institute at the University of Oxford. Her research examines the perceptions of borders and solidarity during times of immobility among highly mobile groups in Europe.

## **Iulian Romanyshyn (UA)**

*How to achieve the EU's strategic autonomy in security and defense while upholding the transatlantic alliance?*

Dr. Iulian Romanyshyn is a Research Fellow at the Center for Advanced Security, Strategic and Integration Studies (CASSIS). Before, he was an adjunct lecturer at the Graduate School of Arts and Science in International Relations at New York University and an adjunct lecturer in European Studies at Maastricht University. He holds a PhD in Political Science from the IMT School for Advanced Studies Lucca.

## **Radu George Dumitrescu (RO)**

*How can shorter supply chains protect EU jobs, businesses and strengthen Europe's economy?*

Radu Dumitrescu is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Political Science at the University of Bucharest. He has previously worked as Editor-in-Chief of The New Federalist, a web magazine headquartered in Brussels and as a fact-checker at the NGO Funky Citizens, which focusses on political education in Romania.

## **Contact**

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