



**Young Königswinter Alumni Conference 2025  
12 and 13 June 2025**

**at  
The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh**

**Under the patronage of Christiane Hullmann, German Consul General in Edinburgh &  
Angus Robertson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture,  
Scottish Government**

Draft Programme

## Conference Location



### The Scottish Parliament

**Address:** Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

### Directions:

The Scottish Parliament building is located in the Holyrood area of central Edinburgh at the foot of the Royal Mile, on Horse Wynd, opposite the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

### Getting there...

#### by cycle

The nearest public cycle racks are located next to the Holyrood Lodge house building on Horse Wynd.

#### by bus

Visitors can use the Lothian Buses service number 35. The nearest stop is outside our building, called Scottish Parliament, and is located on the Royal Mile in the Canongate.

#### by train

The Parliament building is a 15-minute walk or a short taxi ride from Edinburgh Waverley train station. Information about train services to and from Edinburgh is available from National Rail.

#### by road

The Parliament sits on the boundary of the Edinburgh Low Emission Zone. Please be aware before driving your vehicle here. The nearest car parks are St John's Hill or adjacent to Waverley Station, via New Street.

### Organizing Team

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## **PROGRAMME**

**THEME: Germany and UK: National and international perspectives on current challenges**

*This conference is held under the Chatham House Rule.*

*Please note that the conference schedule is still subject to change.*

## Thursday, 12 June 2025 (for those who have already arrived)

11.00 – 11.30	<b>Arrival and check in at</b>  <i><b>The Scottish Parliament</b></i> <i>Edinburgh, EH99 1SP</i>
11.45 – 13.00	<b>First Minister's Questions</b>  Please note the separate registration for the event in our registration form.
13.00 – 18.00	<b>Free time &amp; optional walking tour</b>
18.00 – 19.00	<b>Optional Distillery tour</b>  at the  <i><b>Port of Leith Distillery</b></i> <i>11 Whisky Quay,</i> <i>Edinburgh, EH6 6FH</i>  Anyone wishing to take part, please note that the cost for the tour (approx. £20) is not included in the conference fee and has to be paid separately by participants.
From 19.00	<b>Young Königswinter Alumni Get-Together</b>  at the  <i><b>Port of Leith Distillery</b></i> <i>11 Whisky Quay,</i> <i>Edinburgh, EH6 6FH</i>  Drinks and food are not included in the conference fee and are to be covered by the participants themselves this evening.

<b>Friday, 13 June 2025</b>	
9.30 – 10.00	<b>Check in &amp; Welcome</b> at <i><b>The Scottish Parliament</b></i>
10.30 – 12.30	<b>Devolution and Unity: Governments across the UK and Germany in a Changing Europe</b>  with <i><b>Angus Robertson MSP</b></i> , Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture, Scottish Government  and <i><b>Christiane Hullmann</b></i> , German Consul General in Edinburgh
12.30 – 13.30	<b>Lunch</b> at the Scottish Parliament
13.30-15.00	<b>Zero-gravity politics: the influence of space on policy, geopolitics and the future</b>  with <i><b>Angela Mathis</b></i> , CEO, Think Tank Maths  and <i><b>Daniel Smith</b></i> , Scottish Government Envoy for Space; CEO, Astro Agency,  and, <i><b>Colin Beattie MSP</b></i> , Chair, Cross-Party Group for Germany; Chair, CPG for Space
15.00 – 15.30	<b>Networking Break</b>
15:30 – 17.30	<b>Keynote and Discussion: Unlocking British-German Synergies: Advancing Renewable Energy Collaboration on the Road to Net Zero</b>  with <i><b>Lord Duncan of Springbank</b></i> , Deputy Speaker, House of Lords; Member of the Lords Select Committee on Environment and Climate Change  and <i><b>Professor Sir Jim Skea</b></i> , Chair of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC),  and <i><b>Alexandra Stein</b></i> , Scottish Government European Hydrogen Envoy (tbc)

17.30 – 19.00	<b>Networking/Free time</b>
19.00 – 21.00	<b>Reception at</b>  <i><b>The Deck, W Hotel</b></i> <i>1 Saint James Square Edinburgh EH1 3AX</i>

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Supported by:



British Embassy  
Berlin



Consulate General  
of the Federal Republic of Germany  
Edinburgh

*Young Königswinter is a conference series of the Deutsch-Britische Gesellschaft e.V., Berlin. In keeping with the Young Königswinter tradition, the Young Königswinter Alumni meet at regular and independent alumni conferences organized by alumni volunteers.*



## **Background**

Under the patronage of the Deutsch-Britische Gesellschaft, the Young Königswinter Conferences today look back on a tradition of more than 60 years of fostering German-British friendship. They aim to foster the intercultural exchange between young Germans and Britons, who at the conferences discuss social and political issues over several days. For many years, the conferences have generated a high level of cohesion between the participants and have become one of the key events in the Deutsch-Britische Gesellschaft's portfolio. In 2009, participants of the YKW conferences founded the Young Königswinter Alumni Association (Verein).

The Association is a registered charity in Germany and has its office in Berlin. The alumni's decentralised organisational structure is maintained, however, and they are encouraged to conduct regional activities under the auspices of the Young Königswinter Alumni Association. Enabling meetings and friendships with regard to German-British relations is the Association's central rationale.

First and foremost, the Association aims at institutionalising the alumni network, maintaining and deepening the exchange and creating new points of contact. To this end, it has already initiated a range of activities (event series, lectures and receptions).

Secondly, the Association wants to contribute to the public political debate, with the YKW Alumni representing a group with a great interest in German-British relations. They are highly motivated and work in various professional areas, bound together by the common desire to contribute to society and the democratic development of the body politic. The Association wants to promote and actively use the alumni's potential in order to generate an interdisciplinary discourse on current socio-political issues and to encourage common engagement. In doing so, the Association not only considers itself a link between former and future YKW participants, but also as an intermediary between its members and society. In this spirit, it is a particular concern of the Association to stimulate and contribute to a sustained engagement in and for civil society.

The YKW Alumni Association offers a vibrant and active network in the German-British context. The Association bundles its members' activities and creates a persistent bond, founded in the YKW conferences. The Association offers access to almost 65 years of Young Königswinter Conferences with hundreds of alumni, and the opportunity to engage ambitious and successful people interested equally in cultural and business exchanges. The Association's expanding interdisciplinary network provides an inexhaustible pool for institutionalised civic involvement across party lines.