DAY 1

Monday, 9 November 2026

Time	MAIN STAGE	FOCUS STAGE
	Topics: Europe's economic independence, security and leadership, new European champions, digital sovereignty, Made in Germany, AI in industry, economic policy and money	Topics: AI and economic policy, AI in business, computing power for industry, Industry 4.0, founding and start-ups
10:20	**Welcome to the 20th SZ Wirtschaftsgipfel** Moderation: SZ editorial team	
10:30	**Opening speech and Q&A** Karin Prien, Federal Minister of Education, Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth Moderation: Judith Wittwer and Ulrich Schäfer	
11:00	**Panel: How Europe becomes economically independent** Petra Scharner-Wolff, Chair of the Management Board, Otto Group Sabrina Soussan, Member of the Henkel Shareholders' Committee and Chair of the Supervisory Board, Continental Moritz Schularick, President, Kiel Institute for the World Economy Kristina Trink, Chief Risk Officer, DKB Moderation: Lisa Nienhaus	
11:40	**How can Europe strengthen its security? A conversation with …** Gundbert Scherf, Co-Founder & Co-CEO, Helsing Moderation: Judith Wittwer	
12:00	**A world in upheaval – leading in turbulent times. A conversation with …** Sir Tim Clark, President, Emirates Airline Moderation: Ulrich Schäfer	
12:20	**Panel: New European champions – how does it work?** Jarek Kutylowski, CEO, DeepL Karsten Lemmer, Member of the Executive Board, DLR Verena Pausder, CEO, Startup Verband Deutschland Christian Schmierer, CEO, HyImpulse Moderation: Kerstin Bund	

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12:55	CEO talk: Digitally sovereign – how it works Thomas Tschersich, CSO, Deutsche Telekom and CEO, Telekom Security Moderation: Jannis Brühl	
13:10	Time for questions and interaction Moderation: Kerstin Bund and Bastian Brinkmann	
13:15	Lunch break (until 2:15 p.m.) Networking Area	
13:50		Opening of the Focus Stage Moderation: Matthias Punz and Ulrich Schäfer
14:00		Keynote Sepp Hochreiter, Head of the Institute for Machine Learning, JKU Linz; Founder, Nxai Moderation: Gabriel Rinaldi
14:15	Welcome back after the lunch break Moderation: Kerstin Bund and Bastian Brinkmann	
14:20	Speech and Q&A Steffen Bilger, Federal Minister of Transport Moderation: Judith Wittwer and Henrike Roßbach	Panel: Economic policy in the age of AI Deepa Gautam-Nigge, VP Corporate Development & Investments, SAP Michael Hüther, Director, Institut der deutschen Wirtschaft Helena Melnikov, Chief Executive, DIHK Rupprecht Podszun, Member of the Monopolies Commission Moderation: Matthias Punz
14:50	In conversation with … Sahra Wagenknecht, BSW Moderation: Lisa Nienhaus and Ulrich Schäfer	

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15:00		One-on-one: From idea to company Jarek Kutylowski, CEO, DeepL Moderation: Gabriel Rinaldi
15:15	Panel: Made in Germany – what our economy needs now Stefan Beismann, Member of the Board, Corporate Clients, DZ Bank Bonita Grupp, Managing Director, Trigema Frank Hassler, CEO, JobRad Group Tobias Ostermaier, Executive President Business Unit Stationary, Rolls-Royce Moderation: Henrike Roßbach	
15:20		Networking break
15:35		Opening talk and panel (fishbowl): How does AI get into the business? Philipp Depiereux, entrepreneur and author (opening talk and panel) Kirsten Rulf, Partner, BCG Christian Hürter, CIO, Deutz Moderation: Matthias Punz
15:55	Networking break Networking Area	
16:15		Panel: Who supplies the computing power for industry? Anna Christmann, Strategic Agency for Innovation Thomas Lippert, Director, Jülich Supercomputing Centre Lars Neumann, SVP T Cloud, Telekom Henri Schmidt, Federal Managing Director of the Digital Committee, CDU Moderation: Bastian Mühling
16:25	Welcome back after the break Moderation: Kerstin Bund and Bastian Brinkmann	

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16:30	CEO talk: AI in retail – what works and what doesn't Rocco Bräuniger, VP, Country Manager DACH & EU Expansion, Amazon Germany Moderation: Jannis Brühl	
16:45	SZ Gipfelstürmer – the founders' competition for innovative business ideas (in cooperation with UnternehmerTUM) Moderation: Ulrich Schäfer	
16:55		Panel: Industry 4.0 – how Germany keeps pace Antonio Krüger, CEO, DFKI Christoph Räth, CSO & Co-Founder, Entrox Systems Isabella Sauerberg, EVP HMI, Computing and Applications, Siemens Christoph Schell, CEO, Kuka Moderation: Carolyn Braun
17:25	Panel: Everything AI? Reinventing companies Tom Becker, VP DACH, Mistral Marie Niehaus-Langer, CEO, EOS Wolfgang Wendt, Chair of the Management Board, IBM Germany Moderation: Jannis Brühl	
18:00	“Let's talk about money” with … Christian Lindner, former Federal Minister, entrepreneur, supervisory board member and investor Moderation: Lisa Nienhaus	
18:25	Summary of the first conference day Moderation: Kerstin Bund and Bastian Brinkmann	
18:30	Exclusive networking event at the Gasometer Networking Area	

DAY 2

Tuesday, 10 November 2026

Time	MAIN STAGE	FOCUS STAGE
	Topics: Leadership in turbulent times, transformation of the auto industry, financial market, quantum computing, industrial competitiveness, geopolitics and conflicts, space and the Moon, AI in Germany, Europe's health, politics and digitalisation	Topics: Europe's future in space, responsive space, defence and defence tech, dual use, drones, quantum communication, retooling the Mittelstand
09:30	Welcome by the SZ editorial team Moderation: Kerstin Bund and Bastian Brinkmann	
09:35	Germany in orbit – opening of the second conference day Daniel Metzler, CEO, Isar Aerospace Moderation: Ulrich Schäfer	
09:55	Mixed pair: leading in turbulent times Sarna Röser, Supervisory Board Member and Initiator of „Unternehmer in Bewegung“ (U18) Joe Kaeser, Chair of the Supervisory Board, Siemens Energy & Daimler Truck Moderation: Lisa Nienhaus	
10:00		Keynote: Europe's future in space Hélène Huby, Founder & CEO, The Exploration Company Moderation: Felix Lee
10:15	CEO talk: The transformation of the auto industry Florian Huettl, CEO, Opel Moderation: Thomas Fromm	
10:20		Panel: Europe on its way into space Josef Aschbacher, Director General, ESA Daniel Metzler, CEO, Isar Aerospace Klaus Michel, Managing Director, Airbus Defence and Space Cella Pelaz, CEO „Defence & New Space“, Schaeffler Moderation: Finn Mayer-Kuckuk

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	Topics: Leadership in turbulent times, transformation of the auto industry, financial market, quantum computing, industrial competitiveness, geopolitics and conflicts, space and the Moon, AI in Germany, Europe's health, politics and digitalisation	Topics: Europe's future in space, responsive space, defence and defence tech, dual use, drones, quantum communication, retooling the Mittelstand
10:30	CEO talk: Cash, cards, crypto – the new payments market Albrecht Kiel, Managing Director, Visa Moderation: Jannis Brühl	
10:45	Panel: Is Europe missing the quantum computing revolution? Tommaso Calarco, Quantum Physicist, Forschungszentrum Jülich Michaela Eichlinger, Product Solutions Physicist, Quantum Machines Markus Pflitsch, Founder and Chairman, Terra Quantum Moderation: Ulrich Schäfer	
10:50		One-on-one David Cavaillolès, CEO, Arianespace Moderation: Christiane Kühl
11:10		Networking break (10 min.)
11:15	Panel: How competitive is Europe's industry? Fabian Brandt, Partner and Market Leader Central Europe, Oliver Wyman Patrick van der Loo, Country President, Pfizer Germany Michael Vassiliadis, Chair, IGBCE Moderation: Judith Wittwer	
11:20		Panel: »Responsive Spaces – resilience in space« Andronike Amponsah, Vice President Defense & Government Programs, Isar Aerospace Philipp Herkelmann, CEO, ICEYE Germany Michael Traut, Commander, Bundeswehr Space Command Sabine von der Recke, Management Board Member, OHB Moderation: Finn Mayer-Kuckuk
11:45	Time for questions and interaction Moderation: Kerstin Bund and Bastian Brinkmann	

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11:50	Coffee break Networking Area	
12:00		Best practice: Catalonia as a space pioneer Maria Galindo Garcia-Delgado, Secretary of State for Digital and Space Affairs, Catalan Ministry of Economy Moderation: Gabriel Rinaldi
12:10	Panel: Is Europe being crushed by the world's conflicts? Sophia Besch, Managing Director Transatlantic Security, GMF Robert Czajkowski, Germany Chief, WB Group Max Enders, Head of Business Development and Government, Tytan Technologies Hildegard Müller, President, VDA Moderation: Thomas Fromm	
12:20		Start-ups in space? Christian Schmierer, CEO, HyImpulse Moderation: Christiane Kühl
12:30		Panel 3: Quantum communication in orbit Christian Fuchs, DLR Optical Communication Antonia Hmaidi, Head of Programme Science, Technology and Innovation Policy, Merics Rupert Ursin, Physicist, Founder and CEO, qtlabs Moderation: Finn Mayer-Kuckuk
12:50	A conversation with … Armin Papperger, CEO, Rheinmetall Moderation: Lisa Nienhaus	
13:10	Lunch break (until 2:00 p.m.) Networking Area	

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14:00		Keynote: Where should the defence billions go? André Wüstner, Chairman, Deutscher Bundeswehrverband Moderation: Felix Lee
14:10	Fly me to the moon. A conversation with ... Samantha Cristoforetti, Astronaut, ESA Moderation: Ulrich Schäfer	
14:20	Impulse: Germany's ambitions in space Dorothee Bär, Federal Minister of Research, Technology and Space	Panel: How does innovation reach the armed forces? Rafael Laguna de la Vera, Director, Federal Agency for Breakthrough Innovation (SPRIND) Armin Papperger, CEO, Rheinmetall Roberta Randerath, Director Business Development, ARX Robotics Sven Weizenegger, Head of the Cyber Innovation Hub of the Bundeswehr Moderation: Thomas Fromm
14:30	Panel: Fly me to the moon: Europe's path to the Moon Josef Aschbacher, Director General, ESA Dorothee Bär, Federal Minister of Research, Technology and Space Samantha Cristoforetti, Astronaut, ESA Hélène Huby, Founder & CEO, The Exploration Company Moderation: Ulrich Schäfer	
15:00	Mixed pair: Will AI in Germany still take off? Jonas Andrulis, CEO, CNTR Stefan Schaible, Senior Global Managing Partner, CEO Germany & Central Europe, Roland Berger Moderation: Lisa Nienhaus	Panel: Resilient drone production in Germany Marie-Christine von Hahn, Managing Director, BDLI (German Aerospace Industries Association) Katharina Kreitz, Serial Founder, CSO, Advisory Board, Vectoflow & AM Turbines Max Enders, Head of Business Development and Government, Tytan Technologies Moderation: Finn Mayer-Kuckuk
15:20	How healthy is Europe? A conversation with ... Severin Schwan, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Roche Moderation: Judith Wittwer	

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15:30		Networking break
15:40	Networking break Networking Area	
15:40		Panel Defence (fishbowl): Dual use – military research for civilian technology success Carolin Häussler, Deputy Chair, EFI Alexander Kopp, CEO, Polaris Julia Gottfriedsen, Chief Technology Officer, Constellr Moderation: Matthias Punz
16:00	Panel: Innovative Germany – how we build tomorrow's industry Philipp Herrmann, Founder & CEO, BRYCK Heike Freund, COO, Marvel Fusion Thomas Oehl, General Partner, Vsquared Ventures Helmut Schönenberger, Co-founder and CEO, UnternehmerTUM Moderation: Jannis Brühl	
16:20		How the retrofitting of the Mittelstand succeeds Dennis Klinzelmann, CEO, Mercedes-Benz Special Trucks Michael Wellenzohn, CEO, HD Advanced Technologies Nicole Prell, Managing Director, Schaeffler TEC Moderation: Carolyn Braun
16:30	Speech and Q&A Karsten Wildberger, Federal Minister for Digital Affairs and Administrative Modernisation Moderation: Judith Wittwer and Ulrich Schäfer	
17:00	Summary and close of the second conference day Moderation: Kerstin Bund and Bastian Brinkmann	

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19:00	Exclusive evening event at the French Embassy (separate ticket required)	

DAY 3

Wednesday, 11 November 2026

Time	MAIN STAGE	FOCUS STAGE
	Topics: Liberalism in 2026, AI in practice, transformation of the auto industry, democracy at risk, the future of fiscal policy	Topics: resilience of the financial sector, digital euro, fintech
09:40	Welcome by the SZ editorial team Moderation: Kerstin Bund and Bastian Brinkmann	
09:45	Interview: Liberalism in 2026 Wolfgang Kubicki, Party Chairman, FDP Moderation: Lisa Nienhaus and Bastian Brinkmann	
10:00		Keynote Fritzi Köhler-Geib, Board Member, Deutsche Bundesbank Moderation: Gabriel Rinaldi
10:15	Keynote: How long can we afford this government? Janina Mütze, CEO and Founder, Civey Moderation: Kerstin Bund	
10:20		Panel: Under pressure – how resilient is Europe's financial sector? Ingrid Hengster, CEO, Barclays Tamaz Georgadze, CEO, Raisin Nikolaus Maximilian Linaric, CRO, ING Kristina Trink, Chief Risk Officer, DKB Moderation: Finn Mayer-Kuckuk
10:35	Powertalks: Artificial intelligence in practice – the future is already here Moritz Gräter, CEO, IPAI Jennifer Korte, CFO, thyssenkrupp Automotive Body Solution Moderation: Jannis Brühl and Ulrich Schäfer	

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	Topics: Liberalism in 2026, AI in practice, transformation of the auto industry, democracy at risk, the future of fiscal policy	Topics: resilience of the financial sector, digital euro, fintech
11:00		**Panel: The digital euro – coexistence or displacement?** Peter Bofinger, Economist and Professor, University of Würzburg Ramona Pop, Board Member, Federation of German Consumer Organisations (vzbv) Martina Weimert, CEO, EPI Company (Wero) Heike Winter, Head of Analysis, Policy, Ecosystem Digital Euro, Deutsche Bundesbank Moderation: Matthias Punz
11:05	**Coffee break** Networking Area	
11:30	**The future of the auto industry. A conversation with …** Ola Källenius, Chair of the Board of Management, Mercedes-Benz Moderation: Judith Wittwer	
11:40		**Fintech Corner (fishbowl)** Daniel Lappas, Chief Product and Business Officer, N26 Martin Ott, CEO, Taxfix Katrin Stark, Supervisory Board Member, Bitpanda Moderation: Gabriel Rinaldi
11:50	**CEO talk: E-mobility, defence, sustainability – how do we finance the transformation of German industry?** Michael Kotzbauer, Deputy Chair of the Board of Management, Commerzbank Moderation: Jannis Brühl	
12:05	**A conversation with …** Katharina Dröge, Member of the German Bundestag, Alliance 90/The Greens Moderation: Henrike Roßbach	
12:20		**Closing and farewell** Moderation: Matthias Punz

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	Topics: Liberalism in 2026, AI in practice, transformation of the auto industry, democracy at risk, the future of fiscal policy	Topics: resilience of the financial sector, digital euro, fintech
12:25	How does Europe keep up in the race for the best cars? A conversation with … François Provost, CEO, Renault Group Moderation: Ulrich Schäfer	Networking
12:45	Panel: Democracy in danger: What politics, business and society can do Knut Bergmann, Professor, Head of Communications and Berlin Office, Institut der deutschen Wirtschaft Anna Herrhausen, Deputy Chair, Phineo Anne Rabe, Writer Raoul Roßmann, Management, Dirk Rossmann Moderation: Lisa Nienhaus	
13:20	Keynote and Q&A: The future of German fiscal policy Lars Klingbeil, Vice Chancellor, Federal Minister of Finance Moderation: Judith Wittwer and Henrike Roßbach	
13:50	Lessons learned and farewell from the SZ editorial team Moderation: Kerstin Bund and Bastian Brinkmann	
14:00	Lunch Networking Area	
15:00	End of the 20th SZ Wirtschaftsgipfel Networking Area	