“70 Years of Basic Law –
The German Federal State as Reflected in International Experiences”

Between 4 and 5 November 2019 in Berlin

In the Federal Council
Leipziger Str. 3-4
10117 Berlin

Funded by:

Gefördert durch:

Bundesministerium des Innern, für Bau und Heimat

aufgrund eines Beschlusses des Deutschen Bundestages
On the occasion of the upcoming 70th year anniversary on the Basic Law in 2019, the international conference will address current issues surrounding German federalism. Since German unification, there have been significant reforms with far-reaching amendments to the Basic Law. The German federal state has had to repeatedly adapt to changing framework conditions as a result of this. The unique, historically developed model of federalism has not been fundamentally revised, however. Federalism in Germany has continually proven to be versatile and adaptable. Nevertheless, the question arises as to whether federalism in its present form is prepared for the challenges of the future or whether there is a need for further reforms, including those that modify the Basic Law.

This question requires a historical and comparative analysis. Based on a review of major developments in the German federal state, particularly against the background of important constitutional reforms, as well as on an appraisal of the current situation, the aim is to discuss the change and constancy of German federalism on the one hand and its efficiency and future viability on the other. The objective is to open up interdisciplinary perspectives and to conduct dialogue between science and practice.

Furthermore, the view on the German debate will be broadened to include international perspectives: How is German federalism internationally perceived? What can we learn from other federal states for the challenges that lie ahead?

The event is divided up into three interrelated content blocks:

- Review and reflection: 70 years Basic Law – versatility and adaptability
- Stocktaking and analysis of current political challenges based on selected policy fields: Education, domestic security, integration
- Dialogue between science and practice about future perspectives

The conference will take place with simultaneous interpreting German/English.

4 November 2019

9:30 a.m. **Welcome and Opening:**

Dr Ute Rettler, State Secretary, Director of the Bundesrat
Prof Dr Günter Krings, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community
Prof Dr Georg Milbradt, former Minister President, Chairman of the Board of the Forum of Federations
10:00 a.m.  **Opening lecture**

70 Years of *Basic Law* – Constitutional Change and Federalism (Prof Dr Peter M. Huber, Judge at the Federal Constitutional Court)

10:45 a.m.  Break

11:15 a.m.  **Panel 1: 70 years Basic Law: Reflection from a historical perspective**

Federalism and democracy in the Federal Republic – 70 Basic Law from a historical perspective (Prof. Dr Siegfried Weichlein, University of Fribourg)

Between Party Politics, Administration and Law. On the Development of Federal Democracy in Germany (Prof Dr Arthur Benz, Technical University of Darmstadt)

12:45 p.m.  Lunch break

14:00 a.m.  **Panel 2: Reflection from a political science and financial perspective**

Change of the fiscal framework conditions and their consequences for the federal structure (Prof Dr emeritus Wolfgang Renzsch, University of Magdeburg)

Federal guiding principles as a constitutional framework for action in the German federal state – the eternal field of tension between efficiency and legitimacy. (Prof Dr Sabine Kropp and Dr Christoph Nguyen, both Free University of Berlin)

Executive policy-making in the administrative federalism between autonomy and cooperation (Prof Dr Nathalie Behnke, Technical University of Darmstadt)

15:45 a.m.  Break

16:00 a.m.  **Panel 3: International perspectives: The German federal state as a special case?**

*Basic Law* and German federalism viewed from the outside: Source of inspiration for Switzerland? (Dr Sean Müller, University of Bern)

*Model Germany?* Comparative Reflections on the German Federal System (Prof Alan Fenna PhD, Curtin University, Perth)

Countries in Transition. The Reception and Relevance of the *Basic Law* in International Development (Prof Dr Sujit Choudhry, Visiting Researcher at the WZB Social Science Centre)

5:45 p.m.  End
05 November 2019

09:00 a.m.  **Panel 4: Education Policy**

Federalism and Education: Ongoing Challenges and Policy Strategies in Ten Countries (Prof Kenneth K. Wong PhD, Brown University, Providence)

Challenges in the federal education system. Comments from a German perspective (Prof Dr Rita Nikolai, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and Dr Henrik Scheller, German Institute for Urban Studies)

10:45 a.m.  Pause

11:15 a.m.  **Panel 5: Public Safety**

Federalism and the challenges to public safety – an international comparison (Dr Mario Kölling, Assistant Professor, Spanish Open University UNED, Madrid and Project Coordinator at the Manuel Giménez Abad Stiftung, Saragossa)

Do we need a reform of the federal structure in the area of public safety? Comments from a German perspective (Sebastian Fiedler, Chairman, Federal Association of Criminal Investigation Departments, and Prof Dr Georg Wenzelburger, Technical University of Kaiserslautern)

13:00 p.m.  Lunch break

14:15 a.m.  **Panel 6: Immigrant Integration**

The Changing Meaning and Practice of Migrant Integration in Federal Countries (Dr Leslie Seidle, Senior Advisor, Forum of Federations, Montreal)

Integration policy in German Federalism. Comments from a German perspective (Prof Dr Sabine Kuhlmann, University of Potsdam and Prof Emeritus Dr Dietrich Thränhardt, University of Münster)

4:00 p.m.  Break/End of the Conference
5:00 p.m. Public panel discussion

Venue:
Auditorium Friedrichstraße
Friedrichstraße 180
10117 Berlin

70 years of Basic Law – Do we need Another Round of Federalism Reform?

Prof Dr Sujit Choudhry, Visiting Researcher at the WZB Social Science Centre
Prof Dr Hans Hofmann, Head of Department, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community
Prof Dr Dr h.c. Gertrüde Lübbe-Wolff, former judge at the Federal Constitutional Court, University of Bielefeld
Prof Dr Sabine Kropp, Free University of Berlin
Volker Ratzmann, State Secretary, Representative of the State of Baden-Württemberg to the Federal Government

Discussion Moderator: Albert Funk, Der Tagesspiegel
List of speakers

Hans Altherr, former President of the Council of States, Appenzell
https://www.parlament.ch/de/biografie/hans-altherr/1256

Prof Dr Nathalie Behnke, TU Darmstadt
https://www.politikwissenschaft.tu-darmstadt.de/index.php?id=3680

Prof Dr Arthur Benz, TU Darmstadt
https://www.politikwissenschaft.tu-darmstadt.de/index.php?id=2946&L=2%27%60%28%5B%7B%5E~

Prof Dr Sujit Choudhry, Visiting Researcher at the WZB Social Science Centre
https://www.wzb.eu/de/personen/sujit-choudhry

Prof Alan Fenna PhD, Curtin University, Perth
https://staffportal.curtin.edu.au/staff/profile/view/A.Fenna

Sebastian Fiedler, Chairman, Federal Association of Criminal Investigation Departments
https://www.bdk.de/der-bdk/wer-wir-sind/geschf.-bundesvorstand

Prof Dr Peter M. Huber, Judge at Federal Constitutional Court
https://www.jura.uni-muenchen.de/personen/h/huber_peter/index.html

Prof Dr Hans Hofmann, Head of Department, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community

Dr Mario Kölling, Spanish Open University UNED, Madrid and Project Coordinator of the Manuel Giménez Abad Stiftung, Saragoss
http://portal.uned.es/portal/page?pageid=93,66603692&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL

Prof Dr Günter Klings, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community

Prof Dr Sabine Kropp, Free University of Berlin
Prof Dr Sabine Kuhlmann, Potsdam University
https://www.uni-potsdam.de/ls-kuhlmann/lehrstuhl/sabine-kuhlmann.html

Prof Dr h.c. Gertrüde Lübbe-Wolff, former judge at the Federal Constitutional Court, University of Bielefeld
http://www.jura.uni-bielefeld.de/lehrstuehle/luebbe-wolff/

Prof Dr Georg Milbradt, former Minister President, Chairman of the Supervisory Board at the Forum of Federations
http://www.forumfed.org/who-we-are/board-of-directors/

Dr Sean Müller, University of Bern
http://www.ipw.unibe.ch/ueber_uns/personen/dr_mueller_sean/index_ger.html

Dr Christoph Nguyen, Free University of Berlin
https://www.polsoz.hu-berlin.de/polwiss/forschung/systeme/polsystem/Team/Christoph-Nguyen.html

Prof Dr Rita Nikolai, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
http://www.rita-nikolai.de

Prof Emeritus Wolfgang Renzsch, University of Magdeburg
http://www.pw.ovgu.de/Lehrst%C3%BChle/Mitarbeiter/Professoren_innen/Prof+_Dr_+Wolfgang+Renzsch-p-152.html

Volker Ratzmann, Representative of the State of Baden-Württemberg at the Federal State
https://stm.baden-wuerttemberg.de/de/vertretung-beim-bund/bevollmaechtigter-beim-bund/

Dr Ute Rettler, State Secretary, Director of the Federal Council
https://www.bundesrat.de/SharedDocs/personen/DE/sekretariat/rettler-ute.html

Dr Henrik Scheller, German Institute for Urban Studies
https://difu.de/kontakt/mitarbeiter/henrik-scheller.html

Dr Leslie Seidle, Senior Advisor, Forum of Federations, Montreal
http://www.forumfed.org/who-we-are/staff/

Prof Emeritus Dr Dietrich Thränhardt, University of Münster
https://www.uni-muenster.de/IfPol/personen/thraenhardt.html

Prof Dr Siegfried Weichlein, University of Fribourg
http://perso.unifr.ch/siegfried.weichlein/home
Prof Dr Georg Wenzelburger, Technical University of Kaiserslautern
https://www.sowi.uni-kl.de/politikwissenschaft/team/wenzelburger/

Prof Kenneth Wong PhD, Brown University, Providence
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