



Lunch Talk October 8 (12.30 AM):

Germany and Europe: new challenges in a multipolar world

The German reunification brought along a mixture of high expectations and barely suppressed concerns about a Germany which could become 'too big for Europe' and still remains 'too small for the world'. 30 years of German European Policy have shown that Germany – together with its partners – is taking on its European responsibility. But the geopolitical ambitions of China, Russia and Turkey and the recent erratic policy of the USA have put Europa, Germany and the Netherlands to the test. Furthermore, the Corona crisis has once again shown serious dissension among EU member states.

The outer dimension: Can the EU play a geopolitical role?

The European Union seeks to champion multilateralism and a rules-based global order through a more active role and stronger voice for the EU in the world. Both, Germany and the Netherlands can fully subscribe to this vision. But the question remains how to implement these words into reality when international law and the multilateral system as we know it since World War II are under mounting pressure? Can the Common European Security Policy play its part in the current set-up? If not, how should it be developed in order to defend European values in a world of challenges? And, what should be the role of Germany in this development?

The inner dimension: Finding (new) balance

The negotiations over the Multi-Year Financial Framework (MFF) have shown that successful and far-reaching agreements can be struck. However, the vault lines between economic recovery and reform as well as questions about conditionality and the rule of law have been all too apparent. How can the EU increase cohesion while at the same time achieve its ambitions? Are we at the beginning of something new? Is the European Recovery Plan the "Hamiltonian moment" of the EU? What are the Dutch expectations towards Germany in this regard?

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the German unification, we would like to discuss these questions with:

- [Daniela Schwarzer](#), director of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik, Berlin
- [Matthias Matthijs](#), senior fellow for Europe at the Council on Foreign Relations and Associate Professor of International Political Economy, Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies
- [Luuk van Middelaar](#), Professor of Foundations and Practice of the European Union and its Institutions at Leiden University

Be our guest, take part in the discussion!