

Press release

Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue 2022

29–30 March 2022 | Federal Foreign Office

The Berlin Energy Transition Conference against the backdrop of the push for independence from fossil fuels

Renewables combine security and climate protection

Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock and Economic Affairs Minister Robert Habeck are opening the eighth Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue (BETD) today. Under the motto “From Ambition to Action”, ministers and high-level delegations from more than 50 countries will hold discussions with representatives from the business community, academia and civil society. On the agenda are strategies for the intelligent transformation of energy systems around the world and solutions for reaching greater independence from fossil fuels.

Another topic will be the energy policy dimension of the war against Ukraine. The international community has shown that it is capable of moving resolutely and decisively. Now the question is how the ambitions – as expressed in statements and commitments – can be put into action. What role can energy efficiency and renewable energies play in creating a politically stable and economically prosperous world? These questions will take center stage at the BETD, as well as in the planned policy discussions. Other questions will focus on the possibilities and need for strategic investments, in particular in the area of renewable energies. Because it has become all too apparent that the switch to renewables is no longer just about advancing the goals of climate protection, but about achieving greater security as well. This dialogue also involves traditional exporters of fossil fuels, who are now facing the challenge of adapting their economic systems to a changing environment. For many countries, the situation creates new opportunities for diversifying their economies.

The global energy transition will lead to an increase in trade and a greater degree of interconnection between countries. One example of this can be found in the energy partnerships that Germany has formed with countries around the world. Today we welcome many of the stakeholders in this dialogue to the conference in Berlin.

Federal Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock: “Russia’s brutal war of aggression has not only brought terrible suffering to the people in Ukraine but also made the problematic dependence of many states on fossil energy imports clear to each and every one of us. The global energy transition and combating the climate crisis are now hard geopolitics. The international community is watching Germany’s path even more closely and the interest in international cooperation is even greater. The task is now to make ourselves

independent from Russian energy imports as quickly as possible – and at the same time to press ahead with the phase-out of fossil fuels. The Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue is a unique forum to exchange ideas, strengthen partnerships and develop strategies together on how we can move forward with the global energy transition.”

Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action Dr. Robert Habeck: “The war of aggression waged by Russia against Ukraine, in clear breach of international law, has brought the question of energy security to the forefront of international discussions as well. Now more than ever, we have to promote the global energy transition and resolutely drive forward both the goal of a global expansion of renewables and that of greater energy efficiency. In addition, we must free ourselves from the grip of Russian imports so that we are longer susceptible to blackmail. We in the German Government are sparing no effort to achieve this. The key to energy sovereignty, however, lies the expansion of renewable energies. This question is of utmost relevance to national, European and international security.”

President of the German Renewable Energy Federation (BEE), Dr. Simone Peter: “The war in Ukraine demonstrates in dramatic fashion the high price of a dependence on fossil fuels as well as the risks of nuclear energy. By contrast, renewable energies hold the potential at regional and global level for achieving an independent, crisis-proof, environmentally friendly and inexpensive supply of energy. Renewables are energies of peace, and can take over the energy supply reliably and in a way that is unaffected by international tensions.”

In keeping with the BETD’s tradition as a global forum for the energy transition, this year’s event will feature speeches by and discussions with Federal Minister for the Environment Steffi Lemke, Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Svenja Schulze, Director-General of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Francesco La Camera, and the Executive Director of the International Energy Agency (IEA), Fatih Birol.

Since 2015, the Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue has been hosted by the Federal Government and co-organized by the German Renewable Energy Federation (BEE), the German Solar Association (BSW-Solar), the German Energy Agency (dena) as well as the consultancy firm eclareon.

The up-to-date program for the conference as well as the side-events agenda are available at www.energydialogue.berlin. Information on additional press events can be found here: www.energydialogue.berlin/press/ Questions and comments can be submitted using the hashtag #betd22 on Twitter and @greensofa_betd. The conference language is English.

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