



EXPERT ROUNDTABLE
Pro-Russische Netzwerke in Politik und Wirtschaft:
Wie der Kreml die deutsche Russlandpolitik
weiterhin beeinflusst

13 Dez 2024
10:00 – 12:00
Haus der Caritas
Reinhardtstr. 13
10117 Berlin

PROGRAMME

10:00	Welcome Martin Kothé Regional Office Manager South East and Eastern Europe, Sofia Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom	David Schraven Founder and Publisher Correctiv
10:05	Impulses Martin Vladimirov Director, Energy and Climate Programme Center for the Study of Democracy	10:30 Discussion Moderated by Teresa Widlok Head of Global Issues Department Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom
	Julia Friedrich (tbc) Research Fellow Global Public Policy Institute (GPPi)	11:30 Networking & Light Lunch 12:00 End of the event

TO THE TOPIC

The recent state elections in eastern Germany and the early federal elections in February 2025 clearly show that Russian influence in Germany continues to be successful: the German public debate continues to revolve around possible "peace plans" with the Kremlin and questions Germany's military support for Ukraine. The beneficiaries and free riders of these discussions are the Sahra Wagenknecht BSW alliance and the Alternative for Germany, which were able to achieve high results in the elections with these issues, among others. A novelty was that both parties made foreign policy a supposed state issue, although this is the responsibility of the federal government. Both parties are in favour of pro-Russian demands in relation to Ukraine and are spreading narratives from the Russian state media. The German election campaign is being hugely influenced by these parties.

Behind this are also the German-Russian political and business networks, some of which have already been uncovered, which continue to pursue their own interests and those of the Kremlin despite the full Russian invasion. As a result of the sanctions regime, key players have reorganised themselves and are continuing their trade with Russia via Central Asia or Turkey. Sanctions are deliberately circumvented and dual-use goods find their way to Russia and ultimately to the Russian war front in Ukraine.

A recently published study by the Centre of the Study of Democracy in Sofia has re-examined the connections of pro-Russian networks in business and politics. It shows that the AfD's Russian connections are being maintained. Economic actors also continue to use their connections to continue their business with or in Russia.

We would like to discuss with you in a closed roundtable under Chatham House Rule how these channels converge and what influence they have on the German debate on Russia and its war.