

German Banking Congress 2014

The eurozone needs a stable banking system – and banks need a stable eurozone. This simple equation was at the centre of debate at the 20th German Banking Congress in Berlin. It was examined by Federal President Joachim Gauck and Federal Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble, as well as Deutsche Bundesbank President Jens Weidmann. While the head of state and the two top policymakers and financial experts delivered different assessments, they agreed, along with the over 800 guests at the Banking Congress, that since the end of 2008 legislators and supervisors have launched a raft of reforms that have been implemented by banks.



Jürgen Fitschen, President of the Association of German Banks, said that the process was not over by a long way, however. Banks were well aware that they now had to win over the public through their actions. This was the only way they could regain trust. “We are in the middle of a period of upheaval, since long-term changes take time to kick in noticeably. We will continue to use the time at our disposal conscientiously,” Mr Fitschen explained.

Trust was one side of the coin, sustained stabilisation of the financial system the other. A stable financial system called for effective regulation. But profitable banks were just as important, Mr Fitschen stressed. He pointed out that policymakers and the financial sector had together managed to make both the German and the European financial system much more stable.

Programme

Tuesday, 8 April 2014 – Evening reception

5.30 pm Admission

6.30 pm Welcome

Jürgen Fitschen,
President of the Association of German Banks and
Co-Chief Executive Officer, Deutsche Bank AG

Speech
Jens Weidmann,
President of Deutsche Bundesbank

Wednesday, 9 April 2014 – Conference

8.30 am Admission

9.30 am Welcome
Jürgen Fitschen

Opening speech
Joachim Gauck,
President of the Federal Republic of Germany

Keynote Speech
Jürgen Fitschen

10.30 am
Panel discussion: What kind of banks does the economy need?

Nicola Leibinger-Kammüller,
President, TRUMPF GmbH + Co. KG

Ralf P. Thomas,
Chief Financial Officer, Siemens AG

Markus Beumer,
Member of the Board of Managing Directors, Commerzbank AG

Thomas A. Lange,
Chairman of the Management Board, NATIONAL-BANK AG

Moderator: Thomas Exner, Deputy Editor-in-Chief, WELT-Gruppe

11.30 am Coffee break

12.15 am

Panel discussion: Banking, fiscal and political union – how much unity does Europe need?

Sabine Lautenschläger,
Member of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank

Hannes Swoboda,
MEP, Chair, Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament

Theodor Weimer,
Spokesman of the Management Board, HypoVereinsbank/UniCredit Bank AG

Moderator: Stephan Detjen,
Head of the Berlin Studio, Deutschlandradio

1.00 pm Speech

Wolfgang Schäuble,
Member of the German Bundestag, Minister of Finance of the Federal Republic of Germany

Closing words
Jürgen Fitschen

1.30 pm Lunch

Speakers



Joachim Gauck

President of the Federal Republic of Germany

Joachim Gauck was born in Rostock in 1940 and studied theology. Until 1990, he was in the service of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mecklenburg, working as a pastor for many years. He was one of the initiators of the church and popular resistance to the communist regime in the GDR and a co-founder of the New Forum opposition movement in 1989. After the reunification of Germany, he was appointed Federal Commissioner for the files of the state security service of the former German Democratic Republic, a position he held from 1991 to 2000. In 2012, Joachim Gauck was elected by the German Federal Convention to become the eleventh President of the Federal Republic of Germany.



Wolfgang Schäuble

Member of the German Bundestag, Minister of Finance of the Federal Republic of Germany

Wolfgang Schäuble was born in Freiburg in 1942 and studied law and economics at the universities of Freiburg and Hamburg. He joined the Christian Democratic Union of Germany (CDU) in 1965 and has been a Member of the German Bundestag since 1972. He has held various senior posts in the course of his political career, including Federal Minister for Special Tasks and Head of the Federal Chancellery and Federal Minister of the Interior. Since 2009, he has been Federal Minister of Finance and has been a member of the CDU Presidium since 2000.



Jens Weidmann

President of Deutsche Bundesbank

Jens Weidmann was born in Solingen in 1968 and studied economics in Aix-en-Provence and Bonn, where he also received his doctorate. He worked for the International Monetary Fund in Washington D.C. and was Secretary General of the German Council of Economic Experts. After an initial period at Deutsche Bundesbank, he was appointed Head of the Department for Economic and Fiscal Policy at the Federal Chancellor's Office. Since 2011, Jens Weidmann has been President of Deutsche Bundesbank and a member of the Governing Council of the ECB.



Markus Beumer

Member of the Board of Managing Directors, Commerzbank AG

Markus Beumer was born in Krefeld in 1964 and studied economics in Münster from 1984 to 1990. He began his career in 1991 at Deutsche Bank AG before moving to Dresdner Bank AG and subsequently to HypoVereinsbank Group. In 2005, Markus Beumer joined Commerzbank AG, where he has been on the Board of Managing Directors since 2008 with responsibility for the business segments Mittelstandsbank and Non-Core Assets (Deutsche Schiffsbank and Commercial Real Estate). Markus Beumer has been a Member of the Board of Directors of the Association of German Banks since 2012.



Thomas Exner

Deputy Editor-in-Chief and Head of Business, WELT-Gruppe

Thomas Exner was born in Bielefeld in 1966, studied journalism and economics in Dortmund and began his journalistic career as a trainee at the German public broadcaster WDR. In 1993, he moved to Chemnitz to work as business editor on the regional daily Freie Presse. He has been with the national daily Die Welt since 1996, first on the business desk, where he helped to build up the paper's finance section. He was appointed deputy business and finance editor in 1999 and since 2005 has been Head of the Business, Finance and Property Unit. In addition, he has been Deputy Editor-in-Chief of Die Welt in Berlin since 2012.



Jürgen Fitschen, President of the Association of German Banks (Bundesverband deutscher Banken e.V.)

Jürgen Fitschen (born 1948) studied Economics and Business Administration at the University of Hamburg. He started his career in the corporate banking business at Citibank in 1975. After joining Deutsche Bank in 1987, Fitschen held a wide range of executive positions in Thailand, Japan and Singapore before he became Global Head of the newly established Regional Management and was appointed CEO Germany in 2004. With these functional responsibilities, Fitschen was appointed to the Management Board of Deutsche Bank AG in 2009. Together with Anshu Jain, Fitschen has been Co-Chief Executive Officer since June 1, 2012.



Thomas A. Lange

Chairman of the Management Board, NATIONAL-BANK AG

Thomas A. Lange was born in Gießen in 1963 and studied law in Kiel, where he received his doctorate in 1991. His career began in 1992 at Deutsche Bank AG, where he rose through the ranks to become a Member of the Management Team. In 2007, he left to join NATIONAL-BANK AG as Spokesman of the Management Board and has been Chairman of the bank's Management Board since 2011. Thomas A. Lange has been a Member of the Board of Directors of the Association of German Banks since 2008 and since 2011 has also been Chairman of the North Rhine-Westphalia regional banking association (Bankenverband Nordrhein-Westfalen).



Sabine Lautenschläger

Member of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank

Sabine Lautenschläger, born in Stuttgart in 1964, studied law in Bonn. After passing the second state examination in law, she joined the Bundesaufsichtsamt für das Kreditwesen (Federal Banking Supervisory Office). In the course of her career at that institution, which has meanwhile become the Bundesanstalt für Finanzdienstleistungsaufsicht (BaFin – Federal Financial Supervisory Authority), she held several management positions and was ultimately appointed Chief Executive Director of Banking Supervision in 2008. In 2011 Ms Lautenschläger moved to the Deutsche Bundesbank, serving as the Deputy President, the first woman to hold that position, until January 2014, when she was appointed to the Executive Board of the European Central Bank. Since her appointment as Vice-Chair of the Supervisory Board in February 2014, she has also been responsible for the Single Supervisory Mechanism.



Dr. Nicola Leibinger-Kammüller

President of TRUMPF GmbH + Co. KG

Nicola Leibinger-Kammüller was born in Wilmington, Ohio (USA) in 1959 and studied German, English and Japanese in Freiburg, Vermont (USA) and Zurich, where she obtained her doctorate. She began working for the TRUMPF Group in the Press and Public Relations Office in 1984 and in November 2005 was appointed President of TRUMPF GmbH + Co. KG, the group's holding company. Nicola Leibinger-Kammüller sits on the Supervisory Boards of Lufthansa AG, Siemens AG, Voith GmbH and Axel Springer Verlag. She also performs many honorary functions in academic, cultural and social fields.



Hannes Swoboda MEP

Chair of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament

Hannes Swoboda was born in Bad Deutsch Altenburg, Austria, in 1946 and studied law and economics in Vienna. He then began a political career which took him from the Vienna Chamber of Labour to various senior positions on the Vienna Municipal Council. After Austria joined the European Union in 1995, Hannes Swoboda – a committed European and member of the Social Democratic Party of Austria (SPÖ) – was elected to the European Parliament in 1996 and since then has several times headed the SPÖ list for European elections. Since 2012, he has also been Chair of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament.



Ralf P. Thomas

Chief Financial Officer of Siemens AG

Ralf P. Thomas was born in Nuremberg in 1961. After completing a commercial apprenticeship, he studied economics and business administration at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg where he graduated with a PhD in Accounting for Income Taxes. Dr. Thomas started his career at Siemens AG in 1995. Four years later, he was appointed Head of Accounting and Treasury at Siemens Ltd., South Africa. After returning to Germany in 2001, he joined Siemens Medical Solutions. From 2002 to 2004 Dr. Thomas was CFO of the business unit Angiography, Fluoroscopic and Radiographic Systems. In 2004, he became Head of Corporate Finance Accounting, Controlling, Reporting & Taxes at Siemens AG.

Dr. Thomas became CFO of the Industry Sector in 2008. Since 2013, he is CFO of Siemens AG.

Ralf P. Thomas is also Chairman of the Administrative Board of the German Accounting Standards Committee (Deutsches Rechnungslegungsstandards Committee e. V. - DRSC).



Theodor Weimer

Board Spokesman, HypoVereinsbank – UniCredit Bank AG

Theodor Weimer was born in Wertheim in 1959 and studied economics, business administration and geography in Tübingen and St. Gallen (Switzerland). After completing his doctorate in mathematical organisational theory at the University of Bonn, he started his professional career at management consultants McKinsey & Company. Following several years at Bain & Company and Goldman Sachs, he joined UniCredit in 2007. He held various senior positions in investment banking and, in 2009, was appointed Board Spokesman of HypoVereinsbank – UniCredit Bank AG. Theodor Weimer is also Country Chairman Germany and a Member of UniCredit's Executive Management Committee. He has been a Member of the Board of Directors of the Association of German Banks since 2009.



Survey: Benefits and perceptions of Europe for Germany

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