



# Berlin Forum on Korea and Northeast Asia

---

## Inaugural Event

### **The Role of Europe and Germany in the Maintenance of Peace on the Korean Peninsula**

**Date: December 2, 2017**

**Venue: Harnack Haus, Ihnestr. 16-20, 14195 Berlin**

The nuclear crisis on the Korean peninsula constitutes one of the most pressing challenges facing the international community. Despite numerous attempts to resolve the crisis, the issue continues to challenge not only the regional actors in East Asia, but also the international community as a whole. With the rapid escalation of the conflict in 2017, a renewed debate about the prospects of common solutions is more significant than ever. Especially in light of the nuclear deal framework reached in 2015 between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the so-called P5+1 (the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council plus Germany) and the European Union, a debate about the potential role of Germany and Europe in resolving the nuclear conflict with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK or North Korea). In fact, while Germany and Europe's immediate engagement in attempts at resolving the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula have historically been rather limited, more recently a number of German officials – most notably Chancellor Angela Merkel and Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel – suggested the possibility of a more immediate involvement of Germany and Europe in the attempts to resolve the conflict. “We will involve ourselves where there are such conflicts, to solve them, and wherever possible – in the case of North Korea there is no other option – through diplomatic efforts,” Ms. Merkel said. But which role can Germany and Europe realistically play in the attempts to resolve the nuclear crisis on the Korean peninsula? How can Germany and Europe contribute to a peaceful and lasting diplomatic solution? How can informal dialogue channels with North Korea be established and maintained and how can Germany and Europe contribute in this regard? These and further questions are at the heart of the 2017 inaugural event organized in the context of the “Berlin Forum on Korea and Northeast Asia.” Discussing the (potential) role of Germany and Europe in the escalating nuclear crisis on the Korean peninsula, the 2017 Berlin Forum on Korea and Northeast Asia brings together influential politicians and diplomats with high-ranking scholars from various countries.

#### **Hosting Organization**

Institute of Korean Studies

Freie Universität Berlin

Fabeckstr. 7, 14195 Berlin

Inquiries: [koreastudien@geschkult.fu-berlin.de](mailto:koreastudien@geschkult.fu-berlin.de)