

60 years Deutsches Grundgesetz — The German Constitution turns 60

Human and basic rights through the eyes of Germany and Australia

Conference



... ein Grundgesetz für das gesamte Deutsche Volk

... a basic law for the entire German people

22 – 23 May 2009

University House, Australian National University, Canberra

On 23 May 2009, Germany will mark the 60th anniversary of the *Grundgesetz für die Bundesrepublik Deutschland*, the German Constitution.

Merely four years after Germany's unconditional surrender ending the Second World War in Europe, the "*Parlamentarische Rat*" announced the German *Grundgesetz* on 23 May 1949. Konrad Adenauer, Germany's first post-war Chancellor, commented that day:

[This is] another chapter in the changeful history of our people ... Today, the Federal Republic of Germany will step into history.

Despite having been conceived as a temporary constitution, today the *Grundgesetz* remains the fundamental bedrock underpinning a democratic Germany founded on the rule of law. It embodies the German peoples' core values and the country's basic principles and order.

Central to the *Grundgesetz* remains the "*Grundrechtskatalog*", the catalogue of human and constitutional rights.

At this conference, leading German and Australian legal experts will discuss key human and constitutional rights and principles from both a German and Australian perspective. They are:

- His Excellency Dr Michael Witter, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany
- The Hon Jon Stanhope MLA, Chief Minister of the Australian Capital Territory
- The Hon Justice Maxwell, President of the Court of Appeal, Victoria
- Associate Professor Nicholas Aroney, University of Queensland
- Mr Stefan Aust, Journalist and former Editor-in-Chief, *Der Spiegel*
- Associate Professor Jürgen Bröhmer, University of New England
- Professor Simon Bronitt, Australian National University
- Mr Craig Collins, Australian National University
- Professor Michael Coper, Australian National University
- Professor Dr Dieter Dörr, Mainz, Germany
- Associate Professor Katharine Gelber, University of New South Wales
- Professor Dr Michael Hahn, Lausanne, Switzerland
- Ms Saskia Hufnagel, Australian National University
- Mr Thomas John, Barrister
- Associate Professor Andrew Lynch, University of New South Wales
- Professor Dr Rolf Schwartzmann, Cologne, Germany
- Professor Dr Torsten Stein, Europa-Institute, Germany
- Professor George Williams, University of New South Wales



Program Day 1 – 22 May 2009

(The Program remains subject to change without notice.)

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|--------------|--|--|---|
| 9:00 | Conference Opening His Excellency Dr Michael Witter, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Australia Professor Michael Coper, Dean, College of Law, Australian National University | | |
| 9:15 | Keynote 1 | The Honourable Justice Maxwell, President of the Court of Appeal, Victoria | |
| 9:45 | Speaker 1 | The 'Federal' Element of the German Republic - Issues and Developments | Associate Professor Jürgen Bröhmer UNE |
| 10:15 | Speaker 2 | The 'Federal' Element of the Commonwealth - Issues and Developments | Associate Professor Nicholas Aroney, UQ |
| 10:45 | BREAK | | |
| 11:15 | Speaker 3 | The Concept of Human Dignity as a Fundamental Right of the Basic Law | Ms Saskia Hufnagel ANU |
| 11:45 | Speaker 4 | The Concept of Human Dignity as a Fundamental Right - An Australian Perspective | Professor Simon Bronitt ANU |
| 12:15 | DISCUSSION | | |
| 13:00 | LUNCH | | |
| 14:30 | Speaker 5 | International Law and International Cooperation and Integration and the German Basic Law | Professor Torsten Stein, Europa-Institute, Saarbrücken |
| 15:00 | Speaker 6 | International Law and International Cooperation and Integration and the CW-Const. | Professor George Williams UNSW and ANU |
| 15:30 | DISCUSSION | | |
| 16:30 | END OF DAY 1 | | |

(The Program remains subject to change without notice)



Program Day 2 – 23 May 2009

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|-------|--------------------------|---|---|
| 9:15 | Keynote 2 | The Hon Jon Stanhope, MLA, Chief Minister of the Australian Capital Territory | |
| 10:00 | Speaker 7 | The Role of the Basic Law in Major Social Conflicts (Abortion, Worker Co-Determination etc.) | Professor Rolf Schwartmann Cologne |
| 10:30 | Speaker 8 | The Role of the CW-Const. in Major Social Conflicts (Aboriginal Population, Industrial Relations etc.) | Associate Professor Katherine Gelber UNSW |
| 11:00 | BREAK | | |
| 11:30 | Speaker 9 | The Legislative and Executive Branch vs. the Constitutional Court and the Judiciary - Conflict or Cooperation? | Professor Michael Hahn Lausanne |
| 12:00 | Speaker 10 | The Legislative and Executive Branch vs. the Constitutional Court and the Judiciary - Conflict or Cooperation? | Associate Professor Andrew Lynch UNSW and Gilbert & Tobin Center of Public Law |
| 12:30 | DISCUSSION | | |
| 13:00 | LUNCH | | |
| 14:30 | Speaker 11 | The Basic Law's Concept of the Communication Freedoms and their Significance for a Modern "Multicultural" and Democratic Society | Professor Dieter Dörr, Mainz |
| 15:00 | Speaker 12 | The Concept of the Communication Freedoms and their Significance for a Modern "Multicultural" and Democratic Society in Australia | Mr Craig Collins ANU |
| 15:30 | Speaker 13 | The German Grundgesetz – Some historical observations | Mr Thomas John, Barrister |
| 16:00 | FINAL DISCUSSION | | |
| 17:00 | END OF CONFERENCE | | |

The official function to mark the 60th anniversary of the Grundgesetz will commence at 6pm.

Keynote address: Mr Stefan Aust, Journalist and former Editor-in-Chief, Der Spiegel



60 years Deutsches Grundgesetz — The German Constitution turns 60 Human and basic rights through the eyes of Germany and Australia

Registration

| | |
|--|-----------------------------|
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Please mail the completed registration form and payment to:

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www.euraustral2009.net/60GG.htm

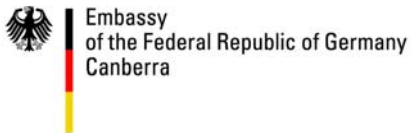
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