



## EDITORIAL

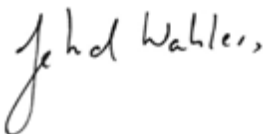
Dear Readers,

In the face of the European financial and debt crisis, Germany has gained in political importance due to its economic strength. As Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski put it, Germany's neighbours and allies expect Berlin to provide leadership and orientation. This applies as well to the area of security policy. U.S. President Barack Obama's reorientation towards the Asia Pacific Region and a conspicuous reticence on the part of the United States where security policy is concerned are having an impact on Germany and Europe. The European Union is faced with the task of taking on greater responsibility for stability in the world, particularly in its own backyard. So far, the cutbacks in the national defence budgets due to the economic and financial crisis have not resulted in greater cooperation.

One encouraging sign is that the Union parties CDU/CSU and the SPD were able to agree swiftly on stronger integration of the German armed forces, the Bundeswehr, into NATO and EU structures in their coalition negotiations. In the run-up, the Working Group on Defence Policy was the first to complete its work with some concrete results. In the Coalition Agreement, which also acknowledges the important role played by political foundations, the Union and the SPD are calling for a "strengthening of cross-departmental cooperation for the purpose of an effective foreign and security policy, which will rely on civilian and military instruments complementing each other". There is indeed a need for closer cooperation, also at a European level. Besides taking measures to fend off threats, Germany and the other countries of the EU must also engage in global risk management that will cover a number of diffuse security risks. These include terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, internal conflicts, refugees, migration and climate change. A further security challenge for the new German government is the fight against piracy. To an export country like Germany, being able to rely on secure maritime trade routes is of great importance. International cooperation is the only way to achieve these goals.

The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung uses events and publications such as the "Prospects for German Foreign Policy" series to draw attention to possible approaches to dealing with foreign and security issues in view of changing circumstances around the world. Emerging economies with strategic ambitions are seeking greater scope for political and economic action, which they attempt to safeguard by security measures. In their article in this issue describing the case of Brazil, for instance, Adriana Erthal Abdenur and Danilo Marcondes de Souza Neto show how initiatives to secure resources below the sea bed and the strengthening of the country's military presence to secure trade routes are calling new global players onto the field of maritime security. Rearmament is leading to tensions and conflicts, particularly in the South China Sea but also in the South Atlantic. The authors from Brazil write about the danger that "a renewed nationalism suggested by its approach in the South Atlantic might generate tensions, particularly if states that have previously contested Brazilian leadership in Latin America come to view Brazil's approach with suspicion". The opportunities and risks that Brazil's new activities entail came under discussion in Rio de Janeiro in November. The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung organises a Conference on International Security there each year, to which it invites representatives from civil society, politics and science.

Reactions within Germany to demands for a greater strategic engagement indicate that many Germans are still uneasy about the increased responsibility resulting from the country's rise in influence. But Germany does need a culture of discussing strategic matters with the requirements being clearly spelt out. Through its work relating to matters of security policy at a national and international level the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung is making a contribution to enhancing the strategic capability of German foreign policy.



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