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**EU Strategy Day for
German University Leaders and
international Guests**

in Brussels

Representation of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia to the European Union

**Knowledge as Fifth Freedom in Europe? – New EU programmes,
future European legislation and the impacts for German
universities**

47, Rue Montoyer, 1000 Brussels
28 / 29 September 2026

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|-------|--|
| 12:15 | Registration and light lunch |
| 13:00 | Opening remarks |
| 13:15 | International collaboration in times of geopolitical tensions – How can we safeguard academic freedom whilst also protecting our research and knowledge?
<i>Panel discussion</i> |
| 14:30 | Coffee break |
| 15:00 | Political speeches |
| 15:20 | Knowledge as Fifth Freedom in Europe? – New EU programmes, future European legislation and the impacts for German universities
<i>Political Debate</i> |
| 16:30 | Coffee break |
| 17:00 | Workshops |
- **Workshop 1: Security-related research and development: Comparing European approaches**

- **Workshop 2: European University Alliances – Reflecting on progress, shaping the future**
- **Workshop 3: Nexus**

18:00 End of the first day of the conference

18:20 Departure of the buses to the restaurant

19:00 **Dinner reception at Restaurant** (tbc)

21:30 Return to hotels by bus shuttle service

Day 2

08:30 Arrival and Coffee

09:00 Workshops:

- **Workshop 1: European Gender Equality Strategy: „From compliance to institutional strategy“**
- **Workshop 2: International Coalition for Science, Research and Innovation in Ukraine**
- **Workshop 3: Transfer, Start-up, Scale-up**

10:00 Coffee break

10:20 **Attracting Talent: Programmes for recruitment of international researchers**
Panel discussion

11:30 Coffee break

12:00 **Presentation of the workshop results**

12:10 **European Research Area Act (ERA Act)**
Panel discussion

13:15 Closing remarks and end of the EU Strategy Day