

Speakers of the Westphalian Peace Conference 2023



Ahmed Alattar is the Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to the Federal Republic of Germany.

In 2004, he started the bachelor's degree program in Petroleum Geoscience at Khalifa University and graduated in 2009. From 2012-2013 he completed a Master's degree in International Security at UCL. He completed the Master of Business Administration and Management at the European Institute of Business Administration (INSEAD) in France from 2020-2022. He started his professional career at the Emirati energy company ADNOC. He then worked at a think tank in Abu Dhabi and also founded several start-ups in London and Abu Dhabi.

In 2017, he joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation as Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. In 2018, he became Deputy Director of European Affairs and subsequently Chief of Staff to the Minister of Foreign Affairs until August 2022.

In March 2023, Prime Minister Hendrik Wüst, Nathanael Liminski and the Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates Ahmed Alattar met. In addition to the energy industry, the exchange focused in particular on ways to further expand bilateral cooperation. Around 100 companies from the United Arab Emirates have established themselves in North Rhine-Westphalia.



Elmar Brok (*1946, CDU/CSU; EPP) was a member of the European Parliament from 1980-2019.

Before working in the EU Parliament, he studied law and political science at the University of Edinburgh, which he did not complete. He trained as a broadcast journalist and worked in this area for radio and newspapers.

Since 1973, Brok has held numerous offices and chairs at the international-European level. For example, he was founding chairman and deputy chairman of the International Democrat Union from 1991 to 2002, and social policy spokesman for the EPP group from 1987 to 1994. In 1990 Brok was chairman of the EPP in the special committee on German unity. In 2016 he represented the EU Parliament in the Brexit negotiations as well as in the Treaties of Amsterdam (1996/1997), Nice (2000) and Lisbon (2007).

As part of his work in the EU Parliament, he was chairman of the CDU Federal Committee on European Policy since 1989, and from 1999 to 2017 he was co-chairman of the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue of the EU Parliament and US Congress. He was also a member of the EPP party executive committee, co-chairman of the EPP foreign ministers and deputy chairman of the World Association of Christian Democratic Parties. From 1999 to 2007 and 2012 to 2017 he chaired the Foreign Affairs Committee of the EU Parliament.

From 1991 to 2011, Brok was Senior Vice-President of Media Development at Bertelsmann AG and from 2011 to 2014 he was an advisor to the Bertelsmann chairman. In his role as a Bertelsmann employee, he was also general secretary of the European Film Company Association and the Global Business Dialogue for Electronic Commerce.

Brok is a member of numerous foundations and trustees. Among these, he is Honorary President of the European Union of Germany, President of the Union of European Federalists, Vice President of the Board of Trustees of the Institute for European Politics, member of the Presidium of the German Society for Foreign Policy and Chairman of the "European Policy" study group.

Brok is married and has three children.



Luigi di Maio (*1986) has been the European Union representative for the Gulf region since June 2023 and was Foreign Minister of Italy from 2019 to 2022.

From 2013 to 2018, di Maio was Vice President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies (Camera dei deputati) and a member of the European Union Affairs Committee. He was the youngest Vice President of the Chamber of Deputies in the history of the Italian Republic. In 2018–2019 he was Deputy Prime Minister of Italy, Minister for Economic Development (Ministero dello Sviluppo Economico) and for Labor and Social Policy (Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali) under Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte.

During his term as Foreign Minister, he chaired, among other things, the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting, the G20 Trade Ministers' Meeting, the G20 Ministerial Meeting on Afghanistan, the plenary session of the International Anti-Daesh Coalition in June 2021 and the first Mediterranean Ministerial Dialogue on the Food Security Crisis in June 2022.

He chaired the three annual editions (2019, 2020, 2021) of the MED Dialogue Conference, which aims to develop a positive agenda for the entire Mediterranean in a time of pandemic and political and economic change, based on multilateralism as Conflict resolution strategy is based.



Andreas Engelhardt (*1960) has been the managing partner of Schüco International since October 2012 and the personally liable partner of Schüco International KG since September 2014.

From 1977-1980, Andreas Engelhardt completed training as an industrial clerk (DEVALIT automotive supplier) and then completed his military service.

From 1993 to 2001, Mr. Engelhardt was managing director of illbruck Bauprodukte International and managing director of illbruck Automotive International. He then took over the interim management of the HP-Pelzer Group in Witten between 2001 and 2002.

From 2002-2005 he was a member of the board of Bürger Aktiengesellschaft in Hildesheim and in 2003 Engelhardt subsequently became chairman of the group. Bürger AG produces and trades heat, cold, sound and fire protection products for the construction industry and operates the hagebau hardware stores and other building materials stores. Andreas Engelhardt was most recently CEO of the William Prym Group for seven years (2005-2012).

Andreas Engelhardt is a member of the supervisory board of Saint Gobain ISOVER, Ludwigshafen, Surteco SE, Buttenwiesen and BDO AG, Hamburg, and a member of the advisory board of Deutsche Bank Bielefeld.

Since 2016 he has been a member of the Petersburg Dialogue and a member of the board of trustees of the 2° Foundation.



Ambassador former **Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Ischinger** (*1946) was ambassador in Washington and London and head of the Munich Security Conference until 2022.

After graduating from high school, Ischinger studied law at the University of Bonn from 1966 to 1972 and passed his first state law examination in 1972. He is a two-time scholarship holder of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and studied law at the University of Geneva in 1967 and international law, international economic relations and contemporary history at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in Medford, Massachusetts and at Harvard Law School from 1972 to 1973 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He completed these studies with a Master of Arts.

From 1973 to 1975, Ischinger worked in the cabinet of the Secretary General of the United Nations in New York before joining the Foreign Service in 1975. In this context, he was a personal assistant to the then Federal Foreign Minister from 1982 to 1990, head of the planning staff from 1993 to 1995 and political director of the Foreign Office from 1995. From 1998 to 2001 he was Secretary of State and then, from 2001 to 2008, Ambassador first to Washington and then to London. In 2008 he took over the chairmanship of the Munich Security Conference, which grew under his leadership from two employees to a workforce of over 50 permanent employees. During this time, he was general representative of Allianz SE Insurance in Munich from 2008 to 2014. In 2015, Ischinger accepted a professorship for security policy and diplomatic practice at the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin.

In 2007, Ischinger represented the EU in the Troika negotiations on Kosovo and in 2014 the Organization for Security and Cohesion in Europe (OSCE) in national dialogue efforts in Ukraine. In August 2023 he was already a guest in Münster and spoke in Münster Cathedral on the topic “Security from Russia – is peace possible? Thoughts on a future security order in Europe”.

Ischinger has received numerous awards, including the Federal Cross of Merit and the French Legion of Honor. He is also a member of various foundations.

Ischinger is married and has three children.



Dr. Othmar Karas (*1957, ÖVP) has been the First Vice President of the European Parliament since 2022. In the current legislative period, which lasts until 2024, he sits on the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee (ECON), on the Presidium and as a deputy in eight other committees and delegations.

His responsibilities include, among others, relations with national parliaments, information policy and the press and the representation of the President for Africa and the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States. Karas passed his high school diploma in 1976 in his home country of Austria and then worked as federal chairman of the Austrian Student Union and the Young People's Party until 1990. Meanwhile, his private sector activity began in the banking and insurance sector between 1981 and 1995. From 1983 to 1990, Karas was a member of the National Council of the Austrian Parliament. In 1996, after studying political science at the University of Vienna, he received a Mag. Phil. degree and in 1997 an MBL (Master of Business Law) in European and international business law at the University of St. Gallen. In 2017 he received his Dr. in the Department of Political Science at the University of Vienna. phil. doctorate.

In 1999, Karas began working in the European Parliament. In the EPP group (Group of the European People's Party) he was a member of the presidium and treasurer from 1999 to 2004, economic spokesman from 2002 to 2004 and vice president and treasurer from 2004 to 2011. From 2004 to 2019 he was President of the SME Intergroup (Intergroup on Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises). From 2006 to 2009 and 2011 to 2019 he was head of the ÖVP delegation. In 2009-2011 he also served as EPP coordinator in the Special Committee on the Financial, Economic and Social Crisis (CRIS), then in 2014-2019 as chairman of the interparliamentary delegation for EU-Russia relations. Since 2019, Karas has been Chair of the Steering Committee of the European Parliamentary Financial Services Forum (EPFSF). He was Vice President of the European Parliament in both 2012-2014 and 2019-2022, which was followed by his current position as First Vice-President. Finally, he has been Vice Chairman of the Subcommittee on Fiscal Affairs (FISC) since 2020.

Since 1998, Karas has been President of the Austrian Relief Organization, which is one of the largest non-profit providers of health, social and family services in Austria. Among other things, it advocates for care reform and the promotion of children and

child care. He is co-founder and chairman of the Citizens' Forum Europe, founded in 2009.

Karas is married and has a son.



Arndt Kirchhoff (*1955) has been President of the State Association of Business Associations of North Rhine-Westphalia (Unternehmer nrw) and Chairman of the Advisory Board of the KIRCHHOFF Group based in Iserlohn since 2016.

He studied industrial engineering and mechanical engineering at the TU Darmstadt from 1976-1982. Arndt Kirchhoff was initially head of central order processing at Deutsche Babcock Werke AG before becoming managing partner of the KIRCHHOFF Group in 1990. He has been chairman of the advisory board of the KIRCHHOFF Group since 2020.

He has been a member of the executive committee of the Federation of German Industries (BDI) since 2003. He has also been Vice President of the Confederation of German Employers' Associations (BDA) since 2013 and also Vice President of the Association of the German Automotive Industry (VDA). Kirchhoff has been President of the Cologne Institute of German Economy (IW Cologne) since 2013. He has been President of the Association of the Metal and Electrical Industry of North Rhine-Westphalia since 2014. As honorary metal employers president of North Rhine-Westphalia, he represents the association in public as well as in politics, unions and other organizations.

He was also elected chairman of the university council of the University of Siegen in 2013 and is chairman of the medium-sized business advisory board of the North Rhine-Westphalia state government. The aim of the advisory board is to pragmatically orient medium-sized business policy towards the needs and conditions of small and medium-sized companies.

Kirchhoff is married and has three children.



Dr. Margaret Klein (*1973) is research group leader of the Eastern Europe and Eurasia research group at the Science and Politics Foundation (SWP).

From 1992 to 1998 she studied history and political science at the LMU Munich. She received her doctorate there in 2002. From 2002 to 2004 she was a postdoctoral fellow and lecturer at the LMU. From 2004 to 2008 she was a research assistant at the University of Regensburg. She has been working as a scientist at the above-mentioned SWP since 2008. The focus of her work is on Russia's foreign, security and military policy. Particular research focuses in this context are Russia's Middle East and Asian policy, Moscow's relationship with NATO, as well as Russian military reform and development of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO).

In 2003 she began her active publishing activity with a focus on Russia. In 2011, Klein took part in the security policy seminar at the Federal Academy for Security Policy. In 2015, she was a participant in the Robert Bosch Foundation Fellowship Program at the Transatlantic Academy in Washington, DC

Since 2016, Klein has made several television appearances for ARD, Phoenix and arte-tv as an expert, including on the Russian group Wagner.



Vitali Klitschko (*1971) has been mayor of the Ukrainian capital Kiev since May 25, 2014 and is a former Ukrainian professional boxer.

He received his doctorate in sports science in Kyiv. Klitschko won the WBC heavyweight world title in 2004 and has successfully defended the title several times. He retired as a boxer and ended his career in 2005. He later returned for a short period and regained his title in 2008 before retiring permanently.

He also became politically active and founded the political party "Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reforms" (UDAR), which was later renamed the "Civil Democratic Alliance". In 2006, Vitali Klitschko ran for the first time in the election for mayor of the city of Kiev, but lost the vote.

In interviews about the Russian war of aggression, Klitschko emphasized that as mayor he is responsible for the safety of the people and also responsible for ensuring that they have electricity, water and heating. He also pointed out that the war is a major challenge not only for Ukraine, but especially for the whole world. Klitschko was in Hamburg in April 2023 and warned in his speech in the town hall that the Ukraine war also directly affected Germany, since part of Germany also belonged to the large Russian Soviet Empire.

He emphasized the psychological pressure that has been weighing on citizens for more than a year now. Klitschko is currently busy preparing for the coming winter in the area of the Russian war of aggression.



Christian Kullmann (*1969) is Chairman of the Board of Evonik Industries AG in Essen.

He studied economic history at the University of Hanover from 1990-1994 (master's degree). Kullmann worked at Deutsche Vermögensberatung AG in Frankfurt am Main from 1994 to 1996. In 1996, Kullmann moved to Dresdner Bank in Frankfurt am Main, where he worked in various positions in the general secretariat. In 2000 he became Head of Public Relations/Public Affairs in the Corporate Center until he moved to RAG Aktiengesellschaft in 2003. There he became head of the central communications and executive office. From 2007 to 2013 he was head of the central communications department and executive office at Evonik Industries AG. He was the general representative of Evonik Industries AG from 2013-2014 and a member of the Executive Board of Evonik Industries AG from 2014-2016. He was deputy chairman of the board of Evonik Industries AG in the period from 2016 to 2017 and has been chairman of the board since May 24, 2017. At the suggestion of the CDU parliamentary group in North Rhine-Westphalia, he was elected a member of the 17th Federal Assembly on February 13th. He is also a member of the Senate of the German Academy of Engineering Sciences (acatech). Acatech advises politics and society on future technical science and technology policy issues.

Kullmann is also a member of Borussia Dortmund GmbH & Co. KGaA. He has been a member of the Supervisory Board since May 23, 2007 and Chairman of the Supervisory Board since September 25, 2021.



Armin Laschet (*1961, CDU/CSU) was Prime Minister of North Rhine-Westphalia from 2017 to 2021. He has been a member of the 20th German Bundestag since 2021 and Vice President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe since 2022.

After graduating from high school, he studied law and political science in Munich and Bonn from 1981 to 1987, which he completed with the first state examination in law. During his studies he was supported by a scholarship from the Konrad Adenauer Foundation. From 1987 to 1994 he completed training as a journalist and worked as a freelance journalist for Bavarian radio stations and Bavarian television.

Laschet has been a member of the CDU since 1979 and began working in state and federal politics in 1994. Laschet was a member of the 13th German Bundestag from 1994 to 1998 and a member of the European Parliament from 1999 to 2005. From 1995 to 1999 he was also publishing director and managing director of Einhard-Verlags GmbH. From 2005 to 2010 he was Minister for Generations, Families, Women and Integration for the state of North Rhine-Westphalia. From 2012 to 2021 he was chairman of the CDU North Rhine-Westphalia and was also chairman of the CDU state parliamentary group in North Rhine-Westphalia during this period from 2013 to 2017. In 2019–2021 he was the Federal Republic of Germany's plenipotentiary for cultural affairs within the framework of the Franco-German Treaty. In 2021–2022 he was chairman of Germany's CDU.

Laschet has been chairman of the RAG Foundation's board of trustees since 2022 and in this context deals with the consequences of hard coal mining.

Armin Laschet is married and has three children.



Mona Neubaur (*1977, ALLIANCE 90/THE GREENS) has been Minister for Economy, Industry, Climate Protection and Energy of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia since June 2022.

Neubaur studied educational sciences, sociology and psychology at the Heinrich Heine University in Düsseldorf from 1997 to 2003 and received a degree in education. After completing her studies, she initially worked in the energy industry. Neubaur worked as a speaker in the communications department at the green electricity provider NATURSTROM AG. From 2007-2014, Mona Neubaur worked at the Heinrich Böll Foundation NRW, including four years as managing director.

Neubaur has been a member of BÜNDNIS 90/THE GREENS since 1999. From 2007 to 2014 she was spokesperson for the Düsseldorf district association of BÜNDNIS 90/THE GREENS and from 2014 to 2022 she was state chairwoman of BÜNDNIS 90/THE GREENS NRW.

In December 2021, Mona Neubaur was elected as the top candidate for the 2022 state elections in North Rhine-Westphalia. She has been a member of the North Rhine-Westphalia state parliament since June 1, 2022. On June 29, 2022, she was sworn in as Minister for Economic Affairs, Industry, Climate Protection and Energy. At the same time, she is Deputy Prime Minister of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia.



Prof. Peter R. Neumann (*1974) is Professor of Security Studies at King's College London.

From 1994 to 1999 he studied political science in Berlin and Belfast. He completed his studies at the Free University of Berlin with a degree in political science. Before his scientific career, Prof. Peter worked. Neumann worked as a radio journalist in Germany, including at RTL and rs2 in Berlin. He then completed his doctorate in War Studies at King's College London from 1999 to 2002 on British government strategies in the Northern Ireland conflict.

In September 2014, he advised the UN Security Council on the formulation of an important resolution against foreign terrorist fighters. In 2017, he also served as the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Special Representative for Countering Violent Extremism. He has acted as an expert witness for the British Public Prosecution Service, the Northern Irish Prosecution Service and the Scottish Crown Office. Neumann has written many peer-reviewed articles dealing with various aspects of terrorism and radicalization. Prof. Dr. Neumann founded the Master of Arts in Terrorism, Security and Society at the Department of War Studies. He has taught courses on terrorism, counter- terrorism, intelligence, radicalization and anti-radicalization at King's College London, Georgetown University, Johns Hopkins University and Sciences Po (Lyon).

He is currently working on a research monograph on the ideas and ideologues of today's extreme right.

He is also the author or co-author of seven books such as the book "Donald Trump's War on Terror". Shorter articles and opinion pieces have appeared in the New York Times, Der Spiegel, The London Review of Books and New Scientist.



Boris Pistorius (*1960, SPD) has been Federal Minister of Defense since January 2023.

After graduating from high school, he completed an apprenticeship as a wholesale and foreign trade merchant from 1978 to 1980 and completed military service in 1980 and 1981. He then studied law in Osnabrück and Münster from 1981 to 1987 and completed his studies in 1987 with the first state examination. This was followed by a traineeship in the years 1987-1990 and the completion of the second state examination. In the following two years he worked as a lawyer and head of the Weser-Ems district government. From 1991 to 1995 he was personal assistant to the then Interior Minister Gerhard Glogowski, whose office he headed from 1995 to 1996. From 1997 to 2006 he worked again in the Weser-Ems district government as head of various departments and departments and from 1999 to 2002 as second mayor of the city of Osnabrück. During this period he was also a council member from 1996 to 2013 and mayor of the city of Osnabrück from 2006 to 2013. Before his appointment as Federal Minister of Defense, Pistorius was Lower Saxony's Minister for the Interior and Sport from 2013 to 2023.

As Defense Minister, Pistorius traveled to the USA for his official inaugural visit in June 2023 and emphasized the importance of the vibrant relationship between the USA and Germany, also with regard to European security. In this context, he also assured Ukraine of support, for example through the training of Ukrainian soldiers, but also emphasized that NATO should not become a warring party. Furthermore, the freedom and openness necessary for peace and security in the Indo-Pacific and the Arctic, which both sides want to work for, was discussed, including with naval operations to monitor UN sanctions against North Korea.

To this end, he traveled to Singapore, Indonesia and India in June 2023 and was the first German defense minister in a long time to take part in the Shangri-La Dialogue, the Indo-Pacific counterpart to the Munich Security Conference. The participation of a German frigate in the multinational maritime exercise Rim of the Pacific and the participation of the Air Force in the exercise Pitch Black in Australia are planned for 2024.



Former Federal Minister **Ronald Pofalla** (*1959, CDU/CSU) was Federal Minister for Special Tasks and Head of the Federal Chancellery from 2009 to 2013 and was the last chairman of the Petersburg Dialogue.

After attending elementary and secondary school in Weeze, he received his secondary school leaving certificate in 1975. He then attended the Kleve technical college for social education, from which he graduated in 1977 with his technical college entrance qualification. This was followed by studying social pedagogy at the Düsseldorf University of Applied Sciences from 1977 to 1981 (degree in social education) and studying law from 1981 to 1987, at the end of which he passed the first state examination in law. From 1988 to 1991, Pofalla was a legal trainee at the Kleve regional court, after which he passed the second legal exam in 1991 and was admitted to the bar.

In 1975 Pofalla joined the CDU. In this context, he was chairman of the CDU parliamentary group in the municipality of Weeze from 1979 to 1992, state chairman of the Junge Union Nordrhein-Westfalen from 1986 to 1992 and district chairman of the CDU Kleve from 1991 to 2007. He has been a member of the CDU state executive committee for North Rhine-Westphalia since 1999 and has been district chairman of the CDU Lower Rhine since 2000. Pofalla has been active at the federal level since 1990 as a member of the Bundestag for the CDU parliamentary group. From 2002 to 2004 he was general counsel for his parliamentary group, and from 2005 to 2005 he was deputy chairman of the group with responsibility for economics and labor. From 2005 to 2009 he was General Secretary of the CDU in Germany. At the end of 2014, he renounced his membership in the 18th Bundestag and resigned from the Bundestag.

From 2015 to 2022, Pofalla was a member of the board of directors of Deutsche Bahn, where he was responsible for infrastructure. Since 2022 he has been managing director of Gröner Group AG (company in the sustainable real estate sector).

After Pofalla led the Petersburg Dialogue for the first time in 2015, he was re-elected as board chairman in 2018.



Former Federal Minister **Peer Steinbrück** (*1947, SPD) was Federal Minister of Finance from 2005 to 2009 and a member of the 18th Bundestag from 2013 to 2016.

After graduating from high school in 1968, he served in the Bundeswehr for two years. From 1970 to 1974 he studied economics and social sciences at the University of Kiel, which he completed with a degree in economics. He joined the SPD in 1969 and began working at the federal level in 1974, initially with a two-year contract with the Federal Ministry of Construction. In the years 1976–1985 he worked in various fields for the Federal Ministry of Construction and the Federal Ministry of Research and Technology as well as in the environmental protection department. In the period from 1986 to 1992 he worked at the state level, first in the office of the Prime Minister of North Rhine-Westphalia and then in the Environment Ministry of Schleswig-Holstein. In 1992 he was State Secretary in the Ministry of Economics, Technology and Transport of the State of Schleswig-Holstein, and from 1993 to 2000 he was Minister of the same ministry. From 2000 to 2005 he was a member of the state parliament and from 2000 to 2002 he was finance minister and from 2002 to 2005 he was prime minister of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia. At the same time as his role as Federal Finance Minister from 2005 to 2009, he served as deputy chairman of the SPD. He ran for chancellor for the SPD in the 18th Bundestag in 2013. From 2014-2016 he was chairman of the USA parliamentary group in the Bundestag.

In 1995, Steinbrück joined the Mining, Chemical and Energy Industrial Union (IG BCE). He has been a senior advisor at Bank ING-DiBa since 2016.

Steinbrück has been chairman of the board of trustees of the Federal Chancellor Helmut Schmidt Foundation since 2017. He is also currently a member of the board of trustees of the Helmut and Loki Schmidt Foundation, vice president of the Senate of the German National Foundation, a member of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, a member of the political advisory board of the Economic Forum of the SPD eV, and chairman of the supervisory board of the payment service provider eClear AG (Tax Technology Innovation Made for Europe) and finally honorary professor of finance and international financial policy at the University of Leipzig.

Steinbrück is married and has three children.



Péter Szijjártó (*1978) is Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Hungary.

He completed his high school diploma at the Czuczor Gergely Benedictine Gymnasium in Győr and received a degree in foreign policy from the Budapest University of Economics and Public Administration in 2002. He has been a member of parliament for the Fidesz party since 2002 and began his fifth term in parliament in 2018. From 2006 to 2010 he was Communications Director of Fidesz, from 2010 to 2012 Spokesperson for the Prime Minister and from 2012 to 2014 Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations in the Prime Minister's Office.

In June 2014 he was appointed Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and since September 23, 2014 he has been Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary. Péter Szijjártó received the Russian Order of Friendship from his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov in Moscow in 2021 for his work to expand Hungarian-Russian relations. In April 2023, Hungary concluded new contracts in Moscow for additional supplies of natural gas and is therefore maintaining trade relations with Moscow despite Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. Péter Szijjártó traveled to Moscow for the deals in July 2022, while most EU members have distanced themselves from Russian President Vladimir Putin over the Ukraine invasion and are trying to make their countries independent of fossil fuels from Russia.

Szijjártó is married and has two sons.



Hendrik Wüst (*1975, CDU) has been the 12th Prime Minister of North Rhine-Westphalia since October 27, 2021. On June 28, 2022, he was re-elected and sworn in as Prime Minister by the members of the state parliament.

After graduating from high school, he studied law at the Westphalian Wilhelms University in Münster from 1995 to 2000 and passed his first state examination in law. From 2000-2003 he completed his legal traineeship in Münster, Coesfeld and Brussels and completed his second state law examination and was admitted to the bar. He then worked for the management consultancy EUTOP, initially as a trainee lawyer. From 2006 to 2010 he was general secretary of the CDU North Rhine-Westphalia. From 2010 to 2017, Wüst was managing director of the North Rhine-Westphalia Newspaper Publishers Association, the North Rhine-Westphalia Association of Operating Companies and Pressefunk GmbH. Among other things, he was managing director of dein.fm Holding from 2014 to 2017 and minister of transport for the state of North Rhine-Westphalia from 2017 to 2021.

Wüst has been a member of the CDU since 1992. From 1994 to 2009 he was a city councilor on the Rhede City Council and from 2000 to 2006 he was chairman of the Junge Union North Rhine-Westphalia. From 2002 to 2012 he was a member of the federal executive board of the CDU in Germany and from 2013 to 2022 he was chairman of the medium-sized businesses and economic union of the CDU in North Rhine-Westphalia. He has been a directly elected member of the North Rhine-Westphalia state parliament since 2005 and has been chairman of the CDU North Rhine-Westphalia since October 2021.

Wüst is also chairman of the board of trustees of the North Rhine-Westphalian Academy of Sciences and Arts, the Heinz Kühn Foundation, the North Rhine-Westphalia Art Foundation, the Foundation for the Promotion of Young Talents in Competitive Sports - Sportstiftung NRW, the Development and Peace Foundation, the North Rhine-Westphalia Art Collection Foundation. Westphalia and the Museum Schloss Moyland Foundation. He is chairman of the board of trustees of the North Rhine-Westphalia Foundation for Nature Conservation, Heritage and Cultural Preservation and the Environment and Development Foundation for North Rhine-Westphalia. Wüst is a member of the board of trustees of the Brost Foundation and

the RAG Foundation and deals with the consequences of hard coal mining within the RAG Foundation.

The state government of North Rhine-Westphalia wants to develop North Rhine-Westphalia into the first climate-neutral industrial region in Europe.

On May 5, 2023, Hendrik Wüst was the first German Prime Minister to take part in the national celebrations for Dutch Liberation Day in Zwolle, which commemorates the liberation from

German occupation in the Second World War every year in the Netherlands.

Hendrik Wüst is married and has a daughter.



Dr. Reinhard C. Zinkann (*1959) is managing partner of the Gütersloh household appliance manufacturer Miele.

After studying in Freiburg, Harvard and Cologne, he received his doctorate from the TU Berlin with a dissertation on product liability. His first professional stop before joining the family business in 1992, of which his great-grandfather was one of the co-founders, was the Bayerische Motoren Werke (BMW) in Munich. In addition to his role as owner of Miele, Dr. Zinkann holds a number of mandates in business today. In Switzerland he is Chairman of the Board of Directors of Hipp Holding AG, in Germany he chairs the Supervisory Board of the Falke Group and is a member of the Supervisory Board of Drägerwerke. He heads the advisory board of Nobilia-Werke.

In addition, Dr. Zinkann volunteers in many organizations in the Federal Republic. He documents his commitment to the economy of his homeland through his long-term chairmanship of the Economic Society for Westphalia and Lippe.