B–BUG

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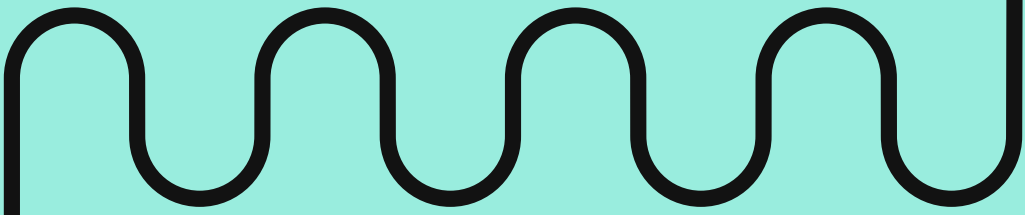

4 – 7
June
2026

Oslo

3 Programme

7 Speakers

24 Information

Thu 4/6

Byens Tak

15:30 Arrival and welcome coffee on the ground floor of the hotel

16:30 Programme starts & walk to Byens Tak

17:00 Youth and right-wing extremism in Europe in conversation with Arbeidernes Ungdomsfylking (AUF)
Åsmund Grøver Aukrust, Norwegian Minister for International Development

Elin Maria L'Estrange, Director of Communication, The Central Confederation of Trade Unions (YS - Yrkesorganisasjonenes Sentralforbund)

Fabian Wahl Sandvold, Board Member, AUF

19:00 Reconnecting

19:45 Dinner and drinks

Fri 5/6

Munch Museum
Revierhavnen kro

8:00 Walk to Munch Museum

8:30 Introduction
Michael Schwarz, Managing Director, BBUG

Dr. Tim Steinecke, Program Lead, BBUG

9:00 Norway 360
Mah-Rukh Ali, Journalist and author

Dr. Karsten Friis, Research Professor, NUPI

Torbjørn Røe Isaksen, Political Editor, E24 Business News

10:00 Coffee break

10:15 German-Norwegian energy cooperation
Tim Bjerkelund, Head of Advisory EMEA – Partner, Rystad Energy

Kathrin Dufour, EVP Strategy & Sustainability, SEFE Energy GmbH (153. BBUG)

Jannik Lindbæk, EVP Communication, Equinor

Continued
Fri 5/6

11:30	Coffee break
11:45	Sovereign wealth management **Harald von Heyden**, Global Head of Energy and Infrastructure, Norges Bank Investment Management
12:30	Lunch
13:30	European defence cooperation **Anne Marie Aanerud**, EVP Government Relations and Communication, Kongsberg Group **Arne Rinnan**, EVP Technology, IT & Digitalization, Kongsberg Group
14:30	Norway's global role **Ine Eriksen Søreide**, Member of the Norwegian parliament & chairperson of the Conservative Party of Norway (Høyre)
15:30	Coffee break
16:00	Group workshop – connecting around your priorities
17:15	Closing and reflections **Michael Schwarz**, Managing Director, BBUG
17:30	Walk to pier
17:45	Boat tour
18:30	Dinner
21:00	Boat ride home

Sat 6/6

Oslo Badstuforening, Klimahuset, Stortinget, Opera House, Grotto

7:00	Morning sauna at the fjord
9:00	Bus transfer to Klimahuset
9:30	Public transport, automation, infrastructure security **Bernt Reitan Jenssen**, CEO, Ruter
11:00	Group input[1]
12:00	Start-up and innovation **Dr. John Markus Lervik**, Chief Strategy & Development Officer and Co-founder, Cognite
13:00	Lunch
14:00	Visit of the Oslo Opera together with Snøhetta, the award-winning architects of the building
16:00	Private visit of the Stortinget, the Norwegian Parliament, with Members of Parliament
17:45	Break
19:00	Dinner Please meet in the hotel lobby for our transfer

Sun 7/6

Deichman Bjørvika

8:30	Coffee and cinnamon buns
9:00	On Norway **Erika Fatland**, author and anthropologist
10:00	Group input
10:30	Reflection and conclusion **Michael Schwarz**, Managing Director, BBUG
11:00	Programme ends

[1] Group inputs are presentations by participants with a 10-minute impulse followed by a 30-minute discussion

Dugnad

[dʉgˈnɑː] Voluntary work and volunteering as both a noun and an adverb. For example: clearing rubbish from a beach or your local neighbourhood in spring or selling waffles to fund sports teams for kids. Remember, your neighbours will notice if you are an unnasluntrer!

Unnasluntrer

[ˈʉ nːɑˌslʉntrər] A person who sneaks away from tasks they have been assigned or who does not help in any way.

Speakers

Anne Marie Aanerud
EVP Government Relations and Communication, Kongsberg Group

Anne-Marie Aanerud is a Norwegian political adviser with over 15 years of experience in politics and defence. She spent nearly eight years as a Political Adviser for the Centre Party's parliamentary group, covering foreign and defence policy, media, and election campaigns. She also helped write several of the party's manifestos.

From 2018–2020 she worked as an Analyst at the Norwegian Armed Forces, before returning to the Centre Party as a Strategic Adviser, where she helped prepare for government coalition negotiations. When the Centre Party entered government in 2021, she was appointed State Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, then moved to the Ministry of Defence in the same role from 2023 to 2025.

Since late 2025, she is the EVP Government relations and communication for Kongsberg.

Mah-Rukh Ali
Journalist and author

Mah-Rukh Ali is a journalist and author with more than 20 years of experience in Norwegian media.

She is a widely known news personality and former news anchor. She is also a recognized columnist and writer on foreign affairs and security-related issues.

Åsmund Grøver Aukrust
Norwegian Minister for International Development

Åsmund Grøver Aukrust is a Norwegian politician for the Labour Party. He has been serving as the minister of international development since 2025 and a member of the Storting from Akershus since 2013.

He previously served as the deputy leader of the Workers' Youth League (AUF) from 2010 to 2014 and a deputy member of the Storting from 2009 to 2013. Aukrust studied at the University of Oslo receiving a bachelor's degree in sociology.

Tim Bjerkelund
Head of Advisory EMEA – Partner, Rystad Energy

Tim Bjerkelund joined Rystad Energy in 2015. He is a partner based in Oslo, Norway, and previously headed Rystad Energy's advisory practice in New York. Tim's expertise is the larger energy system, having extensive experience working with energy companies to develop holistic strategies and governments to develop energy policy.

The transition in the power sector, and the impact on the broader system is a particular area of focus. Furthermore, Tim has also supported energy companies and NGOs in developing tangible decarbonization plans targeting both CO2 and methane emissions.

Tim started his career in Schlumberger as a field engineer, and holds a M.Sc. in Marine Technology.

Erika Fatland

Author and anthropologist

Erika Fatland achieved her international breakthrough with Sovietistan. A Journey through Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan (2014).

Fatland has an M.A. in social anthropology from the University of Oslo and the University of Copenhagen.

Earlier works include The Village of Angels. (2011), a book about the aftermath of the hostage crisis in Beslan in 2004, and The Year Without Summer (2012), which is based on interviews with survivors from Utøya.

Her travel books The Border. A Journey around Russia (2017) and High. A Journey across the Himalaya (2020) were both shortlisted for Il Premio Terzani and The Edward Stanford Travel Book of the Year.

Her most recent book, Sjøfareren / The Navigators. A Journey through Portugal's Lost Empire was the most sold book in Norway in 2024 and was awarded the Norwegian Booksellers' Prize.

Her books have been translated into 28 languages. Seefahrer, the German translation of Sjøfareren, will be published on May 19 by Insel Verlag.

Dr. Karsten Friis
Research Professor, NUPI

Dr. Karsten Friis is a Research Professor in NUPIs Research group on security and defence. His research area is security and defense policies in Europe, with an emphasis on NATO, the Nordic region, the Arctic, transatlantic relations, intelligence, cyber security and the Western Balkans. He has published and led several major projects on these topics.

Friis is also a frequently used commentator in the public discourse - not least in relation to Russia's war against Ukraine. Friis is a political scientist with a PhD from the University of Groningen, a Cand. Polit from the University of Oslo and an MSc from the London School of Economics. Friis has been associated with NUPI since 2007.

Before that, he was a political adviser to the OSCE Mission to Serbia (2004 to 2007), the OSCE in Montenegro (2001) and in Kosovo (1999). Friis was also part of the EU's negotiating team for the referendum on independence in Montenegro in 2006. In addition, Friis has worked for several years in the Norwegian Armed Forces and served at NATO/KFOR in Kosovo.

Torbjørn Røe Isaksen
Political editor, E24 Business News

Torbjørn Røe Isaksen is a former politician for the Conservative Party, who was a minister in Erna Solberg's government throughout its term from 2013 to 2021.

He was Minister of Education from 2013 to 2018, Minister of Trade and Industry from 2018 to 2020, and Minister of Labor and Social Affairs from 2020 to 2021. From 2009 to 2017, he was a member of parliament for Telemark.

When the Solberg government stepped down after the parliamentary elections in 2021, Røe Isaksen withdrew from politics. In December 2021, he resigned from the Conservative Party to take up a new job as social affairs editor and commentator at the Schibsted-owned online newspaper E24 in January 2022.

He is now political editor at E24.

Bernt Reitan Jenssen
CEO, Ruter

Bernt Reitan Jenssen is the CEO of Ruter AS. He has a degree in economics from BI Norwegian Business School.

Jenssen has led Ruter AS since the company was founded in 2008 as a joint administration company for public transport in Oslo and Akershus. Prior to this, Jenssen was Executive Vice President at Posten Norge for eight years. He has also been CEO of the logistics companies TNT Norge AS and IL-X Budservice AS.

Bernt sat on the government's independent expert committee on technology and future transport infrastructure, which was tasked with mapping and analyzing the implications of new technology for the future transport infrastructure.

Bernt is a member of the Minister of Transport and Communications' Mobility and Technology Council, which aims to promote a common understanding of the opportunities and challenges presented by new technology in the transport sector.

Dr. John Markus Lervik
Chief Strategy & Development Officer and Co-founder, Cognite

Dr. John Markus Lervik is the Chief Strategy & Development Officer and co-founder of Cognite, serving as CEO from the foundation to 2022. Throughout his career, Lervik has channelled his passion for liberating data and innovating with technology into companies that revolutionize the ways we work.

After finalizing his PhD at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), he co-founded Fast Search & Transfer (FAST) in 1997 and served first as Chief Technology Officer and later as Chief Executive Officer until Microsoft acquired the company in 2008 for USD 1.3 billion. He then took the position of Vice President of Enterprise Search at Microsoft before leaving in 2009 to found the software company Cxense, which was listed on the Oslo Stock Exchange in 2014.

In 2005 Lervik was recognized by Forbes as a member of the E-gang for his pioneering work in the technology sector.

Elin Maria L'Estrange
Director of Communication, The Central Confederation of Trade Unions (YS - Yrkesorganisasjonenes Sentralforbund)

Elin, since February 2026, is Director of Communication for The Central Confederation of Trade Unions (YS - Yrkesorganisasjonenes Sentralforbund).

She has previously worked on election campaigns for the Labor Party, the information service for LO's summer patrol and has been chief of staff for the Viken County Council.

Jannik Lindbæk
EVP Communication, Equinor

Jannik Lindbæk joined Equinor in 2010. He was appointed Senior Vice President Communication 1 January 2021. He was Vice President Corporate Communications Political & Public Affairs Norway from 2019-2021.

Prior to this he was Equinor's Vice President for communication in Brussels, before that in the CFO Global Business Services, and as Vice President Media Relations from 2010-2015. Before joining Equinor, Lindbæk was SVP Corporate Communication in Aker Solutions, PR manager in Microsoft and PR consultant in BWPR and GCI Monsen.

Lindbæk holds a Master's degree in Comparative Politics from the University of Bergen and London School of Economics.

Arne Rinnan
EVP Technology, IT & Digitalization, Kongsberg Group

Arne Rinnan is Executive Vice President for Technology, IT & Digitalization at Kongsberg. He oversees strategic and technological direction, represents Kongsberg in European Defence Fund initiatives, and has been an active advocate for Norway's national development of artificial intelligence and quantum technology.

Rinnan holds a Master degree in Technical physics from Technical University of Norway. He has been working for Kongsberg since 2000.

Fabian Wahl Sandvold
Board Member, AUF

Fabian Wahl Sandvold is a communications advisor for the Labour Party in Vestfold and a central board member of the Workers' Youth League (AUF).

He serves as a county council representative in Vestfold, where he sits on the Transport Committee and the Traffic Safety Committee. Previously, he represented the Labour Party in the joint Vestfold and Telemark county council, working on education, vocational training, and business development.

He has also been a project coordinator at Wayback, supporting reintegration after imprisonment, and worked part-time at a correctional facility.

Fabian held various leadership roles in AUF at both county and regional levels from 2017 to 2021.

Ine Eriksen Søreide
Member of the Norwegian parliament & Chairperson of the Conservative Party of Norway (Høyre)

Ine Eriksen Søreide is the Chairperson of the Conservative Party of Norway (Høyre). She was elected at the party conference in February 2026. She served as Norway's Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2017-2021, and Minister of Defence from 2013-2017.

She has been a Member of Parliament since 2001, chairing the standing Committee of Foreign Affairs and Defence from 2009-2013 and again from 2021-2026. She holds a Law degree from the University of Tromsø, Norway.

Harald von Heyden
Global Head of Energy and Infrastructure, Norges Bank Investment Management

Harald von Heyden is leading Norges Bank Investment Management's investments in listed energy and unlisted renewable energy infrastructure. Harald was appointed as Global Head of Energy and Infrastructure in January 2025 and joined Norges Bank Investment Management as Global Head of Renewable Infrastructure in March 2024. Prior to joining Norges Bank Investment Management, Harald was Head of Energy and Infrastructure at Arctic Securities, a leading Nordic Investment bank.

He has more than 30 years' experience in the energy sector, including senior positions at Å Energi, Vattenfall, Axpo AG, and Statkraft, as well as consulting at McKinsey & Company. He also has board experience, including serving as Chairman of the Board of Cleanworld AS and the Norwegian Wind Energy Association, and as a board member of Statkraft.

Harald holds a master's degree in management studies from the University of Cambridge and a bachelor's degree in management sciences from Warwick Business School.

He also trained as a Cavalry Officer and tank commander at the Norwegian Cavalry Officers School.

„It's not only what we have inherited from our father and mother that walks in us. It's all sorts of dead ideas, and lifeless old beliefs, and so forth. They have no vitality, but they cling to us all the same, and we can't get rid of them.“

Henrik Ibsen
1828-1906
Ghosts

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The "Baden–Badener Unternehmer Gespräche e.V." (BBUG e.V.) are a not for profit association established in 1955.

Today, about 120 of the most important German companies, primarily from industry, make up its membership, including almost all of the DAX–40 corporations as well as a substantial number of medium–sized 'global players' of the German "Mittelstand". Together they represent the backbone of the German economy.

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BBUG provides a safe and open space where executives come together to exchange ideas, learn, reflect and critically address the predominant questions of society and economy. In order to maintain the immediacy and openness that characterize our unique climate of open dialogue, we must ensure that participants can be certain that everything they say will remain confidential – not only in the plenary discussion, but also during private conversations.

At every BBUG event, the Chatham House Rule applies as our mandatory minimum standard of confidentiality. It postulates that participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker may be disclosed without that person's explicit permission. Participants at BBUG events agree to abide by this agreed-upon standard of confidentiality.

Please be considerate when using social media. It would violate the spirit of BBUG to quote speakers or other participants, or to publish images of others who are not aware they are being photographed. At the same time, we encourage you to share personal experiences, thoughts and reflections on social media and through other channels.

The use of AI-based recording or transcription tools (including voice assistants, AI note-taking apps, or any software that captures, transcribes, or processes conversations) is not permitted at BBUG events. This applies in plenary sessions as well as in private conversations on site.

Our tenet is simple: Please respect the confidential space provided by BBUG and treat others the way you wish to be treated by them.

Please note: A photographer and/or videographer will be present during the event, and photos or videos may be taken. BBUG may use this material on its website, on social media, or for internal communications and publications.

If you prefer not to be recorded, please speak with a member of our communications team on site.

If you have any questions in advance, feel free to reach out to us at any time.

Our venues
Byens Tak
Youngstorget 2A
0181 Oslo

Munch Museum
Toppsal
Edvard Munchs Plass 1
0194 Oslo

Klimahuset
Sars' gate 1
0562 Oslo

Deichman Bjørvika Library
Anne-Cath. Vestlys plass 1,
0150 Oslo

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