

## PROGRAM CONFERENCE | MAY 27, 2026

### European Policy for Innovation, Transformation and Employment

<b>17:00</b>	<b>Arrival and Registration</b>	Snacks & Beverages
<b>17:30</b>	<b>Welcome</b>	
	<b>Rainer Steffens</b>	Director, Representation of the State of North Rhein-Westphalia
	<b>Monika Jones</b>	Moderator
<b>17:40</b>	<b>Opening</b>	
	<b>Tanja Gönner</b>	Director General, Federation of German Industries, BDI
<b>17:45</b>	<b>Impulses</b>	
	<b>Frank Wetzel</b>	Secretary of State, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, BMW
	<b>Andreas Schwarz</b>	Head of Cabinet, EU-Commissioner for Startups, Innovation and Research
<b>18:05</b>	<b>Interview</b>	
	<b>Michael Kahnert</b>	Manager Governmental Affairs, Miltenyi Biotec
	<b>Clemens Elskamp (tbc)</b>	Member of the workers' council of Infineon Technologies
<b>18:25</b>	<b>Panel</b>	
	<b>Tanja Gönner</b>	Director General, Federation of German Industries, BDI
	<b>Isabel Riaño Ibanez</b>	Director General, Council of the European Union
	<b>Jürgen Kerner</b>	Second Chairman, German Metalworkers' Union, IG Metall
	<b>Andreas Schwarz</b>	Head of Cabinet, EU-Commissioner for Startups, Innovation and Research
	<b>Frank Wetzel</b>	Secretary of State, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, BMW
<b>19:25</b>	<b>Closing Remarks</b>	
	<b>Jürgen Kerner</b>	Second Chairman, German Metalworkers' Union, IG Metall
<b>19:30</b>	<b>Get-Together</b>	Food & Wine <b>Stand: 08.05.2026</b>

#### Location

Representation of the State  
of North Rhein-Westphalia  
Rue Montoyer 47, 1000 Brussels

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