

Cross-Party Group on Germany

Wednesday 13 June 2023 at 6.10pm

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Present

MSPs

Colin Beattie MSP, Michelle Thomson MSP, Roz McCall MSP

Invited guests

Dr Paul Leworthy

Non-MSP Group Members

Peter Friedrich

Sigrid Rieuwerts

Anne Simms

Sheila Dickson

Hanna Dede

Dr Hartwig Pautz

Oliver St John

Annette Gotzkes

Maximilian Münch

Dr Andreas Zimmer

Katrin Uhlig

Catherine Reeves

Louise Gardiner

Jenny Gray

Douglas Lyons

Apologies

Fiona Hyslop

Alexandria Stein

Welcome

CB welcomed the group.

Item 1 – Approval of Previous Minutes

CB asked if there were any objections to the minutes of 19 April 2023. No objections were made. The previous minutes were approved.

Item 2 – Guest Speaker: Dr Paul Leworthy – Early Career Teaching and Research Fellow in German Studies. Department of European Languages and Cultures, University of Edinburgh

CB introduced the guest speaker, Dr Paul Leworthy, and passed over for his informative presentation on Fritz Baur.

PL thanked the CPG for the invitation and Jenny Gray and Annette Gotzkes for coordinating his invitation.

PL introduced his presentation on Fritz Bauer and how he has featured in the cultural memory of Germany over the last couple of decades.

PL discusses the following themes

- Who was Fritz Bauer
- How Fritz Bauer has been remembered
- Why Fritz Bauer now
- Fritz Bauer as an autoantonym

Q&A

CPG Members had the opportunity to ask PL a variety of questions and make comments. Members asked questions on:

- How he fits alongside other figures who took the lead in rebuilding German society.
- The challenges as an individual as one of the few returned from exile to take a prominent role in society.
- His recent prominence as part of Germans coming to terms with the past.

Item 3 – request for a member of the CPG to join a panel discussion

CB discussed a request he had received from Dr Hartwig Pautz to join a panel discussion on 22nd of September. This will be hosted by the German Politics Specialist Group of the UK's Political Studies Association, with the topic being "*German politics in 2023: Historical milestones and contemporary challenges*"

CB asked the CPG if there were any volunteers to attend and offered to share further information with interested individuals.

HP provided more information on the details of the conference which will be held at the University of West of Scotland.

Item 4

CB informed everyone that the next meeting would be a Hybrid meeting.

AOB

Peter Friedrich informed the CPG that he would be leaving after 3 years in Edinburgh. CB thanked Peter for his contribution to CPG on Germany and wished him a happy retirement.

Andreas Zimmer introduced Catherine Reeves who will be joining the Scotland Hub at the British Embassy in Berlin. CR introduced herself to the group.

Future Date

Next meeting will be Hybrid meeting and will be held on 26th of September.

CB concluded the CPG at 7:10pm.