

## **Executive Summary**

European Conference of the German Economy 2026  
Lisbon | 17–18 September 2026 | Pátio da Galé, Praça do Comércio

### **A Strategic Platform at a Defining Moment for Europe**

The European Conference of German Business 2026 will bring together approximately 250–300 senior representatives from business, politics and public administration to discuss Europe’s economic resilience, technological transformation and geopolitical positioning. The Conference is being organized by the network of German Chambers of Commerce Abroad (AHKs) in cooperation with the DIHK and established itself as one of Europe’s leading platforms for strategic economic dialogue.

Held every two years in a different European country, the conference has become an important platform for dialogue between business and politics across Europe. Previous editions took place in Warsaw, Vienna and Athens. The 2026 edition marks the first time the conference will be hosted in Portugal, underlining Lisbon’s growing importance as a strategic European hub.

Under the guiding theme “A Resilient Europe – Economically Strong, Politically United, Globally Capable of Acting”, the conference will address the key challenges and opportunities shaping Europe’s future competitiveness in an increasingly fragmented global environment.

### **High-Level Dialogue Between Business and Politics**

Over two days, the conference will feature high-ranking speakers from European industry, governments, EU institutions and innovation ecosystems discussing the latest developments in Artificial Intelligence & Digital Sovereignty, European Competitiveness & Trade, Industrial Innovation & Energy Transition, Security, Defence & New Technologies, and Europe’s Global Role and Strategic Autonomy.

Confirmed and invited speakers include senior representatives from companies such as Bosch, Bayer, Leica, Schwarz Digits, Rheinmetall and ICEYE, as well as ministers, state secretaries and leading European policymakers.

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### Curated Networking & Executive Exchange

Beyond the plenary sessions and panels, the conference is designed as a curated networking platform for senior decision-makers from across Europe.

Dedicated networking breaks such as “Coffee & Conexões”, executive lunches and thematic exchange formats will create opportunities for direct dialogue, partnership building and cross-sector exchange between business leaders, policymakers and innovators.

### German-Portuguese Business Gala Meets Europe

A key highlight of the conference will be the German-Portuguese Business Gala meets Europe on the evening of 17 September 2026.

The gala reception will bring together leading representatives from business and politics in an exclusive setting and is expected to feature the participation of Portuguese Prime Minister Luís Montenegro.

### Lisbon as Europe’s Strategic Gateway

Lisbon provides the ideal setting for the conference. As a dynamic innovation hub and gateway between Europe, Africa and Latin America, the Portuguese capital symbolizes openness, connectivity and international cooperation.

The conference therefore serves not only as a platform for discussion, but as a strategic signal for European cohesion, economic responsibility and global capability to act.

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