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Europe and the United States: a view from Germany

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ROLAND KOCH has served as Minister President of the State of Hessen since 1999. A lawyer, specializing in economic and competition issues, he has held various positions at the state and federal level within the CDU (German Christian Democratic Party). Mr. Koch was CDU Town Counselor for his hometown of Eschborn, CDU Chairman for the Main-Taunus district, Deputy National Chairman of the Junge Union (Youth Organization of the CDU) and a member of the state legislature of Hessen. From 1991, he was vice-chairman, and from 1993 until his inauguration, chairman of the CDU state parliament party. From April to November 1999, he was President of the Federal Council (Bundesrat).

Roland Koch is a member of the "Weiβer Ring", an organization supporting crime victims and dedicated to preventing felonies. He has also made a name for himself as co-initiator of the "Darmstädter Manifest" for the promotion of art and culture. An ardent supporter of human rights, he is currently fighting against the suppression of the Tibetan people.

INTRODUCED AND MODERATED BY WILLIAM DROZDIAK is the President of the American Council on Germany. He was until February, 2005, Executive Director of the Transatlantic Center of the German Marshall Fund of the United States. He worked for more than 20 years as an editor and foreign correspondent for The Washington Post, serving as Foreign Editor from 1986 to 1990 and Chief European Correspondent until 2001.