



**AGF Lecture Series  
FIT FOR THE FUTURE:  
Policies for Sustainable Growth in Europe**

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**AGF Public Discussion with  
Dr Volker Hauff and Jonathon Porritt**



***Influencing policy on energy and consumption:  
the role of the Sustainable Development Commissions in Germany and the UK***

**Date:** Tuesday, 27 February

**Time:** 18.15 – 19.45

**Venue:** Anglo-German Foundation,  
34 Belgrave Square, London SW1

**Chair:** Robin Bidwell, Executive Chair of ERM

The public discussion will feature **Dr Volker Hauff**, Chair of the Federal German Council for Sustainable Development (the *Nachhaltigkeitsrat*), and his UK counterpart, **Jonathon Porritt**, Chair of the UK Sustainable Development Commission, on *Influencing policy on energy and consumption: the role of government advisory bodies on sustainable development in Germany and the UK*.

A key aim of the German Presidency of the EU is the adoption of an 'Energy Action Plan' at the European Council meeting in March 2007. What are the policies which the two national sustainability councils are advocating? What should they be? How can they balance the needs of the environment and the interests and preferences of consumers? How can the two national sustainability councils, with ambitious remits but limited political power, seek to ensure that sustainability does not lose out to narrower economic or security concerns in that plan? What mechanisms and strategies are available to them to influence the key political actors? Can we learn from each other?

The discussion – which, following initial presentations, will be open for audience participation - will be chaired by **Robin Bidwell, Executive Chair of ERM**. Those who still have both energy and an appetite for consumption are invited to continue the discussions over a glass of wine afterwards.

The **AGF Lecture Series FIT FOR THE FUTURE** complements the new Anglo-German Foundation research initiative **Creating Sustainable Growth in Europe**. One of the programmes within the initiative, led by Professor Paul Ekins, is on 'Resource Productivity, Environmental Tax Reform and Sustainable Growth in Europe