



Deutsch-  
Französisches  
Institut



## **The transformation of Baden-Württemberg's Economy**

Trip for European journalists on the occasion of the 2026 state elections

3 - 7 March 2026, Stuttgart

### **PROGRAM**

#### **Tuesday, 3 March 2026, STUTTGART**

- Until 17:00      Arrival of participants
- 18:00            Welcome and dinner  
Isabell HOFFMANN, Director, Deutsch-Französisches Institut  
Dr. Stefan HOFMANN, Chairman of the Gips-Schüle Foundation

#### **Wednesday, 4 March 2026, STUTTGART and TÜBINGEN**

- 8:45            Program introduction and organization  
Dr. Eileen KELLER and Valérie LEJEUNE, Deutsch-Französisches Institut
- 9:00            Discussion with  
Henning OTTE, Südwestrundfunk (SWR), reporter and editor, SWR regional politics
- 10:30          Discussion with  
Johannes JUNG, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Labor, and Tourism of Baden-Württemberg
- 13:00          Welcome to Cyber Valley  
Dr. Florian K. MAYER, CEO of Cyber Valley GmbH
- Spotlight on ELLIS Institute Tübingen  
Dr. Tobias LEISMANN, Managing Director of ELLIS Institute Tübingen
- Spotlight on Tübingen AI Center  
Prof. Philipp HENNIG, Director of Tübingen AI Center, University of Tübingen
- Spotlight on "Journalist in Residence" Program  
Introduction by Janis-Anne FISCHER, Cyber Valley GmbH  
Christoph KOCH, Journalist in Residence at Cyber Valley
- Pitches by Start-ups, Cyber Valley Start-up Network  
Introduction by Paul-David BITTNER, Cyber Valley GmbH  
Laura NEUSSER, Optocycle  
Yugen SPACE, Anand Waghmare (CEO)

- 14:45            Lab Tours at Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems (MPI-IS)  
Lab Tour "Capture Hall"  
Tsvetelina ALEXIADIS, Data Team Lead / Head of the Data Team in the Perceiving Systems Department  
Lab Tour "Flying Robot"  
Dr. Michael MÜHLEBACH, Group Leader, Learning and Dynamical Systems Group
- 15:40            Lab Tour Polybot  
Dr. Martin KIEFEL, Co-Founder of polybot
- 16:00            Farewell

**Thursday, 5 March 2026, STUTTGART and DITZINGEN**

- 9.00            Discussion with  
Alena FINK-TRAUSCHEL, FDP, member of the State Parliament Baden-Württemberg
- 10:30           Discussion with  
Muhterem ARAS, B90/Grüne, President of the State Parliament Baden-Württemberg
- 13:40           Arrival at Trumpf  
Dr. Manuel THOMÄ, Head of International Media Relations
- 14:00           Welcome and presentation of the company  
Dr. Berthold SCHMIDT, Chief Technology Officer  
Dr. Andreas MÖLLER, Head of Corporate Communications, Public Policy, Governmental Affairs  
  
Presentation of future technologies at TRUMPF followed by a short Q&A  
Dr. Berthold SCHMIDT
- 14:25           Visit of the EUV system  
Dr. Berthold SCHMIDT
- 15:00           Discussion with  
Prof. Dr. Nicola LEIBINGER-KAMMÜLLER, Chief Executive Officer  
Dr. Hagen ZIMER, Chief Executive Officer for Laser Technology
- 16:00           Farewell and departure
- 17.30           Discussion with  
Steffen DEGLER, AfD, direct candidate for the Landtag

**Friday, 6 March 2026, STUTTGART and RAVENSBURG**

- 9:00 Discussion with  
Barbara RESCH, Head of IG Metall Baden-Württemberg  
Boris SCHWÜRZ, Chairman of Mahle's General Works Council
- 11:00 Discussion with  
Peter FRIEDRICH, Executive Director of Chamber of Crafts, Stuttgart region
- 17:30 Final campaign event of the CDU with  
Chancellor Friedrich MERZ and leading candidate Manuel HAGEL in Ravensburg

**Saturday, 7 March 2026**

Departure of participants

*Conversations and discussions will be interpreted simultaneously (German-English).*

*Unless agreed upon otherwise, the information gathered during this trip can be used for journalistic purposes without being attributed to the speakers and the institution they represent.*

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