

## Press Contact

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## Scenarios for Russia's Future

*In 2024 Vladimir Putin's last regular term of office as a Russian president ends. Following the initiative of the Regional Office for Cooperation and Peace in Europe of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) and the Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOiS), a group of international experts on Russia has drawn up four possible scenarios for the period thereafter.*

"Decisionmakers and observers should start thinking from today on about Russia's development path after 2024. Our aim was not to speculate about Putin's successor, but to provide the basis for a forward-looking discussion", state Reinhard Krumm and Gwendolyn Sasse, who initiated and co-authored the scenario analysis.

The results and the publication "Thinking ahead: Russia beyond 2024" will be discussed for the first time on a side event at the Munich Security Conference (MSC) on February 16, 2020. They will be commented by Dirk Wiese, member of the German Parliament and coordinator of the German Federal Government's inter-societal cooperation with Russia, Central Asia and the countries of the Eastern Partnership.

The constitutional reform recently announced by President Putin and the new formation of the Russian government gave an immediate topicality to the question of how the country will be run after 2024. Since the current constitution excludes the re-election of Putin, the next head of state will most likely be designated at the ballot box. Different results could mean different visions for the future of Europe.

What conditions will shape Russia in the run-up to the 2024 elections? What type of leadership could emerge from these conditions - if a change of leadership takes place at all? These questions form the core of four scenarios developed by a group of selected high-level experts from the EU, Russia and the USA in the course of 2019. The scenarios do not only shed light on the domestic political role of state and society, but also include geopolitical and geo-economic challenges. The four basic scenarios run along the axes of social stability vs. instability and cooperative vs. confrontational relations with the West. In a deliberately exaggerated form, each scenario describes the possible situation in 2024 and traces the path that leads to it.

The Scenarios were created during multiple workshops in Berlin and Vienna. The following experts were involved: Irina Busygina (Higher School of Economics, St Petersburg), Alexandra Dienes (FES Regional Office for Cooperation and Peace in Europe (FES ROCPE), Vienna), Mark Galeotti (Mayak Intelligence, University College London (UCL) School of Slavonic and East European Studies, and Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), London), Andrey Kortunov (Russian International Affairs Council, Moscow), Félix Krawatzek (ZOiS, Berlin), Reinhard Krumm (FES ROCPE, Vienna), Sarah Lain (RUSI, London), Alex Pravda (St Antony's College, University of Oxford), Gwendolyn Sasse, (ZOiS, Berlin), Andris Spruņds (Latvian Institute for International Affairs, Riga), Simon Weiß (FES ROCPE, Vienna) and Laurence Whitehead (Nuffield College, University of Oxford).

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