

## PRESENTATION

# SPONSORING A WAR OF AGGRESSION? THE GERMAN BASIC LAW AND THE CONTINUING LARGE-SCALE IMPORT OF RUSSIAN FOSSIL FUELS

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Germany has taken a controversial role in the crisis caused by the Russian war of aggression on Ukraine. While the reluctance to export heavy weapons to Ukraine is partially based on a distorted historical narrative, which focuses lopsidedly more on historical responsibility towards Russia than towards Ukraine and Belarus, the ongoing practice to buy enormous amounts of gas and oil from Russia is dominated by economic interests. Germany is not willing to take on a supply and economic crisis as consequence of ending the imports. It has even become the "top buyer" of Russian fossil fuel during the war, spending more resources on that than on supporting Ukraine. However, is maintaining a trade relationship on such a scale that contributes significantly to the financial stabilisation of the aggressor and undermines the effect of the sanctions taken by the international community, compatible with the German determination to promote peace (cf. preamble of the Basic Law), the general commitment to human rights as basis of every community, peace and justice in the world (art. 1(2) BL), the principle of the rule of law (art. 20(3) BL), which includes the commitment to a rule-based international order, and the respect for the general rules of public international law (art. 25 BL), which prohibit force in international relations?



## ABOUT THE SPEAKER:

**Prof. Dr. Thomas Schmitz** is a legal scholar in the field of public law, comparative law and European Union law, habilitated at the University of Göttingen and has since that time worked at several universities in Germany, East Europe and Southeast Asia. He was a DAAD lecturer in law from 2006 to 2010 at the University of Latvia in Riga and from 2012 to 2014 DAAD lecturer at Hanoi Law University. From 2015 to 2017 he worked as an Integrated Expert at the Academy of Public Administration in Chişinău. Since 2018 he is DAAD lecturer in law at Gadjah Mada Universitas in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

