



PROFESSOR ACHIM WAMBACH, PHD

## ➤ PROFESSOR ACHIM WAMBACH, PHD

is president of ZEW and professor of economics at the University of Mannheim since April 2016. He is a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, which he chaired 2012–2015. From 2014 to 2022 he was member of the German Monopolies Commission and served as its chairman from 2016 to 2020. Since 2024 he is a member of the German Ethics Council.

Achim Wambach obtained a PhD in physics at the University of Oxford and a Master of Science in economics at the London School of Economics. He completed his habilitation thesis in economics at the University of Munich. Before joining ZEW he served as Director of the Institute for Economic Policy (iwp) at the University of Cologne. In 2017–2018, he was president of the German Economic Association (Verein für Socialpolitik).

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

- climate policy
- competition policy
- digitization
- health markets
- industrial policy
- market design

### POPULAR SCIENCE BOOKS

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“We need to rethink climate protection: Less moral appeals to individuals, and instead better political frameworks and more trust in markets that will make climate protection economically viable.”

published 2022



“Data instead of prices, monopolies instead of competition, sharing instead of ownership, crowdworking instead of social partnership: The digital revolution is turning the way of doing business upside down.”

published 2018

### **“EUROPE BETWEEN THE FRONT LINES – A TURNING POINT FOR ECONOMIC POLICY”**

The Russian war in Ukraine has shaken the European Economy. The run-down of Russian energy deliveries has shown the vulnerability of the European economies, which were already under pressure due to supply chain interruptions during COVID-times. In a time when geopolitical tensions rise, when China is forcefully pursuing its “Made in China” strategy, and when the USA under President Trump loses its global ties – how should Europe position itself? How can the European economy become more resilient and what can Europe contribute to the global balance of power? The talk reports on the steps taken by European policy makers and discusses its economic merits and pitfalls.

*(The presenter chaired the German Monopolies Commission when it issued its report on “Chinese State Capitalism: A Challenge for the European Market Economy” in 2020; he was member of the working group of the scientific advisory board at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action for the report on “Geostrategic Trade Policy” which was published in 2023.)*

### **“REVIVAL OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY”**

Industrial policy is en vogue. Last year’s reports by Enrico Letta for the European Parliament, who argued in favour of ‘a dynamic and effective European industrial policy’, and by Mario Draghi for the European Commission, who drafted ‘a new industrial strategy for Europe’, paved the way. The strategic plan for the ‘Clean Industrial Deal’ was published in February. The ‘Net Zero Industry Act’ of 2023 already provided for the relocation of the production of environmental technologies to Europe. State aid rule will be adapted, merger guidelines are supposed to be changed, and calls for the use of tariffs to protect industries in Europe become stronger. Is this a fundamental shift in economic policy or rather a marginal change? What does an effective industrial policy look like?

*(The presenter chairs the working group of the scientific advisory board at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action for the report on “Industrial Policy in Europe” which is expected to be published in 2025. He organizes the core conference of the annual meeting of the German Economic Association on “Revival of Industrial Policy”, which takes place in September 2025 in Cologne.)*

### **“FROM GREEN DEAL TO CLEAN DEAL: EUROPE’S PATH TOWARDS CLIMATE NEUTRALITY”**



In February the EU commission has proposed its Clean Industrial Deal. The goal is to reduce net green-house gas emissions to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and to sustain a growing industry across Europe. Key building blocks of European climate policy are two emission trading schemes, one for industry and energy, the other for buildings and transport, and a social climate fund. To prevent carbon leakage, a carbon border adjustment mechanism entered into force on October 2023. Special measures are imposed to help the industry, like shifting production to Europe and implementing Green Lead Markets. The talk describes the situation and reports on the progress of European climate policy. Will it work, what is contentious, and what else is required?

*(The presenter is member of the scientific advisory board at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action which wrote several reports on climate and energy policy, most recently on “Transformation to a Climate Neutral Industry: Green Lead Markets and Climate Protection Contracts“ in 2023. He is author of a popular science book on climate policy, published in 2022.)*



**ZEW is one of the leading European economic research institutes** and enjoys a strong reputation throughout Europe. Leitmotif is the analysis and design of well-performing markets and institutions in Europe.

### ZEW'S ACTIVITIES FOLLOW TWO PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

-  policy-relevant economic research
-  evidence-based policy advice

ZEW investigates how the institutional framework and the rules of markets should be designed in order to enable the sustainable and efficient development of the European economy. The shared focus of our 120 researchers across the institute is on the question of which institutions and economic policies are needed in order to reach socially desirable outcomes.

### ZEW'S RESEARCH UNITS

-  Corporate Taxation and Public Finance
-  Digital Economy
-  Economics of Innovation and Industrial Dynamics
-  Environmental and Climate Economics
-  Health Care Markets and Health Policy
-  Inequality and Public Policy
-  Labour Markets and Social Insurance
-  Market Design
-  Pensions and Sustainable Financial Markets

Theory-based empirical economic research shapes the profile of ZEW. One of the institute's expertises lies in the field of applied microeconometrics based on high-quality (often proprietary) data in combination with innovative causal identification designs. A ZEW speciality is the use of market design methods, which combine elements of auctions and matching theory, as well as laboratory and field experiments, across different fields.

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# ZEW



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