



**Alexander von Humboldt Association (UK) 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
(10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the foundation of the UK AvH Assoc.)**

**Friday, 21 September, 2007.**

**German House (DAAD), 34 Belgrave Square, London SW1**

**[10:30 Executive Committee Meeting]**

**10:45** Arrival and Coffee

**11.15** Welcome, the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Prof. Ekhard Salje, President UK AvH Assoc.

**11:25** Dr Steve Koonin, Chief Scientist, BP.

How Are We Going to Deal with the Carbon Problem?

**12:05** Dr James Wilton-Ely, Oxford University

The Quick and the Dead: The Colourful Chemical History of Mercury and Arsenic

**12:45** Lunch; informal discussions

**14:00** Annual General Meeting

**14:30** Prof. Martina Lauster, Exeter University

Microscopy and the social body. Early sociology in journalistic sketches of the 1830s and 40s

**15:00** Professor Dr. Ulman Lindenberger, MPI für Bildungsforschung, Berlin

Healthy mind in healthy body? Sensorimotor-cognitive interdependencies in old age

**Anglo-German cooperation and the European perspective**

**15:30** Prof. Dr. E-L Winnacker, CEO European Research Council

Excellence through Competition - the ERC and its Perspectives. [+ Discussion]

**16:10** Tea

**16:50** Dame Prof. JS Higgins, Imperial College, London

Academies of Science in the European Context

**17:20** Dr David Cope, Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology

Accountability versus Inspiration: the role of parliaments in science policy in Europe<sup>1</sup>

**17:50** Closing remarks

**18:30** Reception given by German Ambassador, German Embassy

**20:30** Close

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<sup>1</sup> I will discuss the dilemmas arising from parliaments' need to scrutinise the expenditure of the executive. As it is public money that overwhelmingly funds science, there are huge pressures to demonstrate 'effectiveness', 'efficiency' and similar. I will argue that it is very difficult to apply such measures to basic research. Serendipitous outcomes are, by definition, unpredictable and therefore unable to be taken into account in *ex ante* prioritisations of research effort. Should scrutiny concern itself only with matters that do not, at first level, relate to finance, such as appointments to senior science administration positions?