



## ***THE DITCHLEY FOUNDATION***

The Ditchley Foundation's conferences are held at Ditchley Park, an eighteenth-century country house in its own grounds just north of Oxford. The foundation is a privately-funded charity established in 1958 with the original aim of promoting transatlantic understanding. Since then Ditchley conferences have expanded to include the concerns and participation of nations from across the globe. They are designed as a resource for senior policy-makers and professional analysts from the fields of politics, the civil service, education, civil society, business, industry and the media to study specific policy questions in a broad context, to hear the views of other experts in the field and to draw operational or analytical conclusions.

Between 35 and 45 participants attend conferences by invitation. The proceedings are informal and off-the-record, under the Chatham House Rule, with emphasis placed on frank debate and oral dialogue rather than on set presentations. Ditchley's impact comes from the relevance of its programme to government and other professional policy-making and from contacts made, understanding deepened, fresh insights gained and new ideas or lines of thought established. The combined atmosphere of informality, trust and expertise makes Ditchley a unique venue to address complex issues facing the world today.



Conferences are conducted in English with no translation facilities and are normally held over three days, running from 4pm on Thursday until lunchtime on Saturday. Visit <http://www.ditchley.co.uk/conferences/typical-timetable> for further details about the conference timetable.

All participants are guests of the Foundation while they are at Ditchley, but - with rare exceptions - are asked to arrange and pay for their own travel. Transfers will be arranged to and from the airport or the nearest railway station, Charlbury. If arriving by air, participants are asked to use London Heathrow airport and to arrive by 2pm on the Thursday and to arrange their outward flight for no earlier than 4.30pm on the Saturday.

After the conference the Director issues a summary of the discussion; no views are attributed to individual participants and it does not commit participants to any conclusions. Participants are free to circulate this, and draw on the proceedings in other ways, provided that they do not identify the proponents of particular opinions.

Although the programme of discussion is intense, there is time for private conversation and relaxation in the warmth and beauty of Ditchley. There are no formal meetings after dinner and there is a break in the afternoon on Friday which participants may use to explore Oxford or one of the neighbouring stately homes, or simply to enjoy Ditchley and its grounds.

