



High-Level Seminar A EURO FOR GROWTH AND CONVERGENCE LISBON | 24 JANUARY 2017

The Eurozone crisis needs to be overcome to give Europe the internal cohesion which is crucial for ensuring a stronger economic and social recovery, reducing divergences between Member States, preventing political fragmentation and responding to external challenges regarding migration and security.

The Roadmap on the future of the European Union to be adopted in Rome on the 25th of March as well as the European Commission's White Paper currently under preparation must have clear proposals to overcome the Eurozone crisis and to close divergences by creating a new virtuous circle in the Euro area.

After several years of crisis and difficult debates to deal with this very complex issue, a relevant amount of expertise is now available and different formal proposals are being considered in the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council.

Nevertheless, a proper discussion on possible choices for EMU reform has not yet taken place in the European Council since the last European elections. Hence, a top level political initiative is necessary to push forward key decisions.

Europe is today at a crossroad. That's why this seminar is "the moment" to meet, clarify positions and coordinate efforts in order to start the much needed virtuous circle for the Eurozone. In order to define more clearly the proposals which can be considered by the Heads of State and Government, the Portuguese Government will hold a High-Level Seminar on "A Euro for Growth and Convergence", gathering top decision-makers and experts who are renowned for their role in addressing this issue, while ensuring a balanced composition regarding national backgrounds.

This High-Level Seminar will be conducted with a special method to reach precise proposals:

- A selected member of top decision makers and top experts will engage in an intensive interaction (under the Chatham House rule), based on a previously distributed guide (the guidance note) with key questions and possible solutions.
- Some of the participants (two per session) will be invited to be first-speakers to launch the debate with contrasted positions through a short introduction (3-5 min).
- Each session will be moderated by the relevant Portuguese Minister.
- The Report from the High-Level Seminar will be used in relevant decision-making channels of the European Council, the Council, the European Commission and the European Parliament.

The Seminar will be followed by a public conference addressing the same topics.

High-Level Seminar

“A Euro for Growth and Convergence”

Lisbon, 24 January 2017

Venue: Gulbenkian Foundation, Room 1

From 10.00	Registration
11.00 - 11.15	Introduction Augusto Santos Silva, Minister of Foreign Affairs
11.15 - 13.00	Session 1: <i>Growth and Socio-economic Convergence in the Eurozone</i> Moderator: Pedro Marques, Minister of Planning and Infrastructure
13.15 - 15.00	Session 2: <i>Instruments for risk prevention and risk sharing, with particular focus on the Eurozone fiscal capacity</i> (Working Lunch) Moderator: Mário Centeno, Minister of Finance
15.15 - 17.00	Session 3: <i>Democratic legitimacy and the sequence of steps to complete the EMU</i> Moderator: José António Vieira da Silva, Minister of Labour, Solidarity, and Social Security
17.00 - 17.30	Conclusions and closing remarks

Public Conference

“A Euro for Growth and Convergence”

Consolidar o Euro. Promover a Convergência

Venue: Gulbenkian Foundation, Auditorium 2

18.00	Frank Vandenbroucke , University of Amsterdam, former Belgian Minister of Social Security, Healthcare, Pensions and Employment Luís de Guindos , Minister of Economy and Competitiveness of Spain
18:30	António Costa , Portuguese Prime-Minister



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List of participants

Aleš Chmelař (CZ), Economic Advisor to Prime Minister of the Czech Republic Bohuslav Sobotka

António Vitorino (PT), former EU Commissioner for Justice and Home Affairs

Diego Lopez Garrido (ES), Former State Secretary for European Affairs (2008-2011 and Board of the Fundación Alternativas

Elisa Ferreira (PT), Bank of Portugal – Director

Eulalia Rubio (ES), Senior Research Fellow in the Jacques Delors Institute

Eurico Brilhante Dias (PT), Member of the Portuguese Parliament

Fabien Dell (FR) Adviser to European Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Pierre Moscovici

Frank Vandenbroucke (BE), Professor at the University of Amsterdam, former Belgian Minister of Social Security, Healthcare, Pensions and Employment

Gabriele Giudice (IT), DGEFIN (EMU deepening and macroeconomy of the euro area)

Gertrude Tumpel-Gugerell (AT), Austrian Institute of Economic Research, former Vice-Governor of the Austrian National Bank and former member of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank

Guntram Wolff (DE), Director of the Bruegel think-tank

Jakob von Weizsäcker (DE), MEP and Member of the Committee on Economic and Financial Affairs

João Galamba (PT), Member of the Portuguese Parliament

João Nogueira Martins (PT), Chief Economic Advisor of European Council President Donald Tusk

José Amaral (PT), Member of the Executive Committee, BPI

José Castro Caldas (PT), Researcher at CES

José Maria Brandão de Brito (PT), Professor at ISEG

László Andor (HU), former Member of the European Commission, Associate Professor at Corvinus University (Budapest) and Senior Fellow at Hertie School of Governance (Berlin)

Luca Visentini (IT), General Secretary of the European Trade Union Confederation

Luís de Guindos (ES), Minister of Economy and Competitiveness of Spain

Marco Piantini (IT), Sherpa and Economic Advisor to Italian President

Maria João Rodrigues (PT), MEP and Vice-Chair of the S&D Group in the European Parliament

Michal Polak (SK), Head of Cabinet of State Secretary of the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic (Ivan Lesay)

Nicolas Schmit (LU), Minister for Employment and Social affairs

Pedro Silva Pereira (PT), MEP and Vice-Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

Pervenche Beres (FR), MEP and S&D coordinator on Economic and Financial Affairs

Philippe Leglise-Costa (FR), Secretary General of EU Affairs
Raymond Torres (ES), Visiting Director at think-tank FUNCAS. Special Advisor to the International Labour Organization (ILO) Director-General
Ricardo Paes Mamede (PT), Professor at ISCTE
Ricardo Reis (PT), Professor at the London School of Economics
Rui Henrique Alves (PT), Financial Counsellor at REPER-Portugal
Tytti Tuppurainen (FI), Member of the Finnish Parliament and of its Grand Committee
Vítor Escária (PT), Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister
Wolfgang Pointner (AT) Economic Advisor of Chancellor of Austria
Xavier Timbeau (FR) Director of OFCE (Observatoire Français des Conjonctures Économiques)

Portuguese Government

António Costa, Prime-Minister
Augusto Santos Silva, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Mário Centeno, Minister of Finance
José António Vieira da Silva, Minister of Labour, Solidarity, and Social Security
Pedro Marques, Minister of Planning and Infrastructure
Margarida Marques, Secretary of State for European Affairs
Ricardo Félix, Secretary of State of Treasury and Finance
Miguel Cabrita, Secretary of State of Employment
Nélson Souza, Secretary of State of Development and Cohesion