

Economic governance of the EU: Quo Vadis?

Workshop at Bruegel
3 November 2015
Bruegel, Rue de la Charité 33, 1210 Brussels

Draft Programme

9:00-9:30 Registration and coffee

9:30-11:00 **Session 1. Fiscal governance of the EU: do we have what we wanted?**

Various agreements have reformed the European fiscal governance framework since the crisis. This has led to a complicated system, where multiple rules govern nominal deficits, structural deficits, debt and expenditures - with various escape clauses and specific requirements for euro-area member states. The Juncker Commission re-interpreted the flexibility options of the framework, while the Five Presidents' report does not consider any further change to the framework to be urgent. Can the current set-up achieve the two main objectives of a fiscal framework: discouraging governmental deficit bias in order to ensure the long-term sustainability of public debt, while leaving scope for countercyclical fiscal policy? What reforms could be desirable?

Chair: **Zsolt Darvas**, Senior fellow, Bruegel

Panellists:

Andreas Georgiou, former head of the Greek statistical office

Massimo Suardi, Deputy Head of Valdis Dombrovskis' Cabinet

David Vines, Professor of Economics, University of Oxford – *by video conference*

Wilfried Steinheuer, Director European Economic and Monetary Union, Bundesministerium der Finanzen

11:00-11:20 Coffee break

11:20-13:10 **Session 2. Can euro and non-euro members share a vision of the EU?**

Euro-area member states have fostered their policy integration with several new initiatives, and non-euro member states might feel left behind. The United Kingdom wishes to renegotiate its position in the EU and put the country's membership to a referendum. How does the deepened euro-area governance framework affect relations between euro and non-euro members of the EU? Should the EU endorse a more explicit two-tier membership model? How can we address UK demands within the governance framework? Could the capital, digital and energy union initiatives be a catalyst for a renewed cooperation between euro and non-euro members?

Chair: **Guntram Wolff**, Director, Bruegel

Panellists:

Anna Ascani, Member of Parliament, Italy

Christopher Hartwell, President, Center for Social and Economic Research (CASE)

António Vitorino, President of the Jacques Delors Institute

Jonathan Black, Director, Europe, HM Treasury (*tbc*)

13:10-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:30 Session 3. Consolidating the financial union

The inception of a European banking union has arguably been, together with the creation of the ESM, the most significant structural change in the EU's policy framework in the wake of the crisis. But banking union remains incomplete, and capital markets union remains a long-term vision rather than a practical reality. This panel will take stock of the debate about Europe's "financial union". Issues for discussion include a European deposit insurance and other ways to mitigate the damaging links between banks and sovereigns, as well as the tensions resulting from the different geographical perimeters of banking union and the EU internal market.

Chair: **Nicolas Véron**, Senior Fellow, Bruegel

Panellists:

Maria Abascal, Head Economist, Regulation and Public Policies, BBVA

John Berrigan, Deputy Director-General, DG for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union

Georg Ringe, Professor, Copenhagen Business School

Philippe Lespinard, Co-Head of Fixed Income, Schroeders (*tbc*)

15:30-17:00 Session 4. A euro-area system of competitiveness authorities: how can it be designed?

The Five Presidents' report promoted the idea of setting up a euro-area system of competitiveness authorities, composed of independent national councils, to assess wage and productivity developments as well as economic reforms to foster competitiveness. How should such national authorities be organised, given the diverse labour market and social dialogue processes in member states? How should national councils cooperate with each other and coordinate their activities within the European Semester?

Chair: **André Sapir**, Senior Fellow, Bruegel

Panellists:

Anne Bucher, Director, Growth, Competitiveness and Structural Reforms, DG ECFIN

Michiel Bijlsma, Non-Resident Fellow, Bruegel and Program Leader Financial Markets, CPB

Luc Denayer, Secretary General, The Central Economic Council, Belgium

Mikko Spolander, Vice-chair of the Finnish Cost and Income Development Committee

17:00 Close