European Union politics - views from Central Europe
3rd annual round table debate of the CEU Jean Monnet Chair
in cooperation with the
Hungarian Europe Society
and the
CEU Center for European Union Research (CEUR)

Austerity, solidarity, stability?
How economic and monetary union affects the new member states

Room 001, Nador 13, CEU
Friday, 30 November 2012
9:15 – 12:45

The event is a roundtable discussion between government officials of the European Union’s (EU) New Member States (NMS) and academics about the impact of Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) and the prospect or reality of euro area accession on their countries. The context of the financial crisis, EU coordination and legitimacy problems, and the intensification of nationalist populism are issues of concern. The event will bring together perspectives and views from policy-makers active in the field of EU socio-economic governance and academics. It will review the current state of play in NMSs in relation to the euro crisis including the wider European debate about institutional reforms and budgetary constraints. Finally, the increasingly troubling tension between debates about institutional and policy reform at the transnational level and rising populism and nationalism within the domestic arena will be debated.

Participants will include civil servant representatives and policy experts from the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary and Slovenia. The keynote speaker is Professor Erik Jones (SAIS Bologna).

For more information visit: https://ceur.ceu.hu/jean-monnet-roundtable

The organisers gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Jean Monnet Programme of the European Commission.
Welcome: Professor Uwe Puetter, CEU Jean Monnet Chair in European Public Policy and Governance

9:15 – 9:30

Keynote: Professor Erik Jones (SAIS Bologna)

9:30 – 10:15

The Euro crisis and its vicious circle: European coordination problems, EU legitimacy crisis, and the return of nationalism and populism

Coffee break

Round I – State of play: EMU and the new member states

10:30 – 11:30

Chair: Uwe Puetter, CEU

Questions:

- How ready are the NMSs to adopt the Euro?
  - What is the current macro-economic, fiscal, and monetary situation in these states?
  - And what have been the consequences of required adjustments for citizens?
- How has the global financial/euro crisis affected NMS’s stance toward the common currency?
- Does the focus on the crisis impact negatively on the wider EU socio-economic governance agenda including areas such employment policy coordination, social protection and social inclusion?
- What have we learnt from the experiences of NMSs who have adopted the Euro?
  - How has adoption impacted the macro-economic and fiscal situation?
  - And what have been the consequences for citizens?

Expert discussants:

- Agnes Csermely, Director, Monetary Strategy and Economic Analysis, Central Bank of Hungary
- Oldřich Dědek, Ministry of Finance, Czech Republic, Chief Coordinator for Euro Adoption in the Czech Republic

Discussion open to audience participation

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Coffee break (15 minutes)

Round II – Austerity, solidarity, stability? The challenge of institutional coordination problems against the tide of nationalism and populism

11:45 – 12:45

Chair: Eva Zemandl, CEU

Questions:

- Where do NMSs stand on the austerity vs. solidarity divide at European level; and how much does their position reflect the mood of the electorate?
- How does a Member State’s readiness to adopt the Euro and the nature of the electorate’s popular sentiments towards the EU affect the role of these NMSs in the EU coordination process? In other words, does coordination have any relevance for you in the Euro crisis?
- What are the risks for citizens if the vicious circle between the challenges of European coordination, the EU’s legitimacy crisis, and nationalist and populist sentiments is left unaddressed?

Expert discussants:

- Natalja Olmetsenko, Adviser of Social Welfare Department, Ministry of Social Affairs, Estonia, member of the EU Social Protection Committee
- Bostjan Vasle, Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development, Slovenia, Member of the EU Economic Policy Committee
- Attila Bartha, Hungarian Europe Society, Hungarian Academy of Sciences/ Center for Social Sciences, CEU/CPS

Discussion open to audience participation

For further information and registration please contact:

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