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Contact

Bertelsmann Stiftung
Carl-Bertelsmann-Str. 256
33311 Gütersloh
Germany

Tel: +49 5241 81-0
Fax: +49 5241 81-681396

info@bertelsmann-stiftung.de
www.bertelsmann-stiftung.de

 @BertelsmannSt
 @BStBrussel

Jacques Delors Institut – Berlin
Pariser Platz 6
10117 Berlin
Germany

Tel: +49 30 467 26 09-01

office@delorsinstitut.de
www.delorsinstitut.de

 @delorsinstitut

Conference Venue

dbb forum
Friedrichstr. 169/170
10117 Berlin

This conference is part of a research project by the
Bertelsmann Stiftung and the Jacques Delors Institut – Berlin

www.strengthentheeuro.eu

Repair and Prepare ||||| Strengthen the euro

Which convergence for the euro area?



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Thursday, 3 December 2015, 13:00 – 18:30
dbb forum, Friedrichstr. 169/170, 10117 Berlin

JACQUES DELORS INSTITUT
BERLIN

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PROGRAMME

The dramatic negotiations around the third bailout for Greece have triggered a new round of soul-searching on the future of the European Monetary Union. There is a general agreement that the euro area is not viable in its current set-up. There is less agreement on what needs to be done.

The conference brings together international experts and policy-makers to discuss the role and effect of economic convergence as an important building block of a strengthened euro area.

13:00 – 14:15 Registration and buffet lunch

14:15 – 14:30 Welcome note
Joachim Fritz-Vannahme
(Bertelsmann Stiftung)

14:30 – 15:30 Session 1: Economic convergence – understanding a contested concept

Convergence plays a central role in the proposed reforms to strengthen EMU. There is an understanding that convergence is needed between euro area countries to allow for a better functioning of the single currency. Yet the very notion of convergence is hotly debated. What kind of convergence does the euro area need? How should we measure convergence? Should we reform the current convergence rules in the euro area?

Chair: Iain Begg (London School of Economics)
Panel: Bergljot Bjørnson Barkbu (International Monetary Fund), **Ettore Dorrucci** (European Central Bank), **Henrik Enderlein** (Hertie School of Governance/ Jacques Delors Institut – Berlin)

15:30 – 16:30 Session 2: Fostering convergence in the euro area – instruments and actors

This session discusses ways to improve the structural features of euro area economies that make them more resilient in a monetary union. This includes completing the Single Market, structural reforms, and macroeconomic stabilization mechanisms for the euro area. What policies and instruments can foster convergence? In what areas are reforms most needed and why? Do we need more or less common standards?

Chair: Pascal Lamy (Jacques Delors Institute, former Director-General of the World Trade Organisation)
Panel: Catherine L. Mann (OECD), **Karl Pichelmann** (European Commission), **Holger Schmieding** (Berenberg)

16:30 – 17:00 Coffee break

17:00 – 18:30 Session 3: The route towards euro area reforms – how do we get there?

In many euro area member states, governments have little appetite to reform in the face of an increasing popular scepticism about the current path of European integration. A political debate within and across member states is needed to anchor the reform process and connect it with European citizens. What are the political opportunities and threats along the reform path? How can concerns about moral hazard and risk sharing be balanced out? How can reforms to the euro area be pursued in a politically feasible and democratic way?

Chair: Aart De Geus (Bertelsmann Stiftung)
Panel: László Andor (Hertie School of Governance, former EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion), **Marcel Fratzscher** (German Institute for Economic Research DIW), **Steffen Kampeter** (Member of the German Bundestag), **Gertrude Tumpel-Gugerell** (Austrian Institute for Economic Research, former member of the ECB Executive Board)

18:30 Reception