



Provisional programme

Future of Europe: variable geometry – how can unity be preserved in an increasingly diversified world?

Monday 4 - Wednesday 6 February 2013 | WP1215

As a response to the economic crisis in the European Union, a reconfigured Europe is emerging. This conference will analyse how a geometrically variable EU will develop, look at alternatives and discuss whether European unity can be preserved in an increasingly diversified EU.

It will focus on the implications for key policy areas:

- The single market, especially financial services, fiscal and bank regulation;
- Foreign policy;
- Global competitiveness;
- Institutional development, democratic legitimacy and accountability.

It will also address the impact on external views of the EU (from the G-20, BRICS, investors) looking at how the EU can exert more influence in the changing global economic order.

The conference will bring together experts to discuss possible scenarios for the future of Europe and analyse how policy makers should respond to these developments.

Participation will include politicians, practitioners with policy and delivery responsibility in this area, leading thinkers /commentators on EU policy from academia, think tanks, media and business representatives.

Additional support for this meeting has been generously provided by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

(Speakers invited and themes proposed * denotes confirmed)

Monday 4 February

1300-1430

Participants arrive and buffet lunch available

1500-1515 **Welcome and introduction**

1515-1645 **1. Economic drivers for closer EU/ Eurozone integration (banking, economic and fiscal union)**

Philippe Legrain

Principal Adviser; Head, Analysis Team, Bureau of European Policy Advisers (BEPA), Brussels

***Vicky Pryce**

Senior Managing Director, Economics, FTI Consulting; author of 'Greeconomics', London

1645-1730 Photograph followed by tea/coffee

1730-1900 **2. Variable geometry: how to make it work?**

Jean Claude Piris

Director General, Legal Adviser to the Council, Council of the European Union, Brussels

Charles Grant

Director, Centre for European Reform, London

1900 Drinks reception

1930 Dinner

Tuesday 5 February

0800-0900 Breakfast

0915-1045 **3. Variable geometry: what are the implications?
i) For the single market/banking, fiscal, economic policy?**

Vince Cable

Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, London

Guntram Wolff

Deputy Director, Bruegel, Brussels

1045-1115 Tea/coffee

1115-1245 **4. Variable geometry: what are the implications?
ii) For foreign/security policy?**

Tomas Valasek

President, Central European Policy Institute, Bratislava

Michael Leigh

Consultant and Senior Adviser, German Marshall Fund, Brussels

Dominique Moisi

Co-founder -senior advisor, Institut Francais des Relations Internationales, Paris

1300-1500 Lunch

1500-1630

**5. Variable geometry: what are the implications?
iii) For the EU's institutional/democratic legitimacy/accountability?**

Heather Grabbe

Director, Open Society Institute, Brussels

Andrew Duff

Member of the European Parliament, Brussels/ Strasbourg

1630-1700

Tea/coffee

1700-1830

6. What are the alternatives to variable geometry?

Loukas Tsoukalis

Special Adviser to the President of the European Commission; President, Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP), Athens

Ulf Sverdrup

Director, NUPI (Norwegian Institute of International Affairs), Oslo,

1900

Drinks reception

1930

Dinner

David Lidington

Minister of State for Europe, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London

Wednesday 6 February

0800-0900

Breakfast

0915-1045

7. How to maintain Europe's influence in a changing global economic order?

Robert Cooper

Special Adviser to High Representative Catherine Ashton on Burma/Myanmar, European External Action Service, Brussels

***Ulrich Speck**

Editor, Global Europe Morning Brief; Associate Fellow, FRIDE, Heidelberg

1045-1115

Tea/coffee

1115-1245

8. Looking ahead: The way forward

Maurice Fraser

Visiting Fellow in European Government and Policy, London School of Economics

Mats Persson

Director, Open Europe, London

1300

Lunch

1400

Participants depart

This is a preview programme and as such may be subject to change.

This conference is open to those with expertise to share or an interest in the theme; our aim is to have a broad spread of nationalities and institutions represented. The full cost of participation is £995. This covers 2 nights' accommodation, all meals during the conference and attendance at all sessions. Special rates may be available for those from non-OECD countries and also academics and NGO representatives.

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