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WELCOME TO THE EIF

The Centre for European Studies is proud to have organised its first annual

Economic Ideas Forum

This Forum brought together high-level economic experts, Ministers of Economy, EU Commissioners, former Prime Ministers and Ministers of EU Member States and business representatives from around the world in an effort to set in motion a synergetic chain by **involving EU leaders** with the business community **and inspiring them** with strategic insights.



The Forum took place in Madrid, 15 April 2010 during the ECOFIN Meeting of Ministers of Economy and Finance and was a perfect opportunity to present **new ideas** and offer **solutions** for overcoming the current global financial and economic crisis.

The Forum tackled the hottest topics in the economic agenda: international cooperation; coordination of strategies; economic dynamism; the promotion of a value-driven economy; building a competitive and sustainable economy that promotes green investments, innovation, the promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises, and the activation of sustainable recovery actions.

Over 250 participants joined in the Forum, which counted on the support of the two of the Centre's member foundations, FAES (Fundación para el análisis y los estudios sociales) from Spain and KAS (Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung) from Germany.



THAT'S THINKING ECONOMY!

Under the slogan of 'Thinking Economy,' CES presented the first annual Economic Ideas Forum as a platform for political and business leaders to set a new course for the global economy and provide answers to questions such as: How do we get out of the crisis? Where do we go after? Are our leaders ready to listen? And who is really thinking economy?



PANEL

I

BANKING REFORM: SHARING THE BURDEN OR SPLITTING THE BILL?

Looking at all the recent developments and attempts to tackle the global economic and financial crisis in Europe and the United States, important issues were raised in this panel, such as bonus caps, bank levies and financial transaction taxes. The panel, moderated by Jaime García-Legaz, Secretary General of FAES, agreed that the need for reform is strong in all fields, and that the main cause of the crisis is the failure of transparency rules.

The financial sector is responsible for 40% of all private sector profits and it has to be questioned whether this is a wise allocation of Europe's resources. It is necessary to ensure that the large transfers of tax-payers' money to financial institutions is not needed next time, and finding mechanisms to avoid such transfers is of great importance. Panel I put forward these mechanisms, bringing the debate on regulation.

'Today's main challenge for financial institutions is not about overregulation but too little regulation.'

*Philippe Maystadt,
President of the European Investment Bank*





'We should consult the business community before bringing any new rules that will control the financial system in which they operate.'

*José Manuel García-Margallo y Marfil,
Member of the European Parliament,
Partido Popular*



'The reforms need to be holistic.'

*Daniel Daianu,
former Minister of Finance of Romania*



'Fiscal policy of the Member States has to be put in order and deficit has to be reduced in order to be able to move on.'

*Vicente Martínez-Pujalte,
Partido Popular deputy for the Region
of Murcia*



REFUELLING ECONOMY

The discussion on how to refuel economy was approached from several angles while reflecting whether the European Union or the United States were on the right path to recovery. The two leaders agreed that competitiveness, economic liberalisation and openness are the three conditions necessary to refuel Europe's and the world's economy.

In the panel moderated by Thomas Bernd Stehling, Director of KAS Madrid, Mr Bruton argued that Europe has to face tough austerity measures, not only because of the crisis but also because of future demographic challenges. Current spending welfare is unsustainable for the future. Mr Aznar argued that it is education that will increase Europe's competitiveness. He argued that Europe has to return to the original, stricter rules of the Stability and Growth Pact in order to avoid a Greek scenario recurring in the future.

'We need a new economic agenda for Europe which will boost economic liberalisation, reforms and openness.'

*José Maria Aznar,
former Prime Minister of Spain and President of FAES*

Economic Ideas Forum



'Every year a population comparable to the nation of France arises on the global stage of competitiveness.'

John Bruton,
former Taoiseach (Prime Minister) of Ireland



'We have to move from rhetoric to action and concentrate on instituting reforms, fostering competitiveness, enforcing the single market and making Europe's economy greener.'

Antonio López-Istúriz,
MEP, Secretary General of the EPP and Secretary Treasurer of CES



WORKING LUNCHES

The working lunches in the framework of the EIF gathered both senior politicians and representatives of the business world for a discussion on policy proposals and innovative economic solutions in two particular areas: Transatlantic Cooperation, and Digital Revolution and Energy Efficiency.

WORKING LUNCH 1 TRANSATLANTIC ECONOMIES: PARTNERS OR COMPETITORS?

Moderator: Tomi **HUHTANEN**,

Director of the Centre for European Studies

Theodor **STOLOJAN** (MEP, RO) ; Pablo **ZALBA BIDEGAIN** (MEP, ES) ;

Laima Liucija **ANDRIKIENE** (MEP, LT) ; Santiago **FISAS AYXELA** (MEP, ES) ;

Andrey **KOVATCHEV** (MEP, BG), Salvatore **IACOLINO** (MEP, IT) ;

Mario **MAURO** (MEP, IT) ; Iuliu **WINKLER** (MEP, RO)

Sponsors: European American Business Council

Guests: James **DUDLEY**, Economic Counsellor, US Embassy in Madrid

Bruce **STOKES**, international economic columnist, *National Journal*



A few questions were addressed at this exclusive working lunch: how should politicians on both sides of the Atlantic resist the temptation to erect protectionist barriers that would further damage the transatlantic economic partnership? What creative solutions can be found to use this crisis as an opportunity to address some of the structural deficiencies burdening the transatlantic economy? Are we likely to see some common ground emerging between the two on issues regarding international financial regulation?

WORKING LUNCH 2

THE CHALLENGES OF THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Moderator: Roland **FREUDENSTEIN**,
Head of Research, Centre for European Studies

Pablo Arias **ECHVERRIA** (MEP, ES) ; Iliana **IVANOVA** (MEP, BG) ;
Petru Constantin **LUHAN** (MEP, RO) ; Ria **OOMEN-RUIJTEN** (MEP, NL)

Sponsors: Digital Europe, MGC International Investments, K Street, Telefónica

Guests: Antonio **LÓPEZ-ISTÚRIZ**, MEP, EPP Secretary General and CES Secretary Treasurer ; Adriean **VIDEANU**, Minister of Economy, Romania ; Daniel **DAIANU**, former Minister of Finance, Romania ; John **BRUTON**, former Taoiseach (Prime Minister) of Ireland, former Ambassador of the EU to the US



The second of EIF exclusive working lunches focused on these two challenges:

Digital revolution: As experts point out, a digital revolution is transforming the environment in which economies operate. To underline the importance of the sector, the new EU executive has a commissioner dedicated to the so-called 'Digital Agenda.'

Energy efficiency: In order to bring low-energy technologies into the market, the EU has opted for a 'market pull' approach in the form of its emission trading scheme (EU ETS). Are financial markets supportive of long-term investments in new infrastructure, especially in the climate of the timid recovery we are experiencing?

LANDSCAPE AFTER THE CRASH: GOVERNANCE OR GOVERNMENT?

The EU 2020 strategy aims to build on the lessons learned from the weaknesses of the Lisbon Strategy and proposes tighter monitoring of national reform programmes. The idea of a European Monetary Fund falls into the same line of thinking, showing that the crucial debate about the idea of a 'gouvernement économique,' which is beginning to gain currency in the Brussels bureaucracy as well, has only just begun.

In the panel moderated by Bruce Stokes from the *National Journal*, the Vice-President of the European Commission Antonio Tajani argued that without European coordination, we have no solution to the crisis. Commissioner Algirdas Šemeta claimed that taxation can play a positive role if it is enforced intelligently and that the fight against tax fraud can contribute to a more efficient economy. Bridget Cosgrave, Director of Digital Europe argued that digital infrastructure, which still needs improvement in Europe, can lead the way out of the crisis, claiming that the regulations and rules for the digital market need harmonisation in Europe so it can become a real single market. The panellists agreed that we need not only European solutions to the governance challenges, but also that we need global ones.



'The challenge we face in the future is to find the right skilled workers at the right price.'

*Bridget Cosgrave,
Director of Digital Europe*



'A harmonisation of the European corporate tax-system can contribute positively to the single-market; it is not about harmonising the rate but the rules.'

*Algirdas Šemeta,
Commissioner for Taxation and Customs Union,
Audit and Anti-Fraud*



'Without a European coordination we have no solution to our crisis.'

*Antonio Tajani,
Vice President of the European Commission and
Commissioner for Industry and Entrepreneurship*



Economic Ideas Forum

THINKING ECONOMY: WHO'S GOT THE RECOVERY RIGHT?

Restoring GDP growth and keeping unemployment low are top priorities for the short-term, but the medium- to long-term strategy must look at the challenges that will define whether or not Europe will be a leader in the global recovery.

The Ministers of Finance agreed with Minister Katainen's claim that, right now, Europe lacks credible exit strategies, credible measures to improve competitiveness and credible concrete structural reforms. Minister Djankov claimed that for the new European economies, tax policy has been essential to attract investors, but another equally important factor is the fight against corruption. Crises like the one Europe is currently facing historically have been good for reform and for centre-right policies because of their focus on fiscal responsibility. Minister Repše argued that countries that have been able to cut expenses instead of raising taxes have been much more successful in reviving their economies.

Mariano Rajoy concluded the Forum arguing that Europe is currently going through one of its worst crises, a crisis which without a doubt marks the end of a period to which we cannot return, and from which we have to extract lessons, rules and opportunities. The euro is the grand project of the European integration and defending it means securing the Union and its cohesion. He concluded that the way towards the euro is always ahead and never backward.



'Inflexible labor market creates youth unemployment and hurts the economy.'

*Jyrki Katainen,
Minister of Finance of Finland*

'Crisis creates an opportunity for necessary reforms.'

*Simeon Djankov,
Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister of Finance of Bulgaria*



'Instead of devaluating we can chose to fix what was broken – public spending.'

*Einars Repše,
Minister of Finance of Latvia*



'The euro is the grand project of the European integration and defending the euro means securing the Union and its cohesion.'

*Mariano Rajoy,
President of Partido Popular, Spain*

SPEAKERS

José María AZNAR, served as Prime Minister of Spain from 1996 to 2004. He has been affiliated with the Partido Popular (PP) since 1989. His first term as Prime Minister is closely associated with the introduction of the euro and all fiscal requirements with which it came. He is known for reforms that lead to an unprecedented economic recovery and job creation. He is currently the President of FAES.

John BRUTON served as Taoiseach of Ireland from 1994 to 1997. He served as the Ambassador of the European Union to the United States from 2004–2009 and is a former Vice-President of the European People's Party (EPP). He is currently a member of the CES Academic Council.

Bridget COSGRAVE is Director General of DIGITAL EUROPE, a position she has held since March 2009. Cosgrave was a member of the Executive Committee of Belgacom Group for six years. She also served on the boards of Belgacom Mobile and Telindus Group.

Daniel DAIANU is the former Romanian Minister of Finance. From 2007 to 2009, Daianu was a Member of the European Parliament. While at the EP, Daianu was a member of the Committee on Budgets and the Delegation for Relations with the United States, and was a substitute for the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs.

Simeon DJANKOV is a Bulgarian economist who currently serves as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Bulgaria. Prior to his cabinet appointment, Djankov was the chief economist of the finance and private sector vice-presidency of the World Bank.

José Manuel GARCÍA-MARGALLO Y MARFIL is a Spanish politician and Member of the European Parliament with the Partido Popular (PP), part of the European People's Party (EPP) and is vice-chair of the EP's Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs. He is a substitute for the Committee on International Trade and a vice-chair of the Delegation for relations with the countries of Central America.

Jyrki KATAINEN is the chairman of the Finnish National Coalition Party (Kokoomus) and the current Minister of Finance of Finland. In the 2007 parliamentary election, the National Coalition led by Katainen won the second place from the Social Democrats. In November 2008, the Financial Times named Katainen as the best finance minister in Europe. In March 2003, he was elected Vice President of the European People's Party (EPP), and he is the Chair of the EPP ECOFIN Group.

Antonio LÓPEZ-ISTÚRIZ is a Member of the European Parliament and the Secretary General of the EPP since 2002. He is also the Secretary Treasurer of CES and the Executive Secretary of the Centrist Democrat International.

Vicente MARTÍNEZ-PUJALTE LÓPEZ is a Spanish politician who is currently a Partido Popular (PP) deputy for the Murcia region. A former professor of economic sciences at the University of Valencia, he is also a technical officer in the official Chamber of Commerce for the Valencia region.

Philippe MAYSTADT is the President of the European Investment Bank and Chairman of its Board of Directors, serving since 1 January 2000. Prior to his position at the EIB, he served as the Chairman of the Interim Committee of the International Monetary Fund (1993-1998), Governor of the EIB (1988-1998) and had a long standing career in the Belgian Ministry of Finance.

Mariano RAJOY is the President of the Partido Popular (PP) and the Leader of the Opposition in the Spanish Parliament. He served as Minister of Public administration and Minister of Education and Culture in the first Aznar administration and was appointed Vice-President of the Spanish Government in 2000 and Minister of the Interior in 2001.

Einars REPŠE is currently Latvian Minister of Finance. From 1991 to 2001, Repše was the president of the Bank of Latvia. Under Repše, the Bank of Latvia pursued a tight monetary policy, implementing a de-facto currency board for the lat. As a result, the exchange rate of the lat has been stable since the early 1990s.

Algirdas ŠEMETA is the EU Commissioner for Taxation and Customs Union, Audit and Anti-Fraud, a position he has held since February 2010. Prior to that, Šemeta was European Commissioner for Financial Programming and the Budget. His previous position has been as Lithuania's Finance Minister, which he fulfilled from December 2008 to June 2009.

Antonio TAJANI is a Vice-President of the European Commission and is EU Commissioner for Industry and Entrepreneurship. He was a Member of the European Parliament for Central Italy with the Forza Italia from 2004 to 2008. He also holds the position of Vice President of the European People's Party (EPP).

Adriean VIDEANU is currently Romania's Minister of Finance and former mayor of Bucharest, Romania. He is also a vice president of the Democratic Liberal Party of Romania, which is led by Emil Boc and the Minister of Economy in the Boc Cabinet since 22 December 2008.

The first annual Economic Ideas Forum had large press coverage due to the prestigious and high level speakers and topics covered in the Forum which related both to the international economic and monetary situation and the current economic and financial crisis in Spain. The EIF received coverage both in the Spanish national and international press which demonstrated the importance of the issues discussed and ideas offered.

EIF IN THE PRESS

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DEL «CERCO JUDICIAL» A GARZÓN: LA RESPUESTA POLÍTICA

Aznar critica que la Universidad se usó para homenajes políticos a Garzón

El PP recuerda que la democracia ha resarcido a las víctimas del franquismo

González Pons: «Para el Gobierno, los que no son de la "Zeja" son delincuentes y franquistas»

Carmen Morado

MADRID. Fue sólo una pincelada, pero cargada de intencionalidad. El ex presidente del Gobierno José María Aznar hizo ayer una brevísima alusión al «caso Garzón» para poner el dedo en la llaga del polémico homenaje que los miembros de la Unión Complutense con la intención de lanzar una grave acusación contra el Tribunal Supremo de Aznar, sería mejor que esas vanidades dedicaran tiempo a elevar el nivel en lugar de «otras cosas».

Precisamente de economía habló ayer el ex presidente Aznar en un foro organizado por EAES y el Centre for European Studies. Aznar reprochó al Gobierno que justifique con «bonitos discursos sobre derechos sociales» una política que ha provocado un «dramático aumento del paro que sufre ya más de cuatro millones y medio de personas en España». «La izquierda cae en la red de seguridad de la protección social, y nosotros nos alegramos cada vez que alguien se capaz de salir de esta red y aprovecharlo».



Viernes 16 de abril de 2010 Cinco Días

Rajoy demanda un apoyo «rápido» a Atenas sin criticar la ayuda española

FEDERICO CASTAÑO Madrid

Los recelos con los que Mariano Rajoy ha percibido los compromisos contraídos por el Gobierno español para ayudar a Grecia con cerca de 3.200 millones de euros desaparecieron ayer como por ensalmo en el discurso que pronunció ante eurodiputados del Partido Popular en



EXIGENTE. El presidente del PP, Mariano Rajoy, en su exposición, exigió al Gobierno que se tome en serio la crisis para evitar situaciones como la que atravesó Grecia. El líder del PP aseguró que la clave es la estabilidad.



ABC VIERNES 16 DE ABRIL DE 2010

El modelo austriaco centrará el diálogo social a partir del lunes

Los agentes sociales han criticado la posible implantación de ese sistema en el mercado laboral español

JAVIER GONZÁLEZ NAVARRO
 MADRID. La mesa del diálogo social retomará la próxima semana las negociaciones sobre la reforma laboral después de que el Gobierno presentara el pasado jueves un nuevo borrador a los agentes sociales.

espacio para la discusión. Asimismo, el secretario de acción sindical de UGT, Toni Ferrer, subrayó ayer que su petición de aplazar las reformas estructurales, como el mode-

lo austriaco, «no pretigue ganar tiempo». **Costes adicionales** Por su parte, uno de los vicepresidentes de la Confederación de Empresarios de Andalucía, Santiago Herrero, ha advertido que «no puede ser implantado en este momento por los «costes» adicionales implícitos».



ESPAÑA

Aznar y Rajoy denuncian la incapacidad del Gobierno contra el paro y la crisis

El presidente del PP Mariano Rajoy, advirtió ayer de que el caso de Grecia «puede no ser único» en el seno de la Unión Europea. Durante su ponencia en el Foro «Pensando en la Economía», el líder del PP aseguró que el caso de Grecia debe servir para aprender la lección que, a su entender, pasa por estabilidad y equilibrio presupuestario. Rajoy insistió en que esa lección es «esencial» para España porque el Gobierno socialista «no toma suficientemente en serio la necesidad de ajustar las cuentas».

«Zapatero más acciones y menos discursos»
 «Causa a la izquierda «irse» cada vez que más cobra el paro»

con bonitos discursos sobre «derechos sociales» mientras el resultado de sus políticas es un «dramático» aumento del paro. Por ello, aseguró, «es necesario reformar el marco de las relaciones laborales».

del país helénico, dijo, ha sido consecuencia de la relajación de su política presupuestaria, «una lección que España también debe aprender». A su juicio, el Gobierno español «no se ha tomado en serio» la re-

Pacto de Estabilidad y Crecimiento, con unas reglas «más exigentes y serenas» que las actuales. Aznar dijo que en 2004 ya advirtió de las consecuencias nefastas que iba

Foro, José María Aznar acusó a los sindicatos de «alegrarse» con el paro. El presidente de EAES a algunos se «les llenó la boca de derechos sociales» cuando lo que se necesitan son «decisiones económi-



EL ECONOMISTA VIERNES 16 DE ABRIL DE 2010

Rajoy advierte: «Zapatero no se toma en serio el déficit»

Aznar alerta de que otros países europeos pueden seguir el camino de la economía griega

da al pasado las políticas de gasto que han puesto en marcha el Ejecutivo «no han funcionado». El tercer cuestionamiento, centrado en el presente: el compromiso de reducción del déficit. «No sabemos cuánto gasto se quiere reducir año a año, ni en qué categorías de gasto y qué políticas van a recibir el ajuste», preguntó. Rajoy

Aznar y Rajoy, pasado, presente y futuro del PP, coincidieron ayer en sus críticas a la política de subsidios y de «cheques por doblar» del Gobierno.

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- Providing **access to a network of international decision makers**, including not only top-level businesses, but also politicians, high-level economic players in governments, academics, and non-governmental organisations.
- The opportunity **to shape and participate** in the debates of CES economic fora, such as the EIF.

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For more information please visit:
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