

Europe's growth strategy and the world economy

**Ditchley Park
Oxfordshire**

8-9 November 2013

Draft programme

Europe's growth strategy and the world economy

Despite a strong rally in risk assets since the middle of 2012, the global economic recovery remains sluggish, patchy and vulnerable to reverses in investor sentiment. Much of Europe is still in a slump, the growth models of a number of the most important emerging economies look increasingly exhausted and the US economy, though recovering, is nowhere near as dominant as it once was.

Against this backdrop, the conference proposes to focus on the policy responses and their international repercussions. Central banks are pursuing unprecedentedly loose monetary policies in an attempt to shore up economic activity. Confronted with huge trade imbalances with East Asia, Western governments are mulling more 'strategic' trade policies aimed at boosting their export sectors. At the same time, countries and regions are scrambling to sign preferential trade agreements.

Do Western governments need to become more strategic? Can free trade survive 'strategic government'? Can preferential trade agreements contribute to growth? Is the proliferation of trade agreements a good or a bad thing for the international trading system more generally? Can the global economic system flourish without a reformed international institutional architecture? What would a workable reformed architecture look like?

Friday, 8 November 2013

15.00-15.30	Arrival of participants and registration
15.30-16.00	Afternoon tea
16.00-16.15	Welcome and introduction
16.15-17.45	<p>Session 1: The outlook for the global economy Although there is an economic recovery of sorts, the global economy is still reliant on exceptional monetary stimulus; much of Europe is mired in slump; Asian economies remain highly export-dependent and rebalancing their economies requires considerable political will; and while the US economy is gaining momentum, it cannot absorb the excess savings being generated elsewhere. Why has the recovery been so weak? Can East Asia take on more responsibility for driving demand in the global economy? What about Europe?</p> <p>Chair: Simon Tilford Speakers: Nicholas Crafts, Stephen King, George Magnus and Reza Moghadam</p>
17.45-18.15	Coffee break

18.15-19.45

Session 2: Will more trade integration rescue the European economy?

Western governments are placing major hopes in trade integration as a source of growth. There is considerable political momentum behind an EU-US trade deal, and closer trade integration within the eurozone is considered by many as a major part of the solution to the growth crisis. How much can trade integration within Europe and between it and the US, for example, help combat the economic crisis facing the region? Are governments exaggerating the likely benefits? What impact will such trade agreements have on the trading system more generally?

Chair: Charles Grant

Speakers: Erik Bergl f, Arnab Das, Thomas Philippon and Marc Vanheukelen

20.00

Reception and dinner

Saturday, 9 November 2013

08.00-08.45

Breakfast

09.00-10.30

Session 3: Should European governments be more 'strategic' about trade?

Western governments, especially European ones, have targeted exports as a major source of economic growth. At the same time, they are increasingly worried about the competitive challenge posed by emerging markets. Do they need to become more 'strategic' about trade? Are emerging markets like China not reaching the limits of their state-directed economic development strategies? What are the risks of such an approach? How could European governments become more strategic without undermining the EU's single market or the world trading system?

Chair: Richard Lambert

Speakers: Liam Byrne, Martin Donnelly, John Kay and Mariana Mazzucato

10.30-11.00

Coffee break

11.00-12.30

Session 4: Have central banks been left carrying the can?

The weakness of demand across the industrialised economies means that monetary policy remains exceptionally loose. With governments unwilling or unable to use fiscal policy to fight the slump, central banks are assuming an ever greater role in economic management. What are the implications of this trend? Is central bank activism part of the problem, or is it just that central banks have been left holding the baby? How serious is the threat of currency wars? Who is to blame for them? Could they be a good thing? Where does this leave Europe?

Chair: Wolfgang Münchau

Speakers: Charles Goodhart, Rachel Lomax, Thomas Mayer and Gillian Tett

12.30-13.30

Lunch

13.45-15.15

Session 5: Can the world accommodate Europe's growth strategy?

Europe's growth strategy assumes a swing into trade surplus with the rest of the world. At the same time, East Asia remains wedded to export-led growth, while the US economy is recovering only slowly and is too indebted to act as the world's consumer of last resort. Is Europe an obstacle to global economic recovery? Can free trade survive in a world of excess capacity and 'strategic government'? Are exchange rate wars a precursor to real trade tensions? What are the prospects for a reformed institutional order? What would such an order look like?

Chair: Stephanie Flanders

Speakers: Marco Buti, Heiner Flassbeck, Philippe Legrain and David Ramsden

15.30

Departure of participants

List of Participants

Tony Barber	Europe Editor, Financial Times
Erik Berglöv	Chief Economist, EBRD
Peter Bofinger	Chair for Monetary Policy & International Economics, Universität Würzburg
Mark Boleat	Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee, City of London
David Bowers	Managing Director, Absolute Strategy
Marco Buti	Director General Economic & Financial Affairs, European Commission
Liam Byrne	Shadow Secretary of State for Work & Pensions, House of Commons
Nicholas Crafts	Director of ERSC Research Centre, Warwick University
Arnab Das	Independent Consultant & Research Provider in Macro & Financial Services
Martin Donnelly	Permanent Secretary, Department for Business, Innovation & Skills
Sebastien Dullien	Professor of International Economics, HTW Berlin – University of Applied Sciences
Steven Erlanger	London Bureau Chief, New York Times
Stephen Fidler	Brussels Editor, Wall Street Journal
Stephanie Flanders	Former Economics Editor, BBC
Heiner Flassbeck	Director of the Division of Globalisation & Development Strategies, Institute for New Economic Thinking
Thomas Fricke	Chief Economist, WirtschaftsWunder
Kyle Galler	Political Officer, European Commission Representation in the UK
Charles Goodhart	Director of the Financial Regulation Research Programme, London School of Economics
Sylvie Goulard	Member, Committee on Economic & Monetary Affairs, European Parliament
Heather Grabbe	Director, Open Society European Policy Institute
Charles Grant	Director, Centre for European Reform
Ben Hall	Europe News Editor, Financial Times
Faisal Islam	Economics Editor, Channel 4 News
Sony Kapoor	Director, Re-Define
John Kay	Professor, Economist & Author
John Kerr	Deputy Chairman, Scottish Power
Stephen King	Group Chief Economist, HSBC

Richard Lambert	Senior Independent Advisor, Deutsche Bank
Philippe Legrain	Co-ordinator of the Analysis Team, BEPA, European Commission
Rachel Lomax	Non-Executive Director, HSBC
George Magnus	Independent Economist & Consultant
Thomas Mayer	Senior Fellow, Goethe Universität
Jeremy Mayhew	Deputy Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee, City of London
Mariana Mazzucato	Professor of Economics & RM Phillips Chair in Science & Technology Policy, University of Sussex
Reza Moghadam	Director, European Department, IMF
Wolfgang Münchau	Associate Editor, Financial Times
George Papamarkakis	Managing Partner, North Asset Management
John Peet	Europe Editor, The Economist
Thomas Philippon	Associate Professor of Finance, Leonard N. Stern School of Business, New York University
Vicky Pryce	Visiting Professor, Warwick University
David Ramsden	Chief Economist, HM Treasury
Waltraud Schelkle	Senior Lecturer in Political Economy, London School of Economics
Mark Schieritz	Economics & Finance Correspondent, Die Zeit
Holger Schmeiding	Chief Economist, Berenberg Bank
Larry Siedentop	Emeritus Fellow, Keble College, Oxford University
Andrew Smith	Chief Economist, KPMG
John Springford	Research Fellow, Centre for European Reform
Gillian Tett	Markets & Finance Commentator & Assistant Editor, Financial Times
Simon Tilford	Deputy Director, Centre for European Reform
Paul van den Noord	Economist, Autonomy Capital Research
Marc Vanheukelen	Head, Cabinet of Karel de Gucht, European Commissioner for Trade
Nigel Wicks	Chairman, British Bankers' Association