

INVITATION

Expert Round Table Ways out of the Crisis: The Future of European Democracy

Budapest, 5 October 2012, 9.00-14.00
Central European University, 9 Nádor utca, Monument Building,
Karl Popper Room

BACKGROUND

The excessive indebtedness of many member states has plunged the EU into a crisis of confidence in which the advantages of closer European integration are no longer apparent for many, while the risks have come to the fore. The debt crisis threatens to become one of EU legitimacy. An expression of this is an upsurge in anti-integration populist movements, which have great popular appeal in several countries.

The debt crisis has also shown that more political coordination and integration are necessary for a common currency union. At the same time, however, societal backing for expanded joint liability is disappearing. The answer to the EU's current problems of legitimacy must also entail a strengthening of European democracy.

Against this background, the Heinrich Böll Foundation commissioned a publication on the future of European democracy. In their study "The Future of European Democracy", published in early 2012, Ulrich K. Preuß (Hertie School of Governance) and Claudio Franzius (University of Hamburg) argue for a "lively democracy" in the EU. At its core are competition among the (European) parties and direct participation in political decision-making on the part of citizens.

This study will be presented and discussed on 5 October in Budapest. The issue of how EU institutions and member states have reacted to political developments in Hungary and what they can do to promote democratic renewal in Hungary will also be deliberated.

PROGRAM

9.00-9.15

Welcome

Wolfgang Reinicke, Dean, School of Public Policy - CEU, Budapest

Erzsébet Schmuck, President, Ecopolis Foundation, Budapest

9.15-10.45

Part I

On the Future of European Democracy: Reform Proposals for a Lively Democracy

In the first part of the expert discussion, the study will be presented and the following questions will be addressed: Does the discussion of a European democracy assume a European "Demos"? How can citizens' opportunities to participate be improved? How can the democratic rights of co-determination and oversight be enhanced, particularly in the European Parliament and in national parliaments? How can the development of a European political community be advanced?

Input

Michaele Schreyer, former Member of the European Commission, European Movement Germany, Berlin

Comments

Lajos Bokros, Member of the European Parliament and Professor at the Department of Public Policy, CEU, Budapest

Dániel Ambrus, Representation of the European Commission to Hungary

Chair: **Ralf Fücks**, President, Heinrich Böll Foundation

10.45-11.15

Coffee Break

11.15-12.45

Part II

Hungary and the EU: Ways out of the Crisis

The EU draws part of its legitimacy from the member states. It is clear that the democratic nature of the EU can only be realized in cooperation with the democratic institutions of its member states. If the EU as a whole wants to be democratic it cannot be indifferent to the state of democracy in the member states. How should the EU institutions and governments respond to the alarming political developments in Hungary? Are there new ways to better confront threats to democracy in member states?

Input

Piotr Maciej Kaczynski, Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), Brussels

Comments

Kinga Göncz, Member of the European Parliament

Tímea Szabó, Member of Parliament, Budapest

András Bozóki, Professor, Department of Political Science, CEU, Budapest

Chair: **Anne de Boer**, Member of the Board, Green European Foundation

12.45-14.00

Lunch

Working Language: English

Please confirm your participation **until 2 October 2012** by email: sppevents@ceu.hu

Thank you very much in advance!