Economic shock absorbers for the Eurozone
Deepening the debate on automatic stabilisers

Conference
Brussels, 20 June 2014

Agenda

Background:

Last October the Bertelsmann Stiftung hosted an expert discussion on automatic stabilizers for the Eurozone. Specifically, we looked at the pros and cons of a European unemployment benefit scheme. Being a joint initiative with the European Commission’s DG Employment, we contributed to the ongoing debate on how to complete the European Economic and Monetary Union. This event will build on our October conference and use the growing body of expert work on EU-wide economic shock absorbers, in order to shift the debate towards political realities and addressing relevant stakeholders. We expect about 150 policy-makers and experts to deepen the discussion on several important aspects of any such scheme and contribute to on-going reflections on possible designs of an additional fiscal capacity at the EMU level.

Venue:

Thon Hotel EU
Rue de la Loi 75
1040 Brussels
BELGIUM

Conference language: English; panel discussions are public, workshops apply the Chatham House rule
Friday, 20 June 2014

9h00 – 9h30  Registration of participants

9h30 – 9h35  Welcome
by Thomas Fischer
Executive Director, Bertelsmann Stiftung, Brussels Office

9h35 – 10h15  Opening
What progress have we made since October 2013?
Speakers: Aart De Geus
Chairman & CEO, Bertelsmann Stiftung, Gütersloh
László Andor
European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, Brussels

10h15 – 12h00  Panel Debate
What form of fiscal capacity does the EMU need?
Do we need a grand bargain between automatic stabilisation and enforceable structural reforms?
Speakers: Harold James
Claude and Lore Kelly Professor in European Studies, Professor of History and International Affairs, Princeton University, New Jersey
Enrico Letta
Former Prime Minister of Italy
Yves Mersch
Member of the Executive Board, European Central Bank (ECB), Frankfurt
Mahmood Pradhan
Deputy Director of the European Department, International Monetary Fund (IMF), Washington D.C.

Chair: Aart De Geus
Chairman & CEO, Bertelsmann Stiftung, Gütersloh

12h00 – 13h00  Luncheon
13h00 – 14h30  **Two Parallel Workshops**

### WS 1 Concept choice: Insurance vs. reinsurance – ways to avoid lasting transfers

**Speakers:**
- Sebastian Dullien  
  *Professor for International Economics, HTW Berlin – University of Applied Sciences*
- Miroslav Beblavý  
  *Senior Research Fellow, Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), Brussels*
- Thomas Lellouch  
  *Ministry of Finance, France*

**Discussant:** Henrik Enderlein  
*Professor of Political Economy, Hertie School of Governance, Director, Jacques Delors Institute, Berlin*

**Chair:** Anne Bucher  
*DG ECFIN, European Commission, Brussels*

**Rapporteur:** Agnès Benassy-Quéré  
*Professor of Economics, Université Paris 1, Sorbonne, Conseil d'Analyse Economique, Paris*

### WS 2 Design: (Social) stabilisation in an EMU-wide unemployment insurance scheme

**Speakers:**
- Matthias Dolls  
  *Senior Researcher, Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW), Mannheim*
- Holly Sutherland  
  *Research Professor and Director of EUROMOD, Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex*
- Anne Epaulard  
  *Professor, Dauphine Economics Research Center, Paris-Dauphine University; Scientific Counsellor of the French Prime Minister's Economic Policy Planning Staff, Paris*

**Discussant:** Anton Hemerijck  
*Professor of Institutional Policy Analysis, Faculty of Social Sciences, VU University Amsterdam*

**Chair:** Georg Fischer  
*Director Analysis, Evaluation, External Relations, Directorate-General Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission, Brussels*

**Rapporteur:** Donald Storrie  
*Head of Unit Employment and Change, Eurofound, Dublin*
14h45 – 16h00  **Two Parallel Workshops**

**WS 3 Risk mitigation: Administrative & governance risks, and the role of Active Labour Market Policies**

**Speakers:**  
Frank Vandenbroucke/Chris Luigjes  
*Professor, Faculty of Business and Economics, Catholic University of Leuven; Former Belgian Minister and Flemish Vice-Minister-President, Leuven/ Research Fellow, University of Antwerpen*

Gerri Fiala/Ron Wilus  
*Deputy Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training, U.S. Department of Labor/ Chief, Division of Fiscal Actuarial Services, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington D.C.*

**Discussant:**  
Enrico Giovannini  
*Professor of Economic Statistics, University of Rome*

**Chair:**  
Thomas Fischer  
*Executive Director, Bertelsmann Stiftung, Brussels Office*

**Rapporteur:**  
Iain Begg  
*Professor, European Institute, London School of Economics and Political Science*

**WS 4 Implementing: Coping with political realities and assessing a realistic timeframe for an EMU fiscal capacity**

**Speakers:**  
Ferdinand Fichtner  
*Head of Forecasting and Economic Policy, German Institute for Economic Research (DIW), Berlin*

Shahin Vallée  
*Member of the Cabinet of the President of the European Council, Brussels*

**Discussants:**  
Maria João Rodrigues  
*Member of the European Parliament, Brussels*

Boris Vujčić  
*Governor, Croatian National Bank, Zagreb*

**Chair:**  
Michel Servoz  
*Director General, Directorate-General Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission, Brussels*

**Rapporteur:**  
Andrej Stuchlik  
*Project Manager, Bertelsmann Stiftung, Brussels Office*

16h00 – 16h30  **Coffee Break**
**Concluding Session**

**Do we know enough? How to move towards official proposals?**

**Workshop Reports:** *Executive summaries by the Rapporteurs*

**Concluding Remarks:**
- Pervenche Berès  
  *Chair, Employment and Social Affairs Committee, European Parliament, Brussels*
- Pablo Zalba Bidegain  
  *Deputy chair, Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee, European Parliament, Brussels*
- Sandro Gozi  
  *State Secretary for European Affairs, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister, Italy*
- Yves Leterme  
  *Secretary General of International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), Stockholm, Former Deputy Secretary-General of the OECD, Paris, Former Belgian Prime Minister*
- Jakob von Weizsäcker  
  *Member of the European Parliament, Germany*

**Chair:**  
László Andor  
*European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission, Brussels*

**End of Conference**