



CENTRO STUDI SUL FEDERALISMO



6th European Forum of Think Tanks

What political and institutional evolutions for the European Union and the EMU?

Torino

– National Museum of the Italian *Risorgimento* –

18-19 September 2014

The sovereign debt and the economic crisis, the European Parliament elections' debates and the European Council designation of the proposed Commission President have clearly shown the need for an in-depth reflection on the political and institutional system of the European Union. EU institutions and Member States differ among themselves on the way forward to a new phase of European integration, while Citizens still have problems to understand the EU and wait to see if their voice counts in EU policy-making. In this context, should we reform the EU current institutional system and on what points? What evolutions are necessary for more legitimate and more efficient EU and EMU? Do we need new practices, new tools, new treaty(ies)?

The 6th edition of the European Forum of Think Tanks, held by *Centro Studi sul Federalismo* and *Notre Europe – Jacques Delors Institute*, will bring together during a day and a half representatives from European think tanks, European institutions and national governments, for an in depth debate on the political and institutional evolutions for the EU and the EMU. Three round tables, punctuated by special interventions by key speakers, will enable us to discuss these issues.

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Thursday 18th September 2014
(14h30 – 18h00)

14h30-15h00

Welcome Speeches

Flavio Brugnoli, Director - Centro Studi sul Federalismo
Yves Bertoncini, Director - Notre Europe – Jacques Delors Institute

15h00 – 18h00

First session

How to deepen the Eurozone while consolidating the EU?

Introductory remarks:

Adriaan Schout, Senior Research Fellow and Coordinator Europe - Clingendael
Shahin Vallée, Advisor - Cabinet European Council President, Member of the Eiffel Group

Debate

(16h30-16h45 Coffee break)

What challenges from a differentiated integration? What evolution of the distribution and exercise of competences within the EU and between the EU and the Eurozone? What budget for the eurozone and what institutional support? In what area should enhanced cooperation, or even permanent structured cooperation (on defence), be used? What “revision of the competences” of the European Union? What special status beyond “opting out” (the UK and the EU)? How to articulate the EU-28 and the eurozone? What special institutional settings for the eurozone (Eurogroup, Commission, European Parliament, national parliaments, etc)?

18h20: guided visit of the National Museum of the Italian *Risorgimento* (45 minutes)

20h00: Dinner at the Museum with

a Representative of the Italian Presidency

«The Priorities of the Italian Presidency and the European Union to Come»

Friday 19th September 2014

(09h30 - 12h30)

Second session

Is a reform of the European institutions necessary?

Introductory remarks:

Antonio Padoa-Schioppa, Board of Directors, Centro Studi sul Federalismo

Anna Diamantopoulou, Former EU Commissioner, President of TO DIKTIO

Debate

(11h00-11h15 Coffee break)

What inter-institutional balance? How to improve the functioning of the new Commission? What division of tasks between the President of the Commission and the President of the European Council? Do we have to review the representation of Member States in the institutions? How to organise the Council's work (rotation presidency, etc.)? What possible evaluation for the functioning and organisation of the European Parliament? What changes for the functioning and organisation of the ECB? How to deal with the Four Presidents road-map towards the Four Unions? When and how to start the institutional reform? Can the unanimity procedure in the possible institutional reform be overcome?

12h30-14h00: Lunch with an informal debate on the link between institutional change and economic growth

(14h00-17h00)

Third session

How to further democratize the European institutional system?

Introductory remarks:

Sonia Piedrafita, Head of Unit Politics and Institutions, CEPS

Mercedes Bresso, Member of the European Parliament

Debate

(15h30-15h45 Coffee break)

Which procedure for appointing the president of the Commission and the members of the College? Should we consolidate and strengthen the Spitzenkandidaten procedure? What procedure for appointing the other Commissioners? What power for the European Parliament, including the legislative initiative? What future for the European citizens' initiative? How to make the European legislation clearer? What institutional transparency for the EU? What role for the national parliaments? What are the main democratic challenges in the path towards the Four Unions?