

Europe's South and the Future of EU Integration

December 10-11, 2015 | Turin, Italy

The economic and financial crisis has brought to the fore some structural differences and divergent trends within Europe, frequently described as a fracture along North-South or centre-periphery lines. Whether real or perceived, the debate about the future of European integration does need to address some challenges to economic recovery in some Southern EU member states, in a context in which Greece's ability to solve its sovereign debt and competitiveness problems remains an open question.

In parallel to these centripetal trends and difficulties in the economic recovery, decision-makers are exploring future options for further Eurozone integration, and prospects for two- or multiple-tier integration are becoming more concrete. What are the real challenges faced by Southern European states emerging from the crisis? How to stimulate recovery across Europe? What governance and institutional solutions are available?

This roundtable discussion will bring together 15 to 20 Italian and European experts for a half-day discussion behind closed doors, and will be opened by a dinner organized in conjuncture with GMF's Mediterranean Strategy Group. The roundtable will aim to discuss the nature of the challenge focusing mostly on the four distinct cases of Italy, Spain, Portugal and Greece, identifying the needed steps to support economic recovery, while analyzing scenarios for possible future institutional frameworks to make Europe a successful economy, financial market and functional organization. Each session will be introduced by brief impulse comments by key experts with the aim of stimulating an interactive conversation.

AGENDA

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Participants arrive throughout the day at hotel in Turin

19:00-22:00

Welcome dinner (shared with the MSG seminar)

Keynote speech by H.E. Sandro Gozi, *Undersecretary for European Affairs and Policies, Italy (confirmed)*

Friday, December 11, 2015

9:00 – 10:45

Session I: Learning from developments in Southern Europe: Dynamics of recovery and obstacles in Italy, Spain, Portugal, and Greece

An analysis of the prospects for recovery in four Southern Europe states will form the basis to explore the challenges of economic and financial integration in Europe: what prerequisites and prospects for greater convergence?

Chair:

TBC

Impulse Comments:

Erik Jones, *Director of European and Eurasian Studies, the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies of the Johns Hopkins University (invited)*

George Pagoulatos, *Professor of European Politics and Economy, Athens University of Economics and Business (invited)*

10:45 – 11:15

Coffee break

11:15 – 13:00

Session II: Southern European perspectives on the future of Eurozone integration

In light of the economic and financial conditions and trends examined in the first session, what are the best proposals for improving governance of the Euro-area and making it more crisis-resilient? Why do perspectives diverge between North and South, and who bears the costs in various scenarios?

Chair:

Daniela Schwarzer, *Senior Director of Research and Director of the Europe Program, the German Marshall Fund of the United States (confirmed)*

Impulse Comments:

Maria João Rodrigues MEP, *Vice Chair, the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament (invited)*

Shahin Vallée, *Economic Advisor, French Ministry of Economic Affairs (invited)*

13:00

Lunch and departure of participants