

Restoring the EU Economic Growth: Challenges, Opportunities and Perspectives

A seminar organised by the British Embassy in Warsaw and the Polish Institute of International Affairs

18 March 2011
Warsaw, Poland
Venue: Foksal Palace
6 Foksal Street

Some time has passed since the outbreak of the global economic and financial crisis, but the EU still has problems with returning to the path of higher and stable economic growth. According to the IMF, economic growth will be progressing in two steps. Emerging economies will achieve a level of 6.5%, while developed economies, including the EU and the U.S., will experience sluggish growth of 2.5%. The EU still faces high unemployment, fiscal imbalances with regard to the euro and inflation.

The aim of the seminar is to provoke a discussion among British and Polish experts about the possible sources and levers of economic growth in the EU, including a deepening of the internal market and use of EU external assets, such as trade policy. During the event, eminent speakers from Poland and from the UK will discuss the internal and external sources of economic growth and examine the challenges, opportunities and perspectives for restoring stable, long-term economic development in the EU. The discussion has been animated by the recent proposals of EU Member States: the Franco-German Competitiveness Pact, which aims at enhancing the economic governance of eurozone members and coordination of fiscal, social and the labour market policies; and the report "Trade and investment for growth" released by the British Department of Business Innovations and Skills, which reiterates that greater openness of economies would contribute significantly to achieving strong and sustainable economic growth.

The first question of the seminar arises from consultations on the new Single Market Act, which is one of the three pillars of the EU's Europe 2020 economic strategy. The European Commission's position is that further liberalisation of the internal market would substantially enhance the Union's competitiveness and economic growth. Debates on the internal market will be continued next year, during celebration marking the 20th anniversary of its creation.

The next session of the seminar will focus on the EU's global economic context, with special emphasis on trade policy, the second pillar of the Europe 2020 strategy. The rising strength of the emerging economies, especially China, which is becoming the second largest economy in the world, calls into question the EU's future economic position, undermined considerably by the recent economic and financial crisis. With the focus on trying to save the euro, which is one of the greatest achievements of the integration process, the need to boost competitiveness is not adequately reflected in the EU agenda. Additionally, a review of Member States' performance in the implementation of the Lisbon Agenda reveals big differences in competitiveness not only between the old and the new Member States, but also among the EU-15. Despite progress on the way to economic governance, there are doubts if Lisbon's successor—Europe 2020—will be more successful in making the EU more competitive in facing growing global economic challenges. As the largest market in the world, however, the Union does have a lot going for it, and its assets should be defined clearly and capitalised upon.

Programme

9:00 Welcome remarks:

Mr. Ric Todd, British Ambassador to Poland
Dr. Marcin Zaborowski, Director of the Polish Institute of International Affairs

9:10–9:30 Keynote speech:

Mr. Jan Krzysztof Bielecki, President of the Economic Council at the Prime Minister's Chancellery - *TBC*

9:30–11:00 Session I: The EU internal market as a key lever of growth

Questions for discussion:

- Role of smart regulation in strengthening the EU internal market
- Prospects of the EU financial market after the crisis
- Franco-German Competitiveness Pact: a remedy or risk to EU economic growth?

Chairman: Dr. Marcin Zaborowski

Speakers invited:

- Mr. Artur Kopijkowski-Gożuch, Deputy Director of Minister's Cabinet, Polish Ministry of Economy
- Mr. Mateusz Morawiecki, CEO, BZWBK
- Mr. Philip Stephens, *Financial Times*

Open discussion—all participants (30 minutes)

11:00–11:20 Coffee Break

11:20–12:50 Session II: Global dimension of economic growth – the EU's roadmap

Questions for discussion:

- Changing global context: EU and the emerging markets.
- Increasing the EU global competitiveness.
- EU trade policy as a source of growth - challenges and opportunities.

Chairman: Mr. Marek Magierowski, *Rzeczpospolita*

Speakers invited:

- Prof. Jan Jakub Michałek, Warsaw University
- Prof. Witold Orłowski, Director, Warsaw University of Technology Business School, Chief Economic Advisor at PricewaterhouseCoopers
- Mr. Simon Tilford, Centre for European Reform

Open discussion— all participants (30 minutes)

12:50 Concluding Remarks: Dr. Marcin Zaborowski

13:00–14:00 Networking Lunch