

Reforming the EU: Central European Perspectives

Workshop organized by the Hungarian Europe Society

Date: 28 October 2017, Saturday

Venue: ibis Styles Budapest Center (H-1074 Budapest, Rákóczi út 58.)

The strengthening of centrist political forces in Europe and the decline of populism gave a new impetus to the discussion of various alternatives for reforming the political and economic institutions of Europe. From the [White Paper](#) presented by European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker to the more recent proposals of [Italian](#) and [French politicians](#) about combining reforms of the governance of the European economy with creating a transnational list of candidates for seats in the European Parliament, several alternative proposals are discussed in the various European publics.

Debates about reforming the economic governance of the European Union slowly move away from deliberations about [technocratic solutions](#). Suggestions about the future of the economic and monetary union focus more and more on alternative ways of [moving towards deeper integration](#) that combine increased supranational economic powers with reformed political institutions at the European level. Times are changing: nothing demonstrates it better than changes in the orientation of Central European political leaders. Gone are the times when Polish and Hungarian illiberal leaders could seemingly gather broader regional support for a position that strongly [rejected discussions on deepening](#) European integration. One can observe diverse positions on reform alternatives among the Central European countries, and the more recent declaration of the Polish President that [Poland does not want to be left out](#) in a slow speed track of European reforms clearly signals attempts at reframing the old slogans even within the camp of illiberal politicians.

The series of debates initiated by the [Hungarian Europe Society](#), involving scholars, public intellectuals and political activists both from within and from outside the Central and Eastern European region, wants to discuss and publicise alternative visions about reforming the political and economic governance of the EU and about the ways the Eastern member states could contribute to and benefit from deeper integration in Europe.

At the workshop on 28 October 2017 we will discuss these issues with a focus on two interlinked questions:

A/ What are the key governance problems of the European integration from the perspective of the lesser developed (semi) peripheral member states of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE)?

B/ What are various alternatives of reforming the economic and political governance of the European Union and how would these reforms effect opportunities of economic and political changes in the CEE countries?

To discuss these questions we have invited a selected group of economists, political scientists and constitutional lawyers. The two focal questions of the workshop will be discussed in five panels.



We will start with a panel devoted to the discussion of the most encompassing governance problems of the regulatory and monetary integration and the interlinked question of domestic institution building. Whereas the focus in the first panel is on the governance issues of making and enlarging the scope of the transnational market, the second panel will problematise the various EU level policies aimed at correcting the negative developmental consequences of deepened economic integration. The participants of the third panel will present alternative perspectives on reforming integration from the various peripheries of Europe.

The second block of the workshop will be devoted to the discussion of various alternatives of reforming the legal-constitutional edifice of European integration. It will start with a keynote speech by Sergio Fabbrini on the dilemmas and alternatives of reforming the EU polity. This will be followed by a panel where constitutional lawyers will explore different aspects of reforming the institutions responsible for making and enforcing common rules of the European Union. The workshop will end with concluding remarks about plans to publish the key contributions of the event.

AGENDA

8.30 - 9.00 Registration

9.00 - 9.15 Welcome and Introductions

István HEGEDŰS, Chairman, Hungarian Europe Society

László BRUSZT, Professor, Department of Political Science, Central European University, Budapest

9.15 - 10.45 Panel I. - Economic Governance of Europe

László BRUSZT, Professor, Department of Political Science, Central European University, Budapest: *“Market Integration in Europe: Mis-management of an Incomplete Contract”*

Federico FABBRINI, Full Professor of European Law, School of Law & Government, Dublin City University: *“EU Unity after Brexit”*

Dóra GYŐRFFY, Professor, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Budapest: *“Bridging the Gap Between Moral Hazard and Solidarity in the EU: Domestic Institutions as the Missing Link”*

Discussant: László CSABA, Professor, Department of Internationalk Relations, Central European University, Budapest

Moderator: László JANKOVICS, Fiscal Economist, Directorate General Economic and Financial Affairs, Brussels; Member of the Hungarian Europe Society

**10.45 - 11.00 Coffee break****11.00 - 12.30 Panel II. - EU Level Policies**

Cornel BAN, Assistant Professor of International Relations, Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University: *“The Impact of the Juncker Plan on the Region's Development Prospects”*

Gergő MEDVE-BÁLINT, Research Fellow, Center for Social Sciences, Hungarian Academy of Sciences; **Dóra PIROSKA**, Associate Professor, Department of Economic Policy, Corvinus University of Budapest, Member of the Hungarian Europe Society, and **László BRUSZT**, Professor, Department of Political Science, Central European University, Budapest: *“The Effectiveness of European Market-correcting Instruments: Trapped in the EU's Decision-making Architecture”*

Bojan BUGARIČ, Full Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana: *“Beyond Lochnerism in Post Crisis EU? Implications for the East-Central Periphery”*

Discussant: Kristin MAKSZIN, Research Fellow, Center for Social Sciences, Hungarian Academy of Sciences

Moderator: Györgyi KOCSIS, Vice-chair, Hungarian Europe Society

12.30 - 13.30 Lunch (by invitations only)**13.30 - 14.15 Keynote speech**

Sergio FABBRINI, Director, Luiss School of Government; Professor of Political Science and International Relations, LUISS Guido Carli: *“Reforming the EU Polity – Dilemmas and Alternatives”*

14.15 - 16.00 Panel III. – Perspectives

Dimitris PAPADIMITRIOU, Professor of Politics, University of Manchester: *“Whose Tragedy? The Greek Economic Crisis and Its Implications for European Integration”*

Marcin DAJBROWSKI, Assistant Professor, **Dominic STEAD**, Associate Professor, and **Bardia MASHHOODI**, PhD Candidate, Department of Urbanism, Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment, Delft University of Technology: *“Not for Love, nor Money: Exploring the Regional Variation in EU Identification in Central and Europe”*

Péter BALÁZS, Director, Center for European Neighborhood Studies, Central European University, Budapest: *“EU Reforms – Central European Perspectives”*



Wade JACOBY, Mary Lou Fulton Professor of Political Science, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah: *“European Reforms and the Leadership Deficits of Surplus Germany”*

Discussant: Balázs VÁRADI, Partner, Senior Researcher, Budapest Institute for Policy Analysis

Moderator: Attila BARTHA, Research Fellow, Center for Social Sciences, Hungarian Academy of Sciences; Corvinus University of Budapest; Member of the Hungarian Europe Society

16.00 - 16.30 Coffee Break

16.30 - 18.15 Panel IV. - Constitutional Perspectives

András JAKAB, Professor of Austrian Constitutional and Administrative Law, University of Salzburg: *“Full Parliamentarisation of the EU Without Changing the Treaties - Why We Should Aim for It and How Easily It Can Be Achieved”*

Dimitry KOCHENOV, Professor, Department of European and Economic Law, University of Groningen: *“The Principles Behind the Distribution of EU Rights and the Periphery”*

Laurent PECH, Head of Law and Politics Department, Middlesex University London: *“Illiberalism Within: Rule of Law Backsliding in the EU”*

Matej AVBELJ, Associate Professor, Graduate School of Government and European Studies, Kranj: *“What Future for the European Union?”*

Discussant: Balázs MAJTÉNYI, Associate Professor, ELTE University, Budapest

Moderator: József Péter MARTIN, Executive Director, Transparency International Hungary; Senior Lecturer, Corvinus University of Budapest; Member of the Hungarian Europe Society

18.15 - 18.30 Concluding remarks

Gábor HALMAI, Professor, Department of Law, European University Institute, Florence

Supported by the Open Society Foundations