

Expert Forum *on The Future of the EMU*

The event is organised by the European Liberal Forum with the support of Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung für die Freiheit and ALDE Party. This event is part of a series of Expert Forums organised around Europe on topical matters and challenges facing the European Union, and will be conducted as the ALDE Party considers its manifesto for the 2019 elections to the European Parliament. This forum will be particularly focus on *The Future of the EMU*. Understanding ongoing changes, emerging trends and their potential implications are important to set out possible concrete steps for deepening and completing the Economic and Monetary Union.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

DATE: 3 May 2018
TIME: 18:30 - 21:00
PLACE: Frankfurt am Main

18:30 – 19:00

ARRIVALS

19:00 – 19:10

WELCOME SPEECH

Svenja HAHN, Member of the ALDE PARTY Manifesto Drafting Committee and LYMEC Vice-President

19:10 - 19:30

KEYNOTE SPEECH

Olli REHN, Member of the Board of the Bank of Finland, Former Minister of Economic Affairs, Finland, Former European Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs

19:30 – 21:00

The Future of the EMU between Muddling through a Fully-Fledged Union or Roll-Back

Despite significant efforts over the post-crisis years to increase economic convergence in the EU, the European Monetary Union (EMU) still falls short on three fronts: first, it is not yet able to reverse sufficiently the social and economic divergences between and within euro area members that emerged from the crisis. Second, these centrifugal forces come with a heavy political price. If they remain unaddressed, they are likely to weaken citizens' support for the euro and create different perceptions of the challenges, rather than a consensus on a vision for the future. Finally, while the EMU is stronger, it is not yet fully shock-proof. Overcoming these three shortfalls requires political courage, a common vision and the determination to act in a common interest. Main themes of discussion will include potential risks of an incomplete EMU, the process and preferred focus of convergence in the EU; a common fiscal capacity with stabilisation tools to absorb macroeconomic shocks; the democratic accountability issue and the future of EU institutional structure within the EU.

DISCUSSION WITH:

Olli REHN, *Member of the Board of the Bank of Finland, Former Minister of Economic Affairs, Finland, Former European Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs*

Prof. Iain BEGG, *Professorial Research Fellow at the LSE European Institute*

Prof. Dr. Lucia QUAGLIA, *Professor at the University of Bologna*

MODERATED BY **Tobias ARMBRÜSTER**, *Journalist, Deutschlandradio*

21:00

CLOSING REMARKS & NETWORKING DRINK

Christopher Gohl, *Member of the ALDE Manifesto Drafting Committee*

WORKING LANGUAGE

English; German (translation provided in English).

With the support of:



Friedrich Naumann
STIFTUNG **FÜR DIE FREIHEIT**

Stiftung
Karl-Hermann-Flach
Stiftung für liberale Politik in Hessen

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