

HIGH-LEVEL ROUNDTABLE

Thursday 14 October 2010

THE STATE OF EUROPE: TOUGH QUESTIONS FOR THE EU

08.00 - 09.00 *Welcome of participants*

09.00 - 11.00 **Session I: Is 'economic governance' the EU's future or its nemesis?**

The eurozone crisis laid bare the single currency's political fragility and so strengthened pressure for stronger economic governance. But can the concerting of fiscal and budgetary policies be imposed when there is rising unemployment and sluggish recovery in so many EU countries? And it will be against this background that the 2014-2020 EU budget negotiations will be conducted. There are also fears that an increasingly inter-governmental EU will re-open the institutional reform debate even though the ink on the Lisbon treaty is barely dry. Can 'EU 2020', the successor to the discredited Lisbon Agenda for re-invigorating Europe's high-tech economy, in its present form regain lost competitiveness and reassure international investors?

- *Does 'EU2020' need much sharper teeth?*
- *Will there be a two-tier eurozone?*
- *Is regaining Europe's global competitiveness a lost cause?*

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS:

- **Herman Van Rompuy**, President of the European Council
- **Dominique Cerutti**, President, Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Global Head of Technology of NYSE Euronext

CHAIRS:

- **Viscount Etienne Davignon**, President of *Friends of Europe*
- **Elisabeth Guigou**, Member of the Foreign Affairs and European Affairs Committees of the French Assemblée Nationale and *Friends of Europe* Trustee

MODERATORS:

- **Martin Dickson**, Deputy Editor of the *Financial Times*
- **Charles Hodson**, Presenter of CNN International's "World Business Today"
- **Giles Merritt**, Secretary General of *Friends of Europe*

11.00 - 11.30 *Coffee break*

11.30 - 13.15 **Session II: At 53, is middle age robbing the EU of its long-term vision?**

It's no secret amongst policymakers at both national and EU levels that inexorable trends will have a profound effect on Europe's long-term future. These include a shrinking yet ageing population, new patterns of intra- and extra-EU migration, skills shortages ranging from artisanal to cutting-edge research, and an enviable social model said to be pricing EU goods and services out of global markets. The burning question for policymakers is whether all these challenges can be met at national level, or whether the EU's single market and growing economic convergence mean that Europe's strategic responses must be concerted. Is it fair to charge the EU with lacking the long-term vision of its founding fathers?

- *Is Brussels' policy focus too detailed and technocratic?*
- *Will re-launching the single market help national voters to accept "more Europe"?*
- *What are the implications for the EU of a global population of 9 billion by mid-century?*

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS:

- **Michel Barnier**, EU Commissioner for Internal Market and Services
- **Vittorio Colao**, Chief Executive, Vodafone Group

CHAIRS:

- **Viscount Etienne Davignon**, President of *Friends of Europe*
- **Mario Monti**, President of Università Bocconi, Former Commissioner for Competition and *Friends of Europe* Trustee

MODERATORS:

- **Martin Dickson**, Deputy Editor of the *Financial Times*

- **Charles Hodson**, Presenter of CNN International's "World Business Today"
- **Giles Merritt**, Secretary General of *Friends of Europe*

13.15 - 14.30 **Lunch**

14.30 - 16.30 **Session III: Is the world convinced by the EU's 'single voice'?**

The EU's new diplomatic service, its "foreign minister" and permanent President of the European Council all promise to give Europe a single voice on the world stage. But it remains to be seen whether global players like the U.S., China and Russia take the EU seriously now that its climate change credentials have been shaken by the Copenhagen summit, its interest in new global governance rules eclipsed by the eurozone crisis, and doubts cast by its flabby military capability on its security and defence ambitions. More positively, the EU's leadership on development and humanitarian aid heightens its responsibility for creating stability in poor but resource rich countries. What must Europe's leaders do to regain the initiative on external policy issues?

- *Is the EU leading or following the G20?*
- *Does the EU yet think in security terms?*
- *Should the EU 'go it alone' on climate policies?*

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS:

- **Josette Sheeran**, Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)
- **Jerzy Buzek**, President of the European Parliament

CLOSING REMARKS:

- **Yves Leterme**, Prime Minister of Belgium

CHAIRS:

- **Viscount Etienne Davignon**, President of *Friends of Europe*
- **Jaap de Hoop Scheffer**, Former Secretary General of NATO and Holder of the Kooijmans Chair for Peace, Justice and Security at Leiden University

MODERATORS:

- **Martin Dickson**, Deputy Editor of the *Financial Times*
- **Charles Hodson**, Presenter of CNN International's "World Business Today"
- **Giles Merritt**, Secretary General of *Friends of Europe*

16.30 **End of roundtable**

PARTICIPANTS: Some 100 senior **discussants**, including ministers, senior policymakers, opinion-formers and business leaders will be seated around the table. A few hundred **observers**, including the international press, will also be present.

FORMAT: Each session will be kicked off by introductory discussants who will deliver short, sharp remarks, after which the moderators will open up the debate by inviting comments from the remaining discussants. **The style will be informal** and spontaneous, with no room for prepared speeches. Roundtable participants are to engage in a lively exchange of opinions. A rapporteur will write a **report of the debate**, which will be widely disseminated.