

ZEW LUNCH DEBATE SERIES
BRUSSELS 2015

Economic Recovery in Europe

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



CLIMATE
CHANGE
EUROZONE
CRISIS
CARTELS INNOVATION
AND MERGERS
R&D INEQUALITY

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



We would like to invite you to a debate with ZEW economists and experts on current economic policy issues in Europe.

ZEW Lunch Debates take place four times a year in Brussels from 12:30 to 2:00 pm.

Food for Thought – ZEW Lunch Debate Series 2015

Where are we now? And what next?

Despite tentative signs of recovery in some parts of the Eurozone, the economic and financial crisis in Europe is far from being resolved. Growth is slow, unemployment remains high, especially among the young, and electorates increasingly question current strategies to overcome the economic difficulties in Europe.

The challenge for economic policy therefore remains. Especially the new Commission is expected to give answers to the most pressing questions such as: What are the practical ways to mitigate economic divergence and to stimulate a solid economic recovery? How should Europe develop a strong and coherent policy response and pave the way towards effective, sustainable and inclusive growth?

ZEW's Lunch Debate Series started in 2014. On five occasions, experts came together in Brussels for a discussion over lunch on current economic challenges that have a particular impact on growth, welfare, social inclusion and the quality of life in Europe.

In 2015, ZEW Lunch Debates will resume, providing once again a platform for controversial, open and focused discussion. Each starts with an introductory statement by a ZEW economist. Our guests on the panel respond and share their own ideas. The audience is invited to contribute their expertise.

We cordially invite you to join us again in 2015.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clemens Fuest'.

Prof. Dr. Clemens Fuest
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas Kohl'.

Thomas Kohl
Director

ZEW Lunch Debates 2015



Public R&D in Times of Fiscal Consolidation

5 March 2015 (12:30 – 2:00 pm)

The growing R&D divide in Europe will be in the focus of this Lunch Debate: while the need for fiscal consolidation has driven the EU Member States most affected by the crisis to cut research and innovation budgets, countries with a stronger economy have in contrast even increased public research spending. What are the consequences of this development?

Speaker: Dr. Georg Licht
Head of Research Department at ZEW



Recent Developments in European Competition Policy

1 July 2015 (12:30 – 2:00 pm)

Promoting competition in the common market and enforcing antitrust law, EU competition policy ensures free markets and strengthens economic growth in Europe. The objective of this Lunch Debate is to discuss the economic significance of competition policy for Europe. Particular attention will be paid to the impact of recent policy reforms in the fields of cartel enforcement and merger control.

Speaker: Prof. Dr. Kai Hüschelrath
Head of Research Group at ZEW



Fiscal Governance and Budgetary Performance in the Eurozone

September 2015 (12:30 – 2:00 pm, exact date tba)

The Eurozone debt crisis has triggered several innovations in fiscal governance, including a reform of the Stability and Growth Pact and the Fiscal Compact. This Lunch Debate will evaluate the impact of fiscal governance innovations and contribute to reflections on effective budgetary constraints.

Speaker: PD Dr. Friedrich Heinemann
Head of Research Department at ZEW



» **Paris 2015 – The Role of the EU in the Process Towards a Global Climate Agreement**

November 2015 (12:30 – 2:00 pm, exact date tba)

The next United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP21, will be held in Paris in 2015. It aims at achieving a legally binding and universal climate agreement from all nations of the world. This Lunch Debate will discuss the role of the European Union in this process.

Speaker: Dr. Klaus Rennings
Acting Head of Research Department at ZEW

A light lunch will be served before each Lunch Debate at 12:00.

Further Information

Participation in the Lunch Debates is by personal invitation. For enquiries, please get in touch with Dr. Daniela Heimberger (Lunchdebates@zew.de).

The ZEW Lunch Debates take place at the **Representation of the State of Baden-Württemberg to the European Union**, Rue Bel-liard 60-62, B-1040 Brussels.

ZEW – Adopting a European Perspective in a Globalised World

The Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW) in Mannheim is one of Germany's leading economic research institutes and enjoys a strong reputation throughout Europe. The institute conducts research of the highest quality and provides science-based economic policy advice. ZEW is a member of the Leibniz Association and employs a staff of about 190.

ZEW's areas of expertise include innovation policy, the impact of digitalization on the economy, labour markets, financial regulation, corporate taxation, fiscal and monetary governance as well as environmental economics and energy policy.