

// 20 February 2020

# ZEW LUNCH DEBATE



## TOPIC

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### PUBLIC SUPPORT AND EU INSTITUTIONAL REFORM: WHAT IS THE RIGHT WAY TO GO?

Be it the euro crisis, Brexit, or growing divisions in Europe – European voters increasingly question how the EU is tackling such problems, especially since not all EU institutions have full democratic legitimacy.

This controversy is not new: already in 1992, after the Danish referendum on the Maastricht Treaty, Commission official Pascal Lamy noted that the EU had to reform its technocratic way of decision-making. In the same vein, former Commission President Juncker always underlined that the EU must “deliver”. But what is the best way to go?

Little is known about how the European public evaluates EU governance and the separation of powers in EU decision-making. Is the Commission’s right of legislative initiative still sustainable? What about bicameral legislature? And regarding the European Court of Justice, does the public support the primacy of EU versus national norms?

Based on a novel survey generating fresh insights into public support across Member States, these and other questions will be at the centre of this ZEW Lunch Debate organised in cooperation with the University of Mannheim (Collaborative Research Center “Political Economy of Reforms”).

## TIME & DATE

Thursday  
20 February 2020  
12–2 pm

## VENUE

Representation  
of the State of  
Baden-Württemberg to  
the European Union  
Rue Belliard 60–62  
B-1040 Brussels



Baden-Württemberg

VERTRETUNG DES LANDES BEI DER EUROPÄISCHEN UNION

## THE PANEL

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**Catherine de Vries** is a professor of politics at Bocconi University in Milan. She also serves as the scientific advisor for eupinions, funded by the Bertelsmann Stiftung. In 2018, she published her book “Euroscepticism and the Future of European Integration” with Oxford University Press.



**Marcel Haag** is Director of Policy Coordination in the European Commission’s Secretariat-General. After qualifying as a judge and a short stint in business he joined the Commission, where he worked in different services, including as head of several policy units.



**Friedrich Heinemann** heads ZEW’s Research Department “Corporate Taxation and Public Finance” and is professor of economics at Heidelberg University. His research addresses federalism and European integration issues. Heinemann is a member of the Academic Advisory Board of the Berlin Institute for European Politics (IEP).



**Thomas König** is a professor of political science at the University of Mannheim, chief editor of the American Political Science Review and head of the Collaborative Research Center “The Political Economy of Reforms”. His research focuses on European integration, particularly on the separation of powers.



**Moderation: Jennifer Rankin** has been the Guardian’s Brussels correspondent since January 2016. She has also written for Reuters, the Irish Times, the Moscow Times, the Scotsman, the Independent and the Economist. Before journalism, she was a researcher at the Institute for Public Policy Research in London.

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

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- » 12:00 LUNCH
- » 12:30 WELCOME ADDRESS



### **Eyke Peveling**

Deputy Head of the Representation of  
the State of Baden-Württemberg to the EU

### PRESENTATION

#### **Thomas König**

University of Mannheim

### DEBATE (AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION WELCOME)

#### **Catherine de Vries**

Bocconi University Milan

#### **Marcel Haag**

European Commission

#### **Friedrich Heinemann**

ZEW

#### **Thomas König**

University of Mannheim

#### **Moderation: Jennifer Rankin**

Brussels Correspondent Guardian

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### About the ZEW Lunch Debates

Starting in 2014, the ZEW Lunch Debate series has since established itself as a platform for open and spirited debate on current economic challenges facing Europe. The quarterly debates in Brussels aim to shed light on different aspects of EU activities that have a particular impact on economic growth, welfare, social inclusion, and sustainability.

For enquiries, please get in touch with us at [lunchdebates@zew.de](mailto:lunchdebates@zew.de)



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