



Workshop for senior editors

The future of Europe in a time of crisis

Wednesday 8 May 2013, 09:45 - 13:00 hrs

Room 4B001, Paul Henri Spaak building
European Parliament, Brussels

Programme

- from 09:15 **Arrival and registration** (Altiero Spinelli building, Esplanade entrance)
- 9:45 - 10:00 **Welcome**
- 10:00 - 10:30 **Opening**
MEP Othmar KARAS (EPP, AT), Vice-President of the European Parliament with responsibility for communication policy, and rapporteur for financial supervision legislation
Q&A
- 10:45 - 11:15 **Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament**
Q&A
- 11:15 - 13:00 **Political challenges ahead: solidarity, democracy and economic stability in the euro area**
MEP Marian-Jean MARINESCU (EPP, RO)
MEP Hannes SWOBODA (S&D, AT)
MEP Guy VERHOFSTADT (ALDE, BE)
MEP Daniel COHN-BENDIT (Greens/EFA, FR)
MEP Martin CALLANAN (ECR, UK)
MEP Nigel FARAGE (EFD, UK)
MEP Gabriele ZIMMER (GUE/NGL, DE)
Q&A
Moderated by: Jaume Duch Guillot, Director and Spokesman of the EP
- 13:00 - 14:30 **Reception**
End

The future of Europe in a time of crisis

Financial and economic policies decided at EU level are having a major impact on politics and indeed on society at large in a number of eurozone countries. In this context, questions of political accountability and democratic scrutiny are increasingly being raised.

Governments in Ireland, Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal and Cyprus have sought to deal with their financial problems in varying ways, with differing political and sometimes electoral consequences. There can be no doubting the hardship suffered by wide sections of the population in these and other countries. At the same time, in net contributor Member States public support for "European solidarity" has waned noticeably. In these circumstances, how can the euro area hold together? And, as the distinction between euro and non-euro countries becomes more marked, what part can the non-euro countries expect to play?

* * *

With voters due to make their choices at the next European elections just a year from now, the European Parliament's press service is holding a workshop on 8 May to enable senior journalists and MEPs to discuss some of the major issues confronting the EU in the near future.

It should be borne in mind that the European Parliament that emerges from the elections in May 2014 will have a large say in the choice of the next Commission President to succeed José Manuel Barroso and would also have a major influence over any changes to the EU treaties.

* * *

The workshop will be opened by Othmar Karas, Vice-President of Parliament responsible for communication and information policy and rapporteur on several important pieces of financial supervision legislation.

Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament, will then give an address, to be followed by a final debate with leaders of Parliament's seven political groups, representing the full spectrum of opinion within the EP.

Contacts in the EP press service

Yannis Darmis	+32 2 28 43816
Paula Fernández Hervás	+32 498 98 32 36
Jack Blackwell	+32 498 98 34 00
Laura Tejera	+32 228 44 298