

The European Union: The Threat of Disintegration

Presentation of the EuroMemorandum 2017

Context and Motivation

The crisis of the European Union (EU) is multifaceted and has visibly deepened during the last year. The British referendum on EU membership and the vote in favour of Brexit have only been the most explicit symptom of the disintegrative tendencies. The core-periphery rift in the euro area has continued. The arrival of a large number of refugees from the war-torn areas of the Middle East has resulted in acrimonious conflicts in the EU on the question who should take care of them. The way in which the pro-free trade forces pushed through the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) with Canada showed utter disregard for the objections of democratically elected bodies (e.g. the Belgian regions of Wallonia and Brussels).

Strategies to cope with the disintegration tendencies range from “muddling-through” approaches, visions of a “Core Europe” to “Europe of Nations” concepts on the far right of the political spectrum. Approaches on the political left range from calls for a democratic European federalism to a “Plan B” that accepts eventual monetary disintegration. In this sense, a discussion of alternative proposals of how to respond to the virulent disintegration tendencies from a progressive standpoint is urgently needed.

The EuroMemorandum 2017 critically analyses recent economic developments in Europe and emphasises the strong need for an alternative economic policy that is based on the principles of democratic participation, social justice and environmental sustainability.

Download of EuroMemorandum 2017:

http://www2.euromemorandum.eu/uploads/euromemorandum_2017.pdf

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Presentation of the EuroMemorandum 2017

March 9th, 2017, 18.00-20.00

C3 – Centre for International Development,
Sensengasse 3, 1090 Vienna

Speakers:

Joachim Becker

is a member of the Steering Committee of the EuroMemo Group, member of the editorial committee of the journal *Kurswechsel*, and associate professor of economics at the Vienna University of Economics and Business.

Marica Frangakis

is a member of the Steering Committee of the EuroMemo Group, a founding member of ATTAC Hellas and a board member of the Nicos Poulantzas Institute in Athens, Greece.

Werner Raza

is a member of the Steering Committee of the EuroMemo Group and director of ÖFSE – Austrian Foundation for Development Research.

Helene Schuberth

is Head of the Foreign Research Division at the Austrian National Bank (OeNB).

Achim Truger

is a member of the Steering Committee of the EuroMemo Group and a professor of economics at the Berlin School of Economics.

By participating in this event you consent to the publication of photographs and film footage that are produced by the organizers during the event.

Convenors:



Programme

18.00

Welcome Address

18.10

Presentation of the EuroMemorandum 2017

Werner Raza, EuroMemo Group

18.20

Roundtable Discussion

“The crisis of democracy in the EU: implications and possible remedies”

- Marica Frangakis, EuroMemo Group and Nicos Poulantzas Institute, Athens
- Achim Truger, EuroMemo Group and Berlin School of Economics
- Joachim Becker, EuroMemo Group and Vienna Univ. of Economics & Business
- Helene Schuberth, Austrian National Bank

Moderation: Simon Theurl, BEIGEWUM

19.15

General discussion

20.00

Wine reception

Conference language: English