

## Addressing Europe's Multiple Crises: An agenda for economic transformation, solidarity and democracy

Presentation of the EuroMemorandum 2016

### Context and Motivation

The continuing low growth rate environment in many EU countries, stagnation in others and even recession in some, have led not only to a general slow-down, but also to deepening divisions within the EU, both between member states and between regions. Such divergences are reflected in the basic economic and social indicators of the area, as well as in the democratic process on the political level, as certain countries acquire a hegemonic role in the shaping of EU policy, while particular group interests, notably those of financial capital, become dominant across the EU as a whole. The experiences in countries like Greece or Portugal amply revealed the connecting links between politics and economics in the EU, i.e. the power imbalance between the ruling elites and society at large.

Furthermore, it raises serious issues of constitutionalism: namely, the tendency of the EU institutions to restrict the area of democratic decision making by democratically elected governments, focusing instead on technocratic rules imposed by undemocratic decision bodies. In our debate we will address this anti-democratic bias by discussing the case of Portugal and highlight some policy areas like trade, gender and fiscal policies.

In this sense, a discussion of alternative proposals to current EU economic and social policies needs to take into account the underlying political process and the squeezing out of democracy. The EuroMemorandum 2016 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.

## Addressing Europe's Multiple Crises: An agenda for economic transformation, solidarity and democracy

Presentation of the EuroMemorandum 2016

20 April 2016, 18.00

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

## Speakers:

**John Grahl** is Professor of European Integration at Middlesex University London (UK) and a founding member of the EuroMemo Group

**Luis Miguel Peres Lopes** is Professor Auxiliar at the Department of Economics of the University of Coimbra (Portugal)

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

**Stefanie Wöhl** is Head of City of Vienna Competence Team for European and International Studies at the University of Applied Sciences FH bfi Vienna and a lecturer at the University of Vienna.

**Registration: Ingrid Pumpler, office@oefse.at**

The EuroMemorandum 2016 may be downloaded at:

[http://www2.euromemorandum.eu/uploads/euromemorandum\\_2016.pdf](http://www2.euromemorandum.eu/uploads/euromemorandum_2016.pdf) (English Version)

[http://www2.euromemorandum.eu/uploads/euromemorandum\\_2016.pdf](http://www2.euromemorandum.eu/uploads/euromemorandum_2016.pdf) (Deutsche Fassung)

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

Organizers:



in cooperation with

wipol akademie



## Programme

18.00

**Welcome Address**

18.10

**Presentation of the EuroMemorandum 2016**

John Grahl, EuroMemo Group

18.20

**Roundtable Discussion**

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

Luís Lopes, University of Coimbra, Portugal

Werner Raza, ÖFSE and EuroMemo Group

Stefanie Wöhl, FH des bfi Wien

*Moderation: Romana Brait, BEIGEWUM*

19.15

**General discussion**

20.00

**Wine reception**