

Conference

on the Economic and Social Development in the Central and East European Countries

Organized by
EU Democrats¹ and PRESOM Group²

Venue: European Parliament Rue Wiertz, 60 B-1047 Brussels

Meeting room: Building: Altiero Spinelli (ASP) A1E-2

Meeting time: 11th November 2008. 9.00-17.00

Program (Preliminary draft)

The goal of the conference is to display the economic and social developments and problems in the CEE countries after the systemic change. The discussion of the topic will be embedded in a wider framework of economic and social developments in Europe and in the developing world. The workshop tries to find alternative policies – where necessary – to help the catching up process of the CEE countries.

8.30-9.00 Registration

1) 9.00-9.10 Opening: Greetings from Hanne Dahl MEP EU Democrats

2) 9.10-9.30 PRESOM coordinator Jörg Huffschmid
The PRESOM project and its findings

3) 9.30-9.50 PRESOM coordinator for the CEEC Karoly Lorant
Economic and social Developments in the CEEC

5) 9.50-10.10 Representative of ETUC (Jozef Niemiec)
Trade Union's point of view

6) 10.10-10.30 Representative of the Commission (Elena Gual)
Commission point of view on the economic and social developments in CEE countries

7) 10.30-11.00 Questions and answers

11.00-11.20 Break

8) 11.20-11.40 (Professor Daniel Daianu, MEP, former finance minister of Romania)

¹ **EUDemocrats (EUD)** is an alliance of parties, movements and political organisations operating as a transnational Party at a European level ([European political party](#)), and incorporating members from both the centre-left and the centre-right. According to its political platform, the EUD believes in decision-making at the lowest possible levels, giving an effective voice to the citizens of the member states, regions and national minorities. It aims to unite those who are critical of the EU for its undemocratic development and its ever-centralizing political features. President: Hanne Dahl MEP.

² **PRESOM - Privatisation and the European Social Model** is a Coordination Action (CA) which is funded within the 6th Framework Programme of the EU under Priority 7 Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-Based Society. The project started on 1st January 2006 and will run until 31st December 2008. PRESOM involves 14 partners from Austria, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Netherlands, Poland, Slovenia and the United Kingdom. It is coordinated by University of Dortmund. The scientific coordinator is Prof. Dr. Jörg Huffschmid.

The macroeconomics of EU integration

9) 11.40-12.00 Professor Grzegorz W. Kolodko, Director of TIGER – Transformation, Integration and Globalization Economic Research, Kozminski University, Warsaw, former Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance of Poland
A Two-thirds of Success. Poland's Post-Communist Transformation 1989-2008

10) 12.00-12.20 Professor Zdzislaw Sadowski, former Deputy Prime Minister in charge of the Economic Reform
Highlights of the Polish Experience and Some of Its Pitfalls

11) 12.20-12.40 Professor Jože Mencinger, former deputy prime minister and minister for economic affairs of the Republic of Slovenia
Why the Slovenian experience different?

12) 12.40-13.10 Questions and answers

13.10-14.20 Lunch

13) 14.20-14.40 SAPRI³ coordinator Douglas Hellinger
Economic and social impacts of the structural adjustment programs of the World Bank and IMF.

14) 14.40-15.00 Colin Hines, Director of Finance for the Future and a former head of Greenpeace International's Economics Unit, advisor to Green Party MEP Caroline Lucas
From Globalisation to Localisation

15) 15.00-15.20 Janos Hoós, Professor of the Corvinus University Budapest
Public decision-system making in Hungary; main problems and possible measures for its improvement.

15.20-15.40 Janos Plenter, former expert of the United Nations and
The international Financial Crises and East Europe

15.40-16.00 Professor Włodzimierz Dymarski, Poznan University
privatisation in Poland and its economic and social impact

16.00-17.00 Open debate

³ **SAPRI** (Structural Adjustment Participatory Research Initiative) was an international research program carried out in a cooperation of the World Bank, NGOs and Governments and included some 15 countries from four continents. The aim of the exercise was to discover the economic and social impacts of the structural adjustment programs of the World Bank and IMF. The exercise was carried out between 1998 and 2002.