

# CAGE Brussels Podium "Opportunities and challenges in fostering growth in the EU"

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This week's CAGE Podium saw the Warwick Econ and CAGE team composed of Professors Crafts, Troeger and Becker present their research findings to a Brussels audience. Attendants included high-rank officials from various Directorates of the EU Commission as well as members from national representations in Brussels. The discussion was moderated by Richard Tuffs, the Director of the European Regions Research and Innovation Network. The panel discussion after the policy presentations was composed of the three speakers as well as MEP Malcolm Harbour (Chairman of the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee), Mr Vasco Cal (Economic Adviser, Bureau of European Policy Advisers (BEPA), European Commission), Mr Olivier Debande (Senior Economist - European Investment Bank), and Mr Daniel Mouque (Evaluation and European Semester Unit, DG for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission).

Prof. Nicholas Crafts (CAGE) discussed the long-term growth prospects in Europe with a particular focus on the question what difference the ongoing crisis makes. He reflected on policy responses to the 1930s crisis and whether and how they are of relevance today.

Prof. Sascha O. Becker (CAGE) provided a critical look at EU Regional Policy. Given the substantial amounts of money spent on the EU's Structural Funds, an important question is whether they do

generate more growth. He pointed out weaknesses in current structure of EU Regional Policy and suggested avenues for reform.

Prof. Vera Troeger (CAGE) presented research on tax competition and the myth of the 'Race to the Bottom'. If a race to the bottom was a correct description of reality, governments should no longer be able to tax capital. She pointed out that attractive conditions for a highly skilled work force are key not only to attract workers but also firms employing these workers, i.e. taxes are not the only relevant dimension.

The CAGE Policy Podium was held 4.00-5.40pm on 13<sup>th</sup> April at the British Embassy, London. It was locally organized by the Warwick office in Brussels which is an integral part of the Greater Birmingham and West Midlands Brussels Office.

The formal part of the event was followed by a cocktail reception that allowed further informal interaction between participants.