

## Responding to Crises: Perspectives on the European Union

*GR:REEN Policy Workshop | Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2014*

*Archbishops Room, Millbank House, House of Lords, London, SW1A 0PW*

Questions of the EU's relevance, role and influence in today's international affairs have continued to attract both the interest and criticism of scholars and policy-makers alike since its formation as the European Economic Community in 1957. Today, both internally and externally the EU faces ever new and complex challenges and crises that call into question not only its relevance as an institution for its Member States, but its influence as a global actor. From the rise of new powers in the international system, to increasing challenges over energy insecurity, austerity measures and global economic crisis, to the resurgence of secessionist calls within Europe's own borders, now, more than at any other time do questions of the EU's place in a changing world require critical attention.

It is to these fundamental issues that the European Commission FP7 funded project 'Global Re-ordering: Evolution through European Networks' (GR:REEN), has been aimed since its formation in 2010. Providing cutting edge research into the EU's role in an emerging multi-polar world, with research partners around the globe, and spanning an impressive ten working packages, GR:REEN has made substantive steps forward in addressing key questions of the EU's response to crisis and change in today's global order. In drawing together its substantive research, GR:REEN now seeks to disseminate its findings amongst policy-makers in order to inform this critical debate and to garner their opinions in addressing fundamental questions of how the EU has responded to new competitors and new crises and how can this be improved?

Adopting an outside-in approach, which addresses both the EU's external impact in tackling global crises, as well as the internal challenges that the EU today faces, this interactive policy-oriented workshop aims to focus specifically upon four core themes: (1) Responding to new powers: The EU and global trade policy, (2) The EU and energy security, (3) The EU and global tax policy, (4) Integration, devolution and regional leadership.

Bringing together an expert audience of academics, policy-makers, and other key stakeholders, this event aims to both inform and generate discourse over the EU's role and future in the world. Intended to open up the lines of communication between academia and the policy-making sphere, it offers the opportunity for the start of a two way dialogue to shape the EU-debate for years to come.

**We would like to thank The Lord Purvis of Tweed for his sponsorship of this event, as well as Research Fortnight and Dods for their kind support.**

### Format

This event will take place in the *Archbishops Room, Millbank House, House of Lords, London SW1A 0PW* and afterwards at *The Cinnamon Club, The Old Westminster Library, 30-32 Great Smith St, London SW1P 3BU*.

This event brings together a select number of key guests for an afternoon of roundtable discussions followed by an evening drinks reception. Each roundtable will last for one hour. In each roundtable a high-level expert panel of three (including one EU representative, one UK representative, and one GR:REEN representative) shall set the scene by presenting a few short comments and detailing their views. All roundtable participants shall then have the opportunity to provide comment and contribute to the discussions.

As time shall be of the element with each roundtable we would ask all roundtable participants to please take the opportunity to brief yourself on the policy issues that shall be discussed and which are detailed in the briefing papers. We are, above all, interested in hearing your views and to ensure a good discussion of the key issues during these roundtables.

Participants should also be aware that all roundtable proceedings from this workshop will be monitored and reported by rapporteurs kindly provided by Dods and Research Fortnight.

In addition to the roundtables, the workshop shall include a welcome lunch, including welcome addresses, and a post-workshop evening drinks reception to take place at the UK's first Michelin Starred Indian Restaurant, The Cinnamon Club, a short 4 minute walk from Millbank House.

### Timings

<b>12.00 – 12.45</b>	Registration and Lunch
<b>12.45 – 13.15</b>	Welcome addresses (Professor Shaun Breslin, University of Warwick and Mrs. Jacqueline Minor, Head of the European Commission Representation to the UK)
<b>13.30 – 14.30</b>	ROUNDTABLE 1: Responding to new powers: The EU and global trade policy
<b>14.45 – 15.45</b>	ROUNDTABLE 2: The EU and energy security
<b>16.00 – 17.00</b>	ROUNDTABLE 3: The EU and global tax policy
<b>17.15 – 18.15</b>	ROUNDTABLE 4: Integration, devolution and regional leadership
<b>18.30 – 20.30</b>	Drinks Reception

## The Roundtables

### **1. ROUNDTABLE 1: Responding to new powers: The EU and global trade policy**

Chaired by *The Lord Hannay of Chiswick GCMG CH*, this roundtable addresses the EU's response to the new geopolitical and economic assertiveness of the emerging economies within the global trading system. Drawing upon GR:EEEN's research into the EU's changing role within the WTO's Doha Round negotiations and its pursuit of bilateral trade agreements with the United States and other key partners, this roundtable shall consider the opportunities and challenges currently presenting the EU as a global trade power, the crisis facing the WTO and the stalemate of the Multilateral Trading System, and presenting recommendations of how the EU might pursue its trading interests, and develop its strategic outlook, to best adapt to a changing world.

*RT1 Panellists to include: Mr Denis Redonnet, Head of the Trade Strategy Unit, DG Trade; The Rt. Hon. Michael Moore MP, EU Business Advisor to the Deputy Prime Minister & Dr Megan Dee, GR:EEEN Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation.*

### **2. ROUNDTABLE 2: The EU and energy security**

Chaired by *The Baroness Scott of Needham Market*, this roundtable addresses the EU's ability to respond to the growing challenge of energy security and supply. Responding to the ongoing situation in Ukraine and Russia it shall focus upon the geopolitical implications for EU energy consumption, regulation and the EU's endeavours in tackling the crisis. This roundtable shall consider the methods by which the EU has addressed its energy import dependence, what the implications of unrest in Europe's neighbourhood are for the security of EU energy supply, and presenting recommendations for how improvements might be made.

*RT2 Panellists to include: Mr Andrew Janis Folkmanis, Horizon 2020 Coordinator, DG Energy, Mr Tim Abraham, Head of European Policy, Department of Energy and Climate Change, & Professor Nick Sitter, Professor of Public Policy, Central European University*

### **3. ROUNDTABLE 3: The EU and global tax policy**

Chaired by *Intelligence Capital Ltd. chairman and global finance specialist Professor Avinash Persaud*, this roundtable focuses upon the EU's role in what is now an accelerating area of policy reform worldwide: international taxation. Tax reform has been high on the agenda for the EU, the G20, international organisations, and Great Powers as many states seek to plug 'fiscal leaks' in a period of economic crisis and austerity. In the wake of the crisis the national and European welfare implications of ignoring 'fiscal leaks' has become obvious to all and made global tax reform a politically salient issue. While the EU is traditionally understood to suffer from severe collective action problems on tax issues, the European Savings Tax Directive has demonstrated some capacity to lead. Other organisations, such as the OECD, also seek to reform international taxation on issues such as transfer pricing and base erosion. This roundtable brings together renowned experts from law, finance, and political economy to identify the EU's direction of travel on international taxation policy, obstacles to global tax cooperation, and the potential within a range of policy reforms.

*RT3 Panellists to include: Mr Heinz Zourek, Director-General, DG Taxation and Customs Union, Mr Richard Murphy, Director, Tax Research UK, & Professor Len Seabrooke, Professor of International Political Economy, Copenhagen Business School*

#### **4. ROUNDTABLE 4: Integration, devolution and regional leadership**

Chaired by *The Lord Wilson of Tillyorn KT GCMG*, this roundtable considers the internal challenges currently facing the EU and, in particular, the implications of the Scottish and UK referenda on EU integration, devolution and regional leadership. Three analytical issues will be considered: the willingness of regions to act, their capacity to act and the acceptance of regions as domestic and international actors. It will look at the outcome of the Scottish referendum and its implications for the EU, what EU membership means for the UK as a whole, and methods by which the EU might pursue 'ever closer union' whilst reflecting national and regional diversity and division within its boundaries.

*RT4 Panellists to include: Mr Andrew Bradley, Director, Office of International IDEA (Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance) to the EU, Lord Purvis of Tweed, Chair of the All-Party Group on Reform, Decentralisation, and Devolution in the United Kingdom, & Professor Luk van Langenhove, Director of the UN University Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies*

Please direct all queries relating to this event to Dr Megan Dee at [m.dee@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:m.dee@warwick.ac.uk) or telephone +44(0)7917 60 77 44