

Spanish-German Dialogue

21-22 November 2013

Venue: Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB)

c/ Elisabets, 12 – 08001, Barcelona

For fifth consecutive year, CIDOB and SWP (*Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik*) organise a dialogue between researchers, politicians, government representatives and journalists from Spain and Germany. This initiative, which evolves around the links between two leading think tanks, relies on the support of two German political foundations: the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

Gathering in Barcelona on the 21 and 22 of November 2013, the participants will discuss critical current issues affecting the international, European and strictly bilateral dimension of Spanish-German relations. The two-day meeting will be divided into three sessions.

The first session will be devoted to the strategies to overcome the economic crisis and the future of the governance of the Eurozone. The panelists will tackle the challenges posed by the European economic crisis and propose suggestions for finding a way out. The narratives and policies associated with austerity and growth will be examined and compared, with a view to fully understanding their key elements, their socio-political implications and their validity.

The second session will also deal with the issues related to the debate on the future of the European Union, with particular focus on the Euro-skepticism and Euro-criticism. Participants will discuss the causes for changes in the attitude of the European public opinion regarding the integration process and the potential consequences for EU politics in the near future, especially for the 2014 European Parliament elections.

The seminar will be concluded with a panel on the limits and prospects of transformation in the Arab world. The discussion will aim to take stock of the progress and setbacks in the ongoing political transitions, review transnational security challenges and analyse how Europeans could contribute to sustain endogenous democratization processes in a more stable context. North Africa will be the focus of the analysis, as issues such as growing insecurity in Libya, the regional impact of the military takeover in Egypt, the factors that can undermine political transition in Tunisia and the prospects for reforms in Morocco and Algeria will be tackled.

In addition, a working dinner will be held with a view to discussing the implications of the German 2013 parliamentary elections on the bilateral level. The speakers will address pertinent issues, including whether the new government would be likely to introduce significant changes in its European policies; how the Spanish press has covered the German elections; which are the expectations of the Spanish public and the elites; and what role Spain would play among the priorities of the German government.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

21 November 2013

13.30 -15:00 **Welcome Lunch**

15.00 -15.30 **Welcome remarks**

- **Carles A. Gasòliba**, President, Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB)
- **Barbara Lippert**, Director of Research, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP)
- **Lothar Witte**, Head of Madrid Office of the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation (FES)
- **Thomas Bernd Stehling**, Director for Spain and Portugal at Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation (KAS)

15.30 -17.15 **Session 1: The way ahead for the European Union - Strategies to overcome the economic crisis and the future of Eurozone-governance**

Chair: **Carles A. Gasòliba**, President, CIDOB

Introductions:

- **Steffen Kampeter**, Parliamentary Secretary of State, Federal Ministry of Finances
- **José María Robles Fraga**, Director International Corporate Affairs, Santander Group

Discussants:

- **Daniela Schwarzer**, Head of EU Integration Research Division, SWP
- **Alex Ruiz**, Economist, Open University of Catalonia
- **Antoni Castells**, Professor of Public Finances, University of Barcelona

17.15-17.45 **Coffee Break**

17.45-18.30 **Continuation of Session 1**

20.30 **Dinner Discussion: Germany and Spain - Bilateral Relations and Common Challenges in Europe**

Speakers:

- **Juan Moscoso del Prado Hernández**, Spokesperson for the Socialist Party group, Joint Committee on the European Union, Spanish Parliament
- **Jordi Xuclà i Costa**, Spokesperson for the GC-CiU Group, Foreign Affairs Committee and Defence Committee, Spanish Parliament
- **Bernhard Brasack**, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Barcelona

22 November 2013

09.30-11.15 Session 2: Euro-skepticism on the rise? Implications for the EU reform agenda and the European project

Chair: **Thomas Bernd Stehling**, Director for Spain and Portugal at Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation (KAS)

Introductions:

- **Fernando Guirao**, Jean Monnet Professor of European Integration History, Universitat Pompeu Fabra
- **Kai-Olaf Lang**, Deputy Head of EU Integration Research Division, SWP

Discussants:

- **Ferran Tarradellas**, Head of the Commission Representation in Barcelona
- **Elina Viilup**, Research Fellow, CIDOB

11.15-11.45 Coffee Break

11:45-13:30 Session 3: Transformation in the Arab World: Limits and Prospects for Change

Chair: **Lothar Witte**, Head of Madrid Office, FES

Introductions:

- **Michael Reiffenstuel**, Head of Division, Transformation in the Arab World, Maghreb, UfM, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Germany
- Representative of the **Middle East Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, Spain

Discussants:

- **Eduard Soler**, Research Fellow and Research Coordinator, CIDOB
- **Barbara Lippert**, Director of Research, SWP

13.30-14.00 Conclusions

- **Xavier Mas de Xaxàs Faus**, journalist, *La Vanguardia*
- **Barbara Lippert**, Director of Research, SWP

14.00-15.00 Buffet lunch