

INVITATION

Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung and
Centre for European Studies
have the pleasure to invite you to a conference on:

The European Agenda under the Irish EU-Presidency

Tuesday, 4 December 2012

12.15 to 2.30 pm

Stanhope Hotel
Rue du Commerce 9
1000 Brussels

Programme

- 12.15 pm REGISTRATION AND LUNCH
- 1.00 pm OPENING AND WELCOME
- Tomi HUHTANEN**
Director, CES
- Christian FORSTNER**
Director, Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung Brussels
- 1.15 pm KEY-NOTE SPEECH
- Markus FERBER, MEP**
Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs
Chairman, CSU-Group, European Parliament,
Board Member, Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung
- 1.30 pm FOLLOWED BY A PANEL-DISCUSSION WITH:
- Gay MITCHELL, MEP**
Committee on Development, EPP/Fine Gael
- Dara MURPHY, TD**
Chairman, Committee on European Affairs, Fine
Gael, Dublin
- MODERATION
- Karel KOVANDA**
Former Deputy Director General,
DG Relex, EU Commission
- 2.30 pm END OF CONFERENCE
– Coffee and Pastries –

Conference languages are German and English:
Simultaneous interpretation will be provided!

Background

Ireland is the first EFSF bail-out country to take over the Presidency of the EU Council. The Irish government applied for external financial support and European rescue packages after governmental guarantees for the heavily indebted banking sector brought Ireland to the brink of default. Recently there have been signs of recovery in the Irish economy.

However, the internal difficulties and rigorous austerity measures in Ireland are symptomatic of the challenges the EU as a whole is currently facing. The necessity of strict budgetary discipline and cuts in expenses is being met with public opposition. Austerity measures need to be in line with a convincing strategy for growth. The EU agenda for the next months includes stabilisation measures for the Eurozone and decisive steps towards a genuine Economic and Monetary Union with the perspective of a fiscal and political union. Concrete initiatives to strengthen competitiveness and to create new jobs need to be implemented.

The European Year of Citizens 2013 will provide an opportunity to counteract growing anti-European moods and wide-spread euroscepticism. Europe has to come closer to its citizens and it has to be made clear that the European project is based on common interests and common values.

We cordially invite you to discuss the priorities and challenges of the Irish EU-Presidency with key decision-makers of European policy.

Organisation and contact:

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