



PRESS RELEASE

Why Germany fell out of love with Europe

Bruegel presents a new essay by Wolfgang Proissl on Germany's role in the EU crisis and how this may affect EU integration as a whole

Brussels, 1 July 2010 – Bruegel, the international economics think tank, today published *Why Germany fell out of love with Europe*, an essay by Bruegel Visiting Fellow, Wolfgang Proissl, which analyses Germany's role in managing the European crises and the reasons behind the country's current unwillingness to assume the leadership role of the European Union that partners and markets expect.

Wolfgang Proissl, most recently a journalist with Financial Times Deutschland, suggests that the crisis has brought Germany back into an even more central role in Europe than before, as markets view German government bonds as the benchmark for the euro area, and economic policy decisions in Berlin are seen as the model for the rest of Europe. The author draws on his experience as a journalist and numerous interviews with key stakeholders to argue that Germany's current national interests and political constraints are hampering its de-facto leadership of the EU.

Wolfgang Proissl presents his views on the long-term trends that have led to an alienation of many Germans from Europe, the loss of a sense of purpose and forward-looking narrative for Germany in Europe, and the longstanding argument about 'economic government' as well as the likely consequences for the European project.

| Click [here](#) to read the Policy Brief in full

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Notes to Editors:

Bruegel is an international economics think tank based in Brussels. It started operations in Brussels in 2005 as a Belgian non-profit international organisation supported by European governments and leading corporations. Bruegel seeks to contribute to the quality of economic policymaking in Europe through open, facts-based and policy-relevant research, analysis and discussion. Bruegel's research is independent and does not represent the views of its board or members.

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About the author: Wolfgang Proissl

Wolfgang Proissl joined Bruegel as a Visiting Fellow in March 2010 to do research on the development of Germany's EU policy. From June 2005 until the beginning of 2010 he was the Brussels bureau chief of Financial Times Deutschland, the German business daily. In this capacity he focused on the Eurozone economy, Europe's response to the financial and economic crisis, the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty and energy issues. Prior to that he helped found Financial Times Deutschland in 2000 and was the paper's first foreign news editor. From 1995 to 1999 Wolfgang worked for the German weekly Die Zeit, first as the Paris correspondent and later as a political reporter in the head office in Hamburg.

For the autumn of 2010 he has received a scholarship from Yale University to be part of the Yale World Fellows Program 2010. Next year he will return to journalism and become Financial Times Deutschland's chief correspondent in Frankfurt.

Wolfgang holds an economics degree from the Cologne University. He received his training as a journalist at the journalism school in Cologne. After that he was granted a year-long postgraduate scholarship at the Centre de formation des journalistes (CFJ) in Paris.