



## Conference

### **“The triggers of competitiveness”**

**6 December 2011, 9.00-18.30**

**National Bank of Belgium, Brussels**

08.30-08.50: Registration

**08.50-09.00: Introductory remarks by Jean Pisani-Ferry, Director of Bruegel**

**09.00-09.30: – Speech by Luc Coene, Governor of the National Bank of Belgium**

Chaired by Jean Pisani-Ferry, Bruegel

**09.30-11.30: Session 1 – Investing to compete: what are the bottlenecks?**

***Chair: Peter Ehrlich, FT Deutschland***

What impedes internationalization? What is the role of investment, R&D and innovation? Under which conditions are they more effective in boosting export growth?

#### **Speakers:**

09.30-10.15: **Carlo Altomonte**, Bocconi University and **Gianmarco Ottaviano**, LSE

10.15-10.45: **Mathieu Crozet**, Paris School of Economics and CEPII

10.45-11.30: Roundtable discussion introduced by comments from

- **Filippo Di Mauro**, European Central Bank

**11.30-11.45: Coffee break**

## **11.45-13.30: Session 2 – South versus North and the impact of the crisis**

**Chair: Anton La Guardia, *The Economist***

What are the competitiveness problems of the South of Europe compared with the North of Europe? Who are the exporters? What factors contribute to the share of exporting firms in each country? How did the Great Recession impact on firms?

### **Speakers:**

11.45-12.15: **Giorgio Barba Navaretti**, University of Milan

12.15-12.45: **Laszlo Halpern**, Hungarian Academy of Sciences

12.45-13.30: Roundtable discussion introduced by comments from

- **Gianmarco Ottaviano**, LSE
- **Patrick Pelata**, Renault

## **13.30-14.30 Lunch break**

## **14.30-16.00: Session 3 – Financing innovation: the role of innovation and financial systems in shaping competitive advantages**

**Chair: Nikki Tait, *FT***

How are firms financing innovation? To what extent have credit constraints been a limit on productivity-enhancing investment?

### **Speakers:**

14.30-15.00: **Fabiano Schivardi**, University of Cagliari

15.00-16.00: Roundtable discussion introduced by comments from

- **Nicolas Véron**, Bruegel

## **16.00-16.30 Coffee break**



## **16:30-18:30: Policy debate – Where is the problem and how to fix it?**

**Chair: Caroline De Gruyter, NRC Handelsblad**

How to reconcile micro data and macro developments in competitiveness? What indicators should policy-makers look at in order to identify problem-areas?

To what extent does firms' innovation and export capacity depend on the institutional context in which they operate? Are there common policy recommendations?

### **16.30-16.45: - Keynote speech by Anna Diamantopoulou, Minister of Education, Lifelong Learning and Religious Affairs, Greece**

Followed by a roundtable discussion introduced by comments from:

- **Chris Allen**, DG Enterprise and Industry
- **David Frost**, Director International Trade, Investment, and Development, BIS department
- **Anton Garcia-Diaz**, Director General of Social and Industrial Policy, President's Economic Bureau, Spain
- **Simon Hampton**, Director of Public Policy, Google

**18.30-End**