



Office of the European Union to  
Hong Kong and Macao



Centre for Financial Regulation and Economic Development  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Faculty of Law

EUROPEAN UNION ACADEMIC PROGRAMME  
HONG KONG

European Union Academic Programme in Hong Kong

## THE HISTORY OF THE EURO, CURRENT CHALLENGES AND THE ROAD FORWARD

### Speakers:

**Mr. Peter Bekx**, *Director for Economic and Financial Affairs of the European Commission*

**Mr. Moreno Bertoldi**, *Head of Unit for Economic and Financial Affairs of the European Commission*

**Ms. Annika Melander**, *Head of Economic and Finance Section, EU Delegation to China*

### Chair and Moderator:

**Prof. Gonzalo Villalta Puig**, *Faculty of Law, The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

**6 December 2012, Thursday**  
**5:30-7:00 p.m.**

**The CUHK Graduate Law Centre, 2/F Bank of America Tower, 12 Harcourt Rd, Central, Hong Kong**

---

**How serious is the European debt crisis, what is being done to address the current challenges and why does it matter to Hong Kong?**

You will be able to find some answers to these questions at an event on "The History of the Euro, Current Challenges and the Road Forward" on 6 December.

Despite what you may read in media, the current crisis is not expected to lead to a break-up of the euro area, thus not to "less" but is likely to result in "more Europe". At a unique event, senior EU officials will spell out the history behind the euro; the root-causes of the crisis; the measures taken to address them and why the crisis is not only a challenge but also an opportunity to move towards a genuine Economic and Monetary Union. It will take time, but the direction is very clear.

While the political economy of Europe is such that progress is sometimes slow, the recent Nobel peace prize is a timely reminder why the euro is so much more than a currency aimed at improving the single market for goods, services, capital and people. It is a symbol of integration across 17 countries. A symbol that the EU has for more than 60 years contributed to increased stability and prosperity on European soil. Looking back, the EU has typically advanced the most during difficult times.

## ~~~~~About the Speakers~~~~~



**Peter Bekx**, a Belgian national, is the Director of International Economic and Financial Relations and Global Governance in the European Commission's Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs. Prior to that, Peter has been the director of Business Statistics in Eurostat.

Peter Bekx graduated in Economics from the Free University of Brussels (VUB), where he also obtained a M. Sc. in Statistics and Econometrics and a doctorate in Economics. He was Professor of Economics at the Free University of Brussels for six years.

In 1985, he joined the European Commission, where he held a number of posts in the Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs, including a four-year period as the Head of the Economic and Financial section of the Commission's Delegation in Washington DC. From 2002 to 2006, Peter was the deputy head of cabinet of the European Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs.

Peter Bekx has published extensively on various topics related to monetary integration, exchange rate regimes, and econometric modelling.



**Moreno Bertoldi** is head of the unit responsible for Coordination of country-specific policy surveillance at the Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs of the European Commission. He is also the Commission representative in the G20 Framework for Growth Working Group. Prior to this, he held the position of head of the unit "Economies of America and Asia, IMF and G7/G8". From 2001 to 2006 he was the economic and financial counselor at the delegation of the European Commission to the United States, and from 1996 to 2001 he held the position of political and economic counsellor at the delegation of the European Commission to Japan (1996-2001). In 1997, while in Tokyo, he was visiting research fellow at the Institute for International Monetary Affairs and at the Economic Research Institute of the Economic Planning Agency.

Moreno Bertoldi holds degrees in economic analysis and economic policy from "Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales" in Paris, and in economics and social sciences from "Luigi Bocconi" University in Milan.



**Annika Melander** is currently heading the Economic and Financial Section at the EU-Delegation to China. Before moving to the East in 2010, Ms. Melander was working at the EU Commission in Brussels for some 15 years. For the past five years, she was responsible for the Commission's macroeconomic forecasts for the euro-area and EU economies within the DG for Economic and Financial Affairs. The career as a forecaster began in Sweden, where Annika Melander worked at the Ministry of Finance during the years 1990-1994, when the Swedish economy went from overheating to a recession. Thereafter, she moved to the financial markets, being in charge of Swedbank Market's economic forecast on the Swedish economy before joining the EU in 1996.

Annika Melander started her studies at the "Wirtschafts Universität" in Vienna and holds a degree in economics from Uppsala University in Sweden.

**All are welcome! Admission is free of charge!**

**Please register your interest here,  
[http://nems.law.cuhk.edu.hk/online-registration/?event\\_id=308](http://nems.law.cuhk.edu.hk/online-registration/?event_id=308),  
providing us your details.**