

# PROGRESSIVE ECONOMY CONFERENCE

## FAILED AUSTERITY: NEW PROGRESSIVE ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVES IN THE MEMBER STATES OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

FRIDAY, 4 OCTOBER 2013, MSZP HEADQUARTERS, JOKAI, NR. 6, 1066, BUDAPEST

Progressive Economy is a new initiative pursuing a major objective: generate a truly public and informed debate on economic policy at European and National, as well as global levels. Over-reliance on fiscal austerity and on socially regressive structural reforms, coupled with an absence of anti-cyclical policies and failure to protect public investment, have maintained large parts of the European economy in a recessionary phase for nearly four years now, thereby generating historically high unemployment and levels of poverty.

Without public debate, without clear policy choices, there can be no real democracy. Lack of choice breeds frustration, populism and the growth of antipolitics. Progressives have a duty to demonstrate to citizens that they do have a choice.

This conference will present alternatives to the austerity policies followed by the Right wing majorities in Europe. It will focus on key proposals to enhance investment and job-creation in the Member States of Central and Eastern Europe which takes into account geographical specificities. During this conference a study will be presented by the well-known Hungarian economic research institute GKI Co., commissioned by Progressive Economy as a background to this event.

**13.30-14.00** PRESS CONFERENCE: **HANNES SWOBODA**, PRESIDENT S&D GROUP, AND **ATTILA MESTERHÁZY**, PRESIDENT OF THE HUNGARIAN SOCIALIST PARTY (MSZP)

**15.30-16.00** REGISTRATION AND WELCOME DRINK FOR THE PARTICIPANTS

**16.00 - 16.15** WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY **HANNES SWOBODA**, PRESIDENT S&D GROUP, AND **ATTILA MESTERHÁZY**, PRESIDENT OF THE HUNGARIAN SOCIALIST PARTY (MSZP)

**16.15 - 17.55** High - level Debate 1: **FAILED AUSTERITY: KEY PROPOSALS TO ENHANCE INVESTMENT AND JOB CREATION IN MEMBER STATES OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE**

- **Hannes Swoboda**, President of the Socialists and Democrats Group in the European Parliament
- **Attila Mesterházy**, President of the Hungarian Socialist Party (MSZP)
- **András Vértes**, President of GKI Economic Research Institute, co-author of the GKI Study on "New progressive economic perspectives in the Member States of Central and Eastern Europe".
- **Brigita Schmögnerová**, professional advisor to the Czech and Slovak Academy of Social Democracy and a President of the NGO PROFORUM, former Minister of Finance of Slovakia

The debate will be moderated by **Antónia Mészáros**

**17.55 - 18.10** COFFEE BREAK

*Progressive Economy is an initiative supported by the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists & Democrats in the European Parliament*

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**18.10 - 19.30 High - level Debate 2 - NEW ALTERNATIVES. HOW TO REVIVE EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY AND FURTHER DEEPEN EUROPEAN ECONOMIC INTEGRATION**

- **László Andor**, EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion
  - **Xavier Timbeau**, Director, French Economic Observatory (OFCE), Paris, Professor of Economics at Sciences Po and leading co-author of the Independent Annual Growth Survey (iAGS)
  - **András Inotai**, Research Director, World Economy Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Science, Member of the Scientific Board of Progressive Economy
  - **Roman Młodkowski**, Director and Chief Editor of TVN CNBC
  - **Gordon Bajnai**, President of the Party Együtt-PM, former Prime Minister of Hungary
- The debate will be moderated by **Antónia Mészáros**

**19.30 - 19.45 CLOSING REMARKS BY EDITH HERCZOG, MEP, HUNGARIAN SOCIALIST PARTY (MSZP)**

**19.45 - 21.00 COCKTAIL RECEPTION**

