

Amid stormy waters, financial systems develop and evolve. New institutional forms and new instruments are invented and used. Some of them turn to be successful and others may disappear: A process of creative and dynamic competition argues for diversity. Diversity offers an optimal basis for new ideas to come to life, for existing ideas to evolve and also for old ideas to make their come-back.

In the aftermath of the financial crisis, the foundations of several decades of modern and innovative financial systems have been damaged. This has triggered massive state interventions and has led to revamp the regulatory structures and frameworks. While many voices called for going back to more traditional approaches to banking and finance, no one has argued for diversity.

This event marks the launch of a new CEPS book, authored by Rym Ayadi, Reinhard H. Schmidt and Santiago Carbó Valverde, which purpose is to investigate whether diversity in the banking sector is a prerequisite for stability and growth. The research is a result of two years project supported by the European Savings Banks Group, the Confederación Española de Cajas de Ahorros, the Deutschen Sparkassen- und Giroverband and the Austrian Savings Banks Association.

## AGENDA

- 09:00 Registration
- 09:20 Introductory Remarks  
**David T. Llewellyn**, Professor, Loughborough University
- DIVERSITY IN THE BANKING SECTOR IN EUROPE: IS IT A PREREQUISITE FOR STABILITY AND GROWTH?**
- 09:40 **Rym Ayadi**, Senior Research Fellow, CEPS  
**Reinhard H. Schmidt**, Professor, University of Frankfurt  
**Santiago Carbó Valverde**, Professor, University of Granada
- 10:10 Discussion
- DIVERSITY IN EUROPEAN BANKING AND THE FINANCIAL CRISIS: THE SAVINGS BANKS PERSPECTIVE**
- 10:30 Panel Discussion with:  
**Chris De Noose**, Managing Director, European Savings Banks Group (ESGB)  
**Ines Garcia Pintos Balbas**, Confederación Española de Cajas de Ahorros (CECA)  
**Lothar Blatt - von Raczeck**, Deutschen Sparkassen- und Giroverband (DSGV)  
**Roland Tassler**, Austrian Savings Banks Association
- DIVERSITY IN EUROPEAN BANKING: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**
- 11:00 **Hans-Helmut Kotz\***, Member of the Board, Deutsche Bundesbank
- 11:15 **Patrick Pearson**, Head of Unit, European Commission
- 11:30 **Wim Fonteyne\***, Senior Economist, International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- 11:45 Discussion
- 12:00 End of Event

\* to be confirmed