



**“Growth and Jobs; Challenges for EU8+2”
Brussels, 21 June 2007**

Program

8.45-9.30

Registration

9.30-10.00

“Growth and Jobs”; Challenges in European perspective

- Pal Gaspar (ICEG European Center)

10.00-11.15

Growth and Competitiveness of EU8+2

Issues of the discussion in this panel: What are the medium-term driving factors of catch-up in EU8+2? Is growth driven by increasing productivity or factor inputs contribute more to growth than they did earlier? What are the major challenges to sustained catch-up and increasing competitiveness?

Moderator: Péter Balázs (Central European University)

Panel speakers :

- Frigyes-Ferdinand Heinz (European Central Bank)
- Marc Stocker (BusinessEurope)
- Szabolcs Erdos (ICEG European Center)

11.15-11.30

Coffee break

11.30-12.45:

Employment and Labour Market Challenges in EU8+2

Issues of the panel discussion: Is the catch-up of the EU8+2 still characterised by jobless growth? What are the reasons behind differences in employment rates and what can policies do to increase labour market flexibility in the EU8+2? What are the experiences of policy makers with labour market reforms in the EU8+2?

Moderator: Péter Balázs (Central European University)

Panel speakers:

- Bela Galgoczi (European Trade Union Institute)
- Leszek Kasek (World Bank – Warsaw Office)
- Gabor Pellenyi (ICEG European Center)

12.45-14.00

Structural Funds and the “Growth and Jobs” objectives in the NMS

Issues of the panel discussion: What are the lessons concerning the allocation of Structural Funds learnt by other net recipients? What have been the experiences of the EU8 in 2004-2006? How should the EU8+2 allocate the use of funds to promote long-term growth and employment objectives? Do National Development Plans reflect the needed efficient allocation of resources?

Moderator: Péter Balázs (Central European University)

Panel speakers:

- Christoph Rosenberg (IMF – Regional Office, Warsaw)
- John Walsh (Head of Unit “Thematic Development and Impact”, DG Regio)
- Andras Oszlay (ICEG European Center)

14.00

Closing remarks