

Przemówienie profesor Danuty Hübner na temat zarządzania gospodarczego i kryzysu w Europie na spotkaniu z posłami i senatorami z narodowych parlamentów UE.

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As politicians and policy makers, we did not envisage the crisis and we did not manage to prevent it. It has therefore been of utmost importance to look carefully into its causes and dynamics before embarking on reforms indispensable to reduce the risk of its repetition. In this respect, European institutions have done their homework. In the European Parliament all relevant committees have been involved over the last year. We spared no efforts to understand the causes of the crisis and work on reforms of the financial system and markets and of the economic governance of the union.

Substantial progress towards more integrated financial markets has been achieved. The challenge is now to see that as of January 2011, the transfer of supervision power to the European level works effectively. The current task we share across member states and European institutions is the reform of economic governance.

The six new legal instruments proposed by the European Commission to apply from next summer bring more rigid control of excessive government debt and introduce a new excessive imbalances procedure. Member states not respecting competitiveness conditionalities will be subject to more control and sanctions.

Where we have not yet made sufficient breakthrough is the external representation of the euro area. Without reform here we give up potential influence in the global governance system.

We are fixing Europe against the backdrop of the global world which is today very different from 2008. The G20 was united for fiscal rescue two years ago. But its unanimity was driven by fears. Today it is divided. The common global

good does not exist at a time when at an unprecedented speed, a new global monetary system is emerging. To avoid the disaster of asymmetric adjustments, dialogue and collective action is urgent. The question is whether Europe is able to play its role in this collective action.

The temporary financial crisis management mechanism should soon be replaced by a permanent one. The new system will have to be developed in such a way that a crisis can be handled cost-effectively, that moral hazard will be eliminated and that taxpayer-financed bailouts will be excluded. Asset transfers have to be regulated in a manner ensuring a level playing field especially for host countries.

All those reforms are of urgent nature if we are to be in a better position to tackle future turbulences and more effective in putting the European economy on a long term path of growth, guaranteeing sustainable jobs and competitiveness.

The ongoing biggest reform of the EMU since the Euro was created cannot replace the need of structural reforms as growth in the years to come will be supply driven. These reforms will be channelled through re-activated and strengthened single market in line with the new Single Market Act recently presented by the European Commission, focusing on new measures for companies, in particular SMEs, consumers and employees, with a view to re-energise the European competitive social market economy.

Structural reforms will also be addressed through the rigorous implementation of the EU 2020 strategy. It addresses underlying weaknesses of the European economy, sharply growing debts and deficits, ageing, highly probable new surge of inflation, risks to and opportunities for industries generated by climate change policies, the uncertainty about new targets and standards, low productivity and lack of competitiveness. With less public money more will have to be done. Hence, the efficiency of using public money, both European and national, will have to be higher. Across Europe we will need a business-friendly regulatory environment, efficient government, non-distortionary taxes,

high labour participation rates, especially among women and youngsters, good education system, research and innovation - all that constitutes a minimum core package of measures to bring growth, jobs and competitiveness.

The European winning strategy has to be based on fiscal tightening, but its focus should be innovation - the only way to boost productivity and growth in a sustainable way.

The new European strategy must link the crisis exit policies – monetary, fiscal, structural – and long-term growth and structural change. It must take into account the diversity of European territory which can allow us to better exploit diverse opportunities, comparative advantages and different potentials. The new strategy for Europe must be based on an active role of European citizens and an involved society. It must not exclude anybody from the pursuit of common European objectives. Multilevel governance including regions and cities and partnership between public authorities, academia, business sector and non-governmental organisations, should be, therefore, the core of governance and delivery of the strategy.

For the reforms to serve 500 million European citizens, we will need an ambitious post-2013 budget that will guarantee adequate funding to European priorities. The real challenge is not to survive the bad time. Smart, sustainable and inclusive growth is our ambition both to improve the quality of its life and to stand up to competition in the global world.

A lot of political will is needed to go this way far enough.