

INVITATION**BÖLL LUNCH DEBATE****Croatia's EU Accession: a Reason to Celebrate?**

*A month and a half before the 1st of July, when Croatia will become a member of the European Union, the homework is considered to be done and most – if not all – ratifications are on their way. However, for Croatia, the moment of entrance into the EU is a difficult one. With an extremely low economic ratio, increased unemployment and under heavy austerity measures, the country will enter the EU silently and without the pompous celebration that was initially expected. Also, unlike the CEE countries in 2004 and Bulgaria and Romania two years later, Croatia will be joining in the most difficult moment of the EU's history, thus demonstrating its commitment to a common European future. As the first Western Balkan country to become part of the EU, Croatia will serve as an example of how EU policies and *acquis* correspond with the Western Balkan's post-war and post-socialist reality. Although the enlargement perspective seems to be fading away rapidly for the rest of the region, the example of Croatia will doubtlessly define the further procedures for the region.*

What will be the greatest challenges for Croatia in the post-accession period, how can the irreversibility of the reforms be ensured and the number of 'accession winners' increased? To what extent can Croatia save some features of its social model and protect public goods from privatisation, a process usually linked with the liberalisation demands inherent in the European economic model. And, finally, how will EU institutions, actors and citizens affect life in Croatia at the moment of widespread re-nationalisation all over Europe?

Date **Tuesday, 14 May 2013, 13.00 – 14.30**

(a sandwich lunch will be provided at 12.30)

Venue **SOFITEL BRUSSELS EUROPE**
Place Jourdan, 1
1040 BRUSSELS

Speakers **Franziska Brantner**, Member of the European Parliament,
Greens/EFA
Sasa Segrt, Executive Director, Transparency International, Zagreb
Paul Stubbs, Senior Research Fellow, The Institute for Economics,
Zagreb

Moderator **Corina Stratulat**, Policy Analyst, European Policy Centre, Brussels

The meeting is held under Chatham House Rule.

Conference language English – no translation.

No admittance without confirmed registration. E-Mail registration only. Please send the attached reply form to:

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