



## INVITATION

The Hanns Seidel Foundation, the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies and the Konstantinos Karamanlis Institute for Democracy have the pleasure of inviting you to a panel discussion on:

## Unemployment & Electoral Choice – The Greek Experience

**Monday, 12 May 2014**

**7.00 pm until 8.30 pm**

Registration starts at 6.30 pm

**Venue:** Goethe Institut, Rue Belliard 58, 1040 Brussels

## PROGRAMME

- 6.30 pm REGISTRATION
- 7.00 pm WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION
- Christian FORSTNER**  
Director, Hanns Seidel Foundation
- Tomi HUHTANEN**  
Director, Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies
- 7.10 pm PRESENTATION OF STUDY
- Prof. Pantelis SKLIAS**  
Head of the Academic Council  
Konstantinos Karamanlis Institute for Democracy
- 7.30 pm PANEL DISCUSSION
- Prof. Pantelis SKLIAS**
- Christos DIMAS, MP**  
Member of the Hellenic Parliament, Nea Demokratia
- MODERATION  
**George SYRIOPOULOS**  
Journalist
- 8.30 pm END OF CONFERENCE  
– Reception –

**Conference Languages:** English and Greek  
- simultaneous translation will be provided -

## BACKGROUND

The financial and economic crisis hit Europe with full force at the end of the last decade. To fight this crisis is one of the biggest challenges of the European Union since its establishment. And although there can be seen signs of improvement in many areas like economic growth and financial stabilisation, some of the effects of the recession – above all the high unemployment – remain a big political and social problem in Europe.

Across the 28 EU member states over 26 million people or roughly 11% were classified as unemployed in December 2013. Especially youth unemployment increased in the last years. In September 2013, 19 EU member states experienced youth unemployment rates of more than 20% with five of these states exhibiting rates of more than 40%.

This situation has created fear and mistrust in the institutions and has led to the rise of Euro-sceptic groups and parties in the whole EU. With a view to the upcoming European elections on 25 May, the current development might end up in a weakening of the European Community and a loss of solidarity.

Greece is one of the countries within the EU which suffer most from the crisis. With about 26%, the unemployment in Greece is the highest in Europe and it is expected to increase even to 30% next year.

### Organisation & Contact Details:

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