Greece From the Cold War to the Financial Crisis and Beyond: European Dynamics and National Developments

DIIS, Danish Institute for International Studies in cooperation with the Saxo-Institute at the University of Copenhagen and the Embassy of Greece in Copenhagen have the pleasure of inviting you to a seminar on:

Monday, 2 June 2014, 09.45-14.30
DIIS, Danish Institute for International Studies
Main auditorium
Gl. Kalkbænderi Vej 51A
2100 Copenhagen

Background

Greece is about to complete its 5th EU Presidency, having promoted all the major files, including landmark agreements on the Banking Union. Simultaneously, key economic indicators suggest that Greece is on its way out of its worst economic crisis since the brutal occupation by the Axis powers and a devastating Civil War in the 1940s. The primary budget surplus for 2013 is higher than initial estimates and targets set by its international lenders and after four years the country has returned to the markets; it also expects a modest growth for 2014. At the same time, unemployment is still record high, the economy has shrunk by almost 25% during the past six years in recession, and two elections, in May and June 2012, have changed the traditional political landscape, which governed the country for more than three decades. How should we evaluate these diverse trends and how should we expect them to affect the overall economic, political and social situation in Greece? What does this bode for the future of Greece, and for the EU?

To answer these questions Greece’s recent history provides an important guide. This is true, in particular, regarding the dynamics, which have tied Greece and Europe together in a relation of mutual reliance since the beginning of the post war period. In this process Greece became a modular example of how to achieve stability, Western solidarity and European integration. This seminar will explore these questions and take a broader look at the present situation in Greece and its consequences for the EU.

Speakers

Evanthis Hatzivassiliou, Associate Professor, University of Athens
Konstantina Botsiou, Associate Professor, University of Peloponnese
Christos Christidis, Associate Professor, Hellenic Open University
Sevasti Chatzopoulou, Assistant professor, Roskilde University
Mogens Pelt, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen
Cecilie Felicia Stokholm Banke, Senior Researcher, DIIS
Fabrizio Tassinari, Senior Researcher, DIIS

Programme

09.45-10.00 Arrival and Coffee
10.00-10.10 Introduction
Cecilie Felicia Stokholm Banke, Senior Researcher, DIIS
Mogens Pelt, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen
10.10-12.00 1 Session - The way to Europe
Greece’s Present Position in Europe and its Recent History
Evanthis Hatzivassiliou, Associate Professor, University of Athens
Konstantina Botsiou, Associate Professor, University of Peloponnese

Cold War Allegiances and Societal Pressures: Post-war Reconstruction and Greece’s Position in the International Economic System

Greece’s Road to European Integration – From Cold War Frontline State to EC/EU-Membership
Konstantina Botsiou, Associate Professor, University of Peloponnese

The Dynamics of Greek Democracy and European Institutions - From the Council of Europe Case of 1967-9 to Accession in the European Communities, 1981
Christos Christidis, Associate Professor, Hellenic Open University

Q & A

Moderator: Mogens Pelt, University of Copenhagen

12.00-13.00  Sandwich Lunch for Speakers and Participants

13.00-14.30  2 Session - Current and Future Challenges
Roundtable: Greece and its Future Challenges in a European Perspective

Evanthis Hatzivassiliou, Associate Professor, University of Athens
Konstantina Botsiou, Associate Professor, University of Peloponnese
Christos Christidis, Associate Professor, Hellenic Open University
Sevasti Chatzopoulou, Assistant professor, Roskilde University
Fabrizio Tassinari, Senior Researcher, DIIS

Moderator: Cecilie Felicia Stokholm Banke, DIIS

Practical information

The seminar will be in English.

Participation is free of charge and includes sandwich lunch. Registration is required. Please use our online registration form no later than Wednesday, 28 May 2014 at 12.00 noon.

Sign up