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EIN Seminar on: "The Future of inter-institutional/constitutional issues in light of BREXIT", Brussels

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Speakers:

- **Roberta RIBEIRO OERTEL**, *Lecturer at EIPA Luxembourg, European Centre for Judges and Lawyers*
 - **Wolfgang WESSELS**, *Professor, Jean Monnet Chair, Department of Political Science and European Studies, University of Cologne*
 - **Federico de MONTALVO**, *Professor, Universidad Pontificia Comillas ICAI-ICADE, Madrid*
 - **André SAPIR**, *Senior Fellow, Bruegel, University Professor at the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB)*
 - **Francisco Pereira COUTINHO**, *Professor, Universidade Nova de Lisboa*
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- The whole building of EU has been legal and legitimately driven by the States;
 - How did we get here? Domestic frustrations have prevailed over general common interests of the citizens. Thus, concerning Brexit, different elements can be added: some specific to the UK, some inherent to the EU dysfunctions; the wave of populism represented by Trump's victory in the USA; France and the UK, old empires, still having romantic aspirations which will never come back.
 - The way Brexit was conducted means the end of a model of «representative democracy» which is at the bases of EU's building, resulting in the break of the *Freedom - Equality* social pact. In addition, the economic powers try to get more political power while the social powers demand more influence, however outside the parliaments, driving policy making from there to the streets, without a real model to replace it but the old communist totalitarianism;
 - Need to ameliorate the only workable model which is the representative democracy;
 - Should work to have not only European citizenship but European demos as well;
 - We must keep mutual reciprocate confidence between the EU and the UK throughout and after the process;
 - There is an implicit time limit in the notification of Article 50 to avoid disruptions in the working of the EU;
 - The Brexit process is not irreversible. It could be either stopped or reverted by a new referendum or election. All the options should and do remain open until the very end of the process;
 - The Brexit negotiation should be done together with the negotiation of the future agreement; it should be a package. National parliaments should be involved since they will have a role in the ratification process afterwards;
 - In the process of the UK leaving the EU, Scotland has a motive to declare its independence so that they can continue to remain a Member State. With the disintegration of the United Kingdom it is legitimate for the Scots to maintain their membership, not to mention the problems arising between the two Irelands and perhaps in Wales.
 - The European Council better gets the European Parliament involved in an early stage. However, there is still a question of what majority will prevail at the final vote once the «Great Coalition» ends in the House;
 - What about after the Brexit, special EU-UK summits like the ones with Turkey?
 - «Two-speed Europe» is what we have now and is the model to follow. Here, all the member States share the model and the objective of a political union but the timing to reach it varies for each one. In the «two-tier model», some States share the objective of closer cooperation and integration leading to the political union and some do not. «Two-speed» is what we have now and is the model to follow. The Euro area needs to be reinforced. The future of the EU is the building of a social protective state (education and health care) that seduces the European citizens;
 - Concept of continental partnership for those countries not willing to be part of the political union. While those in the EU would share the 4 Freedoms those in the continental partnership would only share 3 and a half (not the freedom of labour).

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