



REVISITING THE EUROPEANISATION OF SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE

A roundtable on Southeastern Europe
organised by the Center for Applied Policy Research (Munich)
with the Hertie School of Governance (Berlin)
in the framework of the Volkswagen Stiftung project ‘Captive States, Divided Societies’

Panelists: **Tim Judah (journalist, The Economist, London) chair**

Heather Grabbe (European Commission, Brussels)

Wim van Meurs (CAP, Munich)

Alina Mungiu-Pippidi (HSoG, Berlin)

Vladimir Gligorov (WIIW, Vienna)

Dimitar Bechev (St Antony's College, Oxford)

Nenad Zakošek (University of Zagreb)

Venue: **Hertie School of Governance, Schlossplatz 1,
Wednesday, 28 November 2007, 12:00-15:00 h.**

Analysts agree that the integration of the Western Balkans into the European Union in the next decade will be much more of an uphill battle than East-Central Europe’s “return to Europe” ever was and that plan A (A for accession) for the Western Balkans will not become a political reality for at least another decade. Consequently, the need arises to discuss a plan B (B for Balkans). Plan B is not an alternative in terms of objective or orientation, as the roadmap toward EU integration has been well defined. Plan B is just needed to facilitate plan A by actively capitalising on positive trends in Southeastern Europe and diversifying the EU’s enlargement-driven strategic repertoire rather than by relying on the determinism of European integration.

As conclusions of this three-year Volkswagen project show, Western-type institutions have never *de facto* ‘failed’ in the Balkans. They were rendered superfluous by unfavourable international environment. If we manage to preserve a reasonably favourable external context, there are no reasons why Europeanisation of the Balkans could not gradually take place. A policy paper with conclusions from the project will be launched on this occasion.