

wiiw
SPRING SEMINAR
1999

**Integration and Division
in the New Europe**

Friday, 26 March 1999, 9:00 a.m.

hosted by



CREDITANSTALT

to take place at

**1010 Vienna, Schottengasse 6
1st floor, Oktogon**

The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies
(Wiener Institut für Internationale Wirtschaftsvergleiche, WIIW)
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9:00 Welcome address by Alarich Fenyves,
Deputy Chairman of the Managing Board,
Creditanstalt AG

Lessons from a Decade of Transition

Uneven performance * role of initial conditions * importance of sustained liberalization * the legal environment matters * fast and mass privatization questionable * balancing wage and productivity growth * dangers of excessive currency appreciation *

Discussion

L. Podkaminer

Growing Gaps in Europe and their Implications for EU Enlargement

Widening economic disparities in Europe * catching up, falling behind and policy implications for the EU, accession candidates and left-outs * EU membership, quasi-membership and regional co-operation in Europe *

Discussion

D. Rosati*
(guest speaker)

11:00 Coffee break

CEEC Economic Performance: from Weak to Robust

Internal and external reasons for the recent growth slowdown * threat of financial paralysis in the corporate sector * FDI impact on the balance of payments * prospects for 1999 and 2000 *

Discussion

**J. Pöschl and
S. Richter**

Patterns of Divergence in the Balkans: Romania and Bulgaria

Catching up or falling behind? * fiscal and current account balances * microeconomic restructuring and privatization * foreign financing and FDI * medium-term outlook *

Discussion

G. Hunya

13:00 Buffet luncheon by invitation of Creditanstalt AG

14:00 Patterns of Divergence in the Balkans: Western Balkans

Delayed integration * regional disintegration * current account problems * fiscal problems * growth prospects * country assessments: Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Macedonia, Albania *

Discussion

V. Gligorov

Ukraine: Avoiding Default in an Election Year

Main reasons for GDP decline * virtual economy, shadow economy, pretended reforms in industry and agriculture * further slump in trade with Russia * macro tightrope in 1999, risks of default * prospects for 2000 *

Discussion

H. Boss

Russia: Avoiding Disintegration in the Aftermath of the 1998 Crisis

Consequences of the August crash * domestic economy hit * liberal reforms discredited * unsustainable debt burden * two sets of elections affect stability and growth prospects * regional disintegration vs. restoration of federal authority vs. attempt to restore ties with Slavic neighbours *

Discussion

P. Havlik

17:00 End of Seminar

18:00 Informal gathering at a Viennese 'Heurigen'

to continue the discussions.
Address: Mayer am Pfarrplatz, Pfarrplatz 2, A-1190 Vienna

* Dariusz Rosati, former Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs (1995-1997), is Member of the Monetary Policy Council of the National Bank of Poland and Professor of Economics at the Warsaw School of Economics.