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**COVID-19: Impact on the Economy and Central Bank Policies**

Virtual Conference co-organized by the Bank of Albania and the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)

**Thursday, 29 October 2020**

(\*Times listed are Tirana time - CET)

**Programme**

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| **08:45 – 09:00** | **Zoom Login/Green Room for Panelists** |
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| **09:00 – 09:45** | **Welcome and Opening Speeches** |
|  | Opening speech by **Luljeta MINXHOZI,** First Deputy Governor, Bank of Albania |
|  | Welcome by **Piroska Nagy-Mohacsi,** Interim Director, Institute of Global Affairs, LSE School of Public Policy |
|  | Welcome by **Erik Berglof,** Professor, LSE & Chief Economist, AIIB |
|  | Welcome address by **Anila DENAJ,** Minister of Finance and Economy |
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| **09:45 – 11:10** | **First Session: Managing the Risks of COVID-19: Impact on the Real Economy** |
|  | *This panel of renowned experts will discuss the short and longer-term impact of the COVID pandemic beyond central bank policy: the impact on the real economy, growth, employment, work practices, digitalisation, trade, de-globalisation/regionalisation, the rising role of the state, and populism. The panel will also consider “smart ways” to address COVID’s twin health and economic crises and likely scenarios for recovery.*  **Chair: Piroska Nagy-Mohacsi,** Interim Director, Institute of Global Affairs, LSE School of Public Policy |
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|  | **Erik Berglof,** Professor, LSE & Chief Economist, AIIB |
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|  | **Natasha Ahmetaj**,Second Deputy Governor, Bank of Albania |
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|  | **Andrés Velasco,** Professor, Dean, LSE School of Public Policy |
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|  | **Yan Sun,** Mission Chief for Albania, International Monetary Fund |
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|  | **Adnan Khan,** Professor, LSE School of Public Policy |
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|  | **Riccardo Crescenzi,** Professor, LSE Department of Geography and Environment |
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| **11:10 – 11:15** | **Break** |
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| **11:15 – 12:45** | **SECOND SESSION: The Governors’ Panel** |
|  | *The traditional Governors’ Panel will discuss how central banks have reacted to challenges and changes imposed upon the economy and the financial system by the pandemic; how emerging markets have been able to conduct expansionary policies, increase policy space and expand their policy toolkit while preserving the financial stability of the economy. Governors will discuss the economic outlook beyond the pandemic and explore its long-term consequences including on inflation, financial stability and the transformation of the financial sector.*  **Chair: Danae Kyriakopoulou,** Chief Economist and Head of Research, OMFIF |
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|  | **Luljeta MINXHOZI,** First Deputy Governor, Bank of Albania  **Anita Angelovska Bezhoska,** Governor of the National Bank of the Republic of North Macedonia  **Boris Vujčić,** Governor, Croatian National Bank  **Leonardo Badea,** Deputy Governor, National Bank of Romania  **Martin Wolf,** Chief Economics Commentator, Financial Times  **Doris Ritzberger-Grünwald,** Director, Economic Analysis and Research Department, Oesterreichische Nationalbank  **Mario Blejer**, LSE, former Governor of the Central Bank of Argentina and Bank of England Executive Director |
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| **12:45 – 13:00** | **Concluding Remarks** |
|  | **Luljeta MINXHOZI,** First Deputy Governor, Bank of Albania |