



International Network

- ***The President's Visit to the Center for American Progress***

As a follow up to the Global Progress Conference held in October, IDEAS Foundation has continued working to establish a global progress alliance with the think tanks affiliated to the Obama Administration. As part of this process, a delegation from IDEAS Foundation visited Washington, D.C. in February, coinciding with the official visit of the prime Minister and President of IDEAS, José Luis Zapatero. The President and the members of the IDEAS' delegation participated alongside distinguished US representatives of the US administration in a dinner organized by the Center for American Progress (CAP). Furthermore, the Vice President of the Foundation, Jesús Caldera, and the Director, Carlos Mulas, attended a seminar on "green job-creation in Spain" organized by CAP and met the directors of some of the main think tanks in the United States, including Brookings, America's Future, Economic Policy Institute, and New Partners.

- ***Program "Employment and Labor Relations: Austria, Denmark, Experiences from Germany" (February 9th, 2010, Venue: Hotel NH Sanvy, Organized by the IDEAS Foundation in collaboration with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation)***

Participants:

Eva Belaved (Austrian Councilor for Social Affairs at the OECD Delegation)

Mogens Lykketoft (Danish Former Minister of Finances and Foreign Affairs)

Round Table:

Francisco Avendaño (Head of the Area of Collective Bargaining and the Spanish Confederation of Employers' Organizations (CEOE) Labor Relations)

Rita Moreno (Responsible for the Area of Collective Bargaining for the Workers Commissions (CC OO))

José Callera (Lawyer for the General Union of Workers of Spain's (UGT) Technical Cabinet)

Summary of the Activity:

The reform of the labor relations has become a key issue of the political and social debate in Spain in the last months. The reform of the system arose within the context of a conjuncture of understood initiatives in the Strategy for Sustainable Economy that the Spanish Government has recently announced which have the objective of transforming the Spanish productive model around three central axes; sustainability in the areas of the economy, society, and the environment in the construction of the Spanish Economy during the XXI century.

The IDEAs Foundation, collaborating with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, wanted to contribute to this process with the organization of a seminar concerning the successful examples of labor relations models in Europe; the Danish, Austrian, and German models were presented in light of the following objectives:

- Incorporate better European practices to the emerging debate in Spain and inform the discussion process as well as the decision that is currently in progress
- Create a specialized space for dialogue and the construction of a consensus
- Facilitate an agreement among the principle Spanish perspectives in the matter

The program was opened by the presentation of the Vice President of the IDEAS Foundation, Jesús Caldera who briefly defended the reforms that aim to change the productive model, because, according to Caldera, it is this very model that determines the job market and not the other way around.

The Austrian, Danish, and German representatives excelled in the efficacy of flexi-security that allows, on the one hand, the companies to reduce costs without dismissing staff during especially difficult moments and, on the other hand, allows the employees to maintain they employment as well as utilize this industrial framework to combine one's labor life with their family and/or academic life.

The participants of the round table coincided in their valuation of the provisional document regarding the labor reform that the Spanish Government had presented, and showed their confidence in the possibility to realize a definitive agreement beforehand.

- **Seminar *The Latin American Situation After the Crisis and the World Bank's Programs* (March 9th, 2010, Place: IDEAS Foundation, Organized by the IDEAS Foundation)**

With expectations of a visit to Spain, Gloria Grandolini, the World Bank Director for Colombia and Mexico, on the 9th of March, 2010, IDEAS organized a seminar about the situation in Latin America after the crisis and the programs of conduct that the divisional World Bank imposed.

- Opportunities in Mexico- Conditional cash transfers from the capital. It is considered one of the instruments of social protection that traditionally has been promoted by banks in developing countries to provide social assistance to less fortunate families all the while facilitating the improvement of sanitary and educational conditions for children, and which has become an international reference.
- Development Policy Loan (DPL) for the Promotion of a System of Socially Just Protection, Inclusive and Efficient in Colombia – This program, of a greater amplitude, includes four areas: the improvement of the management of social security (pensions and public health), an improvement in the efficacy of social assistance programs, and an improvement of employment and formation services.

Later began a period of interventions by the experts who had been invited, generating an interesting debate between the World Bank experts and the Spanish experts who exhibited their differing perspectives about each program's benefits and problems and reflected upon the matter of universal services versus programs directed at determined groups.

- **Presentation of the IDEAS Foundation and the Project *The 2020 Strategy: Growth and Competitiveness for Prosperity and Sustainability* (March 19th, 2010, Place: House of Asturias, Brussels, Belgium, Organized by the IDEAS Foundation)**

On March 19th in Brussels, the IDEAS Foundation presented a document concerning the future of Lisbon's Strategy, "The 2020 Strategy: Growth and Competitiveness for Prosperity and Sustainability", which was realized by the International and Europe team. This event refers to IDEAS' global vocation for which Spain's problems and challenges cannot solely be dealt with from a national perspective, but must also be solved from the contemporary international context as well as from the context of the UE's Spanish Presidency.

At the seminar, to which 70 Spanish and foreign participants primarily from the Parliament and European Commission as well as members of Socialist Association in Brussels attended, Jesús Caldera, the Executive Vice President at IDEAS, Antonio Estella, responsible for the Area of International and Cooperation, and Juan López, the Secretary of European Affairs at the Socialist Association in Brussels, addressed the issues at hand.

- **Seminar *The Crisis and Reform of the Labor Markets and the Presentation of the Report: Taxing the Financial Market (May 28th, 2010, Place: "Círculo de Bellas Artes" – Room Valle-Inclán, Organized by the IDEAS Foundation in collaboration with the Foundation for European Progressive Studies y Global Progressive Forum)***

Participants:

Opening: **Carlos Mulas Granados** (Director of the IDEAS Foundation and Associate Professor for the Department of Applied Economics at the Universidad Complutense in Madrid)

Chairperson: **Carmen de Paz** (Responsible for the International Network at the IDEAS Foundation)

Chairperson: **Javier Moreno** (General Secretary of the Progressive Global Forum)

Guests

Jeffrey Sachs (Professor, Columbia University)

Stephany Griffith – Jones (Professor, Columbia University)

Sir Nicholas Stern (Professor, London School of Economics)

André Sapir (Professor, Université Libre de Bruxelles)

Joseph Stiglitz (Nobel Prize in Economics in 2001)

Conclusion:

Jesús Caldera (Vice President of the IDEAS Foundation)

Summary:

During the presentation of the report: ***Taxing the Financial Market***, various experts who endorse the document offered their opinion and thoughts on the crisis and measured principals that governments are adopting.

The coordinator of the document, Joseph Stiglitz, Nobel Prize in Economics in 2001, is in favor of imposing these taxes upon financial entities, if it has been well cautioned that “hay que armonizar la aplicación de impuestos que frenan la especulación y que ayudan a reducir el déficit para no dañar el crecimiento económico” [we must harmonize the imposition of taxes that halt the speculation and help reduce the deficit so as to prevent the breakdown of economic growth].

According to Nicholas Stern, specialist in affairs related to the climate change and the economy, “no solo España, sino toda la UE está aplicando ajustes” [not only Spain, but rather the entire EU is making adjustments], and has advised the member states of the EU to “invertir precisamente en Europa” [invest precisely in Europe]. With respect to the destination of the quantities that would be collected by the imposition of the tributes, Stern understands that “a nivel nacional, dependería de cada Estado, pero, a nivel internacional, obligatoriamente, deberían dedicarse a dos aspectos, la lucha contra la cambio climático, y la lucha contra la pobreza” [at the national level, it would depend on each state, but at the international level, the states should compulsorily dedicate themselves to two aspects, the fight against the climate change, and the flight against poverty].

Stephany Griffith-Jones, specialized in market flows toward emerging countries, has asked the states to, “junto a políticas de reducción de déficit, apliquen medidas que expandan el crédito para que éste fluya a pymes, empresas verdes y tecnológicas”. [together with politics for the reduction of the deficit, apply measures that expand credit so that this flows to small and medium-scaled enterprises, and green enterprises and technology.] Griffith-Jones concluded by assuring that “dado que el sector financiero se ha visto muy beneficiado por la globalización, ahora debe colaborar a la recuperación de la economía mundial” [given that the financial sector has benefited thanks to globalization, now it is necessary to collaborate for the recuperation of the global economy.]

As far as he is concerned, André Sapir, specialist in European integration and social models of wellbeing, he explained that “tras evitar la depresión, la gran tarea a la que se enfrentan ahora los estados de la UE es la de sostener las prestaciones sociales” [after averting the depression, the biggest task that the EU member states must confront now is to sustain social services].

For this, he has assured, “hay que estabilizar la situación, introducir reformas en el mercado financiero, que incluyen nuevas tasas, y realizar reformas inevitables, que serán dolorosas, dada la demografía tan envejecida que tiene Europa”[the situation must be stabilized, reforms must be introduced in the labor market, which include taxes, and inevitable reforms must be realized, which will be painful given the aged demography in Europe].

Finally, Jeffrey Sachs, economist dedicated to the fight against extreme poverty, is a huge proponent of the imposition of tax loads “a movimientos especulativos que podríamos llamar basura” [on speculated movements that could be called rubbish], and completely supports the criteria established by the UN for this global collection to fight against starvation and poverty in order to realize the Objectives for the Millennium in 2015.

- **Participation in European Projects Euro Mediterranean and Next Left**

Carmen de Paz (Responsible/Coordinator)

As a member and, also, a shareholder of FEPS, whose Vice President is Jesús Caldera, IDEAS has become involved, through the International Network, in especially interesting projects headed by the foundation with headquarters in Brussels, and in those that participate in a large part of the progressive European foundations: (1) a definition program of agenda and consolidation of the progressive links in the Mediterranean Euro region, and (2) the Next Left project of thought renovation and the politically progressive in Europe. In this context, IDEAS has collaborated, and will continue to do so in the second semester of the year, through the creation of articles and papers, and the participation and direct intervention in seminars and conferences by Foundation members and external collaborators.

- **Function Social Democrat Thought Renovation in Europe “Beyond the Third Way”**

Carmen de Paz (Head of Area)

Type of Activity: Seminar

Description of the Activity / Project:

IDEAS, FEPS and the Policy Network work on three projects with respect to social democrat thought renovation in Europe, joined by the efforts of experts and different political figures. During the second semester of this year, IDEAS will organize a seminar with these two international partners during which the provisional results of the three projects will be shared and debated in a comparative manner.

The three above mentioned projects all share one same objective: make advances toward progressive and innovative politics and agenda as well as more agreements with the contemporary context of a change in the paradigms and future setting in Europe and, more concretely, in Spain.

- **The African Progress Conference: The Role of Progressive Politics in Sub-Saharan Africa**

Carmen de Paz (Head of Area)

Type of Activity: Conference

Description of the Activity / Project:

In the last decades a progressive political agenda has been emerging in Africa, while the region has been converted into a priority for the international community. During a significant part of this period the “developmentalist” focus has prevailed in the process of definition of the political agenda and in the relationships held between African countries and their international partners. Nevertheless, the necessity to reconfigure these processes and links is more obvious with each passing day, toward a central role held by the African countries in the definition of their own agenda and a limited, lesser role held by the international partners in the identification of possible coordinated solutions to achieve the objectives desired by the African counterparts.

In line with these tendencies, the African Progress Conference, organized by the IDEAS Foundation, PSOE, and the African National Congress of South Africa, will take various forums and initiatives developed in the past years a step further, consolidating the progressive links between Africa and the global community, creating a unique space where politicians, progressive leaders, and strategists from all over the world can reflect and discuss the continent’s political agenda within a contemporary context and address the new relations that have emerged between Africa, Europe, and the international community.

The initiative’s objective is threefold:

On one hand, the initiative attempts to kick off an existing dialogue, in regard to the new agenda, among different political parties in Africa.

Secondly, it attempts to strengthen the relations among progressive think tanks in Africa, Europe, and even beyond to stimulate the debate and new alliances.

Lastly, the conference expects to overcome the deficiencies of the “developmentalist” paradigm, and offer a new agenda, innovative and progressive, for the Africa’s development.

On July 19th, 2010, representatives from academia, governors, think tanks, and politicians will debate the most urgent matters in conjunction with the current and future challenges for Africa. The conference will conclude with a panel of leaders, composed by African and European politicians, which will respond to the ideas and recommendations made by the event’s participants.

- **Establishment of the IDEAS Network in Asia**

Carmen de Paz (Head of the Area)

Description of the Activity / Project:

Asia remains to be absent in the networks of thought and global progressive debate, which have gradually been incorporated into other regions of the world. The cultural and political diversity and the dissimilar economic and social realities that each Asian country confronts makes the task of Asian incorporation difficult. The ever-growing economic and strategic importance of the region and its current dynamism, along with the increase of relations within the continent and the EU are only some of the reasons that fostering this link is gradually more and more necessary.

After the recent elections in Japan and India, 2010 is considered an appropriate moment to strengthen the Spanish relationships with the numerous, dynamic civil and politically progressive organizations in the Asian Pacific and Indian Subcontinent context. The IDEAS Foundation will carry out a prospective visit to establish contacts with the think tanks or foundations in those countries with the purpose of:

- Launching a dialogue about possible solutions and commonalities with reference to some of the principal, common challenges that we confront, such as the climate change and the reduction of economic imbalances and global capital
- Deepening the understanding of the political situation and challenges for the progressives in these countries
- Initiating and fortifying its relations with Spain, with the intention of its inclusion in the Global Progress dialogue, led by IDEAS and the Center for American Progress

- **The Second Edition of the Global Progress Conference and the Constitution of the Board of Global Progress**

Carmen de Paz / Matt Browne (Head /Coordinator)

Type of Activity: Conferencia

Description of the Activity / Project:

Continuing with the initiative already launched in 2009, which has placed Spain and IDEAS at the head of global progressive thought renovation, in November 2010, and coinciding with the constitution of the Board of Global Progress at the IDEAS Foundation, IDEAS will organize a second edition of the Global Progress Conference. During this conference IDEAS, in collaboration with its American partner, the Center for American Progress (CAP), will place before itself the principle factors in this sphere; concretely, and in Europe's case, both the generation of progressive leaders that governed the continent during the past decades and the new or future leaders, that face the need to provide a renewed impulse to progressive thought and action.

In this meeting, the contemporary progressive global condition will be discussed and debated in great detail, focusing on certain aspects identified during the October 2009 Conference, and adding to the discussion the results of the processes that are currently being put into effect and that will inform potential concrete approaches with the intention of recuperating the lost space in the EU and strengthening the New Progressive Transatlantic Pact initiated by IDEAS and CAP.

In this manner, this second edition will officially elect a Board of Global Progress, as an advisory body in the political sphere for the IDEAS Foundation and CAP. Co-presided by Felipe González (IDEAS, Europe) and Bill Clinton (CAP, North America), the Board will be composed of progressive leaders from all the regions of the world on the first level. In this first stage, Michelle Bachelet (ex Chilean President representing Latin America), Thabo Mbeki (ex President of South Africa representing Africa), and Helen Clark (ex President of New Zealand representing Australasia) have been invited to participate in the Board although the size of the Board could be augmented to eleven members.

The mission of the Global Progress Board, which will convene once a year, is twofold: provide political and strategic leadership to the Global Progress program and, additionally, to contribute to the intergenerational dialogue and the formation of the new progressive leaders in power.

- **Seminar About the Options for a New Economy of Prosperity**

Gustavo Nombela / Carmen de Paz (Coordinator / Head)

Type of Activity: Seminar

Description of the Activity / Project:

Throughout decades and specifically since the “fathers of the economy” formulated the basic principles for the modern field of economy, economics has been based on an essential premise which has hardly been questioned: the central role of the GDP as an appropriate measurement for a country’s wealth, and as its growth and guarantor of stability, wellbeing, and prosperity. Phenomena such as the global economic, energy, and environmental crises, seem to indicate the moment to reconsider the validity to this axiom.

The measurements utilized during the first phase of the recuperation of the economic crisis were centered on the rescuing and preservation of an obviously antiquated model. Today we confront a situation that demands a generation of ideas and innovative actions, but also requires courage to resist the temptation to continue returning to the paradigms which are already known. Conscious of this urgent necessity, some distinguished economists and scholars have opened a reflection and debate which is both opportune and necessary due to the alarming phenomena that plague the foundations of the system that govern our lives today.

Is the GDP truly the adequate tool to measure the material wealth of a country? Are the GDP and its growth the best measurement of social wellbeing or the quality of life in a specified nation? Is a prosperity and sustainability model that is not based on the perpetual growth of the GDP and consumerism a possible alternative?

IDEAS will combine all the efforts made in this field of study by other organizations such as the OECD and the Club of Rome. In order to do this, during the second semester of the year a seminar regarding “The Economy and the Prosperity” will be organized with the objective of stimulating, nourishing, and spreading the debate and different initiatives throughout Spain and the rest of Europe, and, finally, to reunite experts who specialize on the topic from different countries.

- **Seminar About the World Development Report 2011 Regarding Gender of World Bank**

Carmen de Paz (Head of Area)

Type of Activity: Seminar

Description of the Activity / Project:

In the second semester of the year, IDEAS will organize, conjointly with the World Bank, a seminar of the official presentation of the future World Development Report 2011's contents, which have to do with gender, a theme that has been central to the Spanish government's political agenda since 2004. To realize this seminar, the coordinator whose current position is Director of Poverty in Washington, Ana Revenga, has received the assignment of producing this report for the year of 2011; which, in turn, is one of the most important annual publications done by the institution. In the seminar representatives from the government, administration, and the civil society will have the opportunity to learn the contents of the report before it is even created, debate these ideas with Revenga, and present their opinion and visions in order to move the process past the initial phase.