

CSFI

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Brussels for Breakfast (51): A breakfast discussion meeting on EU regulatory issues, with Graham Bishop (grahambishop.com) and George Parker (*Financial Times*). To be held on Thursday, October 15, 2009, from 8:30-10:15 am.

Finally, Graham has something to crow over... Ireland's pusillanimous capitulation to arm-twisting over Nice is a game-changer as far as the European architecture is concerned. But how does a Euro-president and a common foreign policy affect the financial services sector? I wait (with some trepidation) to find out.

And, of course, there are (as always) lots of other good things being cooked up in Brussels for our future delectation – an attack on stamp duty, control of OTC derivatives markets, the transmogrification of the three Lamfalussy committees into “authorities”, a new assault on the banks by the Consumer Affairs Commissioner, as well as all the old chestnuts (Solvency 2, the AIMD, the future of hedge funds etc etc).

Our breakfast meetings (four years and counting) are an opportunity for Brussels-watchers to share concerns, to look a little bit over the horizon, and (thanks to Graham's formidable information machine) to make sure that all the boxes are ticked. But it is not just Graham. This month, we are delighted to be joined by George Parker, the political editor of the *Financial Times*. Between 2002 and 2007, George was the *FT*'s Brussels bureau chief, and he continues to write widely on Britain's dealings with the EU.

If you and/or a colleague would like to join us for our usual caring-and-sharing experience, please let us know by emailing sophie@csfi.org.uk or by telephoning 020 7493 0173. As usual, coffee, tea and buns will be provided.

Sincerely yours,

Andrew Hilton