

**Austerity, Labor, Life, and Politics in Europe (Session 2)**  
**Spencer Jones, LBJ School of Public Affairs**

**Damon Silvers, Director of Policy and Special Counsel, AFL-CIO**

It's not in the German national interest to continue the starving austerity it has advocated for its major trading partners. OECD's creation was to serve as an institutional glue to keep from falling to fascism. Countries that are "doing the right thing" are nonetheless going over the cliff. Perhaps they aren't "doing the right thing" after all.

The political danger here is real. The conditions in Europe, with 25% represent a society in profound pain. The political system cannot hold this weight.

**Gustav Horn, Hans Bockler Foundation**

The most successful country in the crisis, Germany, has the greatest consumption rises during the same period. Germany stabilized demand through significant fiscal stimulus. The main objective of the policy strategy, to reduce the debt burdens, has failed - the debt burden merely increased. The situation in Greece today resembles that of Germany during the Great Depression. A key difference was Germany's departure from the Gold Standard and the subsequent recovery. Greece has yet to leave the Euro.

The worse the situation gets in Greece, the more optimistic the projections of recovery get. The basic lesson is that the longer the crisis lasts, the deeper the recession gets. We must change the course now, or the Eurozone is doomed.

**Terri Givens, University of Texas, Austin**

Illegal immigration in Europe is coming from all sides, and it is bringing a predictable right-wing political response across Europe. It's important to understand, however, the impact that the Euro crisis has on the level of suffering within Europe's neighbors.

**George Stathakis, University of Crete**

The Greek program is a complete failure. The main problem is not the problems before 2008, rather the program addresses the symptoms. The Greek program represents Hooverism and is not based on economic theory.

What matters is how the European leaders decided manage the Economic Crisis in Europe. Looking only at Greece doesn't show you the true problem. The response to the crisis, "the Greek program," is the real source of the troubles. Greece will never pay back its debts and has to go back to sensible solution to solve the crisis in Greece.