The 2008 financial crash and its aftermath in Greece and to a lesser extent other nations led to fears that the Eurozone would collapse. Yet, somehow, the euro and its zone have survived – perhaps for lack of a sensible way out, perhaps because of merits that were too easily ignored during the crisis. Over the past three years, the economies of the Eurozone countries have grown at the same rate as in the United States, so the crisis appears to be over. But can the Eurozone be reformed to improve security and growth for all its members? Or will it remain, as Nicolas Véron recently wrote with colleagues, “vulnerable, underperforming, and divided?”

There are divisions between elites and much of the public, and between two groups of national leaders. One, led by France, believes new EU governance and risk-sharing mechanisms are needed. The other, led by Germany, views the problems as caused by national policies that require domestic reforms. As a founder of the Bruegel think tank in Brussels and fellow of the Peterson Institute, Nicolas Véron has become a leading expert on financial regulation in the EU. Recently, he joined with other independent French and German economists to propose a package of reforms designed to bridge the gap between official French and German perspectives. Join us to discuss the Eurozone’s past, present, and especially future.

The Friday Public Affairs Discussion Lunch is an opportunity for students, faculty, staff, emeriti and other members of our communities to learn and question each other about public policy issues at the international, national, and local levels. Faculty and other speakers share their research and experience to get beyond the headlines and repetition in the mass media, and the wild rumors of the internet. Lunch is brown bag, but cookies and some beverages are provided by the Center for Policy Studies of the College of Arts and Sciences.

http://fridaylunch.case.edu/

This event is co-sponsored by the Department of Political Science and Department of Economics.