

**On the path to freedom and prosperity?
Launch of the Economic Freedom of the World Report 2014**

**Tuesday, 7 October 2014
12.00 – 14.00**

Venue: Renaissance Brussels Hotel, Ballroom, Rue du Parnasse 19, 1050 Brussels

About the event

Countries whose institutions promote economic freedom enjoy higher investment rates, more rapid economic growth, higher income levels, and a more rapid reduction in poverty rates. Open markets allow nations to specialize in the production of goods that they have a comparative advantage in, resulting in welfare gains for all involved parties. Only if property rights are secured, countries can attract foreign investment they need to diversify and develop their economies. All in all, the preservation and expansion of the liberal trade regime is necessary to ensure rising living standards in all parts of the world. Hence, monitoring the development of economic institutions and conditions worldwide is of vital importance.

The Economic Freedom of the World Report, annually published by the Fraser Institute and its partners, compiles data from over 150 countries and enjoys worldwide reputation. The Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom invites you to the launch of this year's edition, which will take place in Brussels for the very first time. Is the world moving towards free trade or protectionism? How can property rights be secured in times of political unrest in large parts of the world? What are the repercussions of the financial crisis 2007/2008? How is the EU member states' performance evaluated? Does the European Union rather facilitate or inhibit liberalization and economic freedom? Join us for a lively discussion of the findings.

Welcome and Keynote

Olli Rehn, MEP

Vice President of the European Parliament and former European Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs and the Euro

Speakers

Dr. Robert Lawson

Professor of economics at Cox School of Business and Co-author of the Economic Freedom of the World Report

Dr. James Gwartney

Professor of economics and Political Science at Florida State University and Co-author of the Economic Freedom of the World Report

Dr. Michael Walker

Founder of the Fraser Institute

Andrei Illarionov (tbc)

Senior fellow at the Cato Institute's Center for Global Liberty and Prosperity and former chief economic adviser of Russian President Vladimir Putin

Moderator

Peter Spiegel (tbc)

Brussels bureau chief of the Financial Times

Closing Remarks

Hans H. Stein

Director of the International Political Dialogue European Institutions and North America at the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom

Kindly register for this event before 3 October here: <http://tinyurl.com/EFW2014Report> or email register.brussels@fnst.org!

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