

## Introduction of the policy panel

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Today we are privileged to have with us three Governors who have all had distinguished careers as economists. Indeed, all three had stints as young economists at their respective central banks, before eventually becoming governors. All three can be counted on to provide us with fresh insights into sovereign risk.

These similarities granted, we shall benefit from very different perspectives. William Dudley, President of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, will talk about sovereign risk from the standpoint of the largest financial markets in the world and the safe haven for global investors in recent years. With some of the lowest bond yields in its history, the United States faces challenges in consolidating its fiscal accounts to sustain the singular role of US government debt in the international financial markets. We will be very interested in Bill's view from New York.

Then we shall hear from Governors representing economies that differ in several ways besides their size. In both Iceland and Ireland, before the current Governors' terms, banking and finance had grown to a size where they were totally out of proportion to the underlying economy. At the crucial moment, politicians acting amid the fog of crisis had to make fateful decisions. Both economies are now on the road back to economic growth and access to international investors. We are privileged to hear the reflections of Már Guðmundsson, Governor of the Central Bank of Iceland, and of Patrick Honohan, Governor of the Central Bank of Ireland.

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