



*Bridge Forum Dialogue conference on 26.01.2015*

*“Decision making in the information driven society”*

*Speaker:* Mr. Walter Radermacher, Director General of Eurostat,  
Member of the Board and of the Executive Committee of the Bridge Forum Dialogue

*Chairman:* Mr. Reinesch,  
Governor of the Central Bank of Luxembourg,  
President of the Bridge Forum Dialogue

\*\*\*\*\*

*Introductory remarks by Mr. Reinesch*



Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It's my privilege to welcome you all tonight to the first conference of this year organised by the Bridge Forum Dialogue.

The Bridge Forum Dialogue aims at linking the European institutions established in Luxembourg and the financial, economic and legal community in Luxembourg. This network for reflection and cooperation, which now exists for more than 15 years, has organised many conferences on subjects of particular importance for the future of our European Union.

Today's conference by Walter Radermacher, the Director General of Eurostat, is very much in line with this objective.

Let me first say that we are proud to host Eurostat and its around 850 staff members in Luxembourg. The successive Director Generals of Eurostat were all active members of the decision-making bodies of the Forum. So we are particularly proud that Walter agreed to give us a speech tonight on a very topical subject.

The title of Walter's speech is: *Decision making in the information driven society*. Starting with the observation that decision making in our societies is more and more based on measurable facts and that the tools available for the modern day statistician are quite sophisticated, Walter examines critically our ability to measure the increasingly complex world surrounding us, especially in an information driven society.



This is of particular importance at the European level where the role of Eurostat is of crucial importance for EU institutions among which I might mention the European Central Bank and the Eurosystem. As far as the ECB is concerned, the example which probably comes first to one's in this context mind is the measurement of inflation. While the ECB conducts monetary policy in relation to, its primary objective, which is price stability, this policy is based on inflation measures established in full independence by Eurostat and this in the highest professional way. This is an example of good governance. Those who use such statistics as decision makers are not those who establish them.

But let me now introduce our speaker of tonight.

Walter Radermacher studied business economics in Germany in Aachen and Münster. After his studies, he worked at the University of Münster before moving to the German Federal Statistical Office, DESTATIS.

Official statistics turned out to be Walter's professional passion and he held various positions in DESTATIS, including Vice-President and President. In August 2008, he was appointed Director-General of Eurostat and Chief Statistician of the European Union.

Walter is furthermore member of the Board and Executive Committee of the Bridge Forum Dialogue.

I thank him very warmly for accepting to express his personal views, surely inspired by his long time experience and deep knowledge of statistical concepts and of the economic system.

Walter, the floor is yours!