



Agricultural commodity trade, food prices and regulation: International debate and relevance for Switzerland

Monday, 24 November 2014, 14:00 – 16:00 (followed by an Aperitif)

Sorell Hotel Ador, Laupenstrasse 15, 3001 Bern, Room Gnägi

Panellists:

Marc Chesney, University of Zurich, Vice Director of Department of Banking and Finance

Marc Chesney is Professor of Quantitative Finance and Vice-Director of the Department of Banking and Finance at the University of Zurich. He is also a member of Finance Watch and of Kontrapunkt. Previously, from 1993 to 2000, he was Professor and Associate Dean at HEC Paris. He holds a Ph.D. in Finance from the University of Geneva and obtained his habilitation from the Sorbonne University. His book entitled "Vom Grossen Krieg zur permanenten Krise" has recently been published.

Maximo Torero International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington, Director of the Markets, Trade, and Institutions Division

Maximo Torero is the Division Director of the Markets, Trade, and Institutions Division at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), leader of the Global Research Program on Institutions and Infrastructure for Market Development and Director for Latin America. Prior to joining IFPRI, he was a senior researcher and member of the executive committee at Group of Analysis for Development (GRADE). He received his Ph.D. from the University of California at Los Angeles, Department of Economics and held a postdoctoral fellow position at the UCLA Institute for Social Science Research (ISSR). Dr. Torero's major research work lies mostly in analyzing poverty, inequality, importance of geography and assets (private or public) in explaining poverty, and in policies oriented towards poverty alleviation based on the role played by infrastructure, institutions, and on how technological breakthroughs (or discontinuities) can improve the welfare of households.

Martin Hess Swiss Bankers' Association – Basel Chief Economist

Martin Hess has been the Swiss Bankers Association' Head of Economic Policy and a member of the Chief Economist Group with the European Banking Federation since 2010. He previously held the position as the Head of the Financial Stability and Monetary Policy Unit with the State Secretariat for International Financial Matters of the Swiss Federal Department of Finance, where he also worked as a senior policy advisor in the International Finance Division. Prior to his engagement with the Swiss Treasury, Martin Hess was an associate professor at the Business School of the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México until 2004, and he widely published in academic journals in the field of empirical finance. In 2000, Martin Hess graduated in economics at the University of Bern after his studies in Switzerland and USA.

Moderator Markus Mugglin, Journalist and Economist (www.markusmugglin.ch)

M.M. worked for 25 years for Swiss National Public Radio SRF. He was head of the news program „Echo der Zeit“ (until autumn 2012). He worked as UN-Correspondent (2004 – 2009), EU-correspondent in Brussels (1993 – 1998). He holds a degree in economics from the University of St. Gallen. Currently he is working as a freelance journalist, specializing in issues of global economic relations. In March 2014 he published a report on « Nahrungsmittelspekulation – (k)ein Problem ? »