

## Maria João Rodrigues to Joseph Stiglitz in Brussels and Washington

MEP Maria João Rodrigues and Professor Joseph Stiglitz, Nobel Prize for Economics, were fellow panelists **in Brussels at the "European Dialogue 2016"**, an initiative borne by the European Trade Union Institute and the German foundation Hans Böckler, and **in Washington at the Conference "A progressive perspective for reform of fiscal rules"**, organized by the Initiative for Policy Dialogue in partnership with the European Progressive Studies Foundation.

Maria João Rodrigues said all Eurozone countries, especially those with more surplus should increase investment to achieve levels of economic growth higher than the current ones.



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"We have to reach higher levels of growth, the countries with surplus should strengthen their domestic demand and all Eurozone countries should invest more", stressed the MEP and rapporteur of the European Parliament for European economic policy. The Socialist EP's Vice-president said that **"it is possible to have a path of fiscal consolidation" and at the same time, protect the social status and leverage growth**, but for that we must "act to change the European framework" and discuss a 'policy mix 'that is more appropriate for the Euro area. **"We have to get instruments to invest, we have to open the discussion on the need to provide the Euro zone macroeconomic stabilization, tools and support for structural convergence"**, she argued, stressing that "this monetary zone should provide the financial capacity to do what national budgets can no longer do" as well as tools to make more sustainable public debt. **These positions were entirely shared by Stiglitz, who stressed the need to reform the Euro zone and to end the "tax havens"**. The Economics Nobel also called for the "European leaders stop blaming the United States that are the main victims of the crisis" and recalled that "the recipe applied by the troika, based on dubious structural reforms, was inhuman."