



**7th AFD/EUDN Conference**  
**Fragmentation in a Globalised World**  
**Paris, December 9th, 2009**

The collapse of the iron curtain and the Soviet system aroused the immense hope of an united world that would transcend all the differences between nations, whether economic, technological, or ideological. The drive towards the globalisation of the world economy was to be instrumental in making countries converge economically while the end of the cold war was expected to shape a homogeneous entity largely adhering to the rising liberal ideology. Today, twenty years later, one is compelled to reckon that the dream has not come true.

On the one hand, the increased economic interdependence on world level has had the effect of encouraging the rise of new countries on the world scene, particularly in East and South Asia as well as Latin America. Their emergence has brought about profound changes in the hierarchy of economic powers, causing new and deep insecurities in the advanced countries of the West. The temptation of protectionism has grown as a result.

On the other hand, the homogenisation of political and value systems has not occurred and has probably been put in reverse. Due to a conjunction of complex factors that include geopolitics, anti-Western feelings have grown in some regions of the world, particularly in Muslim countries. The difficulty inherent in the choice between following the so-called Western path and maintaining the values of the 'imagined' traditional civilisation has thus been exacerbated in these regions, giving rise to serious tensions in international relations and to the posturing of countries in the southern hemisphere as the new champions of victimised nations (e.g., Iran).

The present conference aims at covering the aforementioned issues by adopting the standpoint of major regions of the world. The following speakers are scheduled to address the conference:

Alan Winters, Professor at the university of Sussex and Director of the Department of International Relations (DFID), UK: he will offer a broad overview of the subject and specially refer to East Asia.

Mustapha Nabli, senior advisor at the World Bank, Washington DC: he will deal with the Muslim world and the Middle East, in particular.

André Sapir, Professor at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB): he will deal with Europe.

François Bourguignon, Director of the Paris School of Economics, and Pierre Jacquet, Chief Economist at AFD: they will deal mostly with the present state of development aid and cooperation, with a special focus on SubSaharan Africa.

Ernesto Zedillo (to be confirmed), Director of the Yale Center for the Study of Globalization.