This is the first edition of an annual conference series on the Political Economy of Finance. Three leading Dutch universities – Erasmus University Rotterdam, Tilburg University, and the University of Amsterdam – host the annual event in order to build a European platform for researchers in this highly topical area, usually treated separately in economics and finance. For its first edition, the conference is dedicated to exploring the intersections between political economy and central banking.

**12.20-12.30 – Opening**

Enrico Perotti (University of Amsterdam & CEPR)

**12.30-14.00 – Electoral Politics, Credit, and Regulation**

Chair: Elena Carletti (Bocconi University & CEPR)

*Electoral Cycles in Macroprudential Regulation*

Presenter: Karsten Müller (Princeton University)

Discussant: Anne-Laure Delatte (Paris Dauphine University & CEPR)

*Toxic Loans and the Rise of Populist Candidacies*

Presenter: Emilie Sartre (CREST-ENSAE)

Discussant: Boris Vallée (Harvard Business School)
14.30-16.00 – Institutions, Reforms, and Politics
Chair: Martin Hellwig (Max Planck Institute & University of Bonn)

A Diverse Monetary Union
Presenter: Oscar Soons (University of Amsterdam)
Discussant: Roberto Perotti (Bocconi University & CEPR)

Complexity and the Reform Process
Presenter: Dana Foarta (Stanford Graduate School of Business)
Discussant: Frederic Malherbe (University College London & CEPR)

16.30-17.30 – Keynote Lecture
Francesco Trebbi (University of California, Berkeley & CEPR)

18.00-19.30 – Governance and Central Banking
Chair: Paul Tucker (Harvard Kennedy School)

(Why) Do Central Banks Care about their Profits?
Presenter: Igor Goncharov (Lancaster University)
Discussant: Prachi Mishra (International Monetary Fund)

Fifty Shades of QE: Conflicts of Interest in Economic Research
Presenter: Elisabeth Kempf (University of Chicago Booth School of Business & CEPR)
Discussant: José-Luis Peydró (Pompeu Fabra University & CEPR)

Organising committee: Thomas Lambert (Erasmus University Rotterdam), Enrico Perotti (University of Amsterdam & CEPR), Magdalena Rola-Janicka (Tilburg University)