

Beat: Politics

## **Merkels keynote speech at the European Parliament on ways out of the crisis**

### **Merkels keynote speech**

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The EU must have the courage to see more reforms, and greater integration, German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Wednesday before the MPs. She stressed the need to protect the euro.

The EP group leaders demanded that she be more ambitious, especially in defense of a strong EU budget, and demanded not only to insist on austerity measures. A minority of MPs described the euro as a straitjacket.

In the afternoon, Merkel met with various members of the European Parliament and debated after two hours with the deputies on the economic crisis and the forthcoming negotiations on the long-term EU budget.

Merkel called for closer coordination of economic policies and more common fiscal policy. She said she could not imagine a new financial instrument for the euro zone to balance the reform efforts of individual countries. The Presidents urged Merkel repeated more political determination. The EPP stressed the need for a sufficient EU budget to offset the EU's economic stimulus.

Social Democrats, the Greens and the GUE group demanded a new road map to resolve the crisis, which is based not only on cost-cutting measures. The Liberals pointed out that the EU needed to quickly develop into a federal union, while the chairmen of ECR and EFD demanded to facilitate the eventual exit from the euro zone.

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