

Transcript of an interview with Professor Sylvester Eijffinger
Sunday April 10th 2011

- What will be the next step of the Dutch government in the dispute?

"As you know, I can not comment on that because I was adviser in this matter on the behalf of the Dutch government."

- Could you comment on the view that is being taken in the Netherlands? The view of the Dutch political class towards the decision of the President to put the matter into a referendum and then the decision of the Icelandic people to reject the agreement?

"Well, I think everybody is very much astonished by the fact that this is not a second, but a third time that there were negotiations and they were disrupted by the President of Iceland through a referendum and I think that makes the whole thing very complicated for Iceland. I think the possibility that Iceland will join the European Union is at this moment no."

- Is there no chance?

"No chance."

- Do you think that this issue will be taken to a court?

"Of course. Both the British minister and the Dutch minister have already expressed in the Dutch press that they would go to court, that there wouldn't be any negotiation at all."

- Some people in Iceland now take the view that these are great news because we don't have to pay anything exceeding the moratorium of Landsbanki? How would you respond to this view?

"That is an illusion. That is a complete illusion. There was this last arrangement, not a second deal but a third deal. It was a very generous offer by the British and the Dutch government and it's at the end of what you can negotiate."

- Is there any final point you would like to make, Sir? This has been a lengthy and complicated dispute. Is there any final point you would like to make?

"Yes. Get a new President."