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Bercow, Moravcsik, and Padoan were Saturday's key speakers

Day 3 Wrap-Up from Trento Economics Festival

As the Festival continued into the weekend, lectures were still packed on the third day in Trento. With discussions on a variety of topics such as the democratic deficit, liberal democracy and populist foreign policy, people from far and wide came to take part in the activities.

The weekend didn't stop anyone from flocking to Trento. On Day 3 of the Economics Festival, the streets and lecture venues were jam packed with people curious to learn more about the Festival and tune in for some of the day's keynote speeches.

While the sunny weather outside was absolutely beautiful, some 200 people packed into Facoltà di Giurisprudenza to take in Princeton University professor Andrew Moravcsik's lecture on populist foreign policy. While at times controversial, Moravcsik insisted that populism's foreign policy plans are always doomed to collapse and that populism is nothing that people need to fear in the near future.

In the afternoon, former Italian Minister of Economy and Finance Pier Carlo Padoan spoke in a panel discussion on debt. While the sold out audience in Teatro Sociale took in the debate, people in the streets were also tuning in. Gazing upon the jumbotron set up in Piazza del Duomo, a crowd of about 100 was scattered throughout the street and intensely taking in the panel's discussion. When asked about his impressions on the Festival, one man said, "it's a wonderful thing that it's here. People don't think about the need for open discussion on some of the issues this Festival is addressing, especially at such an important time for not only Italy and the EU, but the world."

To cap off Day 3, the United Kingdom's Speaker of the House of Commons John Bercow delivered an entertaining lecture at Teatro Sociale. The sold out crowd was on the edge of their seats for the duration of his lecture on democracy and representation, which also included several lighthearted moments that stirred applause and laughter from the audience.

As the Festival roles into Sunday for its fourth and final day, more exciting lectures and more beautiful sunny weather are expected to come!

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