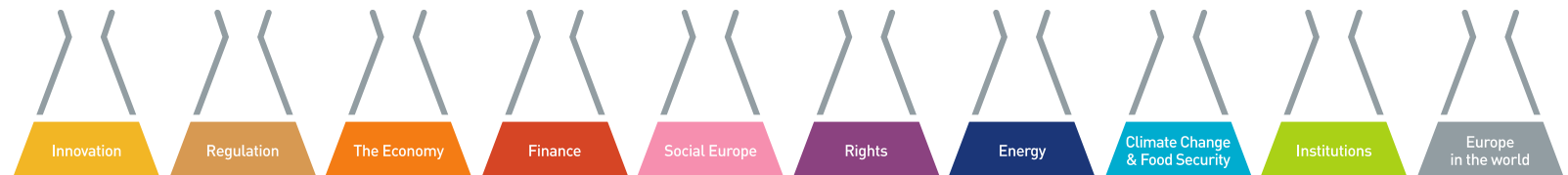




R&R Session

Friday 4th of April 2014



Upgrading Inter-parliamentary Cooperation in the EU

Questions:

- What does inter-parliamentary cooperation mean?
- Does it work?
- How can it be improved?

Valentin Kreilinger,
Jacques Delors Institut Berlin

POLICY PAPER 100 | OCTOBER 2013
PROJECT "EU & DIFFERENTIATED INTEGRATION"



THE NEW INTER-PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE FOR ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE

Valentin Kreilinger | research fellow at Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute

SUMMARY

The **Inter-parliamentary Conference on Economic and Financial Governance** meets for the first time in **Vilnius on 16 and 17 October 2013**. Its creation was decided by the Speakers of the Presidents of all Parliaments in the European Union in April 2013. This decision was taken quietly, but the idea of an inter-parliamentary conference to ensure some parliamentary exchange and control on questions related to the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) finally manifests itself at the first meeting of this conference. This Policy Paper analyses the agreement on the Inter-parliamentary Conference on Economic and Financial Governance.

Its first part assesses the functions that an inter-parliamentary conference can fulfil and takes stock of the two other inter-parliamentary conferences in the European Union (see pages 3 to 7): the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the EU (COSAC) and the Inter-parliamentary conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). The size of the delegations sent by national parliaments to these inter-parliamentary conferences varies significantly: there are only a few member states that regularly send six MPs – some member states have only sent an average of two MPs to the last seven COSAC meetings between 2010 and 2013.

IT IS NECESSARY TO
UPGRADE PARLIAMENTARY
CONTROL IN ORDER TO
KEEP UP WITH THE FUTURE
DEVELOPMENTS TOWARDS A
"GENUINE" EMU

In its second part (see pages 8 to 16), the Policy Paper examines the political difficulties to move forward in the institutional minefield of Article 13 TSCG that has enshrined such an inter-parliamentary conference "in order to discuss budgetary policies and other issues covered by this Treaty" and presents key elements of the decision that was taken at the **Speakers' Conference in April 2013**. The in-depth analysis of the positions of the different actors is based on documents, working papers, reports and resolutions both from national parliaments and European institutions.

ESTABLISH A **GENUINE** PARLIAMENTARY CONTROL FOR A **GENUINE** ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION



REMEDY THE FLAWED INSTITUTIONAL DESIGN OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE FOR ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE

No Rules of
Procedure

No clear membership

No counter-weight to the decline
of national parliamentary
sovereignty on budgets

No real hearings and questioning
of EU decision-makers

⇒ *draft and agree on
ambitious
Rules of Procedure
after the European Parliament
elections
&
in time for the next conference!*

ENHANCE THE GENERAL **PROFILE** OF INTER-PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION

adopt
conclusions
by a $\frac{3}{4}$
majority

improve
the timing

exhaust
the
prerogatives

rely on the
transnational
party
networks