



EPP Group

# Relations with National parliaments

Newsletter

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## EPP Group's European Affairs Network meeting on the Eurozone crisis, 17 October 2011, Brussels

The Network Meeting of EPP National Parliamentarians responsible for European Affairs and EPP Group Members of the European Parliament took place on Monday 17 October in Brussels focusing on the main current economic issues related to the Eurozone crisis. MPs from twelve Chambers were present: from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Finland, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden, Ireland and Portugal together with several EPP Group MEPs.



Paulo Rangel, MEP

**Paulo Rangel MEP**, Vice-President responsible for relations with National Parliaments, chaired the 6th Network Meeting of Chairmen and in his introduction he stated that "Europe has been confronted by this crisis for months now, and that we are having trouble in finding ways to get ourselves out of this difficult situation. The crisis has exposed the inadequacies of our institutional apparatus, of our panoply, and of our political and administrative organisation.. In order to find the necessary solutions to these problems, it is clear that these issues need to be discussed and debated. But we must do this together,

as the EU-27, avoiding the easy way out and especially recognising as false the illusion that we can get the best result by going it alone. These are the reasons why the discussions here today are so important".



Jean-Paul Gauzès MEP

**Jean-Paul Gauzès MEP**, EPP Group Coordinator of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs in the European Parliament spoke about Economic Governance, concentrating on the package just approved by the European Parliament with an emphasis on the EPP approach to these matters, i.e. a Stability and Growth Pact to be strengthened with sanctions. **Peter Michael Ikrath MP**, Vice-Coordinator of the Committee on Financial Affairs of the Austrian Nationalrat gave a presentation on the constitutional limitation of debt. He explained the particular situation in Austria and underlined the need to consolidate the budget by cutting spending. However, he stated that in his experience, fiscal rules can only show positive effects if they are supported by politics. **Valère Moutarlier**, Member of the Cabinet of Algirdas Šemeta, European Commissioner for Taxation and Customs Union, Audit and Anti-fraud, explained the specifics of the

European Commission's latest proposal for a common system incorporating a Financial transaction tax. He stated that the aim here is to send a strong signal of the EU's intentions to promote such a tax at global level so as to avoid fragmentation in the internal market for financial services, markets and institutions. **Sidonia Elżbieta Jędrzejewska MEP**, Member of the Committee on Budgets of the EP, gave her views on the Financial perspectives. She raised key issues like the proposed Multi Annual Financial Framework. She drew attention to the complicated economic mechanisms in place in the EU and emphasised the EP's wish for continuity in the expenditure of budgets.



Peter Michael Ikrath MP

The debate on the crisis in the Eurozone area was introduced by knowledgeable speakers like **Günther Krichbaum MP**, Chair of the Committee for European Affairs, German Bundestag (Germany). He explained his vision for Europe as one that sees it as a "stability union". He also explained that in his country there is support for the Financial transaction tax as well as for a constitutional limitation of public debt. **Paulo Mota Pinto MP** (PSD), Chair of the European Affairs Committee of the Assembleia da República (Portugal), stressed that we are not talking about a crisis of the euro as a currency but of a crisis affecting several countries, having implications for the eurozone in its entirety.



Günther Krichbaum MP

**Nicola Formichella MP**, Spokesperson for the PDL in the European Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies (Italy) explained Italy's current financial situation and outlined the austerity measures that the Italian Government has taken so far. **Dara Murphy MP**, Chairman of the Fine Gael's European Affairs Committee (Ireland), informed that the situation in Ireland was improving, giving the examples of economic growth bolstered by net exports and competitiveness. He explained how Ireland could serve as a model to other countries in the same situation. **Konstantinos Moussouroulis MP**, from Nea Demokratia party (Greece), raised the issue the euro's structural inadequacies. He also underlined the importance of presenting a true picture of the Greek situation, stating that it has been misrepresented by the recent portrayals that many European's read in the newspapers. **Monika Panayotova MP (GERB)**, Chairwoman of the Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of the European Funds at the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria took also part in the meeting.



Dara Murphy MP

A well participated debate took place among representatives from different MPs and MEPs like **Francis Delpérée**, President of the CDH at the Belgium Senate, **Christos Stylianides**, Member of the House of Representatives of the Democratic Rally of Cyprus, **Petteri Orpo**, Member from the Finnish Parliament, **Kathleen Ferrier**, MP of the CDA at the Dutch Parliament, **Susanna Haby**, Member of the Moderate Party in the Swedish Parliament; **Antonio Rodrigues**, member of the EU Committee at the Portuguese Parliament and **Ioannis Kassoulides MEP**, EPP Group Vicechairman, who expressed his concerns regarding the European Union's intentions to be the first economic area to introduce a financial transaction tax, feeling that this might affect the Eurozone's competitiveness.

### XLVI COSAC Meeting, Warsaw 2 - 4 October 2011

At the Conference of Community and European Affairs Committees of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC), which took place in Warsaw on 2-4 October, The Multiannual financial framework and the Parliamentary experience two years after the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon were the main topics on the agenda.

**Jerzy Buzek MEP**, President of the European Parliament, attended the COSAC meeting in Warsaw. The EPP Group was represented by **Paulo Rangel MEP**, Vice-president of the EPP Group responsible for Relations with National Parliaments, **Carlo Casini MEP**, Chairman of the Constitutional Affairs Committee of the European Parliament and **Salvador Garriga Polledo MEP**.

COSAC adopted its conclusions based on the ongoing economic and financial crisis, confirming its "support of the efforts of the EU institutions which resulted in the proposed Multiannual Financial Framework for 2014-2020. These efforts will provide a basis for further debate and effective decision-making in the European Union. However, the results of these discussions must take into account national budget frameworks and national budget strategies". COSAC also discussed the EU's own resources' issue stating that it "considers it necessary to simplify and increase the transparency of the rules and procedures related to the accumulation, allocation and utilisation of the European Union's own resources and

encourages the EU institutions to take appropriate measures in this area.



Plenary Meeting of the XLVI COSAC, 2-4 October 2011

COSAC held its first debate on the evaluation of parliamentary experience and best practices two years after the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon welcoming the active involvement of national Parliaments in relation to subsidiarity checks. "COSAC believes that national Parliaments and the EU institutions should actively exchange information by way of their existing practices by applying the mechanisms of Protocol 2, believing that this should become more specific as part of a continuous dialogue between all the parties concerned". COSAC felt that the debate it held on the cooperation of national Parliaments with the European Commission was a welcome one and it requested that the European Commission take the results of the debate into account in its evaluation of the state of the Union and preparations of Work Programmes. COSAC expressed its satisfaction with national Parliaments' close and open cooperation with the European Commission, established under the Treaty of Lisbon. The informal political dialogue between the European Commission and national Parliaments - they say in the conclusions - will contribute to strengthening the parliamentary dimension in the EU decision process.

### In the next Newsletter :

The **15th Summit of the EPP Parliamentary Groups Chairmen** took place on 5 December 2011 in Brussels. In the next Newsletter there will be a complete report on this meeting.

The **Joint Parliamentary Meeting (JPM) 'Social Cohesion and Demographic Development in a Sustainable** took place on 5 December 2011 in Brussels. In the next Newsletter there will be a complete report on this meeting.

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