

Working paper of the meeting of the Speakers of Parliament of the Founding Member States of the European Union and the European Parliament¹ in Luxembourg on January 11th, 2013

The Speakers of Parliament of the Founding Member States of the European Union and the European Parliament having convened at an informal meeting on 11 January 2013 in Luxembourg for an exchange of views on interparliamentary cooperation and democratic oversight of the Economic and Monetary Union,

- a) having regard to the Treaty of the European Union (TEU), in particular its Article 12 and Title II on the Provisions on Democratic Principles;
 - b) having regard to Article 3.3, paragraph 4 TEU stating that the Union “shall promote economic, social and territorial cohesion, and solidarity among Member States”;
 - c) having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), in particular Title VIII on Economic and Monetary Policy;
 - d) having regard to Protocol No.1 on the Role of National Parliaments in the European Union, in particular its Article 9;
 - e) having regard to the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union (TSCG), in process of ratification, in particular its article 13 which provides for the organisation and promotion of a conference of the representatives of the competent committees of the European Parliament and representatives of the competent committees of the national Parliaments;
 - f) considering the European Parliament resolution of 20 November 2012 with recommendations to the Commission on the report of the Presidents of the European Council, the European Commission, the European Central Bank and the Eurogroup ‘Towards a genuine Economic and Monetary Union’;
 - g) considering the Communication of the European Commission “A Blueprint for a Deep and Genuine EMU, Launching a European debate”, COM(2012)777, published on 30 November 2012;
 - h) considering the Report by the President of the European Council, Herman van Rompuy in close cooperation with José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the Eurogroup and Mario Draghi, President of the European Central Bank, “Towards a Genuine Economic and Monetary Union”, published on 5 December 2012;
 - i) considering the Conclusions of the European Council of 13 and 14 December 2012;
1. recall the role of Parliaments in article 12 TEU emphasizing in particular the inter-parliamentary cooperation between national Parliaments and the European Parliament, in accordance with the Protocol No.1 on the role of national Parliaments in the European Union;

¹ Bundestag and Bundesrat of the Federal Republic of Germany, House of Representatives and Senate of the Kingdom of Belgium, National Assembly and Senate of the French Republic, Chamber of Deputies of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, House of Representatives and Senate of the States General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Senate of the Italian Republic, European Parliament. The Chamber of Deputies of the Republic of Italy did not participate in the meeting and does not endorse the working document.

2. underline the central role of Parliaments as budgetary sovereigns;
3. recall that the general objective in a more integrated, balanced and solidarity-based EMU remains to ensure democratic legitimacy and accountability at the level at which decisions are taken and implemented, both at European and national level;
4. recall that, given the role of the Parliaments in terms of legitimacy and accountability, any further strengthening of the European Economic and Monetary Policy must provide for a strong democratic control including the national Parliaments and the European Parliament;
5. welcome the fact that the European Commission 'Blueprint', the Report by the President of the European Council and the European Council Conclusions underline that any new steps towards strengthening the Economic and Monetary Union will need to be accompanied by further concrete measures towards stronger legitimacy and accountability, by enhancing the role of parliaments in this context;
6. consider that, in order that this deepened Economic and Monetary Union is subject to parliamentary oversight, a conference in line with Article 13 of the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union must be set up. The conference would consist of representatives from the national Parliaments and the European Parliament, in particular from the relevant committees. In terms of its scale, this conference ought to be comparable to the Interparliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy recently agreed on by the Speakers of the parliaments of the EU Member States;
7. underline that this conference would discuss topical issues of Economic and Monetary Union, including agreements in the framework of the European Semester, in order to reinforce dialogue between the national Parliaments and with the European Parliament. Yet binding decisions could only be taken at the responsible level;
8. propose to this end, that the Conference will meet at least twice a year, notably before the European Council in June, before or after the adoption of the relevant documents - namely the recommendations on the stability and reform programmes, the orientation of economic policies, the Growth Survey and the Alert Mechanism Report;

propose that at least one of these meetings will in principle take place at the European Parliament in Brussels;

- aa) the Conference should be presided by the Parliament of the Member State holding the rotating EU Council Presidency and organised jointly with the European Parliament;
- bb) the Conference could discuss the European Commission's assessment of the budgetary orientations of the participating EU Member States for the following year and make a collective contribution on the evolution of the Economic and Monetary Union by discussing in particular the Annual Growth Survey to be presented by the European Commission as well as the assessment of the

National Reform Programmes (NRPs) and Stability and Convergence Programmes (SCPs) and the recommendations issued in this context;

- cc) the Members of the Conference could also hear the President of the European Commission, the President of the European Council, the President of the Eurogroup, the President of the European Central Bank, as well as any relevant Commissioner;
- dd) the composition of the Conference should reflect the agreed compromise on the Inter-parliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy (“6+16”).

Prof. Dr. Norbert LAMMERT

Speaker of the Bundestag of the Federal Republic of Germany

Winfried KRETSCHMANN

Speaker of the Bundesrat of the Federal Republic of Germany

André FLAHAUT

Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Belgium

Claude BARTOLONE

Speaker of the National Assembly of the French Republic

Laurent MOSAR

Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

Anouchka VAN MILTENBURG

Speaker of the House of Representatives of the States General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Fred DE GRAAF

President of the Senate of the States General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Vannino CHITI

Vice-President of the Senate of the Italian Republic

Othmar KARAS

Vice-President of the European Parliament

Philippe MAHOUX

Chairman of the Federal Advisory Committee on European Affairs of the Senate of the Kingdom of Belgium

Simon SUTOUR

Chairman of the European Affairs Committee of the Senate of the French Republic