9-10 July 2018
Brussels

SUMMER SEMINAR
The European Semester for economic policy coordination from a parliamentary perspective
with the participation of EU National Parliaments’ administrations

— PROGRAMME —
Foreword

The first summer seminar for EU parliaments staff on the ‘European Semester for economic policy co-ordination from a parliamentary perspective’ will take place on 9 and 10 July 2018 on European Parliament’s premises. The programme has been designed in close cooperation with EU national parliament administrations on the basis of a survey launched in early 2018.

Since 2010, the European Semester has consisted of an annual cycle of policy guidance and coordination and surveillance of national economic and social policies. While the European Semester process has evolved over the years, political ownership at both EU and national levels of the decisions taken under the Semester cycles has been highlighted as indispensable for the legitimacy and efficiency of the economic governance framework.

The summer seminar aims to strengthen cooperation and better understanding among EU national parliaments’ and European Parliament administrations on the main steps and tools of the European Semester process, through knowledge sharing and the exchange of best practice.

This two-day seminar is an opportunity for participants to discuss and gain valuable insights into national practices and the main tools of the European Semester process, from both a European and a national perspective. This may be useful as the Semester framework involves a multi-tier governance structure in the EU.

Finally, the organisers are grateful to all colleagues in the EU institutions taking an active part in this event, including the Commission services and the Council secretariat, as well as to the colleagues at national level, for their very good collaboration in preparing this event.

We wish you a useful and productive seminar,

The organisation team of the EP services
SUMMER STAFF SEMINAR

The European Semester and the Parliaments’ involvement

Brussels, 9-10 July 2018
Room ASP 06D128 (Library), European Parliament

Objective: To strengthen cooperation and capacity building at administrative level among EU national Parliaments in the area of economic governance and to improve the understanding of the European Semester process through knowledge sharing and exchange of best practices.

Participants: Staff from national Parliaments and the European Parliament (EP) dealing with the Semester.

Logistics: Travelling and accommodation costs covered by the participants. EP will provide lunch and dinner.

Working language: English.

MONDAY
9 July 2018

14:00-14:45
Welcome and coffee
- Welcoming address: Markus WINKLER, Deputy Secretary-General, European Parliament
  Riccardo RIBERA D’ALCALA, Director General, Directorate-General for Internal Policies of the Union, European Parliament
  Helmut BERGER, Director, Budget Office of the Austrian Parliament – on behalf of the Austrian Presidency

Walk to the Hemicycle
15:00-16:00
Monetary Dialogue with Mario DRAGHI, President of the ECB
Listening to the monetary dialogue in the ECON Committee (Hemicycle in Paul-Henri Spaak Building, 3rd floor).

Walk back to room ASP 06D128
16:00-16:30
EGOV survey results on EU national parliaments’ involvement
- Presentation by Kajus HAGELSTAM and Wolfgang LEHOFER, EGOV, EP (max. 10 min)
  Discussion

16:30-18:00
The role of national parliaments in the scrutiny of the European Semester (some country experiences)
- Presentation by Melisso BOSCHI, Office for research in the economic and financial sectors, Italian Senat (max. 15 min)
- Presentation by Filip CLEM, Chamber of Deputies, Parliament of Romania (max. 15 min)
- Presentation Dries BERGEN and Hans VAN DEN ABabeele, Flemish Parliament (max. 15 min)
  Discussion

18:30
Dinner (hosted by EP)
Members’ restaurant, ASP Ground floor
8:30-9:15
The European Semester and the roles of the EU institutions

- Chair: Kajus HAGELSTAM, Head of unit, EGOV, EP
- Presentation by Miguel GIL TERTRE, Head of Unit, European Semester/Economic Governance/EMU, Secretariat General, European Commission (max. 10 min)
- Presentation by Olaf PRUESSMANN, Head of Unit, Economic Policy, including Eurogroup, the Council of the European Union secretariat (max. 10 min)
- Presentation by Bettina DE SOUZA GUILHERME and Samuel DE LEMOS, ECON Secretariat, EP (max. 10 min)

Discussion

9:15-9:45
The European Commission proposals for the MFF and their implications for the Semester

- Presentation by Markus SCHULTE, Member of the Cabinet of Commissioner Günther Oettinger, European Commission (max. 15 min)
- Q&A

9:45-11:15
The country-specific recommendations (CSRs)

Chair: Martin HRADISKÝ, EGOV, EP

- How have the CSRs evolved over time? (max. 15 min)
- Presentation by Miguel GIL TERTRE, Head of Unit, European Semester/Economic Governance/EMU, Secretariat General, European Commission

The link between the Semester and technical support provided by services of the Commission (max. 15 min)

- Presentation by Vincenzo BACCARO, Legal Adviser, and Jerneja JUG, Policy Officer, Structural Reform Support Service, European Commission

A database on CSRs implementation

- Presentation by Martin HRADISKÝ, EGOV, EP (max. 10 min)

Discussion

11:30-13:00
The fiscal governance framework(s)

Chair: Jost ANGERER, EGOV, EP

Stability and Growth Pact: main indicators used in the framework of the fiscal CSRs

- Presentation by Roberta TORRE, Fiscal policy and surveillance Unit, DG ECFIN, European Commission (max. 15 min)

The role of Independent Fiscal Councils: practice today

- Presentation by László JANKOVICS, Fiscal governance Unit, DG ECFIN, European Commission (max. 15 min)

The role of budgetary offices in National Parliaments (some country examples)

- Presentation by Helmut BERGER, Budget Office, Austrian Parliament (max. 10 min)
- Presentation by Denise O’CONNELL, Budget Office, Houses of the Oireachtas (max. 10 min)

Discussion

13:00-14:15
Lunch break (hosted by EP)

Members’ restaurant, Salon 6, ASP Ground floor

14:15-15:15
The surveillance of macroeconomic imbalances

Chair: Alice ZOPPÉ, EGOV, EP

Links between the Macroeconomic Imbalance Procedure and the CSRs

- Presentation by Jonas FISCHER, Head of Sector, Macroeconomic imbalances and adjustment Unit, DG ECFIN, European Commission (max. 10 min)
- Presentation by Alice ZOPPÉ, EGOV, EP (max. 10 min)

Discussion

15:15-16:00
Discussion among participants on “best scrutiny practices” and suggestions for possible future initiatives

Split into two working groups:

- Working group 1: chaired by Wolfgang LEHOFER
- Working group 2: chaired by Kajus HAGELSTAM

16:00-16:30
Concluding remarks and follow-up

Chairs: Kajus HAGELSTAM and Jesús GOMEZ

- Reporting back from the two working groups
- Conclusions on possible follow-up

11:15-11:30
Coffee break