The European Semester for economic policy coordination from a parliamentary perspective

with the participation of EU National Parliaments’ administrations

9-10 July 2018
European Parliament, Brussels

SUMMER SEMINAR

PROCEEDINGS
Executive summary

This paper gives an overview of the topics discussed during the first European Semester Summer Seminar, which was co-organized by the Economic Governance Support Unit (EGOV) and the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments of the European Parliament.

The first summer seminar for EU national parliaments’ staff on the “European Semester for economic policy coordination from a parliamentary perspective” took place on 9 and 10 July 2018 in the European Parliament’s premises in Brussels, and brought together 35 officials dealing with the European Semester from 22 countries and 28 parliamentary chambers.

Main issues discussed in the Summer Seminar:
- Process of the European Semester, and better understanding of the involvement of the Parliaments
- The main underlying tools of the European Semester
- Cooperation and capacity building - at administrative level - among the European Parliament and the EU national Parliaments

Main outcomes of the Summer Seminar:
- Establishment of a network between administrative parliament experts on the European Semester, including an annual meeting
- Follow-up seminars/workshops to strengthen cooperation and capacity building at administrative level between the European Parliament and National Parliaments in the area of economic governance on specific topics
Introduction

This paper was prepared by the Economic Governance Support Unit (EGOV) of the European Parliament. EGOV provides in-house expertise to support the European Parliament and its relevant committees and bodies, notably in their scrutiny-related activities on the economic governance and banking union frameworks. The EGOV Unit is part of the Directorate-General for Internal Policies of the Union (DG IPOL).

The first summer seminar for EU national parliaments’ staff on the “European Semester for economic policy coordination from a parliamentary perspective” took place on 9 and 10 July 2018 in the European Parliament’s premises in Brussels, and brought together 35 officials dealing with the European Semester from 22 countries and 28 parliamentary chambers. The following EU countries’ parliaments were represented: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

The programme was designed in close cooperation with EU national parliament administrations, based on a survey launched in early 2018. As the Semester involves several EU institutions, experts from the Commission and the Council Secretariats give highly valuable presentations during the seminar.

The European Semester, set in 2010, consists of an annual cycle of policy guidance, coordination and surveillance of national economic and social policies. The European Semester process has evolved over the years, mainly in view of increasing the political ownership of the decisions taken. Such ownership - at both EU and national levels - is considered as indispensable for the legitimacy and effectiveness of the whole economic governance framework.

The objectives of the seminar were:

- to strengthen cooperation and capacity building, at administrative level, among the European Parliament and EU national Parliaments, as well as
- to improve the understanding of the European Semester process, through knowledge sharing and exchange of best practices, from both the European and the national perspectives.

Thanks to the active participation of colleagues from the EU institutions, from the European Parliament and from the EU national parliaments, the event can be considered successful. This was confirmed by participants both orally at the end of the event and in their written feedback after the event. During the seminar, participants had also the opportunity to discuss informal manner and undertake networking. Participants also provided useful feedback and ideas for possible follow-up.

Background material, presentations and list of participants is available at:

Monday, 9 July

Opening of the Summer Seminar

Markus WINKLER (Deputy Secretary-General, EP), Riccardo RIBERA D’ALCALA (Director General, DG IPOL, EP) and Helmut BERGER (Director, Budget Office of the Austrian Parliament) opened the event and welcomed the participants.

Mr. WINKLER highlighted the importance of this new initiative, which provides staff from parliaments in the EU Member States the first opportunity to discuss the “European Semester for economic policy coordination from a parliamentary perspective”.

Mr RIBERA D’ALCALA focused on the main objectives of the European Parliament scrutiny activities: ensuring all institutions’ compliance with the principle of accountability, and improving the effectiveness of the European economic governance.

He outlined that this seminar with staff is adding a new dimension to the cooperation among Parliaments, through knowledge sharing and exchange of practices concerning the European Semester.

Mr BERGER spoke on behalf of the current Austrian rotating Presidency of the Council. He presented the targets, the agenda and the main focuses of the presidency, as well as the priorities of the “trio-presidency”, composed of Bulgaria, Austria and Romania. He emphasized the relevance of trilogues in this phase of the legislative process, where the EU institutions (Commission, Council and EP) meet to finalise pending legislation.

He noted that many topics that are on the agenda of this Summer Seminar are also in the draft agenda of the Inter-parliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union, to be held in Vienna on 17–18 September (as per article 13 of the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance - TSCG). Therefore this event is taking place at an appropriate time.

Monetary Dialogue with Mario DRAGHI, President of the European Central Bank

The participants followed the monetary dialogue in the ECON Committee with Mario DRAGHI, the President of the ECB.

Mr DRAGHI presented the ECB perspective on economic and monetary developments. He delivered an optimistic speech, focusing on the economic growth, inflation outlooks and improvement in the labour market situation, and mentioned the recent decisions made by the Governing Council regarding monetary policy. He noted that the Asset Purchasing Programme is gradually ending, by December 2018.

The following discussion with Members of the EPs covered also the following topics: “Virtual currencies and central banks’ monetary policy: challenges ahead” and “The ECB non-standard monetary measures, collateral constraints and potential risks for monetary policy.”

Mr. DRAGHI’s full speech text is available online: https://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/key/date/2018/html/ecb.sp180709.en.html


Outcomes of the EGOV survey on the involvement of EU national parliaments in the European Semester

Kajus HAGELSTAM and Wolfgang LEHOFER from the EGOV unit presented the outcomes of the survey on the involvement of EU national parliaments in the European Semester. This survey showed that:

• Most parliaments seem to be well informed on the priorities of the forthcoming Semester Cycle (as set in the Annual Growth Survey), while only a third adopt an opinion on them.
• As far as the National Reform Programme is concerned, around one third of the parliaments are informed about it by the government only after its submission to the EU, and very few parliaments adopt an opinion on it.
• The same conclusion can be drawn for the Stability and Convergence Programmes.
• The degree of involvement is slightly higher as regards the Country Specific Recommendations (CSRs). A majority of national parliaments seems to be well informed of the Commission’s assessments on the implementation of the CSRs adopted in the course of the previous Semester Cycle.
As regards the adoption of the Draft Budgetary Programmes by the government, many parliaments are only informed after their submission to the EU, or are not informed at all.

The involvement of the independent national fiscal councils and national productivity boards in the parliamentary debate seems to be quite limited.

Drawing a clear link between the degree of national parliamentary involvement and the CSRs' implementation rate seems to be more difficult.

The role of National Parliaments in the scrutiny of the European Semester

In this session - chaired by M. HAGELSTAM and W. LEHOFER - three country experiences were presented by Melisso BOSCHI, Filip CLEM and Dries BERGEN, representatives of the Italian Senate, of the Parliament of Romania and of the Flemish Parliament respectively.

First, Melisso BOSCHI presented the Italian parliamentary scrutiny process and detailed the evolution over time of the Italian budgetary framework.

Since 1988, the Parliaments approves in June/July the Document of economic and financial programming, with a pre-determined budget balance, followed in October/December by the approval of the final budget, whose balance has to respect the limit approved in June/July.

Nevertheless, since the inception of the European Semester, the Parliament's role in pre-determining numerical budget objectives has been attenuated, given that the targets for budget balances are now discussed and agreed at the EU level.

Filip CLEM gave then a detailed presentation, with illustrative examples, on the Semester process in the Parliament of Romania. He explained in detail the scrutiny procedures of EU legislation, including the role of the Chamber of Deputies relating to the Semester. At the end of his presentation, he introduced the priorities of the Romanian presidency of the EU Council in 2019, which are: 1. the Europe of Convergence; 2. The Europe of Safety; 3. Europe, a Global Player; and 4. the Europe of shared values.

Dries BERGEN, the last speaker of the session, presented the specificities of the Belgian budgetary framework, where the federal level has no control over regional spending in matters of regional competences. 45% of public spending in Belgium is administered by the Regions and their parliaments. Nevertheless, the European Semester and its recommendations focus on the national dimension, rather than the regional one, in federal states, this might hamper the ownership of the process. Therefore, he proposes that recommendations be based on specific regional issues, based on statistics that better take into account the local characteristic, such as youth unemployment.

Discussion: The presentations and understanding of the working processes in the various national Parliaments regarding the Semester was useful for Greece, since they would soon be part of the Semester, after exiting the macroeconomic adjustment programme.

Tuesday, 10 July

The European Semester and the roles of the EU institutions

In the morning session, Miguel GIL TERTRE (Head of Unit, European Semester/Economic Governance/EMU, Secretariat General of the European Commission) explained how CSRs are presented to national governments and parliaments. The importance of national ownership was repeatedly highlighted, referring to the constant dialogue between Member States and the Commission during the drafting of CSRs. Even though the Commission analyses the specific situation of each country before drafting the CSRs, the Member States are deeply involved in the process, making the CSRs as targeted as possible, thereby increasing national ownership over the reforms recommended. It was also noted that Member States accept the CSRs, suggesting that synergies increased among institutions during the whole European Semester process.

Olaf PRUESSMANN (Head of Unit, Economic Policy, including Eurogroup, the Council of the European Union secretariat) explained how he handles the Semester process, channeling it through the ECOFIN council. The content of the Semester is brought to the attention of European leaders annually, in March (on the Annual Growth Survey, the EU priorities and the recommendations for the Euro area) and in June (on the Country Specific Recommendations). He said that every year, the first semester is the European Semester and the second one is the national semester. He noted that the interest in the Semester process has diminished, as it does not really spark questions and attention. In the early years of the European Semester the ECOFIN council had more debates on the matter. As the CSRs are becoming more a bilateral exercise between Commission and the concerned member states; there is less room for multilateral surveillance.

Bettina DE SOUZA GUILHERME (ECON Secretariat, EP) presented the European Parliament’s role in the Semester process. The plenary discusses the Semester two times a year. The ECON Committee scrutinises the Semester by inviting speakers for economic dialogues (introduced with the 6-packs legislation) and for hearings: Commissioners and finance ministers are regularly invited. Ms. De Souza also noted that the EP has less scrutiny power towards Eurogroup, since it is not an official body. Furthermore, she stated that national ownership and debate are key for a more effective Semester, and suggested that the
Commission might have more discussions with national players. While not directly involved in the European Semester, debates about it in the EP have a signaling effect, raising awareness and hopefully interest.

During the following debate, it was suggested to enhance the role of national parliaments during the drafting of CSRs, so to create more consensus and support implementation. Concerning implementation, it was discussed whether a multiannual perspective on CSRs implementation should be favoured, due to difficulties of implementing comprehensive structural reform in 12-18 months.

The European Commission proposals for the MFF and their implications for the Semester

Marcus SCHULTZE presented Commission’s proposals for the next long-term EU budget 2021-2027. In the general framework of economic governance, and as a part of the broader agenda to deepen Europe’s Economic and Monetary Union, the Commission proposes to establish a (1) Reform Support Programme and (2) a European Investment Stabilisation Function. Both the proposed instruments are strongly and widely linked to the European Semester.

(1) The Reform Support Programme will provide support for priority reforms in Member States. It comprises three different elements:
- a Reform Delivery Tool, to provide financial support to reforms;
- a Technical Support Instrument, to provide technical expertise; and
- a Convergence Facility, to provide specific and targeted support for Member States wishing to join the euro.

The programme will be voluntary, with no co-financing required from the Member States. The overall proposed size of the budget of the Programme is €25 billion.

Member States would propose to implement reform commitments for one or several reforms identified in the European Semester within a maximum period of three years. The Commission would assess the Member States’ proposals and adopt a decision on the reform commitments, determining also the size of the financial support to be awarded. Member States would then implement the reforms provided for in the reform commitment and report on progress. This reporting would be done within the European Semester process. The Commission would assess whether the reforms have been satisfactorily implemented (whether all milestones and targets have been achieved). If the assessment is positive, the Commission would make the payment.

(2) The European Investment Stabilisation Function will help to stabilise public investment levels and facilitate economic recovery in cases of significant economic shocks in Member States of the euro area and those participating in the European Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM II). This Function will provide back-to-back loans guaranteed by the EU budget of up to €30 billion, coupled with a grant-like component to cover the full costs of the interest. The latter will be funded from contributions from Member States equivalent to a share of their monetary income, also known as ‘seigniorage’.

The Commission proposes strict eligibility criteria to avoid moral hazard and create an additional incentive to pursue sound fiscal and structural policies. Only Member States that comply with fiscal and macroeconomic surveillance rules in the two years prior to requesting support are eligible to benefit. This means, that Member States should be compliant with the Stability and Growth Pact and Macroeconomic Imbalances Procedure. Member States under a macro-economic adjustment programme or a balance of payments support would neither be eligible.

The Country-Specific Recommendation (CSRs)

Miguel GIL TERTRE described how the CSRs have evolved over time. The European Semester, being an innovation in the economic governance framework, is subject to learning by doing. At the inception many CSRs were presented at every cycle, but the number decreased over time. More focused CSRs are now being released, with sub-recommendations targeting specific policies. The enhanced dialogues with Member States offers the Commission a better understanding of what could be implemented by the government, suggesting a more precise approach. Country reports provide the analytical basis of the recommendations, and they also are shared with Member States. CSRs represents what is agreed as necessary and feasible, therefore avoiding overreach. As an example, Denmark has only one CSR in 2018, on the opening hours of retail.

Jerneja JUG from the Structural Reform Support Service (SRSS) introduced the SRSS, which is a relatively new (3 years) service attached to the Secretary General of the European Commission. It provides technical support to broad policy areas on a voluntary basis and there is no Member State contribution required. It only operates upon a Member State’s request, and no reform is imposed by the Commission. In the Commission proposal under the new Multiannual Financial Framework, a Member State would be able to submit also requests for financial support for the implementation of reforms under the Reform Support Programme.

Martin HRADISKY presented the EGOV unit’s CSR database and its possibilities to assess implementation rates of recommendations per year, per member state or group of member states (i.e. euro area). This database presents the text and assessment for each and every recommendations issued since the inception of the European Semester, all gathered in one Excel sheet.
During the discussion on the implementation rates of CSRs, it was noted that the figures published by the Commission and those obtained from the EGOV database may differ, while relying on the same sources (Commission Country Reports). This difference may stem from two elements, namely: 1) the Commission includes in its summary statistics assessments of the compliance with the SGP. These assessments are typically not included in the Country reports but published separately, with a delay, in the Commission’s assessments of Stability and Convergence reports and 2) the Commission sometimes presents the assessment of CSRs implementation rate on a multiannual basis (as reforms take time to implement), rather than on an annual basis (an approach adopted by EGOV). More transparency on the Commission’s side as regards the Commission’s methodological approaches was called for.

The fiscal governance frameworks

SGP: main indicators used in the framework of the fiscal CSRs

Roberta TORRE from the Fiscal policy and surveillance unit in DG ECFIN presented the main indicators used in the fiscal CSRs, and briefly reminded the definition of structural budget balance, which is the nominal budget balance deducted by cyclical economic developments (and one-offs). She presented the Medium Term Objective (MTO) and the expenditure benchmark and further explained the requirements of the preventive arm of the SGP.

The role of independent fiscal councils: practice today

László JANKOVICS from the Fiscal Governance Unit in DG ECFIN talked about the role of the independent fiscal councils (IFIs). Fiscal rules and IFIs are seen as complementary tools to address the deficiencies of fiscal policies. He noted that there are different terms for the same kind of institution. In accordance to EU law, IFIs are primarily tasked with the evaluation of macroeconomic and budgeting forecasting, and the assessment of compliance with fiscal rules. Other possible tasks are policy costing, promotion of fiscal transparency, analysis of the sustainability of public finances, as well as commenting of fiscal policy decisions. At the moment there are 35 IFIs in 27 Member States.

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

Helmut BERGER from the Austrian Parliamentary Budget Office (BO) presented the Austrian experience of the role of budgetary offices in National Parliaments. The Austrian BO’s main tasks are to support the Parliament’s National Council in the discussion, decision-making and control of the federal budget and its implementation. The leading principles are those of equality, independence, objectivity, high quality, transparency and increasing accountability of the Government towards the Parliament and the citizens.

Denise O’CONNELL, the Deputy Director of the Parliamentary Budget Office presented the working methods of the Irish budgetary system. The role of the PBO is to support the House of the Oireachtas and its committees in scrutinising the management of the public finances. It was set up after an OECD recommendation.

The surveillance of macroeconomic imbalances

Jonas FISCHER gave a presentation on the history and the functioning of the Macroeconomic Imbalance Procedure (MIP). He showed the different convergent and divergent paths of the various MIP indicators over time, and explained the possible macroeconomic imbalances that can occur in an economy. He focused on the ‘spill-over’ effects that imbalances in one country can have on other countries, especially within the Euro Area.

The MIP process can be broadly described in four stages:

- a first the screening, which take place in November, with the publication of the Alert Mechanism Report (AMR); followed by
- the analysis and identification of imbalances, with the publication of the Country Reports and the In-depth-reviews in February.
- On the basis of these outcomes, the Commission can either recommend preventive action or take corrective actions (opening of the Excessive Imbalance Procedure, with possible sanctions for EA countries). Preventive actions take the form of country specific recommendations underpinned by MIP.
- According to the kind of recommendations, monitoring and enforcement happens after,

Alice ZOPPÉ (EGOV) presented the Country Specific Recommendations underpinned by the MIP legal base. She noted that the rate of implementation is not very good, even if some qualifiers can be introduced for implementation of CSRs in Member States of the Euro Area. The analysis was based on figures collected through the EGOV CSRs database. She then presented several examples of CSRs based on MIP, showing the variety and the complexity of the recommendations.
Discussion among participants on “scrutiny practices” and suggestions for possible future initiatives

At the end of the two-day seminar, participants were divided into two groups in order to:
• provide feedback on the seminar, its organization, objectives and outcomes;
• exchanges ideas on possible future cooperation between the experts from national parliaments administrations and the European Parliament’s EGOV unit.

In the following, the ideas brought up by various participants are presented:

On objectives:
• According to some participants, cooperation could start with a more general “informative background sessions”, aimed at providing participants with a common level of knowledge of the economic governance and the European Semester. In this kick-off meeting participants had different levels of expertise with respect to technical aspects of the European Semester.
• It was proposed that specific thematic meetings (e.g. workshops) could take place at different stages of the Semester cycle, one at the beginning and one at the end to follow up on developments.
• Several participants expressed interest to prepare a “Scrutiny Handbook” on the European Semester. It could include descriptions on “current practices” during the steps of the Semester Cycle from all parliaments interested to take part (it could be done as a pilot by some during the next Semester Cycle).

On practicalities (location and timing) of future meetings:
• The most cost-efficient meeting location would be Brussels, during the European Semester, right after or before meetings on political level. Brussels is considered as a central location, and people are used to it. However other premises, such as in the premises of a national parliament could work well too.
• A common digital portal could be set up, to exchange information during the Semester and share relevant documents (IPEX/chatroom/ Electronic forum/chat - a digital workspace - would be used).
• A mailing list of administrative parliament experts could also be compiled, on a voluntary basis, in order to share information, documents and events.

The organizers warmly thank all participants and speakers, and hope to cooperate again and meet in future events!
Participants (some missing) posing for a group photo in the EP Library premises.
Programme of the seminar

MONDAY, 9 JULY 2018
Room ASP 06D128

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

15:00-16:00
Monetary Dialogue with Mario DRAGHI, President of the ECB
- Attendance to the monetary dialogue in the ECON Committee

16:00-16:30
Outcomes of the EGOV survey on the involvement of EU national parliaments in the European Semester
- Presentation by Kajus HAGELSTAM and Wolfgang LEHOFER, EGOV, EP

16:30-18:00
The role of national parliaments in the scrutiny of the European Semester (some country experiences)
Chairs: Kajus HAGELSTAM and Wolfgang LEHOFER, EGOV, EP
- Presentation by Melisso BOSCHI, Office for research in the economic and financial sectors, Italian Senate
- Presentation by Filip CLEM, Chamber of Deputies, Parliament of Romania
- Presentation Dries BERGEN and Hans Van DEN ABabeele, Flemish Parliament

18:30
Dinner (hosted by EP)
- Members’ restaurant, ASP Ground floor

TUESDAY, 10 JULY 2018

8:30-9:15
The European Semester and the role of the EU institutions
- Chair: Kajus HAGELSTAM, Head of unit, EGOV, EP
- Presentation by Miguel GIL TERTRE, Sec. Gen./EC
- Presentation by Olaf PRUESSMANN, Head of Unit, Economic Policy, including Eurogroup, Council of the European Union Secretariat
- Presentation by Bettina DE SOUZA GUILHERME, ECON Secretariat, EP

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 (Budget), European Commission

9:45-11:15
The Country-Specific Recommendations (CSRs)
Chair: Martin HRADISKÝ, EGOV, EP
- How have the CSRs evolved over time?
- Presentation by Miguel Gil TERTRE, Head of Unit, European Semester/Economic Governance/EMU, Secretariat General of the European Commission
- The link between the Semester and technical support provided by services of the Commission
- Presentation by Jerneja JUG, Policy Officer, Structural Reform Support Service, European Commission
- A database on CSRs implementation
- Presentation by Martin HRADISKÝ, EGOV, EP

11:15-11:30
Coffee break
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

The role of Independent Fiscal Councils: practice today
- Presentation by László JANKOVICS, Fiscal governance Unit, DG ECFIN, European Commission

The role of Budgetary Offices in National Parliaments (some country examples)
- Presentation by Helmut BERGER, Budget Office, Austrian Parliament
- Presentation by Denise O’CONNOR, Budget Office, Houses of the Oireachtas

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 ZOPPÈ, 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

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
# List of participants from EU national parliaments

**BELGIQUE / BELGIË / BELGIUM**

Chambre des représentants / Kamer van Volksvertegenwoordigers
- Mr Tom DE GEETER, Official of National Parliament
- Mr Dries BERGEN, Official of National Parliament
- Mr Hans VAN DEN ABabeeLE, Official of National Parliament

**ESPANÀ / SPAIN**

Congreso de los diputados / Congress of Deputies
- Ms Mónica MORENO, Official of National Parliament
- Ms Teresa GONZÁLEZ ESCUDERO, Official of National Parliament

**ITALIA / ITALY**

Camera dei Deputati / Chamber of Deputies
- Mr Sergio Di FILIPPO, Official of National Parliament
- Mr Riccardo GRECO, Official of National Parliament

**ČESKÁ REPUBLIKA / CZECH REPUBLIC**

Poslanecká sněmovna / Chamber of Deputies
- Ms Dasa SMETANKOVA, Official of National Parliament
- Ms Dita VOLESKA, Official of National Parliament
- Ms Terezie PISAROVA, National Parliament representative (based in Brussels)

**DEUTSCHLAND / GERMANY**

Bundestag
- Ms Laura ALESTER, Official of National Parliament
- Mr Clemens ZICK, Official of National Parliament
- Ms Gabriela SIERCK, National Parliament representative (based in Brussels)

**ΕΛΛΑΔΑ / GREECE**

Βουλή των Ελλήνων / Hellenic Parliament
- Ms Eleni KONSTANTINIDOU, Official of National Parliament
- Ms Evangelia SPANOUDAKI, Official of National Parliament
- Ms Eleni SIAnNA, National Parliament representative (based in Brussels)

**ΒЪЛГАРИЯ / BULGARIA**

Народно събрание / National Assembly
- Mr Mladen LAMBEFF, Official of National Parliament
- Ms Vesela VARBANOVA-SHIKOVA, Official of National Parliament

**ΚΥΠΡΟΣ / CYPRUS**

Βουλή των Αντιπροσώπων / House of Representatives
- Ms Danae AGATHOCLEOUS, Official of National Parliament
- Ms Elli GEORGIOU, Official of National Parliament

**LATVIJA / LATVIA**

Saeima
- Mr Andris CAPANS, Official of National Parliament

**LIETUVA/LITHUANIA**

Seimas
- Mr Matas MALDEIKIS, Official of National Parliament

**LEXEMBOURG**

Chambre des députés / Chamber of Deputies
- Mr Yves CARL, Official of National Parliament
- Mr Frederic BOHLER, National Parliament representative (based in Brussels)

**MAGYARORSZÁG / HUNGARY**

Országgyűlés / National Assembly
- Mr Örs CZENCZER, Official of National Parliament
- Mr Dániel NYILAS, Official of National Parliament
- Mr Csaba HUSZÁR, National Parliament representative (based in Brussels)

**MALTA**

Kamra tad-Deputati / House of Representatives
- Ms Rodianne SPITERI, National Parliament representative (based in Brussels)
ÖSTERREICH / AUSTRIA

Nationalrat
Mr Helmut BERGER, Official of National Parliament
Mr Friedrich SINDERMANN-SIENKIEWICZ, Official of National Parliament

POLSKA / POLAND

Sejm
Ms Agnieszka WACIAK, National Parliament representative (based in Brussels)

Senat
Mr Andrzej WÓJTOWICZ, Official of National Parliament

PORTUGAL

Assembleia da República
Mr Bruno PINHEIRO, Official of National Parliament
Ms Cristina CORREIA, National Parliament representative (based in Brussels)

ROMÂNIA / ROMANIA

Camera Deputatilor / Chamber of Deputies
Mr Filip-Valentin CLEM, Official of National Parliament
Mr Radu-Stefan OCHENATU-NECHIFOR, Official of National Parliament
Mr Ion-Tudor DOBRINESCU, National Parliament representative (based in Brussels)

Senat
Ms Izabella MOLDOVAN, National Parliament representative (based in Brussels)

SLOVENIJA / SLOVENIA

Državni zbor / National Assembly
Ms Romana NOVAK, Official of National Parliament

SUOMI / FINLAND

Eduskunta
Mr Eero SÄYNÄJÄKANGAS, National Parliament representative (based in Brussels)

SVERIGE / SWEDEN

Riksdagen
Mr Jakob NYSTRÖM, Official of National Parliament