



## Workshop for senior editors

# What future for Europe?

### *Economic integration and democratic accountability in the EU*

Wednesday 9 May 2012, 9:15 - 13:00 hrs

Room 4 B 001, Paul Henri Spaak Building, European Parliament, Brussels

### Draft programme

- from 8:45      **Arrival and registration** (EP Press Entrance, rue Vautier)  
Coffee outside the meeting room
- 09:15 - 09:30      **Welcome**  
*Juana Lahousse-Juárez, Director-General for Communication*
- Opening**  
*MEP Anni PODIMATA (S&D, EL), Vice-President responsible for Information Policy, Press and Citizens Relations*
- 09:30 - 11:00      **Panel discussion - The stability of the eurozone - challenges ahead**  
The European Parliament is currently examining new legislation on economic governance. Is it enough to avoid future crises? Is there a choice between growth-boosting measures and stricter fiscal discipline, or is there a middle way?
- Coordinators from the Economic and Monetary Committee:  
*MEP Jean-Paul GAUZÈS (EPP, FR)*  
*MEP Elisa FERREIRA (S&D, PT)*  
*MEP Kay SWINBURNE (ECR, UK)*  
*MEP Jürgen KLUTE (GUE/NGL, DE)*  
*MEP Marta ANDREASEN (EFD, UK)*
- Moderated by: Michel Geoffrey Plumley, EP official, Press Service*
- 11:00 - 13:00      **Panel discussion - Democratic accountability in a more interdependent Union**  
The economic crisis has intensified the Member States' economic interdependence. Do we now need closer economic and fiscal integration? Is the centralised control of economic policies being properly scrutinized? Is there enough democratic accountability? What should the Parliament's role be in a multi-layered Europe?
- MEP Elmar BROK (EPP, DE)*  
*MEP Roberto GUALTIERI (S&D, IT)*  
*MEP Sylvie GOULARD (ALDE, FR)*  
*MEP Daniel COHN-BENDIT (Greens/EFA, FR)*
- Véronique AUGER, Rédactrice en chef, "Avenue de l'Europe", France 3 (FR)*  
*Mario SECHI, Senior editor Il Tempo (IT)*  
*José Ignacio TORREBLANCA, Director of European Council on Foreign Relations and columnist for El País (ES)*
- Moderated by: Jaume Duch Guillot, Director and Spokesman of the EP*
- 13:00 - 13:30      **Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament - tbc**
- 13:30 - 14:30      **Reception outside the meeting room**  
End

# The future of Europe

## Issues

As this year's Europe Day, 9 May, approaches, the European Union finds itself at a crossroads. Against a background of debt, low growth and unfavourable demography, and amid a crisis of economic governance in the eurozone, what should the EU's main policy goals be today?

The media, and the citizens of Europe, are looking to their elected leaders for practical suggestions and a vision for Europe's future.

Is it a central task of the EU to protect the European social model from the impact of globalisation or should the aim be to adapt that model to enable it to survive?

Does Europe face a currency crisis or a crisis of management, confidence and legitimacy? Does the eurozone face a choice between moving forward to closer integration or breaking up? Or could there be a middle way?

## Solutions

Different solutions are being advanced. Some would give greater weight to stricter financial discipline, while others favour growth-boosting measures or closer coordination of economic, budgetary and social policies.

Questions of democratic legitimacy are increasingly coming to the fore. Should Europe be governed on the basis of deals struck between Heads of State? Is it acceptable for national governments to submit their accounts and budget plans to supervision by Brussels? Are the people of Europe willing to accept large-scale fiscal transfers between Member States, more harmonisation of taxation and labour costs and ultimately a greater degree of political union? Or will they demand a renationalisation of certain policies, leading to a multi-speed Europe?

What role can the European Parliament play in finding short and medium term solutions? Could greater involvement of the European and national parliaments lead to more effective interplay between national and EU levels of governance?

Two years before the next European elections, these are among the issues set to be discussed at a workshop for senior editors and journalists on the future of Europe taking place on Europe Day, 9 May 2012, at the European Parliament.

MEPs who play a leading role in economic affairs for their political groups will form the first discussion panel. The second panel will consist of MEPs who served as Parliament's observers at the talks on the EU fiscal compact treaty, together with senior journalists from leading European newspapers.

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