

Economic Dialogues with the President of the Eurogroup during 2014-2019

This note provides an overview of the Economic Dialogues with the President of the Eurogroup held in the competent Committee of the European Parliament during the 8th legislative term. It provides a summary of the issues raised during the nine dialogues that took place between autumn 2014 and spring 2019, and presents the main topic discussed at each dialogue.



What was discussed during the Economic Dialogues?

Since the adoption of the revised EU economic governance framework in 2011 (as part of the so-called “6-pack” legislation) and in 2013 (as part of the so-called “2-pack” legislation), the competent Committee of the European Parliament may invite the President of the Eurogroup (PEG) for a public hearing - an Economic Dialogue - during certain stages of the implementation of the EU economic governance framework.

In recent years, the practice has been that the PEG takes part in an Economic Dialogue (ED) on a regular basis twice a year and, if needed, on an *ad hoc* basis. This practice was already agreed during the 7th parliamentary term through an exchange of letters between the competent Committee and the PEG.

During the 8th legislative term, nine EDs with the PEG took place in the competent Committee of the European Parliament (EP): a dialogue was held in the Committee for Economic and Monetary Affairs (the ECON Committee) in general twice a year (in spring and in autumn). Furthermore, the PEG occasionally took part in an exchange of views in the plenary and in inter-parliamentary meetings relating to economic governance. However, this note focuses only on the dialogues with the Members of the ECON Committee.

The EGOV Unit of the European Parliament provided to ECON Members a briefing in advance of these dialogues. In addition, based on a mandate by the ECON Coordinators, papers written by external experts, also on semi-annual basis, were also provided in view of supporting scrutiny activities of the euro area. Altogether, 38 papers by external experts were provided on 15 different topics (see separate [document](#) for a summary of all these external expert papers).

The main purpose of this note is to provide an overview of the topics covered during these EDs with the PEG during the previous parliamentary term. The questions asked by MEPs during these dialogues are categorised into seven broad categories: “economic developments”, “implementation of the EU governance”, “role of the EU institutions, including the Eurogroup”, “Banking and Capital Markets Union”, “taxation and related questions”, “completing the EMU” and “miscellaneous”. This categorisation is a simplification of reality and one must take into account that topics addressed may sometimes overlap. For our screening purposes, all questions are only counted once. See further below for further information on the methodology used.



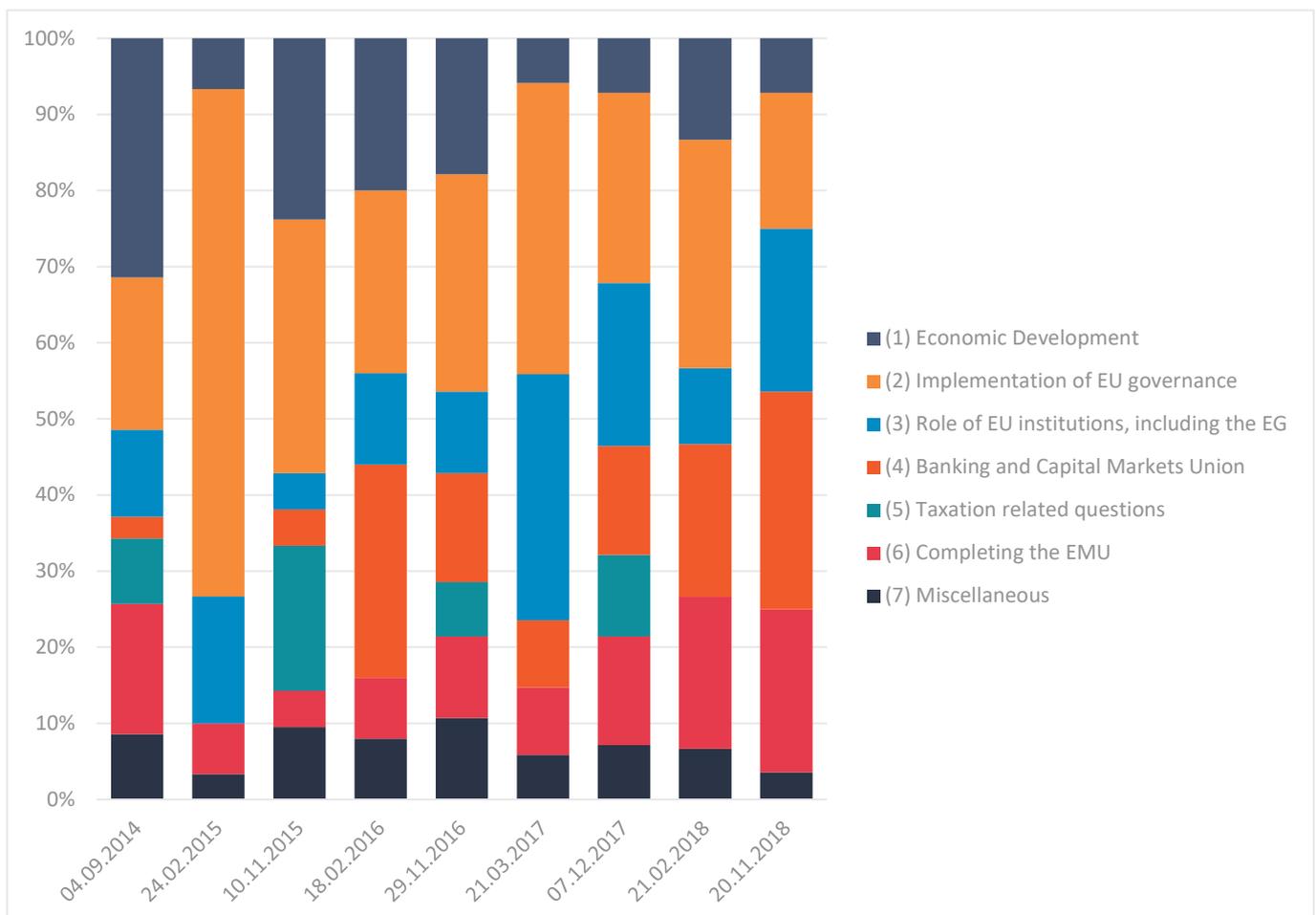
Box: The President of the Eurogroup

The European Council of 13 December 1997 endorsed the setup of the Eurogroup, **an informal body that brings together the finance ministers of countries whose currency is the euro**. The first Eurogroup (EG) meeting was convened on 4 June 1998.

In January 2005, the Eurogroup elected [Jean-Claude Juncker](#) as its first permanent president. On 1 December 2009, the [Protocol 14 to the Lisbon Treaty](#) entered into force, entrusting Ministers of the euro area Member States to discuss matters related to the single currency and to **elect a president by simple majority of votes for two and a half years**. The Lisbon Treaty also amended the Council of the EU's rules so that when the Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN) votes on matters affecting the euro area only, only EG members are allowed to vote. In January 2013, [Jeroen Dijsselbloem](#), at that time Minister of Finance of the Netherlands, was appointed president (and reappointed in July 2015 for another term, until 13 January 2018). [Mário Centeno](#), Minister of Finance of Portugal, was elected president on the 4 December 2017. His mandate started as of 13 January 2018 for a two and half year term. For an overview of the role of the President Eurogroup, please see separate [EGOV document](#).

Figure 1 shows the share of the topics covered in the ED from 2014 to 2019. Most of the topics as categorised above were covered over the whole period, but their relative importance varied. One can highlight some topics that got more attention from one dialogue to another and some broader trends in the topics covered.

Figure 1. Relative frequency of the topics discussed during the Economic Dialogues



Source: Economic Dialogues (web streaming)

Questions relating to the economic situation of the euro area were at the fore at the first dialogue in September 2014 and many questions were also made on completing the governance framework of the EMU. Some months later - in February 2015 - the specific situation related to Greece heavily influenced the dialogue with the PEG (these questions fall under the category “Implementation of EU governance framework” in our screening). In November 2015, there was a relative peak in questions relating to taxation (due to some tax agreements between multinationals and EU countries).

In February 2016, the state-of-play in the completion of the Banking Union received special attention. In November 2016, questions were distributed quite uniformly among the various categories, even if the implementation of the EU economic governance framework received the highest attention. In March 2017, questions related to the role of the EU institutions, in particular the role of the PEG, peaked due to some controversial public statements made by the PEG. In December 2017, many Members asked questions on the experiences gained from the financial assistance programs, in particular for Greece and Cyprus, partly due to the end of President Dijsselbloem’s mandate.

In February 2018, during the first dialogue with President Centeno, many questions related to non-performing-loans, as part of the work on completing the Banking Union. In the last dialogue of the 8th legislative term (November 2018), many questions related to high public debt levels of some Member States (an area which is again reflected under the category of “implementation of EU economic governance”).

If one tries to identify some general trends emerging from these nine dialogues, one could note that the topics related to banking union were initially less significant, but became then a consistent part of the dialogues, with a peak during the ED in February 2016 and November 2018. Questions relating the economic situation and developments were high on the agenda in autumn 2014, but decreased during the following years. Questions relating to the implementation of the EU economic governance framework remained high on the ranking of topics during the whole period with a clear peak in early 2015, mainly relating to the implementation of the macro-economic adjustment programme in Greece. Also questions relating to the completion of the EMU have been constantly of the agenda, with a peak in early 2018. Tax related issues were only covered during four dialogues (out of the total nine dialogues) with a peak in November 2015. As a general conclusion, one can say that issues raised during the dialogues reflected on-going policy work by the Eurogroup and other topical issues related to the well-functioning of the euro area, including the public attention given to a specific policy issue at the time of the dialogue.

For more details on the topics raised during the respective dialogues, please see below separate sections.

Some methodological issues

In this note, all the questions asked during the EDs with the President of the Eurogroup are grouped in the following seven broad categories:

- “Economic development” comprises questions that relate to the economic situation in the euro area or beyond, including country specific economic developments on various indicators, such as growth, public finances and employment etc.;
- “Implementation of the EU economic governance framework” includes questions related to the application and implementation of economic governance tools, such as the Country Specific Recommendations under the European Semester, the Stability and Growth Pact (SGP) and the Macro-economic imbalance procedure (MIP”), as well as macro-economic adjustment programmes, including post-programme surveillance;

- “Role of the EU institutions, including the Eurogroup” includes questions related to the roles played by various EU institutions and bodies in the economic governance framework, including the Commission, the ECB, the Eurogroup etc. This category also includes questions relating to transparency of the decision-making process of these institutions.
- “Banking Union and Capital Markets Union” contains questions addressing the completion of the banking union or other issues related to financial markets, such as the level of NPLs, and on-going work related to the Single Supervisory Mechanism and the Single Resolution Mechanism.
- “Taxation and related questions”, mostly comprises issues related to combating tax frauds, money laundering or the harmonisation of national tax systems.
- “Completing the EMU” includes issues related to the revision or the reform of EU governance, such as the revision of the SGP, MIP, establishing a euro area budgetary instrument, and the reform of the ESM. Questions relating to the completion of the banking union are partly covered here and partly in the category “Banking Union and Capital Markets Union”.
- “Miscellaneous” comprises issues which are not related to the previously mentioned categories.

If a Member of the Committee asks more than one question as part of his or her intervention (or as part of a follow-up intervention after the reply by the PEG), each question raised has been given the same weight in the screening of the topics. Interventions which did not contain a specific question are not included in the sample.

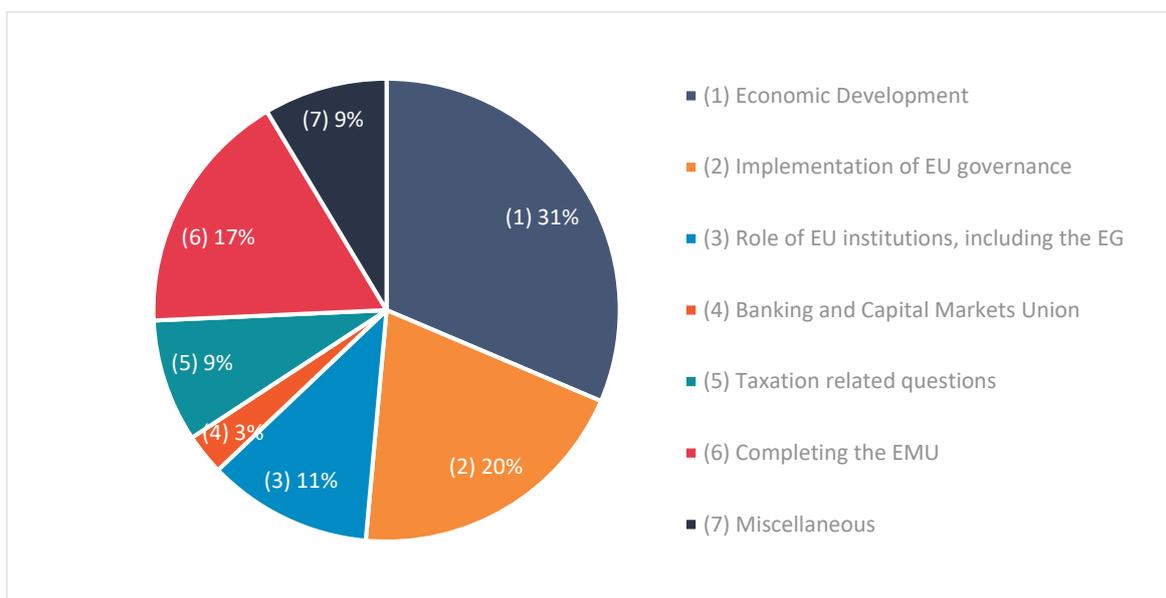
Our screening of the topics discussed during the dialogues is based on the web-streaming of the EDs themselves, as no formal transcripts were available during the 8th legislative term¹. Transcripts of the dialogues with the [PEG during the 9th legislative term](#) are made available to the public.

- For a list of the EDs with the President of the Eurogroup during the 8th legislative term, including links to the web streaming, please see Annex 1
- For an overview of the legal provisions underpinning EDs, please see Annex 2.

¹ The authors are grateful to the work of Jimi Kallio and Jaanika Tiido who assisted in this screening during their internship in the Parliament.

1. ED with PEG on 4th September 2014

Focal point: "The economic situation in the aftermath of the crisis"



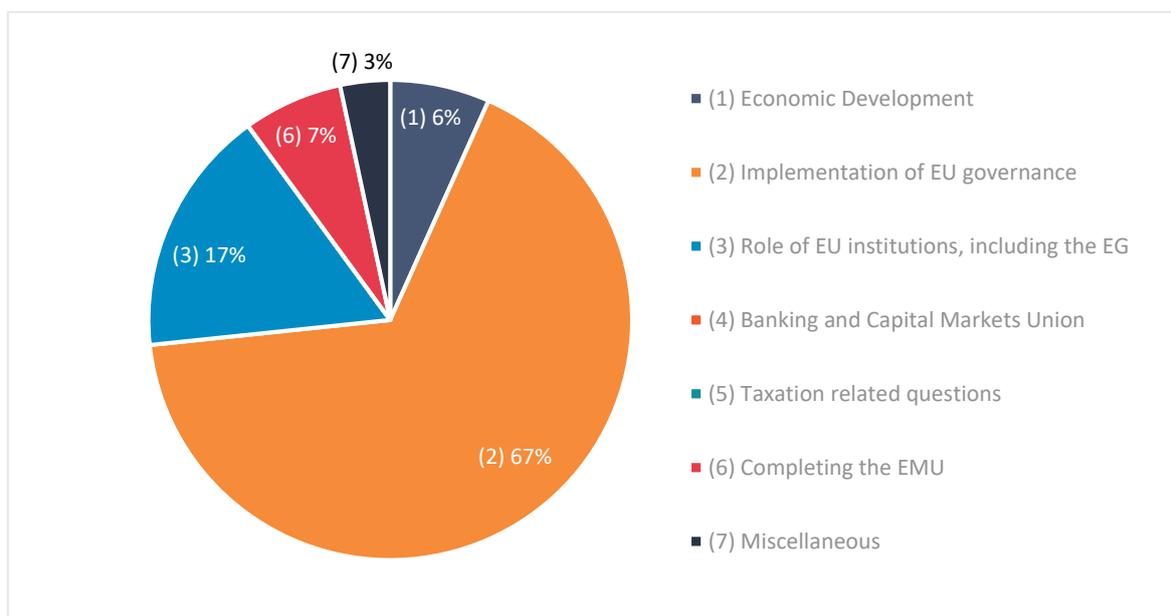
Source: [Economic Dialogue 4th September 2014 \(web streaming\)](#)

Main Focus: During the ED, the main topics covered by MEPs related to the economic situation of the Member States (around 30 % of the questions), the state-of-play of economic governance implementation (around 20 %) and questions relating to the completion of the EMU (around 17 %) following the financial and sovereign debt crisis in the .

Special focus: MEPs asked a number of questions about the economic situation, because of mounting concerns on the state of the economy in the euro area after the euro area financial and sovereign debt crisis. These question to the PEG covered, in particular, rising unemployment, deflationary pressures, lack of competitiveness and inadequate investments. MEPs highlighted the importance of investments for the euro area and asked for more information on planned actions in this respect. Questions were also raised on how investments should be taken into account when applying the SGP. MEPs emphasized the importance of tackling rising unemployment and deflationary pressures. MEPs also raised question relating to policies of the ECB, such as the effectiveness of monetary policy to deal with economic problems of high-indebted countries and about structural reforms as a precondition for the ECB interventions. MEPs questioned the PEG about other priorities adopted by the Eurogroup: competitiveness and structural reforms and the strict compliance with the SGP rules and the need to implement structural reforms. Questions relating to completing the EMU questions were mostly related to revising the SGP. The majority of these questions concerned increasing public investments under the SGP framework, finding new methods to fight unemployment and to lower the high tax burden on citizens and firms. Few MEPs questioned the institutional setting of the euro area, asking for more macro-economic policies at euro area level.

2. ED with PEG on 24th February 2015

Focal point : Implementation of EU economic governance, in particular in Greece”



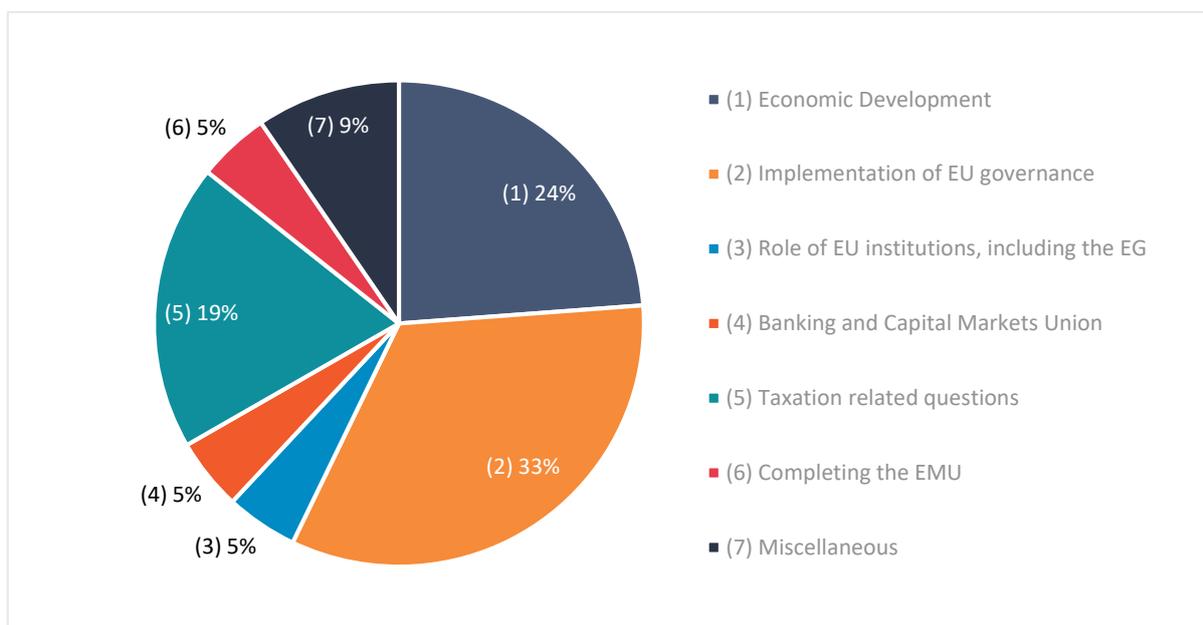
Source: [Economic Dialogue 24th February 2015 \(web streaming\)](#)

Main Focus: The main themes addressed by MEPs related to the implementation of EU economic governance (around 67 % of the questions), mainly on the adjustment programme of Greece (13 questions out of 17).

Special focus: This ED was heavily influenced by the list of reforms presented by the recently elected Greek government. The newly-elected government had requested an extension of the Financial Assistance Facility Agreement on the 18th February 2015. This triggered MEPs to raise questions on the Greek commitment to the euro, the new reforms agenda, what strategy could be taken to counter possible negative spill-over among countries, the effectiveness of the financial assistance programmes in more broad terms and the sustainability of public finances in Greece. MEPs requested the PEG to reply on the commitments taken by the Greek government on new reforms proposals and notably on the unemployment situation in Greece. One MEP proposed to make the recommendations under the European Semester more binding for euro area Member States, in order to deliver needed reforms. MEPs also questioned the approach adopted by the Eurogroup in managing the financial crisis and the policy mistakes made, including in Greece. Furthermore, MEPs raised questions relating to the institutional framework of the euro area governance, such as on the transparency, the role of the PEG in establishing a clear economic agenda and its implementation, in order deliver reforms. They finally asked questions on the Commission’s proposal of separating the role of the PEG from the role of a Minister of Finance of a Member State.

3. ED with PEG on 10th November 2015

Focal point of the ED: "A peak on taxation issues"



Source: [Economic Dialogue 10th November 2015 \(web streaming\)](#)

Main issues: The most discussed topics were the Implementation of EU economic governance (around 33%), the state of the euro area economy (around 24%) and taxation (19%).

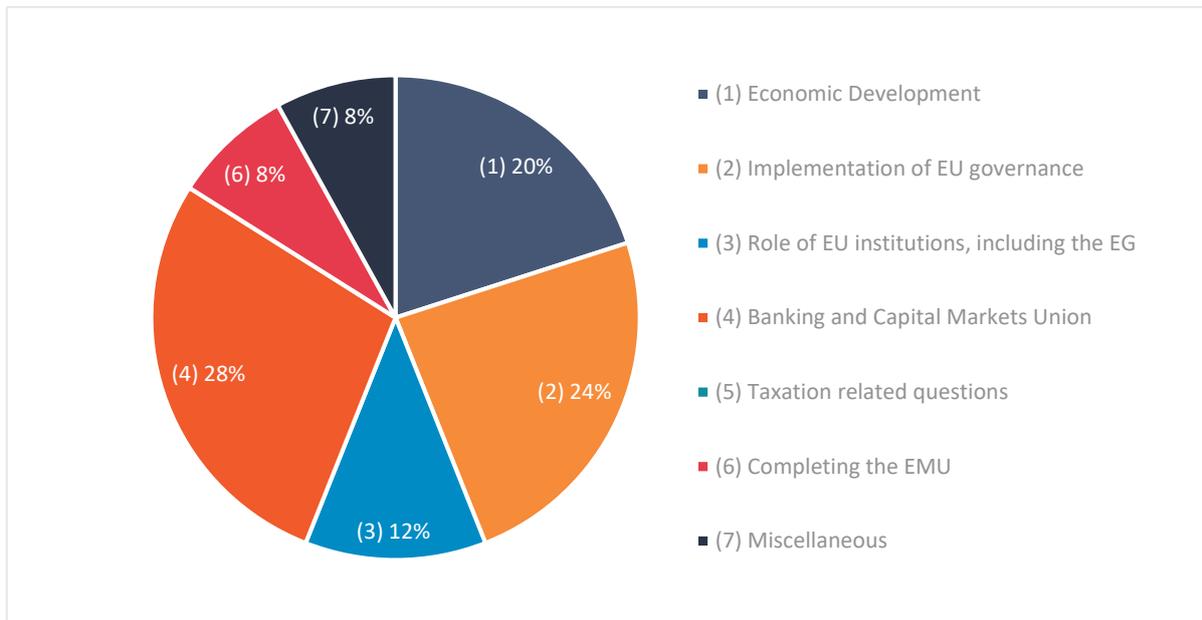
Special focus: As part of the implementation of the EU economic governance (and partly on the role of EU institutions), many Members raised questions relating to the appropriate fiscal stance of the euro area and the creation of an independent fiscal advisory board, as proposed in a report by the five Presidents of the EU institutions and publicly supported by the PEG. Moreover, some MEPs addressed the difficulties to implement policy recommendations under the European Semester and how to make the framework more legitimate. One Member asked for an agreement to give the right for Members of the Parliament to submit also written questions to the PEG. Also, questions on the implementation of the Greek adjustment programme were raised by several Members.

The second most discussed topic related to the state of the economy in the euro area, including questions addressed to the PEG on the weaknesses of the European economy and its overall performance compared with other advanced economies, such as the United States, both in terms of employment and growth. MEPs highlighted the poor performance of the European economy and requested a clearer strategy for supporting growth and employment creation. Moreover, MEPs questioned the pressing issue of employment in Greece and the weakness of the Greek labour market, the situation of competitiveness in Europe and the need for balancing fiscal deficits and surpluses in Europe.

This dialogue was characterised by a peak of questions relating to taxation issues, with most of them (75% of these questions) focusing on how to fight tax frauds and tax avoidance. In particular, many Members stressed the non-transparent work on taxation, the non-accessibility of some taxation policy papers by the Council and more generally to the access of information on tax agreements signed between some EU countries and multinational companies. Some MEPs argued for more EU tax harmonisation, highlighting the increasing tax competition between EU Member States.

4. ED with PEG on 18th February 2016

Focal point of the ED: “Completing the Banking Union”



Source: [Economic Dialogue 18th February 2016 \(web streaming\)](#)

Main issues: The main topics covered during this ED related to the banking union (almost 30 % of all the questions), the implementation of EU economic governance (around 24 %) and the state of the euro area economy (around 28%).

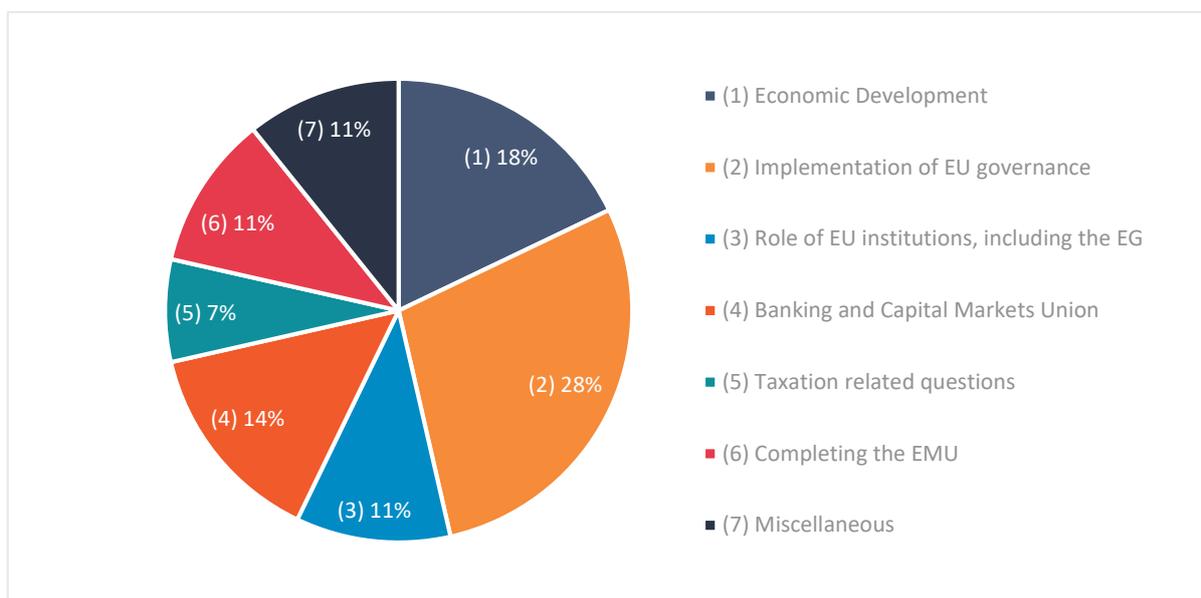
Special focus: Many questions by Members covered the completion of the banking and capital markets unions. These questions related notably to the discussions of the correct balance between risk reduction measures and risk sharing measures. Some MEPs warned against new risk weights for sovereign bonds, the design of stress tests, and whether there was progress in Council on EDIS. Some Members referred to recent bank resolution cases.

Some MEPs raised again the situation in Greece (almost 2/3 of the question under economic governance were on financial assistance programmes): more specifically, on reform of pensions, privatisations and non-performing loans. MEPs expressed concerns on macroeconomic imbalances between euro countries, including moving from internal devaluation to investments, reforms and demand-side policies.

MEPs also questioned the Dutch Presidency priorities to simplify the SGP and to increase the transparency of the Eurogroup. Members raised questions relating to economic impact of the refugees crisis and about the Brexit negotiations.

5. ED with PEG on 29th November 2016

Focal point of the ED: “The Euro Area Fiscal Stance”



Source: [Economic Dialogue 29th November 2016 \(web streaming\)](#)

Main focus: During this ED, the PEG mainly faced questions related to the application of the European economic governance framework (around 28%), with about half of these questions related to the European Semester and the Country Specific Recommendations. MEPs questioned the PEG about the economic development of the euro area (around 18%) and the progress in the banking and capital markets unions (around 14%).

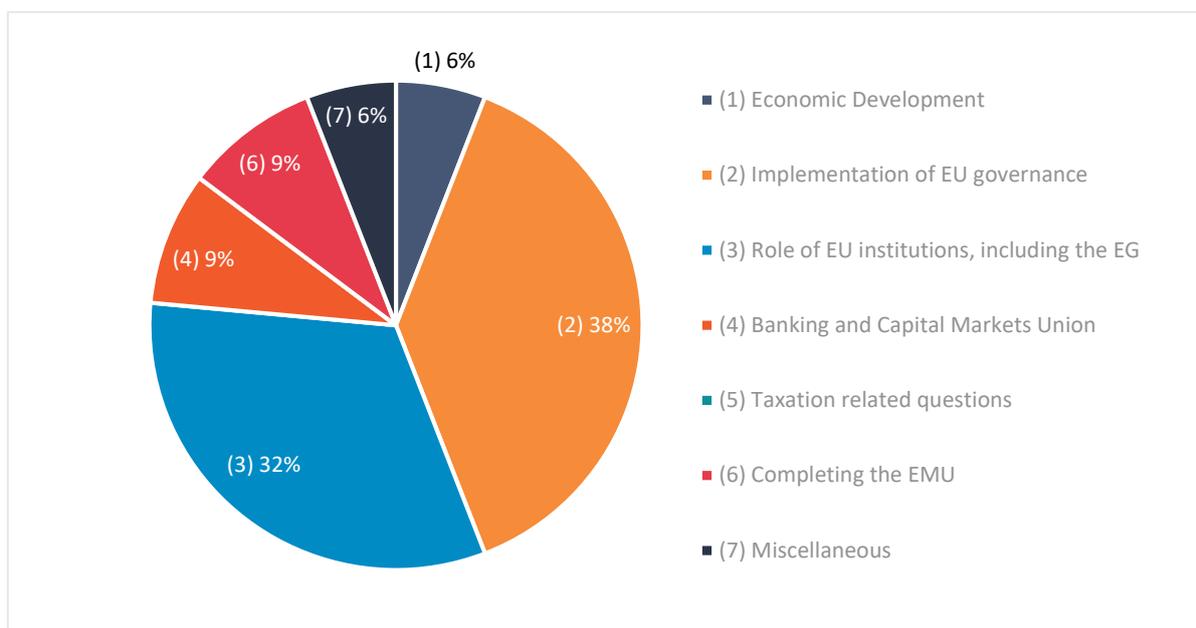
Special focus: MEPs asked a high percentage of questions about the economic situation of the euro area. A large number of Members raised the issue of the correct and appropriate guidance for the fiscal stance of the euro area, as the views of the Commission and of the Eurogroup were slightly different. Some Members raised questions on how to enhance investments, following the recommendation of the Commission to deploy an Investment Plan for Europe to fill the investment gap. Some MEPs showed concern about the growing divergence between euro area economies. One Member wanted to know about tax reforms in the Netherlands.

The PEG faced question relating to the steps to be taken to achieve an agreement between the Eurogroup and the IMF relating to a debt relief and a lower primary surplus for Greece, as proposed by the IMF. Also some questions on the independence of the statistical agency in Greece were raised.

The withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union was mentioned many times during this ED. Furthermore, MEPs raised concerns about the forthcoming trade tensions between China and the United States announced by the incumbent President of the United States. A smaller percentage of questions addressed the completion of the banking and the capital markets union. Work on EDIS and the Basel capital framework for banks were highlighted. One Member asked about the effectiveness of the thematic discussion in the Eurogroup, following a study commissioned by the Parliament in advance of the ED.

6. ED with PEG on 21st March 2017

Focal point of the ED: "Greece reforms plan and President Dijsselbloem's future"



Source: [Economic Dialogue 21st March 2017 \(web streaming\)](#)

Main Issues: During the ED, the main topics covered by MEPs related to the implementation of economic governance (38 % of the questions) and questions on the role of the EU institutions, including the EG and the ECB (around 32 %).

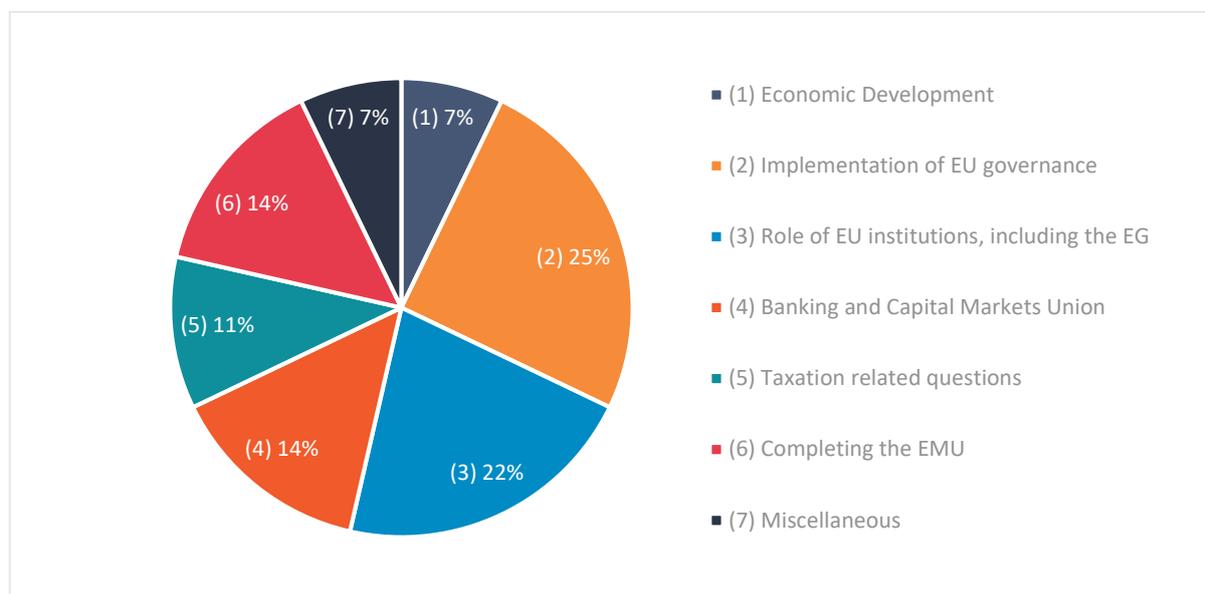
Special focus: Questions raised under the category "Implementation of the EU economic governance" focused on the implementation of Financial Assistance Programmes, notably in Greece (around 70% of the questions), while some other questions related to the implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact and the MIP. Questions on Greece covered the economic situation and reforms, such as reforming the pension system, the social security system and the collective bargaining system. MEPs asked about which lessons could be learned from the Greece adjustment programme. MEP also asked questions on how to deal with the NPLs. Medium-term measures to consolidate public finances and possible debt relief measures were also raised.

This dialogue included also record level of questions on the role of the EU institutions, including the President of the Eurogroup. Among these questions, more than half related to the role of the President of the Eurogroup, partly due to the fact that the political party of President Dijsselbloem had lost in the Dutch elections requiring the appointment of a new Minister of Finance in the Netherlands. Some controversial publicly made by the PEG got also attention.

Questions on the future governance of the EMU, including a permanent president of the Eurogroup, the establishment of a European Monetary Fund, and making a clearer division of competences between national and EU level were raised. The consequences of Brexit was also mentioned in this context.

7. ED with PEG on 7th December 2017

Focal point of the ED: “The end of the mandate of President Dijsselbloem”



Source: [Economic Dialogue 7th December 2017 \(web streaming\)](#)

Main Issues: The main topics covered by Members related to the implementation of economic governance (around 25 % of the questions), to the role of the EU institutions, including the EG (around 22 %), the completion of Banking and Capital Markets Union (around 14 %) and the completion of the EMU (around 14 %).

Special focus: Again, many of the questions under the category of EU economic governance related to experiences of the financial assistance programmes, notably for Greece and Cyprus. Furthermore, many questions dealt with bail-in used as part of the resolution of banks and NPLs reduction. Other themes were the lack of compliance with the European Semester, the country specific recommendations and the proposed relating to the balanced budget rule of the so-called Fiscal Compact, and the role of the euro area fiscal stance, and ways to better counter macroeconomic imbalances, including high current account surpluses. Also issues related to labour and capital taxation in some countries were highlighted.

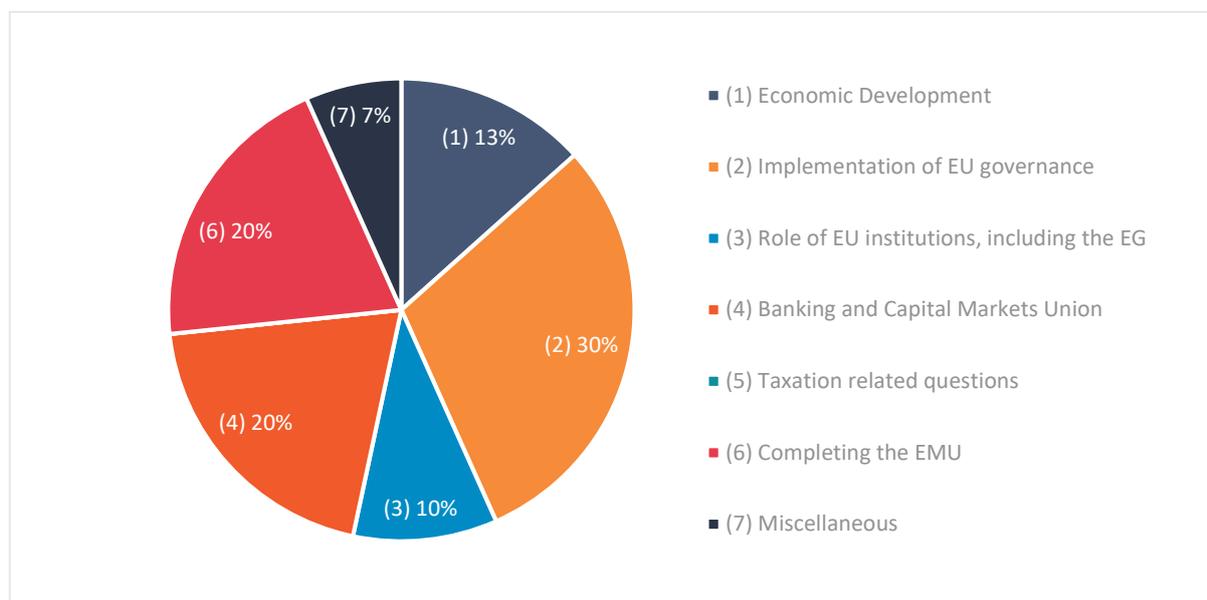
A substantial number of questions dealt with the governance of the euro area, and MEPS expressed concern especially on the lack of accountability and transparency of the Eurogroup, and made some proposals aimed at making it more accountable to the EP. Questions relating on whether a fiscal stabilisation function would be needed or not in the euro area were raised. Some questions related to the non-consolidation in the financial sectors and the potential impact of Brexit.

Another important issue was the completion of the banking union, including progress on risk reduction and the appropriate design of EDIS.

Many Members also thanked Mr Dijsselbloem for his work as the PEG.

8. ED with PEG on 21st February 2018

Focal point of the ED: “Mário Centeno, a new start for the EG”



Source: [Economic Dialogue 21st February 2018 \(web streaming\)](#)

Main Issues: During the ED, the main topics covered by MEPs related to the implementation of economic governance (around 30%), while both Banking and Capital Markets Union and the completion of the EMU got around 20 % each.

Special focus: This was the first dialogue with Mário Centeno as the President of the Eurogroup, and Members welcome his appearance in the ECON committee in his new capacity. MEPs asked for a strong commitment to engage more actively with the Parliament and increase the transparency of the Eurogroup and ECB nominations.

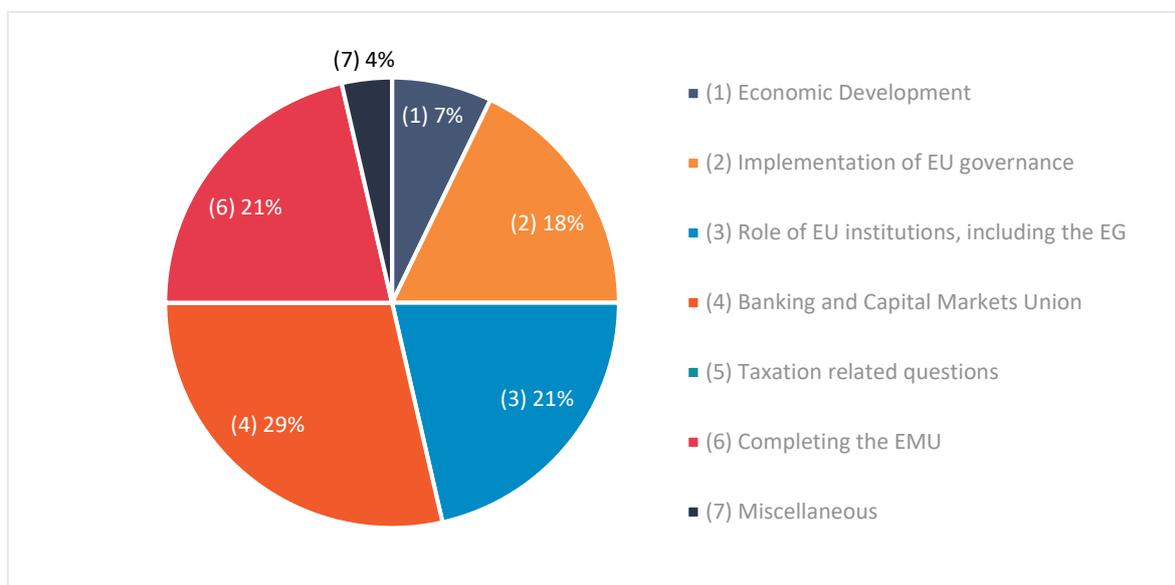
Again, many questions relating to implementation of EU economic governance concerned Greece, notably its forthcoming exit from the adjustment programme. Equal treatment in applying the EU fiscal rules was also raised and how to correct macroeconomic imbalances in a symmetrical way. MEPs asked how to deal with the rise in inequality, in the context of the Semester.

On Banking Union issues, many questions were about NPLs, in particular on the ways and the correct timeframe to reduce them. In this respect, how to make progress on EDIS was highlighted. MEPs asked questions on the establishment of a common “bad bank”.

With regard to EMU completion, many questions related to proposals to enhance the ESM and its democratic control, the role of a new stabilisation instrument at the euro area level, and ways to enhance convergence in the euro area.

9. ED with PEG on 20th November 2018

Focal point of the ED: “Risk Sharing and conformity to the fiscal rules (Italy)”



Source: [Economic Dialogue 20th November 2018 \(web streaming\)](#)

Main Issues: The main topics covered during the dialogue related to the completion of Banking Union (around 30 % of the questions), to the role of the EU institutions, including the role of the PEG (around 21 %), to work on how to complete the EMU governance (around 21%), and the implementation of EU economic governance (around 20 %).

Special focus: Many questions focused on the level of risk reduction, including the level of non-performing loans, in order to make progress in completing the Banking Union. The state-of-play as regards the EU legislation on NPLs and the backstop to the ESM were raised.

Another important strand of questions was about the monitoring of the EU economic governance, notably as regards debt sustainability assessments, possible debt relief and pension reforms in Greece. Also the results of the financial assistance programme were questioned. Many questions related to the economic situation in Italy and its recent budgetary policies, in light of the rather high-level of public debt as well. Notably, MEPs and PEG discussed whether the Italian budgetary policies respected the EU fiscal rules, following the Commission’s opinion on the Italian draft budgetary plan. The role of the European Stability Mechanism in this regard was also mentioned, while it was also mentioned that Italy has been running a primary budget surplus for many years.

As regards to the work to complete the EMU governance, questions were raised about a budgetary instrument supporting national reforms, notably its effectiveness. Some Members stressed the missing element of a stabilisation mechanism in the euro area, including the possibility of some kind of safe assets at the euro area level. Some questions addressed how to integrate the ESM into the EU legal framework.

ANNEX 1: Economic Dialogue with President of the Eurogroup (2014-2019)

Economic Dialogues with PEG 2014 - 2019				
Date/Committee	Institution	Subject	Source (webstreaming)	EGOV Briefing
20 November 2018 ECON	Eurogroup President	▶ Regular Economic Dialogue	ED 20/11/2018	ED 20/11/2018
21 February 2018 ECON	Eurogroup President	▶ Regular Economic Dialogue	ED 21/02/2018	ED 21/02/2018
7 December 2017 ECON	Eurogroup President	▶ Regular Economic Dialogue	ED 07/12/2017	ED 07/12/2017
21 March 2017 ECON	Eurogroup President	▶ Regular Economic Dialogue	ED 21/03/2017	ED 21/03/2017
29 November 2016 ECON	Eurogroup President	▶ Regular Economic Dialogue	ED 29/11/2016	ED 29/11/2016
18 February 2016 ECON	Eurogroup President	▶ Regular Economic Dialogue	ED 18/02/2016	ED 18/02/2016
10 November 2015 ECON	Eurogroup President	▶ Regular Economic Dialogue ▶ <i>Ad hoc</i> exchange of views on Greece	ED 10/11/2015	ED 10/11/2015
24 February 2015 ECON	Eurogroup President	▶ Spring 2014 priorities for the Eurogroup ▶ Debt dynamics in the Euro Area	ED 24/02/2015	ED 24/02/2015
4 September 2014 ECON	Eurogroup President	▶ Fiscal and macro-structural challenges	ED 04/09/2014	ED 04/09/2014

ANNEX 2

The legal provisions for Economic Dialogues with other EU Institutions

The five regulations below were adopted as part of the "6-pack" and include provisions for Economic Dialogues with the other EU institutions

In order to enhance the dialogue between the institutions of the Union, in particular the EP, the Council and the COM, and to ensure greater transparency and accountability, the competent committee of the EP may invite the President of the Council, the Commission and, where appropriate, the President of the European Council or the President of the Euro group to appear before the committee to discuss:

<p>Regulation 1466/97 on the strengthening of the surveillance of budgetary positions and the surveillance and coordination of economic policies (Article 2ab)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) information provided to the committee by the Council on the broad guidelines of economic policy pursuant to Article 121(2) TFEU; (b) general guidance to MS issued by the COM at the beginning of the annual cycle of surveillance; (c) any conclusions drawn by the European Council on orientations for economic policies in the context of the European Semester; (d) the results of multilateral surveillance carried out under this Regulation; (e) any conclusions drawn by the European Council on the orientations for and results of multilateral surveillance; (f) any review of the conduct of multilateral surveillance at the end of the European Semester; (g) Council recommendations addressed to MS in accordance with Article 121(4) TFEU in the event of significant deviation and the report made by the Council to the European Council as defined in Article 6(2) and Article 10(2) of the Regulation. <p>The Council is expected to, as a rule, follow the recommendations and proposals of the COM or explain its position publicly ["comply or explain"].</p>
<p>Regulation 1173/2011 on the effective enforcement of budgetary surveillance in the euro area (Article 3)</p>	<p>Decisions taken pursuant to Articles 4, 5 and 6 of the Regulation [i.e. sanctions and fines].</p>
<p>Regulation 1467/97 on speeding up and clarifying the implementation of the excessive deficit procedure (Article 2a)</p>	<p>Council decisions under Article 126(6) TFEU, Council recommendations under Article 126(7) TFEU, notices under Article 126(9) TFEU, or Council decisions under Article 126(11) TFEU.</p> <p>The Council is, as a rule, expected to follow the recommendations and proposals of the COM or explain its position publicly ["comply or explain"].</p>

<p>Regulation 1176/2011 on prevention and correction of macroeconomic imbalances (Article 14 (1))</p>	<p>(a) information provided by the Council on the broad guidelines of economic policy pursuant to Article 121(2) TFEU;</p> <p>(b) general guidance to MS issued by the COM at the beginning of the annual cycle of surveillance;</p> <p>(c) the conclusions of the European Council concerning orientations for economic policies in the context of the European Semester;</p> <p>(d) the results of multilateral surveillance carried out under this Regulation;</p> <p>(e) the conclusions of the European Council concerning the orientations for, and results of, multilateral surveillance;</p> <p>(f) a review of the conduct of multilateral surveillance at the end of the European Semester;</p> <p>(g) the recommendations taken pursuant to Article 7(2), Article 8(2) and Article 10(4) of this Regulation.</p>
<p>Regulation 1174/2011 on enforcement measures to correct excessive macroeconomic imbalances in the euro area (Article 6)</p>	<p>Decisions taken pursuant to Article 3 of the Regulation.</p> <p>[i.e. sanctions including fines]</p>

The two regulations below were adopted as part of the "2-pack" and include provisions for Economic Dialogues with the other EU institutions

<p>Regulation 473/2013 on monitoring and assessing draft budgetary plans and ensuring the correction of excessive deficits of the Member States in the euro-area (Articles 7(3), 15 (1) and (3) and 16)</p>	<p>Article 7: COM assessment of the draft budgetary plan</p> <p>(3) The Commission's opinion [on the draft budgetary plan] shall be made public and shall be presented to the Eurogroup. Thereafter, at the request of the parliament of the Member State concerned or of the European Parliament, the Commission shall present its opinion to the parliament making the request.</p> <p>Article 15: Economic dialogue</p> <p>(1) In order to enhance the dialogue between the Union institutions, in particular the EP, the Council and the COM, and to ensure greater transparency and accountability, the competent committee of the EP may invite, where appropriate, the President of the Council, the COM, the President of the European Council or the <u>President of the Eurogroup</u> to appear before the committee to discuss:</p> <p>(a) the specification of the content of the draft budgetary plan as set out in a harmonised framework established in accordance with Article 6(5) [harmonised framework established by the COM in cooperation with the MS];</p> <p>(b) the results of the discussion of the Eurogroup on the COM opinions adopted in accordance with Article 7(1) [COM shall adopt an opinion on the draft budgetary plan as soon as possible and in any event by 30 November], to the extent that they have been made public;</p>
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	<p>(c) the overall assessment of the budgetary situation and prospects in the euro area as a whole made by the COM in accordance with Article 7(4) [COM assessment shall be made on the basis of most recent economic forecasts; it shall include sensitivity analysis that provide an indication of the risks to public finance sustainability];</p> <p>(d) Council acts referred to in Article 9(4) [the Council, acting on a proposal from the COM, shall adopt an opinion on the economic partnership programme] and in Article 12(3) [COM shall recommend that the Council takes additional measures where there has been no effective action in response to its recommendations].</p> <p>(...)</p> <p>(3). The EP shall be duly involved in the European Semester in order to increase the transparency and ownership of, and the accountability for the decisions taken, in particular by means of the economic dialogue carried out pursuant to this article.</p>
<p>Regulation 472/2013 on the strengthening of economic and budgetary surveillance of Member States in the euro area experiencing or threatened with serious difficulties with respect to their financial stability (Articles 3 (1), (5), (8), (9), 7(1), (4) and (10), 14 (3), 18 and 19</p>	<p>Article 3: Enhanced surveillance</p> <p>(1, 2nd subparagraph) The Commission shall inform the competent committee of the European Parliament, the EFC, the Eurogroup Working Group, and the parliament of the Member State concerned, where relevant and in accordance with national practice, of the measures referred to in the first subparagraph. [measures to address the sources of difficulties identified]</p> <p>(5, 2nd subparagraph) Every quarter, the Commission shall communicate its assessment [following each mission to the MS concerned] to the competent committee of the European Parliament and to the EFC. In that assessment, it shall examine, in particular, whether further measures are needed.</p> <p>(...)</p> <p>(8) Where a recommendation [Council recommendations to the concerned MS regarding measures to be adopted] referred to in paragraph 7 is made public:</p> <p>(a) the competent committee of the European Parliament may offer the opportunity to the Member State concerned and to the Commission to participate in an exchange of views;</p> <p>(...)</p> <p>(c) the Council shall inform the relevant committee of the European Parliament in due time about the content of the recommendation.</p> <p>(9) During the course of the enhanced surveillance process, the competent committee of the EP and the parliament of the MS concerned may invite representatives of <u>the COM, the ECB and the IMF</u> to participate in an economic dialogue.</p> <p>Article 7: Macroeconomic adjustment programme</p> <p>(1, 5th subparagraph) (...) The Commission shall orally <u>inform</u> the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the competent committee of the EP of the progress made in the preparation of the draft macroeconomic adjustment programme. This information shall be treated as confidential.</p> <p>(...)</p> <p>(4) The Commission shall <u>inform</u> the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the competent committee of the EP orally of the conclusions drawn from the monitoring of the macroeconomic adjustment programme. That information shall be treated as confidential.</p>

	<p>(...)</p> <p>(10) The competent committee of the European Parliament may offer the opportunity to the Member State concerned and to the Commission to participate in an exchange of views on the progress made in the implementation of the macroeconomic adjustment programme.</p> <p>Article 14: Post-programme surveillance</p> <p>(3) The Commission shall conduct, in liaison with the ECB, regular review missions in the Member State under post- programme surveillance to assess its economic, fiscal and financial situation. Every six months, it shall communicate its assessment to the competent committee of the European Parliament, to the EFC and to the parliament of the Member State concerned and shall assess, in particular, whether corrective measures are needed.</p> <p>Article 18: Informing the EP</p> <p>The EP may invite representatives of <u>the Council</u> and of <u>the COM</u> to enter into a dialogue on the application of this Regulation.</p>
<p>* In addition to the Economic Dialogue mentioned above the Commission is accountable to the EP in line with the Article 17 (8) of the Treaty on European Union and the framework agreement between the COM and the EP.</p> <p>* For the legal bases for invitations to the Member States to take part in an Economic Dialogue, see a separate table.</p>	

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