

Inter-parliamentary Committee Meeting  
Committee on Constitutional Affairs

The Future of Europe: Perspectives on the European Parliament's proposals and the  
Commission White Paper

Wednesday, 11 October 2017, 15.00–18.30  
European Parliament, JAN 6Q2, Brussels

This leaflet provides extracts from supporting analyses prepared by Parliament's policy department on Citizens Rights and Constitutional Affairs for the Committee on Constitutional Affairs relevant to the topic of the meeting.

[Implementation of the Lisbon Treaty – Improving functioning of the EU: Economic and Monetary Policy](#) - April 2016



The Treaty chapter on Economic and Monetary Union became after the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty one of the most disputed chapters of the Treaties. The economic and financial crisis revealed the shortcomings of the asymmetric EMU. The present study assesses the unused potential of the existing Treaty chapter in order to improve the functioning of the EU. In order to do so, the study suggests to switch the perspective on the Treaty potential from competences to compliance. By identifying the lack of mechanisms in the existing economic policy coordination framework aiming at addressing non-compliance because of a Member State's incapacity to comply, the study suggests the introduction of an incentive-based enforcement mechanism (for the short term) and of a fiscal capacity (for the medium term) within the existing Treaties. Furthermore, the establishment of the Eurozone budget, of a Redemption Fund or the adoption of a convergence code is discussed. By the same token, the legal inclusion of the Fiscal Compact and the ESM-Treaty is examined and concrete proposals are developed. Finally, the study addresses ways of increasing the accountability and legitimacy in EMU affairs.

[The implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the EU Institutional Framework](#) - November 2016



The EU institutions are required take into account the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the design and implementation of legislation or of policies, both within law- and policymaking internal to the Union and in the external relations of the EU. This study was commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs of the European Parliament, to examine how they discharge this duty: it looks into the role of the Charter in the legislative process; in the economic governance of the Union; in the work of EU agencies; in the implementation of EU law by EU Member States; and, in the external relations of the Union, both in trade and investment policies and in the Common Foreign and Security Policy. It also analyses certain gaps in the judicial protection of the Charter and identifies measures through which the potential of the Charter could be further realized.

[The European Social Charter in the Context of Implementation of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights](#) -January 2016



Despite its increased visibility and relevance to fields covered by the EU, the European Social Charter has been largely ignored from the more recent developments concerning the protection of fundamental rights in the EU legal order. This creates the risk of conflicting obligations imposed on the EU Member States, respectively as members of the EU and as States parties to the European Social Charter. Various options could be explored to move beyond the current impasse.

[The 2016 “Winter Package” on European Security and Defence: Constitutional, Legal and Institutional Implications](#) - December 2016



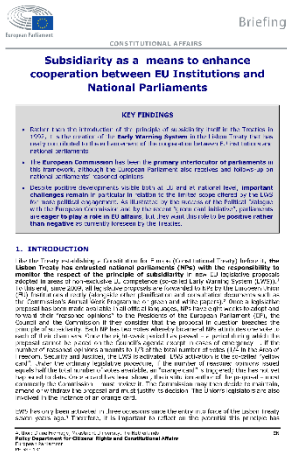
The untapped potential of the Lisbon Treaty lies primarily in the possibility to create a framework for permanent structured cooperation (PESCO); institutional adaptations at the level of the Council, the European Parliament and the European Defence Agency; and the modus operandi of the mutual assistance clause. This study examines a series of constitutional, legal and institutional implications of the proposals endorsed by the December 2016 European Council for the further development of the Common Security and Defence Policy in the framework of the current Treaties.

[The Role of National Parliaments in the EU after Lisbon: Potentialities and Challenges](#) - March 2017



This study assesses the implementation of the Treaty of Lisbon provisions on national parliaments as well as other related developments since 2009. The issues that are specifically investigated include the treaty provisions regarding national parliaments, Early Warning Mechanism, dialogue between national parliaments and the European Commission, the extending networks of inter-parliamentary cooperation, the parliamentary dimension of the budgetary and economic coordination and finally, the challenges raised by the on-going developments of the European legislative procedure.

Subsidiarity as a means to enhance cooperation between EU Institutions and National Parliaments - April 2017



Rather than the introduction of the principle of subsidiarity itself in the Treaties in 1992, it is the creation of the Early Warning System in the Lisbon Treaty that has really contributed to the enhancement of the cooperation between EU institutions and national parliaments. Despite positive developments visible both at EU and at national level, important challenges remain in particular in relation to the limited scope offered by the Early Warning System for more political engagement. As illustrated by the success of the Political Dialogue with the European Commission and by the recent "green card initiative", parliaments are eager to play a role in EU affairs, but they want this role to be positive rather than negative as currently foreseen by the Treaties.

Implementation of the Lisbon Treaty Improving Functioning of the EU: Foreign Affairs - November 2015



Foreign Affairs as field of EU action has very distinctive constitutional qualities. Its external powers are broad, encompassing not only traditional foreign policy, but also development cooperation and number of sectoral policies such as trade, transport and environment. The report provides an analysis of the changes in the constitutional and institutional framework brought about by the Lisbon Treaty and assess the implementation of those changes including obstacles to further improvement of its implementation.

Flexibility Mechanisms in the Lisbon Treaty - July 2015



Against any superficial impression of uniformity, the Treaty of Lisbon offers a significant number of mechanisms for flexibility (i.e. establishing different obligations and/or with different deadlines for accomplishment for different Member States). External treaties complete the vast array for flexibility in European integration. Their full deployment depends on political opportunity and they may offer some opportunities to develop some policy areas. However, they are not panacea to face EU's biggest challenges.