Democratic control in the Member States of the European Council and the euro zone summits - January 2013

In the context of the crisis, the European Council is increasingly central to the governance of the European Union. Even if national parliaments have originally focused their involvement in EU affairs on the ordinary legislative process, most of the chambers have started to develop specific activities, before or after European summits. From ex-ante influence to post-accountability, seven different models of control have been identified. Beyond their differences rooted in national democratic systems, they call for twelve recommendations listed in this report.

(Available in EN)

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The euro crisis has forced Member States and the EU institutions to create a series of new instruments to safeguard macro-financial stability of the Union. This study describes the status of existing instruments, the role of the European Parliament and how use of the instruments impinges on EU budget also through their effects on national budgets. In addition, we present a survey of other possible instruments that have been proposed in recent years (e.g. E-bonds and Eurobonds) in order to provide an assessment of how EU macro-financial stability assistance could evolve in the future and what could be its impact on EU public finances.

(Available in EN, executive summary in FR and DE)

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Impact of the economic crisis on the social, economic and territorial cohesion of the European Union - June 2014

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The Policy Departments’ newsletter offers a monthly overview of the main upcoming events organised in the European Parliament, a summary of key studies in preparation and a direct link to the major studies published recently.

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SOCIAL ASPECTS
The social and employment situation in Greece - October 2013

This report provides an overview on the social and employment situation in Greece, as well as an overview on the policies put forward as a response to the crisis in the areas of employment, poverty and social exclusion. A special section in the report is allocated to the overview of presidency priorities. The last section of the report addresses current important issues in employment and social affairs.

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(Available in EN, executive summary in FR and DE)
ECONOMIC ASPECTS

Social housing in the European Union - January 2013

This briefing paper provides an overview of the social housing sector in the EU area. It details the response of the sector to the 2007–2008 financial crisis. In addition, it sheds light on the most recent developments at the EU level on the conflicting interests that are necessary to reconcile within the sector: ensuring adequate and affordable housing for all citizens, yet guaranteeing open competition among market players. Finally, innovative social housing projects are presented.

(Available in EN, executive summary in FR and DE)

Mental health in times of economic crisis - June 2012

This report summarises the presentations and discussions held at the European Parliament workshop organised on 19 June 2012 which aimed to exchange views on the detrimental effects of the economic crisis on the mental health of European citizens. The workshop reviewed evidence on the link between mental health and the global financial crisis and included a panel discussion on possible solutions to tackle the issue.

(Available in EN)

The role of the social protection as an economic stabiliser: lessons from the current crisis - December 2010

This report aims to shed light on the role played by social policies and the social protection system in the context of the crisis. It shows that social protection, in particular unemployment benefits, minimum income support and progressive taxation, have significantly contributed to reducing the depth and the duration of the recession in EU Member States and to stabilising labour markets and consumption. Further action, however, is needed to overcome inequalities in access to social protection faced by non-standard workers, and in designing a suitable exit strategy from discretionary stimulus in order to limit the fiscal constraints generated by anti-crisis policies.

(Available in EN, executive summary in DE)

Structural and cohesion policies for 2020: tools to overcome the crisis - November 2011

This note illustrates the crucial contribution of structural and cohesion policies to the “Europe 2020” strategy. It also highlights the role that the Parliament could play in strengthening these policies, which are all subject to the ordinary legislative procedure, and will all undergo a far-reaching reform by 2014.

(Available in EN, FR and DE)

The impact of the financial crisis on European defence - May 2011

This study provides a comprehensive and detailed overview on the impact of the financial crisis on EU Member States defence spending. In addition, it examines the potential of overcoming the need to cut defence spending by greater cooperation in the framework of the European Union and by drawing upon the innovations in the Lisbon Treaty. It includes recommendations to be developed by the European Parliament and decision makers at the national and EU level in order to address the economic crisis whilst ensuring Europe retains defence capabilities to respond to future security challenges.

(Available in EN)

MONETARY AND FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Consumer protection aspects of financial services - February 2014

Inadequate consumer protection, especially in the U.S. mortgage market, not only led to considerable consumer detriment but was a major contributor to the global financial crisis. Inadequate selling of financial products has also resulted in significant consumer harm. Considering the significant potential detriment that financial services can cause to individual consumers and to the Single Market, consumer protection policy needs to properly focus on this area. A number of recommendations to strengthen consumer protection in the area of financial services are put forward in this study.

(Available in EN)

Review of the new European System of Financial Supervision (ESFS), Part 1: the work of the European Supervisory Authorities (ESAs) – the ESFS’ micro-prudential pillar - June 2012

Responding to the challenges of the financial crisis, the EU adopted a new financial supervisory framework: the European System of Financial Supervision and its European Supervisory Authorities (ESAs). This report reviews and assesses the performance of the ESAs. It reasons that the ESAs have been established successfully but need a stronger foundation, in particular enhanced governance when taking decisions on supervisory consistency across the EU. A key conclusion is that the benefits of legal and regulatory harmonisation (Single Rulebook) will be lost without consistent implementation and application. Finally, the report contains recommendations to improve the ESAs’ effectiveness and efficiency.

(Available in EN)

Challenges of multi-tier governance in the EU - effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy - March 2013

This compendium aims at providing unique insights into the major questions of efficiency, effectiveness and legitimacy that the EU governance is currently facing notably in the context of the economic crisis. While dealing with the lessons from the past experiences of the differentiated integration, they put naturally a specific focus on current challenges with the respect to the Economic and Monetary union. The impact of these developments on the European institutions and their decision-making processes and mechanisms of its legitimisation is analysed. Options for managing this increasing tension towards differentiation within the EU in the future are presented.

(Available in EN)
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Scan the QR code or just click on the title of the publication to access it directly.

FORTHCOMING PUBLICATION

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