

ABSTRACTS

Valentin Kreilinger

Predictions about the Composition and the Functioning of the European Parliament after the 2014 Elections

From 22 to 25 May 2014 a new European Parliament will be elected. Despite many uncertainties with respect to possible changes caused by these European elections, two major trends are likely, based on current estimations: electoral gains for the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D) with losses for the Group of the European People's Party (EPP) and gains for populist and Eurosceptic parties at the expense of mainstream parties. This would not paralyse the European Parliament, but lead to (even) stronger cooperation between the mainstream parties which is also favoured by the process and timetable for the investiture of the next European Commission. An analysis of the voting behaviour of the Members of the European Parliament in the legislative period 2009-2014 helps to better understand the possible changes to the political balance of power. Since the two major groups and political camps appear to be at the same level, the race could be extremely tight.

Christian Deubner

Stronger Parliaments under new EMU Governance?

The recent reforms of the economic and monetary union submitted the financial and budget policy of the Euro States to an executive biased control by the European Commission and the Council. The scopes of parliamentary participation and control in this policy field have been restricted considerably. This article takes up the resulting questions of input and output legitimacy of the EMU governance as they present themselves in the European Semester. En suite, a status-quo scenario and a change scenario are presented, which help to analyse options for strengthening the European and the national parliaments under the EMU Governance and so solve the problem of legitimacy.

Olaf Leibe und Marta Tryk

The Permanent Candidate: Turkey's Europeanization under the AKP Government

The possible accession of Turkey to the European Union is a topic that splits up Europe until today. The EU-oriented course of pluralism which the ruling AKP had been following in its early years has stagnated because the party showed increasingly authoritarian-Islamistic characteristics. How can the EU manage to influence the domestic transformation in Turkey successfully? Europeanization is highly dependent on domestic factors and the willingness of national actors to implement EU norms and standards. Hence, the well-established concept of Europeanization will be extended by five elements in order to characterize the consequences of the accession process in Turkey and to systematise how domestic actors react to the Europeanization pressure.

Andrew Duff

Back To Basics: European Political Union

Speculation has begun again about if, and if so, how to revise the EU Treaties. With the new coalition government in place, eyes are turning to Berlin – but also to Karlsruhe – to see how

far Germany is prepared to go to consolidate the banking and fiscal union within a proper federal polity. Simultaneously, Prime Minister Cameron is pushing for a serious renegotiation of the terms of Britain's EU membership which, for him, must involve an element of treaty change. The big question is whether the Union will develop its system of governance around the European Council on intergovernmental lines or around the European Commission, according to the Monnet method. The Spinelli Group, which has published "A Fundamental Law of the EU", transforms the Commission into a parliamentary government. In their comprehensive federalist blueprint for the next Convention, the MEPs propose a form of associate membership which might suit the UK.