



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Strasbourg, 22 May 2012

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NOTE

from:	General Secretariat of the Council
to:	Delegations
Subject:	Summary of the meeting of the European Parliament Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) , held in Strasbourg on 21 May 2012

The meeting was chaired by Ms BOWLES (ALDE, UK).

Item 3 on the agenda

Amendment of Rule 70 of the Rules of Procedure on interinstitutional negotiations in legislative procedures

ECON/7/08927

Rapporteur for the opinion: Ms BOWLES

Rapporteur for the responsible committee (AFCO): Mr GUERRERO SALOM (S&D)

- Consideration of the draft opinion

Ms BOWLES underlined the fact that her amendments aimed at introducing the best practices of the ECON Committee into Article 70 of the EP's Rules of Procedure. She considered that **a report needed to be adopted by the Committee before a decision to enter into negotiations with the Council could be adopted**, and that the text of the report itself should set out the **negotiating mandate**. She considered that orientations or priorities should be dropped, to ease the procedure.

The decision on the opening of negotiations should then be **announced by the EP president in the plenary, before trilogues could start**. Announcement would mean tacit approval, unless the Conference of Presidents decided for a debate and a vote in the plenary. According to Ms BOWLES the **negotiating team should be composed of at least the Chair, rapporteur and shadow rapporteurs**.

Mr GUALTIERI (S&D, IT) underlined the different approach of Ms BOWLES, as Mr GUERRERO SALOM's report included the possibility of entering negotiations before the adoption of a report, which meant that a reference to the adoption of orientations or priorities was useful. Mr GIEGOLD (Greens, DE) agreed with the approach of the rapporteur, but considered that a majority of two thirds of Committee members should be able to decide on the opening of the negotiations, to strengthen the Committee's role. Ms SWINBURNE (ECR, UK) supported the draft report, but insisted on the need for political balance in the trilogue procedure, in particular concerning the exchange of documents and information during trilogues. Mr KLUTE (GUE, DE) agreed, and considered that when the Chair was also rapporteur, that person should be replaced by a deputy. Mr GAUZES (EPP, FR) considered that the possibility of voting on amendments in plenary and leaving the adoption of the resolution to a later stage should also be inserted into the Rules of Procedure.

Mr GAUZES also disagreed with Ms SWINBOURNE, and stressed that her approach would lead to the reopening of a debate on issues that had already been settled in the mandate. Mr KLINZ (ALDE, DE) insisted on the central role of the Committee when deciding on the opening of negotiations and criticised the fact that the Conference of Presidents could put the opening of negotiations on the agenda for the plenary.

Ms BOWLES disagreed with Mr GIEGOLD on the two-thirds majority needed to open negotiations, and explained that having to achieve a majority of the Committee's members was already a hurdle. She insisted with Mr GUALTIERI on the importance of having a report adopted before opening negotiations.

Calendar:

- deadline for tabling amendments: 30 May 2012;
- consideration of amendments: 18 June 2012;
- vote at ECON: 25 June 2012;
- vote at AFCO: 12 July 2012.

Item 4 on the agenda

European statistical programme 2013-2017

ECON/7/08389

Rapporteur: M. SCICLUNA (S&D, MT)

Opinions: BUDG, EMPL, ENVI, REGI, FEMM

- Consideration of amendments

Mr SCICLUNA underlined the need for reliable and user-friendly statistics. He highlighted an amendment by Ms in 't VELD (ALDE, NL) concerning the independence of EUROSTAT and considered that it should be discussed further. For the Greens, Mr LAMBERTS (BE) and Mr GIEGOLD (DE) mentioned in particular the need to measure **environmental sustainability, quality of life and social cohesion**, as they felt that these were key to answering the challenges of the 21st century. Ms FORD (ECR, UK) criticised this as she felt that more measurable indicators should be provided. Ms FERREIRA (S&D, PT) referred to some provisions of the six-pack which she felt should be taken into account in the report and mentioned in particular the concept of **statistical fraud**, which needed to be defined, and the comparability of the benchmarks in the scoreboard. In his closing remarks Mr SCICLUNA assured Ms FERREIRA that these elements would be dealt with in a future amendment.

Calendar:

- vote at ECON: 18 June 2012;
- vote in the plenary: September 2012.

Item 5 on the agenda

Common provisions on European Funds and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006

ECON/7/07488

Rapporteur for the opinion: Mr CHOUNTIS (GUE/NGL, EL)

Responsible: REGI Ms KREHL (S&D, DE)

Opinions: BUDG, CONT, ECON, EMPL, ENVI, ITRE, TRAN, AGRI, PECH, CULT, FEMM

- Consideration of amendments

Mr CHOUNTIS highlighted the broad support for his report in the Committee. As for the main issue, i.e. the proposed **deletion of Article 21 setting out macroeconomic conditionality**, this was supported by the MEPs taking the floor on behalf of all Groups. Ms KREHL stated that the same approach had been endorsed in the REGI Committee. Mr GAUZES, in particular, welcomed the deletion of Article 21, as it would affect regions that were not directly responsible for the imbalance in national accounts. Ms JENSEN (ALDE, DK) agreed with this approach, but expressed some concern about the attitude prevailing amongst net payers in the Council. Mr LAMBERTS also agreed with the deletion of Article 21 and considered that reprogramming could be a solution if plans were not delivering results. Ms SWINBOURNE, on behalf of Mr ZILE (ECR, LV) supported the deletion of Article 21. She also proposed the reduction from 5 % to 1 % of the performance reserve for programmes and priorities meeting milestone targets, as the Commission would only decide on this in 2019.

Calendar:

- vote at ECON: 25 June 2012;
- vote at the plenary: September 2012.

Next meeting

Wednesday 30 May 2012, 15:00 - 18:30 and Thursday 31 May 2012, 09:00 - 12:30
