



Institutions

In cooperation with the Centro Studi sul Federalismo

CEPS Anchor: Sonia Piedrafita

A more political European Commission?

Discussion Leaders

Margaritis Schinas, *Chief Spokesperson, European Commission* / **Richard Corbett**, *MEP*

The European elections and the formation of the new Commission sparked a heated debate on the efficiency and democratic legitimacy of this institution. Recent developments in the process of electing the Commission President have been hailed by many as the emergence of a new institutional order that reflects the classical division of powers in nation states. But changes in this direction are controversial due to their serious implications for the so-called 'community' or 'EU method'. This session will examine the recent re-organisation of the Commission and its new political mandate. How is the new structure in project teams working in practice? Is it contributing to a more efficient and less bureaucratic EU? Has the relationship between the Commission and the European Parliament changed? Is it contributing to a more democratic EU?

Moderator: *Quentin Peel, Mercator Senior Fellow, Chatham House*

What kind of treaty reform does the EU need?

Discussion Leaders

Enzo Moavero Milanesi, *Director, School of Law, LUISS and former Italian Minister for European Affairs*
Loukas Tsoukalis, *Professor of European Integration, University of Athens and President of ELLAMEP*

In the coming years, it is likely that the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO) in the European Parliament will closely examine the question of a treaty revision, and might even consider the submission of a proposal on the basis of a new Art. 48.2 TEU. The commitment to incorporate the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance (TSCG) into the legal framework of the EU by 2018 and the UK government's efforts to reform the EU institutions and to hold a referendum on the new arrangements in 2017 are pushing the debate to the forefront. However, political elites and – most importantly – EU citizens do not seem to be ready yet for a new round of reform. This session will discuss the scope, timeframe, desirability and feasibility of a treaty revision.

Moderator: *Amy Verdun, Jean Monnet Chair Ad Personam*

What narrative for Europe?

Discussion Leaders

Davuta Hübnér, *MEP, Chair of the AFCO Committee, European Parliament, and Member of the CEPS Board of Directors*
Enrico Letta, *former Prime Minister of Italy*
Miguel Maduro, *Minister in the Cabinet of the Prime Minister and for Regional Development of Portugal*

Citizens' support for the EU is waning and dissatisfaction with the way democracy works in the EU is growing, especially in the countries hardest hit by the sovereign debt crisis. According to the last Eurobarometer, citizens generally find the EU bureaucratic, inefficient and remote. This translated into a new historic low in voter turnout in the last elections to the European Parliament in May and an increased support for Eurosceptic or Eurocritical parties of various kinds. At the same time, national democracies and institutions also show telling signs of 'fatigue', with some cases reaching crisis levels. The need to identify a new narrative on the EU and the euro is evident. This session will analyse the growing dissatisfaction with the EU and identify common features and the likely consequences of growing polarisation, while attempting to define a new 'national' and European narrative for the emerging multi-level (and multi-speed) EU.

Moderator: *Anna Diamantopoulou, President, TO DIKTIO*