



FACULTY
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Charles University



Workshop organized by the

Charles University in Prague

Variation in national parliamentary control and inter-parliamentary cooperation in EU affairs

Prague, April 7-8, 2016

Call for Papers

New challenges for national parliamentary oversight of European policies have emerged in the past years. Increased workload combined with considerable time constraints, caused both by institutional changes (such as the introduction of the Early Warning Mechanism) and policy pressures (proposals reacting to “crises” – economic, integration, migration etc.), force national parliaments to adapt both their individual means of control including their intra-parliamentary practices and procedures and inter-parliamentary communication and cooperation. While many of the challenges national parliaments face are the same, they may develop different procedures to react to these changes and exercise the oversight role differently based on individual national factors.

The workshop will focus in these variations in national parliamentary control of EU affairs. It aims to analyse the persisting cross-national differences in the involvement of national parliaments in EU affairs. What factors influence the strength and scope of activity of individual parliaments both on national and European levels? Do the existing findings suggesting the relevance of parliamentary strength or public and political party positions on European integration hold true for the recent developments? What new mechanisms and procedures do national parliaments create to cope with the new challenges? How effective are they? What makes some parliaments more effective than others? How do national parliaments react to (proposed) reforms reacting to the crises and giving new competences to European institutions, such as the European Central Bank? How do these new European competences influence their relationship with the European Parliament that aspires to oversee them? These are the questions the workshop aims to raise.

We are therefore particularly looking for contributions that address these developments and their impact on the evolution of parliamentary practices from a comparative perspective. We especially welcome the papers dealing with the following topics:

- 1) changes in the ways the individual national parliaments control their governments including intra-parliamentary practices and working practices including the role of EU affairs and specialized committees, their chairs, rapporteurs and parliamentary administrations, thematic variation (across individual policies) and
- 2) new instruments of inter-parliamentary cooperation both among national parliaments and with the European Parliament.



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The workshop will be organised by the Institute of Political Studies and Institute of International Studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic. Deadline for paper proposals is **January 10, 2016**; please send abstracts of **no more than 250 words** to the workshop convenors Jan Karlas and Viera Knutelská (jan.karlas@fsv.cuni.cz). We welcome contributions both by senior scholars and those at the beginning of their careers, including graduate students. We will inform you by January 20 if your paper has been accepted. Draft papers should be circulated to all participants at least two weeks before the workshop. Funding for travel and one night accommodation is available for participants from PADEMIA member institutions. Non-PADEMIA members are invited to apply, as well. A limited amount for funding is potentially available.