

***Tackling the European Council – Raising Awareness for a Key Institution***

***PADEMIA Workshop and SUMMIT Kick-off Conference***

Brussels | 28-29 January 2016

***Call for Papers***

The conflict on the nomination and election of the new Commission President in 2014 has brought the inter-institutional relation and power struggle between the European Parliament and the European Council back on the academic agenda as well as in the political debate. However, even though the European Parliament has arguably won this incidence of inter-institutional power struggle, the European Council still holds the unchallenged leading position in the EU. The Heads of State or Government in the Council clearly exhibit the political lead, taking over quasi-legislative tasks and deeply impacting on policies, both on the European and on national levels. Especially the recent economic and refugee crises have triggered waves of activity and public attention, enhanced by the concentration on the European Council by the media.

While especially the role of national Parliaments in EU politics has received increased scholarly attention lately, the relation between parliaments, both national and the EP, and the European Council has still not been investigated thoroughly. Given the primacy of the European Council in current EU politics, it is overdue to position these questions prominently on the academic agenda and this workshop sets out to help develop an understanding of the current state of research. The democratic legitimacy of decisions taken in the Council is one of the most interesting issues in this regard. On the one hand, the legitimacy of single Heads of State or Government as members of the European Council can be questioned. The argument that these highest executive players are automatically legitimized via the national elections that brought them into office can be contested. Equally, the role national Parliaments play in scrutinizing their governments' actions in the European Council has been investigated critically and the debate on the individual legitimacy of European Council Members is still ongoing.

Similarly, the European Council as a single actor, as well as the decisions produced, need a basis of legitimization. Whether the European Parliament is able to add democratic legitimacy to the European Council's decision or not is a question open to debate. In which way the relation between these two institutions can be shaped in order to not hamper the EU's efficiency and still add a (parliamentary) democratic element is of direct political and academic interest.

In two panels, these and other questions will be discussed. In the twin-event

**“Tackling the European Council – Raising Awareness for a Key Intuition, SUMMIT Kick-off Conference and PADEMIA Workshop”**

the PADEMIA Workshop on parliamentary control of the European Council and its members will be part of a bigger programme of in total eight working groups and panels as well as keynote speeches. The event takes place on **28 and 29 January 2016** in Brussels. Participants will have the opportunity to profit from the broad programme of this event. The two panels for which we invite paper proposals are:

**1) Inter-institutional Relations between the European Parliament and the European Council**

**2) National Parliamentary Control of Heads of State or Governments in the European Council**

PADEMIA offers travel and subsistence funding for ten participants. In both panels, three papers will be presented. Further, one chair and one discussant each will ensure a smooth and lively debate on the basis of the papers presented.

The deadline for expressions of interest is December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Please send in an abstract (max. 400 words) of the paper you would like to present at one of the two PADEMIA panels, or a motivation letter and your CV if you strive for acting as a discussant or chair in a panel to: [alexander.hoppe@uni-koeln.de](mailto:alexander.hoppe@uni-koeln.de).

Further participation- and funding opportunities are offered via Summit ([www.summit.uni-koeln.de](http://www.summit.uni-koeln.de)) in a wide arrange of panels concerned with the European Council, such as:

- Researching and Theorizing about the European Council*
- Internal Dynamics of the European Council: Leadership and Consensus-Building*
- Inter-institutional Relations:*
  - The European Council and the European Commission*
  - The European Council and the European Parliament (PADEMIA panel)*
  - National Parliamentary Control of Heads of State or Governments in the European Council (PADEMIA panel)*
  - The European Council’s Role in Economic Governance*
  - The European Council’s Role in the EU’s External Action*

For further information on the Summit Panels, please contact [linda.dieke@uni-koeln.de](mailto:linda.dieke@uni-koeln.de).