

## Jens van't Klooster: A parliament for the eurozone

### Background information on existing regulations/policy issues/initiatives

**Keywords:** *deepening of Eurozone integration; Eurozone democratization and integration; Eurozone parliament; Eurozone reform; Eurozone subcommittee; EU reform; reform process EU institutions*

### Topic: The Eurozone needs its own parliament to bring decisions on the Euro under strict democratic control

#### Overview

- In the reform process that has been kicked off after the Euro-crisis, EU institutions are meant to be overhauled and adapted. Plans range from the strengthening of the diplomatic service to the creation of a pan-European foreign ministry and even an EU army<sup>1</sup>
  - One reform suggestion that has been less frequently discussed, but nevertheless repeatedly mentioned by commentators and experts, is the creation of a Eurozone parliament<sup>2</sup>
- However, in official EU documents, the creation of a Eurozone parliament has not yet been actively discussed. Rather, in the past the creation of a Eurozone subcommittee within the European parliament has been discussed, but been discarded<sup>34</sup>

#### In detail

- In more general terms, documents and statements pertaining to a deepening of Eurozone democratization and integration are, however, manifold:
  - In his reform plans laid out in 2017, French President Emmanuel Macron repeatedly touched upon the notion of fostering deeper Eurozone integration and specifically mentioned the creation of a Eurozone parliament along with calls for a common Eurozone budget<sup>5</sup>
  - In a 2017 statement on the deepening of the economic and monetary union, the European Commission acknowledged that “democratic accountability and effectiveness” of Eurozone governance should be improved, but made no direct mention of the creation of a Eurozone parliament<sup>6</sup>
  - In the same year, Macron’s idea was also peddled by then German finance minister Wolfgang Schäuble, who was quoted as follows: “We could strengthen the

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2012/sep/24/why-we-need-eurozone-parliament>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.brookings.edu/opinions/3-ways-ahead-for-the-eurozone/>

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.egmontinstitute.be/content/uploads/2014/07/EPB\\_31.pdf?type=pdf](http://www.egmontinstitute.be/content/uploads/2014/07/EPB_31.pdf?type=pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.politico.eu/article/no-to-calls-for-sub-committee-on-eurozone/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/07/world/europe/emmanuel-macron-greece-european-union.html>

<sup>6</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/publications/reflection-paper-deepening-economic-and-monetary-union\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/publications/reflection-paper-deepening-economic-and-monetary-union_en)

mechanisms. We could create a eurozone parliament made up of members of the European Parliament, which could have consultative powers over the European Stability Mechanism.”<sup>7</sup>

- Notably, details on the composition of a concrete structure and layout for a potential Eurozone Parliament have been mostly absent from public discussion
  - Still, even though supported by some member state officials, the above proposals have not been integrated into the official communication of high EU officials and institutions
    - In his State of the Union in September 2017 President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker stated that while supporting various eurozone and EU institutional reforms – for example the development of a European Monetary Fund – he was opposed to the creation of a separate eurozone budget and a separate eurozone parliament either
- Full speech:  
[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2017/608693/EPRS\\_BRI\(2017\)608693\\_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2017/608693/EPRS_BRI(2017)608693_EN.pdf)

## Topic: Research on and proposals of a potential Eurozone parliament

Why we need a Eurozone Parliament

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2012/sep/24/why-we-need-eurozone-parliament>

Does the Eurozone need a Parliament?

<http://www.delorsinstitut.de/2015/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/EuroZoneParliament-KreilingerLarhant-JDIB-Nov16.pdf>

The Sense and Nonsense of Eurozone-level democracy

<http://aei.pitt.edu/63576/1/70.pdf>

Separate Parliament for the Eurozone

<https://academic.oup.com/pa/article-abstract/70/4/655/3957958?redirectedFrom=fulltext>

A Eurozone subcommittee in the European Parliament

[http://www.egmontinstitute.be/content/uploads/2014/07/EPB\\_31.pdf?type=pdf](http://www.egmontinstitute.be/content/uploads/2014/07/EPB_31.pdf?type=pdf)

Would a Eurozone subcommittee enrich the EU Parliament?

<https://euobserver.com/news/123054>

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-eurozone-future-schaeuble-idUSKBN1871FG>

## Further reading

- <https://www.euractiv.com/section/future-eu/news/leading-meps-rebuff-eurozone-parliament-plan/>
- <https://www.euractiv.com/section/social-europe-jobs/news/barroso-we-will-need-to-move-towards-a-federation-of-nation-states/>
- <https://www.politico.eu/article/wolfgang-schauble-welcomes-emmanuel-macrons-eurozone-reforms/>
- [https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-319-53895-2\\_9](https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-319-53895-2_9)