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- Potential contributions to growth and jobs by cultural and creative industries
- Posting of Workers Directive: perspectives from the Commission, European and national Parliaments
- The limits of the Economic and Monetary Union and proposals for more resilient EU economies



Tom Vandenkendelaere MEP, Coordinator of the EPP Young Members Network and Esther de Lange MEP, Vice-Chair of the EPP Group, responsible for relations national Parliaments

Many new visiting MP's in 2017 with the Young MP Erasmus Programme

The **Young MP Erasmus programme** offers young MPs from EPP sister-parties across the EU the opportunity to gain an inside view of the workings of the European Parliament.

Participants are invited to the European Parliament, Brussels, for one week where they follow a young MEP colleague in his or her work. By the end of 2016, about a dozen MPs will participate in the programme and many more are expected in 2017. **The new dates for 2017 are available now!**



The idea behind the Young Members Erasmus programme is to provide the opportunity to gain in-depth understanding of European decision-making, meet with influencers, decision-makers, voters and journalists, and participate in any meetings that are relevant to their work. It is a truly unique experience, which will reinforce the links between Members of national Parliaments and Members of the European Parliament. Vice-chairman of the EPP Group responsible for relations with national Parliaments, **Esther de Lange** MEP, and the coordinator for the Young Members network, **Tom Vandenkendelaere** MEP, look forward to welcoming many new visiting MP's in 2017. For more information please send an email to: epp-youngmembers@europarl.europa.eu

Young MP Erasmus Programme

Check the new dates for 2017
and send you expression of interest at:
epp-youngmembers@europarl.europa.eu

“This programme is a great, fantastic and valuable event that gives you the possibility to meet and talk with the European leaders/politicians. I can definitely recommend this programme to all my colleagues from the national Parliaments as this was a great opportunity to learn and get the inside of the all aspects of the work of the European Parliament.”

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Ewa KOŁODZIEJ MP,
Polish Sejm



Matej TONIN MP,
Slovenian National Assembly

OVERVIEW OF DATES

- first half 2017 -

Week 5	30 January - 02 February
Week 6	06 February - 10 February
Week 9	27 February - 02 March
Week 10	06 March - 10 March
Week 17	24 April - 27 April
Week 19	08 May - 12 May
Week 22	29 May - 01 June

During the month of October, three members of national Parliaments - Ewa Kołodziej, Konstantinos Karagounis, and Matej Tonin - participated in the YMN-Erasmus programme. The following are Ewa's and Matej's comments about their Erasmus MP experience:

“The programme set up by the EPP Group is an extraordinary experience. After speaking to MEPs, advisors and others involved in the work of the European Parliament, my perspective has changed. The experience surpassed my expectations and I was impressed by the amount of knowledge that is present in the parliament. The common complaint of a highly bureaucratic European Parliament is wrong. I recommend this program to everyone.”

The common complaint of a highly bureaucratic European Parliament is wrong.

Potential contributions to growth and jobs by cultural and creative industries

On 11 October 2016, the **Committee on Culture and Education** organised an inter-parliamentary committee meeting which was aimed at agreeing on a structured perspective on the **cultural and creative sectors**. Several perspectives from national Parliaments were expressed, along with concrete examples and recommendations on the steps which still need to be taken to achieve this. All participants were clear about the need to pave the way further, towards a common European framework for culture and creativity.

The idea behind such a framework lies in the understanding that in a globalised and digitalized economy, cultural and creative industries have a huge potential to contribute to growth and jobs. Not only can they leverage traditional values, skills and talents and thus promote European culture, cultural and creative industries can also foster ties with different entities in the educational and vocational training realm, as well as with entrepreneurs. However, in order to further encourage the economic and social contribution by cultural and creative industries, an enhanced protection system of intellectual property is required at national and European level.

Strategies for Promoting the Cultural and Creative Sectors

During the first panel discussion, participants reflected on the different approaches to cultural development in Europe and the influence of digital technology on culture. **Bogdan WENTA** MEP (PL), Rapporteur on “European film in the digital era“, underlined that the economy and politics have still not fully realised the potential of the cultural and creative sectors. We need to promote the creativity of European authors, in order to support creative companies. Digital technology has



Bogdan Wenta MEP, Rapporteur on “European film in the digital era“

boosted the cultural and creative industries, but have also created challenges such as different distribution models, copyright protection etc.

Herlind GUNDELACH MP (CDU, DE), Vice-Chair of the Committee on Culture and Media, Deutscher Bundestag, Germany, said that culture and creativity are seen as key factors for innovation, growth and jobs. The German federal government has created an institute to promote cultural and creative industries. It aims to encourage cooperation between creative industries and other sectors, advertise the innovative potential of the sector, promotes networking and provides a range of different services focusing on how to build the cultural and creative sectors.

Isabella HÖKMARK MP (MP, SE), Member of the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Riksdagen, Sweden, believed that creativity should not be driven only by mainstream political and policy networks. Alternative methods should be supported, along with new distribution models.

Posting of Workers Directive: perspectives from the Commission, European and national Parliaments

After receiving fourteen **reasoned opinions** from eleven Member States claiming that the proposal for a targeted revision of Directive 96/71/EC on **Posting of Workers** breaches the principle of subsidiarity, the EC had to revise its proposal in the framework of the so-called “Subsidiarity Control Mechanism”. However, after analysing the objections by national Parliaments, the Commission concluded that the draft legislative act “complies with the principle of subsidiarity enshrined in Article 5(3) TEU and that a withdrawal or an amendment of that proposal is not required”.



Commissioner Marianne Thyssen and Elisabeth Morin-Chartier MEP in the presidency of the EMPL exchange of views with NPs

In this context, the **Committee on Employment and Social Affairs** (EMPL) held, on 12 October, an **exchange of views with members of national Parliaments**, on upcoming negotiations on this proposal in the framework of the ordinary legislative procedure. The meeting began with **Marianne THYSSEN**, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, insisting that “rules are needed to organise the freedom to provide services in a way that is fair for everybody.”



Elisabeth Morin-Chartier MEP, Member of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs and co-rapporteur of the EP

Several speakers insisted that a solution needs to be found to the current stalemate. **Elisabeth MORIN-CHARTIER** MEP (FR), Member of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs and co-rapporteur of the European Parliament, said that she would like to achieve a balanced solution rooted in a social market economy. Members of the European Parliament, **Claude ROLIN** MEP (BE) and **Jeroen LENAERS** MEP (NL), said that loop-holes in the current laws which make unfair competition between workers possible, should be closed.

István HOLLIK MP (KDNP, HU), Member of the Committee on European Affairs, said that Hungary is “not yet in favour” of the proposal, as the “equal pay for equal work” principle invoked in the proposal, ignores the fact that salary levels differ greatly among Member States, which is an advantage for Western Member States. Also, **Danuta JAZŁOWIECKA** MEP (PL), Vice-Chair of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, stated that the 1996 Directive on Posted Workers, already contains a protective clause which provides that this type of worker should be paid the minimum wage in the recipient/host country. **Helena LANGŠADLOVÁ** MP (TOP 09, CZ), Vice-Chair of the Committee on European Affairs, considered that the proposal in question is premature and could lead to greater unemployment in certain parts of Europe, while this policy areas tends to be over-regulated.



Danuta Jazłowiecka MEP, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

The limits of the Economic and Monetary Union and proposals for more resilient EU economies

The **Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the EU** was held in Bratislava between 16 and 18 October focused on discussions and information exchange related to the implementation of the Fiscal Compact,

Subjects such as the social dimension of the EMU, the fight against tax evasion, the role of automatic stabilisers in Fiscal Union’s Architecture, and the Common Investment Programme were on the agenda of the EPP preparatory meeting, co-chaired by **Romana TOMC** MEP (SL), Member of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs and **Katarína CSÉFALVAYOVÁ** MP (Most-Híd, SK), Vice-chair of the European Affairs Committee in the Slovak National Council.

With the economic model of the Union described in the Treaties as a highly competitive **social market economy**, the EPP Group believed that strengthening the role of three employment-related indicators (i.e., activity rate, youth unemployment, and long-term unemployment) would unmask structural weaknesses and called for targeted labour market reforms. On the **fight against tax evasion**, it was underlined that the EPP priority in the Panama Inquiry Committee is to improve effective implementation of existing anti-money laundry legislation and standards.

Talking in the beginning of the conference, **Marianne THYSSEN**, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, stated that the Economic and Monetary Union was designed with a centralised monetary policy but decentralised fiscal, economic and financial stability policies. Its construction

rested on three convictions: first, the synchronisation of business cycles in the Euro area; second, a sufficiently flexible and competitive internal market; and third, the existence of sufficient ‘shock-absorbers’ to deal with country specific developments. For her, economic and social interests should not be seen as something that should be discarded, but which help attain economic growth. The prolonged economic crisis has revealed the limits of EMU architecture. We have reached pre-crisis employment levels, but there is still a lot to be done. So she asked, is the social market economy model that served us so well in the past, apt for the challenges of the future? Could the principles outlined in the Pillar become a framework for upward convergence?

The Commissioner then continued to speak on the topic of social divergence. The crisis has shown that convergence in the Eurozone area is weak and possibly unsustainable, giving a worrying message to us. There were a lot of shocks during the crisis. Our economies should become more resistant, for example through flexible labour markets, adequate support structures, protection and portability of social rights, reinforcement of social justice.

In the context of the debates on the Common Investment Programme as a tool for macroeconomic stabilisation in the EU, **Teresa CAEIRO** MP (CDS-PP, PT), Vice-President of the Assembly of the Republic of Portugal, pointed out the relevance of the European Semester and the sense of the Fiscal Union. As she

Next meetings

- Interparliamentary committee meeting on the “State of Play of the Common Foreign and Security Policy”, 8 November 2016



Marianne Thyssen, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility

stressed, “neither the European Union nor the Eurozone can exist without the Fiscal Union.” According to her, attention should also be paid to the balance between decisions at the European and national level. “For that reason, we should speak about integration, taking into account the interests of EU Member States”, she specified.

The EPP Delegation to the conference consisted of: **Danuta HÜBNER** MEP (PL), Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, **Romana TOMC** MEP (SL), Member of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, and **Fulvio MARTUSCIELLO** MEP (IT), Member of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs.

- 9th Annual Meeting of the EPP Young Members Network (YMN), Brussels, 10-11 November 2016



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