



PARLIAMENT  
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC  
Chamber of Deputies  
*Jan Bauer*  
Chairman  
Committee for European Affairs

Prague, 20<sup>th</sup> March 2013

Dear Mr. President,

I would like to inform you about the opinion of the Committee for European Affairs of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic regarding ongoing discussion at the level of the National Parliaments of the EU Member States and in the European Parliament regarding the strengthening of democratic legitimacy and accountability in relation to the Genuine Economic and Monetary Union.

The respective subject was included in the agenda of the 43<sup>rd</sup> session of the Committee for European Affairs and was scrutinized on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2013. According to the Rules of Procedure of the Chamber of Deputies a Deputy State Secretary for European Affairs was present at the session to introduce the preliminary government's framework position.

After the discussion the Committee has adopted the resolution No. 303 which is enclosed to this letter. According to this resolution the Committee i. a. recommends the prompt establishment of an inter-parliamentary budget conference by all the EU Member States and by the European Parliament (without regard to their current position towards the Fiscal Stability Treaty).

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bauer', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Enclosure

**Mr. José Manuel Barroso**  
President of the European Commission

**Brussels**

**PARLIAMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC**  
**Chamber of Deputies**  
**Committee for European Affairs**

Resolution No. 303

43<sup>rd</sup> session on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2013

**on the ongoing discussion at the level of the National Parliaments of the EU Member States and in the European Parliament regarding the strengthening of democratic legitimacy and accountability in relation to the Genuine Economic and Monetary Union**

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**With regard to the Art. 13 of the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union and with regard to the currently ongoing discussion on the strengthening of democratic legitimacy and accountability at the level of the National Parliaments of the EU Member States and in the European Parliament**

**The Committee for European Affairs of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic**

- **recalls** the Conclusions of the Conference of the Speakers of the Parliaments of the EU held in Brussels from 4 to 5 April 2011. In the Conclusions, the Conference welcomed the proposal of the Speaker of the French National Assembly that an inter-parliamentary budget conference should be arranged, bringing together the chairs of the relevant committees of the National Parliaments and of the European Parliament;
- **evokes** that the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic has stressed, over the long term, the significance of parliamentary diplomacy, which enables the presentation of a large range of views and allows for the involvement of the parliamentary opposition in the discussion;
- **points out** that the Czech Republic is preparing, at the national level, steps that are in accordance with the basic principles of the Fiscal Stability Treaty, meaning, in particular, the adoption of a Constitutional law on fiscal discipline and responsibility, the establishment of a National Fiscal Council that will verify the expenditure frameworks of the budget and of proposals having budgetary impact;
- **believes** that the establishment of the inter-parliamentary budget conference exclusively by the contracting parties of the Fiscal Stability Treaty would be contrary to the intent of the past Conference of the Speakers which had supported the inter-parliamentary budget conference as an open forum for all EU Member States;
- **highlights** that the adopted measures for the creation of the Genuine Economic and Monetary Union will have a significant economic and legal impact on all the EU Member States which are fully involved in the internal market and to a various extent also in the broader forms of economic and fiscal coordination in relation to the European semester. Therefore, any form of inter-parliamentary cooperation must encompass all the 27 national parliaments;
- **recommends the prompt establishment of an inter-parliamentary budget conference by all the EU Member States and by the European Parliament (without regard to their current position towards the Fiscal Stability Treaty);**

- **is of the opinion** that whatever form of inter-parliamentary cooperation in this area should fully respect the different powers of the national parliaments and of the European Parliament. Economic and in particular budgetary policy is at the core of sovereign statehood and of parliamentary democracy, therefore it is necessary to take into consideration (and to respect) the constitutional powers of the national parliaments in connection with future integration in this area.