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Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs
The Chairwoman

To the Chair of the Committee concerned

Dear Colleague,

Subject: Invitation for the first interparliamentary committee debate on the European Semester for economic coordination

The European Parliament's Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee (ECON) is organising an interparliamentary committee meeting with national parliaments to take place on Tuesday 15 March 2011 from 9.00 to 12.30 in the European Parliament's premises in Brussels.

The meeting will be the first interparliamentary committee debate in the European Parliament on the European Semester decided by the Ecofin Council on 7 September¹. It will focus on the major political economic priorities of the European Semester, on the one hand, and on the role of the national parliaments and the European Parliament in the Semester, on the other hand.

The European Semester is meant to be the period every year during which the Member States' budgetary and structural policies will be reviewed to detect any inconsistencies and emerging imbalances. The aim is to reinforce coordination while major budgetary decisions are still under preparation.

The European Parliament believes that the national parliaments and the European Parliament itself must be involved in such a strategic debate and intends to make sure that the Council and the Commission are held accountable in the course of the European Semester. The Members of the ECON Committee have expressed the wish to develop a fruitful cooperation with national parliaments in this respect, namely by organising an interparliamentary committee meeting in March 2011 on the subject.

The contribution from your national Parliament is therefore highly awaited. As you understand, the stakes are high if the event is to be a success and to become an essential part of the European Semester. I would therefore like to stress that a high-level participation from your Parliament would be warmly welcomed by the ECON Committee, namely your own participation as the Chair of the Committee concerned.

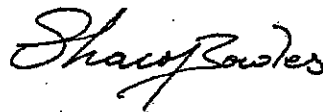
¹ For further information, please see the Council's Press Release on http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ecofin/116306.pdf (p. 6).

The meeting will start with a hearing of relevant stakeholders in the Semester, namely high-level speakers from the Council, the Commission and the European Central Bank, and will be followed by a debate between national parliamentarians and ECON Members. The meeting includes a formal dinner event on Monday 14 March 2011 which will host a high-level guest-speaker. This dinner will be organised jointly with the Special Committee on the Financial, Economic and Social Crisis (CRIS) of the European Parliament, who is also organising an interparliamentary committee meeting in the afternoon of 14 March 2011.

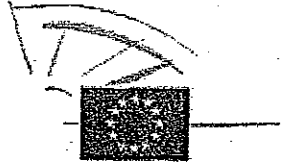
The practical details regarding the meeting as well as a detailed programme will be forwarded to you in due course.

I look very much forward to welcoming you in the European Parliament in March and to a fruitful debate.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sharon Bowles".

Sharon Bowles



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND MONETARY AFFAIRS

Interparliamentary Committee Meeting

The European Semester for Economic Coordination

Brussels
Room TBC
Tuesday, 15 March 2011
9:00 - 12:30

PROVISIONAL DRAFT PROGRAMME as of 02.12.2010

9.00 - 9.05 Introduction by the Chairs

9.05 - 11.00 Presentations by the speakers

- High level Council representative
- High level Eurogroup representative
- High level Commission representative
- High level European Central Bank representative

11.00 - 12.25 Debate between EP and national parliaments' Members

12.25 - 12.30 Conclusion by the Chairs