



EU Treaties – Why They Need Targeted Changes Joint S&D and FEPS Symposium

16 November 2023, 09:00 to 12:00

European Parliament
Room Spinelli 3G2
Interpretation is provided (EN/DE/ES/FR/IT/PT/RO)

The debate about EU Treaty changes is back. The EU project is confronted with a radical new context: war in our continent, geopolitical rivalry, climate emergency, cost of living rising, pandemic experience, tensions about migration, misinformation disturbing the democratic debate and a new enlargement in preparation.

The need for stronger European capacity to act is obvious in all these fronts and the current Lisbon Treaty is showing its limits. The time has come to reassess it and identify some targeted changes. This was also the conclusion of the recent Conference on the Future of Europe as some key citizens' aspirations that were identified can only be met with some targeted Treaty changes.

Reflecting these citizens' aspirations and one year and a half of hard work later, the European Parliament is about to vote one of the most important reports of this legislature, calling for a European Convention to work on the update of the European Treaties. This call will be formally addressed by the European Parliament to the European Council in its plenary session of November.

In the run up to this high moment of the European political life, a Symposium on "EU Treaties - Why They Need Targeted Changes" is now convened for the 16th of November between 9:00 and 12 to give voice to some of the most prominent MEPs subscribing this report by the European Parliament as well as to some of the authors of the report by the Foundation of European Progressive Studies (FEPS) just concluded about the same issues.

This FEPS report was prepared by a group composed by 14 renowned experts on European constitutional law, political science, political economy, and other different EU policies, coming from 10 different Member States in the West, East, North and South of the European Union.



Program

09:00 – 09:15

INTRODUCTION

- Iratxe García Pérez, S&D President

09:15 – 10:30

REFORMING THE INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE

Chair: Gaby Bischoff, S&D Vice-President

- Jo Leinen, Former MEP and Chair of the AFCO Committee
- Giovanni Grevi, Senior Fellow, CSDS, Brussels School of Governance
- Stefan Collignon, Professor London School of Economics
- Domènec Ruiz Devesa, MEP S&D Group

Followed by open debate

10:30 – 11:45

STRENGTHENING THE EU's POLICY CAPACITY TO ACT

Chair: Maria Joao Rodrigues, FEPS President

- Mercedes Bresso, MEP S&D Group
- Guillaume Klossa, Executive President of Europa Nova
- Robin Huguenot-Noël, European University Institute
- Vytenis Andriukaitis, Former European Commissioner for Health and Food Security

Followed by open debate

11:45 – 12:00

CONCLUDING REMARKS

- Gaby Bischoff, S&D Vice-President
- Maria Joao Rodrigues, FEPS President