

Involvement of the National Parliaments in SCP and the NRP - 2012

In line with the relevant regulations¹, national parliaments should be duly involved in the European Semester and in the preparation of Stability/Convergence Programmes (SCP) and National Reform Programmes (NRP) in order to increase the transparency, ownership and accountability for the decisions taken. According to these EU rules, each Member State's Stability or Convergence Programme shall include information on its status in the context of national procedures, in particular whether the programme was presented to the national parliament and whether there has been a parliamentary approval of the programme.

The draft table below provides information on the form of involvement of the national parliaments as specified in the text of the respective SCPs and the NRPs in 2012. On the basis of the information available in these Programmes, it can be concluded that in terms of the SCPs, 12 national parliaments were consulted and 6 were informed, while in the case of 6 national parliaments, no information could be found on their roles in the procedure.² As far as NRPs concerned, the submitted text indicates that 7 governments consulted their national parliaments and 4 submitted their programmes to their legislators. 13 Member States' NRPs do not contain any reference to the involvement of their national parliaments.

	Stability and Convergence Programmes (SCP)	National Reform Programmes (NRP)
Belgium	No reference to the involvement of the National Parliament could be found in the Programme.	"The National Reform Programme was also discussed in the parliament."
Bulgaria	"The convergence Programme is approved by the government and is examined by the National Assembly."	"The elaboration and implementation of the National Reform Programme of the Republic of Bulgaria is carried out within the framework of a specially established and functioning Working Group "Europe 2020"... in which the state administration and all the stakeholders are represented"
Czech Republic³	"The document was also discussed with the substantively relevant committees of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic."	The update of the National Reform Programme for 2012 was discussed by the European affairs committees of both parliamentary chambers.
Denmark	No reference to the involvement of National Parliament could be found in	"Denmark's National Reform Programme 2012 has been submitted to a number of

¹ See recital (16) of 1175/2011 and art. 3.4 of 1466/97

² Please note that the programme countries (Ireland, Greece and Portugal) have no obligation to submit a comprehensive SCP or NRP.

³ According to the information received from the Czech Representative to the EP, the Czech NRP was discussed, after its submission to the Commission, by the European Affairs Committee of both parliamentary chambers of the Czech Parliament.

	the Programme.	committees in the Danish Parliament prior to being forwarded to the Commission."
Germany	"The Federal Government submits each update of the German Stability programme and the corresponding Council Opinion to the competent committees of experts of the German Bundestag, the Finance Ministers' Conference and the Stability Council."	"The NRP was approved by the Federal cabinet on 21 March 2012 and subsequently submitted directly to the German Bundestag and Bundesrat."
Estonia	The Government approved the State Budget Strategy 2013-2016 and the Stability Programme 2012 on 26 April 2012. Before the approval, the documents were discussed in the Committees of the Riigikogu.	"The progress report and necessary updates are discussed with the social partners and relevant commissions of Estonia every year."
Ireland	Programme countries are not required to submit a fully fledged SP.	Programme countries are not required to submit a fully fledged NRP.
Greece	Programme countries are not required to submit a fully fledged SP.	Programme countries are not required to submit a fully fledged NRP.
Spain	No reference to the involvement of the National Parliament could be found in the Programme.	No reference to the involvement of the National Parliament could be found in the Programme.
France	This Stability Programme has been examined by the Finance Commissions of both chambers.	No reference to the involvement of the National Parliament could be found in the Programme.
Italy⁴	Italy's Stability Programme was adopted by the Cabinet on 18 April 2012 -and according to the EN version- endorsed by the Parliament on 26 April.	No reference to the involvement of the National Parliament could be found in the Programme.
Cyprus	"In line with the standard national procedure, this Programme is the product of consultations with political parties and social partners."	"The Planning Bureau monitors the on-going progress and coordinates the submission of reports to the EU, after appropriate political approval. It organizes public consultations with social partners on the overall priorities and progress, informs the Parliament and promotes publicity through the media."
Latvia	The Convergence Programme as a policy planning document has been approved by the Cabinet of Ministers, presented and reviewed by relevant parliamentary committees.	No reference to the involvement of the National Parliament could be found in the Programme.

⁴ According to the information received from the Italian Representative to the EP, both the SP and the NRP were scrutinized and endorsed in a form of resolution by the Italian Parliament on 26 April.

Lithuania	"Traditionally the draft Convergence Programme or the Programme approved by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania is submitted to the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania for consideration."	No reference to the involvement of the National Parliament could be found in the Programme.
Luxembourg	"Consultation debate on 29 March, 2012 in Parliament on the NRP, as well as on the guidelines for budgetary policy in light of the European Semester."	"Consultation debate on 29 March, 2012 in Parliament on the NRP, as well as on the guidelines for budgetary policy in light of the European Semester."
Hungary⁵	No reference to the involvement of the National Parliament could be found in the Programme.	No reference to the involvement of the National Parliament could be found in the Programme.
Malta	No reference to the involvement of the National Parliament could be found in the Programme.	No reference to the involvement of the National Parliament could be found in the Programme.
The Netherlands	"The 2012 update of the Dutch Stability Programme was approved by the Dutch Council of Ministers on April 23rd 2012 and discussed in Dutch Parliament on April 26th 2012."	"The National Reform Programme will be presented to the House of Representatives before it is submitted to the European Commission. The Minister of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation and a parliamentary committee had a written procedure on April 25th 2012 to discuss the National Reform Programme."
Austria	"Together with the National Reform Programme, the Stability Programme is submitted to the Council of the European Union, the European Commission, the Austrian Parliament, the Social Partners and the Partners in the Financial Equalisation negotiations."	"Together with the National Reform Programme, the Stability Programme is submitted to the Council of the European Union, the European Commission, the Austrian Parliament, the Social Partners and the Partners in the Financial Equalisation negotiations."
Poland	"The Convergence Programme 2012 update shall be subject to discussion by Polish parliamentary committees."	No reference to the involvement of the National Parliament could be found in the Programme.
Portugal	Programme countries are not required to submit a fully fledged SP.	Programme countries are not required to submit a fully fledged NRP.
Romania⁶	No reference to the involvement of the National Parliament could be found in the Programme.	No reference to the involvement of the National Parliament could be found in the Programme.

⁵ According to the information received from the Hungarian Representative to the EP, on 2 May 2012, an ex post consultation was held with the Hungarian Parliament on both the CP and the NRP.

⁶ According to the information received from the Romanian Representative to the EP, the NRP was debated in a conference in the Romanian Parliament on 30 March 2012. It was also discussed by the European Affairs Committee on a meeting held on 3 May 2012.

Slovenia	"Stability programme and its updates and the draft opinion of the Council on the Stability programme of the Republic of Slovenia are discussed in the working bodies of the Parliament of the Republic of Slovenia."	"National Reform Programme 2012-2013 was discussed on Economic and Social Council, at the National Assembly Committee for Finance and Monetary Policy, Committee of the National Assembly of the Economic Affairs, Committee of the National Assembly of Education, Science, Culture, Sports and Youth, Committee of the National Assembly of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and the Disabled, the National Assembly Committee of European Affairs, at a meeting of the Commission of the National Council for Economy, Crafts, Tourism And Finance and at the meeting of the National Council."
Slovakia	"The Stability Programme, once approved by the Government, is submitted to the Slovak Parliament."	No reference to the involvement of the National Parliament could be found in the Programme.
Finland	"The contents of the Stability Programme have also been presented in writing and orally to the Grand Committee of Parliament. The Commission's assessment and the Council's statement on Finland's Stability Programme will be submitted to Parliament in connection with Ecofin preparations."	No reference to the involvement of the National Parliament could be found in the Programme.
Sweden	"The Riksdag's Standing Committee on Finance was informed about the convergence programme on 19 April 2012."	No reference to the involvement of the National Parliament could be found. in the Programme.
United Kingdom	"Under Section 5 of the European Communities (Amendment) Act 1993, Parliamentary scrutiny is required to approve the Government's assessment of the UK's medium-term economic and budgetary position. This forms the basis of the UK's Convergence Programme."	"Substantial engagement with national Parliaments and the wider public is critical to the success of Europe 2020. The Government consults widely on policy development as a matter of course. Since the NRP draws on publicly available information, it is not subject to formal consultation."