

Dear Speaker, Dear Colleague,

The awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to the European Union encourages us to renew our commitment to the European unification process. Today, having the courage to renew our commitment means daring to make Europe more democratic. There is no doubt that strengthening parliamentarianism is the right way to confer greater democratic legitimacy on decisions taken at the EU level.

This is especially true for economic policy coordination in the European Union, and more specifically, the European Semester. We can not accept that the current crisis allows executives to take away the key prerogative of parliaments, the right to adopt a budget, thus denying them to exercise effective democratic control over fiscal policies.

In this context, the cooperation between the representatives of the citizens at a national and European level in economic policy is essential. We therefore feel that the beginning of our cooperation in scrutinising the actions of the executive at a national and European level should be placed on a formal footing.

The European Parliament believes that this -among others- could take the form of a parliamentary week, during which national and European Parliamentarians would together scrutinise the European Commission's Annual Growth Survey and the EU annual guidelines for national budgets.

To this end I am happy to invite representatives from your Parliament to attend the first edition of the **parliamentary week on the European Semester**, which will take place from 28 - 30 January 2013 in Brussels. The practical details regarding this special event, as well as a detailed draft programme will be forwarded in due course to your Parliament's services for relations with the European Parliament. I sincerely hope that you will be able to accept my invitation, and I am looking forward to welcoming your Parliament's representatives to the European Parliament on 28 January 2013.

I am certain that our interparliamentary meetings will contribute to strengthening the parliamentary and democratic dimension of the Union by ensuring more transparency and efficiency in the legislative process.

Yours faithfully,