



APPLICATION FORM FOR PROSPECTIVE WORKSHOP DIRECTORS

To apply for running a workshop at the Joint Sessions in Turin, Italy, 22-27 March 2001, send the form below as the **cover sheet** and a separate **workshop proposal** to the ECPR Central Services. You can do this by either emailing both documents as an attached file (in word format .doc or rich text format .rtf) to the ECPR Central Services at ecpr@essex.ac.uk. Alternatively, you can print up the information and send it as a fax to the Central Services, fax: +44 1206 872500. **The deadline for applications is 15 October 2000.**

Title of proposed workshop:

A RENEWAL OF PARLIAMENTS IN EUROPE ?
MP'S BEHAVIOURS AND ACTION CONSTRAINTS

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Please note that the information above is VERY important as it will be used in all future correspondence and printed in the academic programme.

The proposal should be typed with 1.5 line spacing on three/four A4 pages using this sheet as the first page, and should cover the points outlined in the guidelines (<http://www.essex.ac.uk/ecpr/jointsessions/jsguidelines.htm>).

Olivier COSTA

Paul MAGNETTE

Workshop Proposal – Turin 2002

A RENEWAL OF PARLIAMENTS IN EUROPE ? MP'S BEHAVIOURS AND ACTION CONSTRAINTS

1. Outline of the topic :

The aim of this workshop is to study the transformations of Parliaments in Europe, which are facing a moving political environment, are marked by the emergence of a multi-level governance, the blurring of the border between public and private spheres, an increasing complexification of policies, etc. These elements constitute challenges these historical institutions have to face.

In order to understand these transformations, we suggest to analyze them as interactions between the actors (MPs) and the institution. We will take as initial hypotheses present and widespread arguments about the " revival " of Parliaments, their strategies of adaptation to European integration and decentralization, and will test several assumptions relating to this revival : the MPs are ever more specialized ; they have increasing contacts with lobbies ; Parliaments are focusing on activities of control ; MPs are making a growing use of the medias...

Many studies have been published recently on the behaviors of MPs and political groups, on the professionalization of MPs, on Parliaments as institutions, on their adaptations to the evolutions of the democratic political systems (cf. bibliography). Several workshops of the ECPR have also dealt with those questions : 1995, Bordeaux, workshop n° 23 : « Party Discipline And The Organization Of Parliaments » ; 1999, Mannheim, workshop : « European Parliaments: Rediscovering, refocusing or reinventing? »; 2000, Copenhagen, workshop 10 : « Parliamentary Control of the Executive ».

This workshop proposal, while falling under this continuity, however uses a different and complementary point of view. Our ambition is to consider the interactions between the actors and the institutions. We want to study the effect of the process of socialization of MPs

in an assembly on their representations and their practices of their missions, on their conception of the role of the Parliament in the political system, of the nature of their mandate, on the solutions to be brought to their « decline », etc. We also intend to seize the impact of these representations on institutional practices: does the election of a new generation of MPs modify the practices and the strategies of the institutions? If so, by which means?

The workshop thus intends to study the behavior of MPs by taking into consideration the institutional constraints and by privileging a diachronic approach. Institutional rules are indeed often neglected in studies on parliamentarism : their impact on the parliamentary behaviors is in particular rarely considered. It is thus important to analyze the structuring of opportunities in the Parliament in the light of these various institutional, linked to legal matters (constitution, law, rules of procedure), to political groups' strategies and rules, to policies stakes, to the institution (traditions, protocol). We also must consider the way in which they interact with other constraints: those specific to each MP (representations, values, local identification...), to each political group.

2. Participants :

This workshop is widely opened to all the people willing to take part in it. A certain number of colleagues have already expressed their interest or would be likely to answer our requests favorably because of the nature of their work :

Eric Kerrouche, CNRS - Bordeaux

Marta Latek, Université Libre de Bruxelles

John D. Huber, Columbia University – NY

Tapio Raunio, University of Helsinki

Jarcek Wasilewski, Polish Academy of Sciences - Warsaw

Martin Nagelschmidt, Humboldt Universität - Berlin

Cristina Leston-Bandeira, University of Hull

Ana Fraga, European University Institute

Danica Fink-Hafner, University of Ljubljana

Jim Buller, University of Birmingham

The workshop directors would be pleased to welcome participants from Central and Eastern Europe, to balance the weakness of the studies relating to their Parliaments. The

importance of the changes which these institutions had to face since 1990 and the importance of the evolutions which they experience by now are a particularly relevant subject of study for this workshop.

3. Type of paper :

Papers using different methodologies and research strategies are welcome, but we would ask applicants to be willing to fit into the existing framework and the focus on relations between actors and institutions. We will give preference to empirical researches (quantitative data analysis, biographical and sociographical studies of MPs...), both case studies and comparative analyses.

Particularly encouraged are the papers dealing with the impact of one or several constraints on the behavior of MPs : studies on their participation in the vote of the law ; on the processing of their individual initiatives ; on the effects of socialization in a Chamber on the perceptions and discourses of MPs (diachronic approach) ; on the effects and the modes of mediation which take place within the political groups...

The workshop is particularly addressed to younger researchers who can make substantial contributions to the empirical dimension of the chosen topic.

4. Funding :

The workshop could be given a financing on behalf of the French Sénat, the FNRS (Fonds national de la recherche scientifique – Belgium) and the European Parliament.

5. Biographical notes :

Olivier Costa is a Research Fellow (Chargé de recherche) at the National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), CERVL - Bordeaux. His current research interests include the institutions of the European Union, democracy and legitimacy in the Union and political representation. He is the author of several articles in edited books and in *Journal of European Integration*, *Critique internationale* and *Politique européenne*. He has a forthcoming book on the deliberation process in the European Parliament.

Paul Magnette is Lecturer in European Politics and assistant director of the Institute for European Studies at the Free University of Brussels. He is a member of the editorial board of *Politique européenne* and the European series assistant editor at *Complexe*. His current field of research are the institutional policies and strategies of legitimization in the EU. He has published articles in the *Journal of European Integration*, *Revue internationale de politique comparée*, *Swiss Political Sciences Review*, *Res Publica*, *Studia Diplomatica*, *Europa/Europe*, *European Law Journal*... He is the author of *La citoyenneté européenne* (Brussels : Editions de l'Université de Bruxelles, 1999), *L'Europe, l'Etat et la démocratie* (Brussels: Complexe, 2000) and has edited or co-edited eight books on European politics, among which : *De Maastricht à Amsterdam* (Brussels: Complexe, 1998) and *A quoi sert le Parlement européen?* (Brussels: Complexe, 1999).

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