





IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS

Involvement of the National Parliaments in SCP and NRP – 2013 and 2014

In order to increase the transparency, ownership and accountability National Parliaments (NPs) should take part in the European Semester by being involved in the preparation of Stability/Convergence Programmes (SCP) and National Reform Programmes (NRP). Each Member States' Stability or Convergence Programme shall include information on what national procedures it went through, in particular whether the programme was presented to the national parliament and whether it has been approved by the parliament (Art. 3.4 of [Regulation 1175/2011](#)).

The table overleaf provides information on the form of involvement of the national parliaments as specified in the text of the respective SCPs and the NRPs in 2013 and 2014. The following "colour coding" is used in the table:

- | | |
|--|--|
|  | The 2013 SCP/NRP makes a reference to the involvement of the national parliament in the preparation of the programme |
|  | The 2013 SCP/NRP does not make any reference to the involvement of the national parliament in the preparation of the programme |
|  | Member States subject to a Macroeconomic Adjustment Programme are not obliged to submit a full-fledged SCP/NRP |
|  | Due to the elections, the national parliament did not have the chance to be involved in the preparation of the SCP/NRP |

Summary of the table:

- In 2013, 12 SCPs and 9 NRPs included information on the role of NPs.
- In 2014, 16 SCPs and 15 NRPs include information on the role of NPs.

	2013			2014		
	Stability or Convergence Programme (SCP)	National Reform Programme (NRP)	Supplementing information provided by representatives of national parliaments to the EP	Stability or Convergence Programme (SCP)	National Reform Programme (NRP)	Supplementing information provided by representatives of national parliaments to the EP
BE	This programme was approved by the Federal Government Council of Ministers on 26 April 2013, and was discussed with the Communities and Regions at the Inter-ministerial Conference on finance and the budget on the same date. It was also presented to the Federal Parliament on that same date.	The National Reform Programme was discussed in the federal parliament.		The Stability Programme is based on the decision and consultation of the Consultative Committee of 30 April 2014.	No reference to the involvement of the national parliament could be found.	
BG	Approved by the government and is discussed by the National Assembly. Due to the fact that the President of the Republic of Bulgaria has dissolved the National Assembly and set the date for parliamentary elections	No reference to the involvement of the national parliament could be found. (Please note that the National Assembly was dissolved during the period the NRP had to be updated)		After the approval by the Council of Ministers of the update of the 2014 National Reform Programme it will be sent for information to the Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of the European Funds at the	No reference to the involvement of the national parliament could be found.	

	on 12 May 2013, the updated SCP was not tabled for discussion in parliament.			National Assembly.		
HR			Croatia participated in the 2013 European Semester on a voluntary and informal basis by submitting an economic programme.	No reference to the involvement of the national parliament could be found.	No reference to the involvement of the national parliament could be found.	Commission's assessment (SCP and NPR) and the Council's statement on Croatia's Stability Programme have been debated at the joint session of the European Affairs Committee and the Finance Committee of the Croatian Parliament.
CZ	In April, the document was presented and discussed with the substantively relevant committees of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate.	No reference to the involvement of the national parliament could be found.		The SCP has been presented and discussed in the Parliament in April.	Prior to its approval by the Government the NRP was debated in relevant committees of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate of the Czech Parliament, as well as the Working Team of the Council of Economic and Social Agreement for EU.	
DK	No reference to the involvement of the national parliament could be found.	Denmark's National Reform Programme 2013 has been sent to a number of committees in the Danish Parliament prior to	The SCP was sent to the European Affairs Committee and the Finance Committee of the Folketing prior to the Danish	On 10 April 2014, a joint consultation of the European Affairs Committee and the Finance Committee of the Danish Parliament	On 10 April 2014, a joint consultation of the European Affairs Committee and the Finance Committee of the Danish Parliament	

		being forwarded to the Commission.	Government's submission of the document to the COM.	on Denmark's National Reform Programme as well as the Convergence Programme took place.	on Denmark's National Reform Programme as well as the Convergence Programme took place.	
DE	The Federal Government submits each update of the German SCP and the corresponding Council Opinion on the updated German SCP to the competent expert committees of the German Bundestag as well as to the Finance Minister Conference (Finanzministerkonferenz) and the Stability Council (Stabilitätsrat).	Immediately following its adoption by the Federal Government, the NRP was presented to the German Bundestag and Bundesrat.	In the development of the NRP, the Länder are contributing via the sectorial ministers conferences to the Federal Government's draft of the NRP. After adoption by the Federal Government and transmission to the COM, the Bundesrat deliberated on the Commission's draft to Germany's NRP and SCP and adopted an opinion on it (BR-Drs 471/13 (B)).	The Bundestag and Bundesrat had the opportunity to deliberate on both the Council Recommendation of 9 July 2013 regarding Germany's 2013 National Reform Programme as well as the Council opinion on Germany's Stability Programme for 2013-2017.	The NRP 2014 was adopted by the Federal Cabinet on 8 April 2014. Directly after the Cabinet decision, the NRP was formally submitted to the German Bundestag and the Bundesrat.	In the development of the NRP, the Länder are contributing via the sectorial ministers conferences to the Federal Government's draft of the NRP. After adoption by the Federal Government and transmission to the COM, the Bundesrat deliberated on the Commission's draft to Germany's NRP and SCP and adopted an opinion on it (BR-Drs 249/13 (B)).
EE	No reference to the involvement of the national parliament could be found.	No reference to the involvement of the national parliament could be found.	Since 2011, the EU Affairs Committee of the Estonian Parliament has discussed the SCPs and NRPs every April before the Government presents them to the COM. The SCPs have also been discussed in the Budget Committee. Recommendations to the Government are	No reference to the involvement of the national parliament could be found.	No reference to the involvement of the national parliament could be found.	The Finance Committee discussed the Commission's opinion on Estonia's budgetary plan on 19th November 2013.

			taken into account.			
IE	Programme countries are not required to submit a fully-fledged SP.	Programme countries are not required to submit a fully-fledged NRP.	SCPs and NRPs were produced each year during the bailout programme even though they weren't required. The NRP was discussed in the JC EU Affairs and the SCP in JC Finance.	It was published in draft form on 15 April 2014 and discussed at the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform on the same day.	The Minister of State for European Affairs attended a dedicated meeting of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on European Union Affairs on 1 April to discuss a draft of this NRP with Committee members.	
EL	Programme countries are not required to submit a fully-fledged SP.	Programme countries are not required to submit a fully-fledged NRP.		Programme countries are not required to submit a fully-fledged SP.	No reference to the involvement of the national parliament could be found.	
ES	No reference to the involvement of the national parliament could be found.	No reference to the involvement of the national parliament could be found. However, regional authorities and social partners had an important role in the development of the Programme.	The Cortes Generales were involved in the SCPs and NRPs in 2013. The Prime Minister presented both texts before the plenary of the Congress of Deputies in May 2013 and the Minister for Economy and Competitiveness, presented the NRP at Committee level in the Senate in October 2013.	No reference to the involvement of the national parliament could be found.	No reference to the involvement of the national parliament could be found.	
FR	By law, the Programme has to be debated and voted in	The Programme has been sent to the Assemblée Nationale	The SCP has been discussed and approved by the	Stability Programmes are debated and voted on by Parliament by	The draft NRP has been sent to the Assemblée Nationale	The SP has been approved by the Assemblée Nationale

	Parliament at least 2 weeks before it is sent to the Commission. This occurred in the Assemblée Nationale on April 23rd and in the Senate on April 24th.	and the Senate on April 17th, before being sent to the Commission.	Assemblée Nationale in April 2013.	virtue of Article 14 of the 2011-2014 Public Finance Planning Act of 28 December 2010.	and to the Senate on 23 April 2014.	on 29 April 2014.
IT	The SCP, before the elections, was presented to the Parliament. However, it is not indicated whether the Parliament was involved in the updated SCP after the elections.	The NRP, before the elections, was presented to the Parliament. However, it is not indicated whether the Parliament was involved in the updated NRP after the elections.	The Italian Chamber of deputies approved a resolution on the Update of the economic and financial document in October 2013, which updates the SCP and the NRP submitted to the EU institutions in April, taking into account the CSRs of July 2013.	No reference to the involvement of the national parliament could be found.	No reference to the involvement of the national parliament could be found.	
CY	Programme countries are not required to submit a fully-fledged SP.	Programme countries are not required to submit a fully-fledged NRP.		Programme countries are not required to submit a fully-fledged SP.	No reference to the involvement of the national parliament could be found.	
LV	The SCP has been discussed and approved by the respective committees of the Saeima.	No reference to the involvement of the national parliament could be found. However, it is stated that issues related to the reforms implemented within the NRP are discussed on a regular basis by involving		The SCP has been discussed and approved by the respective committees of the Saeima.	The issues related to the implementation of the NRP of Latvia and the Stability Programme of Latvia are discussed on a regular basis at the Saeima.	

		representatives of the Saeima, social partners, NGOs and the civil society.				
LT	Approved by Resolution No XII-51 of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania on 13 December 2012.	No reference to the involvement of the national parliament could be found.		The SCP has been coordinated with the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania.	A draft NRP 2014 was debated and approved in the Seimas Committee on European Affairs of 21 March 2014.	The SCP draft was presented to and discussed by the Seimas Committee on the European Affairs on April 11, 2014, prior to its submission to the Government of Lithuania.
LU	No reference to the involvement of the national parliament could be found.	The NRP states that the government is ensuring that reforms enacted in the framework of the programme are drafted following extensive consultations. However, it does not specify whether NRP 2013 was debated or/and approved by the parliament.	The draft programs are presented and discussed in the Committee on Economic Affairs and Committee on Finances and Budget. The final programs (PNR, SCP) are discussed in plenary together with the declaration on the "State of the Nation", usually held in April.	No reference to the involvement of the national parliament could be found.	No reference to the involvement of the national parliament could be found.	
HU	No reference to the involvement of the national parliament could be found.	No reference to the involvement of the national parliament could be found.	The updated Convergence Programme for 2013-2016 and the National Reform Programme were presented and discussed by the Committee on	No reference to the involvement of the national parliament could be found.	No reference to the involvement of the national parliament could be found.	

			European Affairs of the Hungarian National Assembly (CEA) on 22 April 2013.			
MT	No reference to the involvement of the national parliament could be found.	No reference to the involvement of the national parliament could be found.		No reference to the involvement of the national parliament could be found.	No reference to the involvement of the national parliament could be found.	
NL	No reference to the involvement of the national parliament could be found.	The NRP was submitted to parliament before it was sent to the European Commission. As a rule, a debate is arranged between the Minister of Economic Affairs and parliament on the NRP.		A draft of the stability programme has been submitted to both houses of parliament. On 15 April consultation took place in the Upper House and a debate in the Lower House on 23 April.	The NRP was submitted to parliament before it was sent to the European Commission. As a rule, a debate is arranged between the Minister of Economic Affairs and parliament on the NRP. Last year the National Reform Programme and the Stability Programme were also discussed in the Senate for the first time with the Ministers of Economic Affairs and Finance.	
AT	The SCP was transmitted to the Nationalrat, and to the regional and local authorities (Finanzausgleichspartner).	No reference to the involvement of the national parliament could be found.	The SCPs and the NRPs are transmitted to the National Council at the same time or shortly after their transmission to the COM. The NRP was debated in the Budget Committee and in the	The report of the Austrian Minister of Finance on the Update of the Austrian Stability Programme for the period from 2012 to 2017 was presented to Parliament on 17 April	The National Reform Programme 2013 was presented to the Austrian National Council on 22 April 2013 as a federal government report for deliberation. The EU Subcommittee, the	

			Standing EU-Subcommittee in June 2013.	2013 for consideration in the ensuing process. On 8 May 2013, the parliamentary budget committee discussed it in public session and then adopted a report.	Budget Committee and the Plenary of the National Council negotiated the National Reform Programme in a public session and acknowledged the Programme with a majority of votes.	
PL	No reference to the involvement of the national parliament could be found.	The programme states that the government of Poland is trying to ensure that the Parliament, representatives of the local self-government and the widest possible scope of stakeholders from the areas of economy, science and civil society participate in the process of NRP update. However, it does not specify whether NRP 2013 was debated or/and approved by the parliament.	The European Union Affairs Committee of the Sejm had a joint meeting with Public Finance Committee and Economic Committee on 7 June 2013 on Council Recommendation regarding Poland's 2013 National Reform Programme as well as the Council opinion on Poland's 2013 Convergence Programme.	The Council Opinion on this Programme as well as Council recommendations on the NRP of 2014 will be discussed by the Polish Parliament.	The programme states that the government of Poland is trying to ensure that the Parliament, representatives of the local self-government and the widest possible scope of stakeholders participate in the process of NRP update. (p79) However, it does not specify whether NRP 2014 was debated or/and approved by the parliament.	The European Union Affairs Committee of the Sejm had a joint meeting with Public Finance Committee and Economic Committee on 5 June 2014 on Council Recommendation regarding Poland's 2014 National Reform Programme as well as the Council opinion on Poland's 2014 Convergence Programme.
PT	Programme countries are not required to submit a fully-fledged SP.	Programme countries are not required to submit a fully-fledged NRP.		Programme countries are not required to submit a fully-fledged SP.	No reference to the involvement of the national parliament could be found.	
RO	No reference to the involvement of the national parliament	No reference to the involvement of the national parliament	The Committee on European Affairs of the Romanian Senate	No reference to the involvement of the national parliament	The 2 committees for European Affairs of the Romanian	The Committee on European Affairs of the Romanian Senate

	could be found.	could be found.	analysed the NRP during the Committee meeting together with the representative of the Romanian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the coordinator on behalf of the Romanian Government for the elaboration of the NRP.	could be found.	Parliament have been informed of the main measures of the NRP. The final version should be presented to the Parliament after the European elections.	analysed the NRP during the Committee meeting together with the representative of the Romanian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the coordinator on behalf of the Romanian Government for the elaboration of the NRP. The Standing Bureau of the Romanian Senate was also informed. The Committee on European Affairs of the Romanian Senate analysed the Council recommendation on the NRP 2014 and the Council opinion on the Convergence Programme 2014.
SI	The SCP and its updates and the draft opinion of the Council on the Stability programme are discussed in the working bodies of the Parliament of Slovenia.	The draft document was considered at the session of the Economic and Social Council and the following committees of the National Assembly: Committee on Finance and Monetary Policy, the Committee on the Economy, Committee		No reference to the involvement of the National Parliament could be found.	The draft NRP was then considered by the following committees of the Slovenian National Assembly: the Committee on the Economy, the Committee on Labour, Family, Social Policy and Disability, the Committee on EU Affairs and the	

		on Education, Science, Sport and Youth, the Committee on Labour, Family, Social Policy and Disability and the Committee on EU Affairs.			Committee on Finance and Monetary Policy.	
SK	The SCP, once approved by the government, is submitted to the Parliament.	The programme states that the NRP is discussed by the Economic and Social Council, as well as by the European Affairs Committee and the Finance, Budget and Currency Committee of the National Council of the Slovak Republic. However, it does not specify whether the National Council is involved in the preparation of the NRP before it is submitted to the Commission.		The Stability Programme, once approved by the Government, is submitted to the National Council of Slovak Republic.	The NRP is usually discussed by the Economic and Social Council, as well as by the European Affairs Committee and the Finance, Budget and Currency Committee of the National Council of the Slovak Republic.	
FI	The content of the Stability Programme has been presented in writing and orally to the Grand Committee of Parliament.	The national Europe 2020 programme (NRP) is presented and handed over to the parliamentary Grand Committee before it is delivered to the Commission.		The Stability Programme has 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	The National Europe 2020 Programme has been submitted to Parliament.	

				Programme have also been submitted to Parliament.		
SE	The Riksdag's Standing Committee on Finance was informed about the convergence programme on 18 April 2013.	The Riksdag's Standing Committee on Finance has been informed about the NRP.		The Riksdag Parliamentary Committee on Finance has been informed about the convergence programme on 15 April 2014.	The Riksdag Parliamentary Committee on Finance has been informed about the national reform programme.	
UK	The House of Commons debated the UK's 2013 Convergence Programme on 22 April 2013. The House of Lords debated the UK's 2013 Convergence Programme on 25 April 2013.	No reference to the involvement of the national parliament could be found. However, regional authorities had an important role in the development of the Programme.	The UK Parliament is not involved in the preparation of the NRP, but it does scrutinise the draft Council recommendations on the NRP and the Commission Communication on the CSRs. A House of Commons European Committee debate on economic governance (covering 2013 European Semester documents) took place on 17 June 2013	The House of Commons debated the UK's 2013-14 Convergence Programme on 30 April 2014. The House of Lords debated the UK's 2013-14 Convergence Programme on 9 April 2014. The UK presents copies of assessments of its Convergence Programme to Parliament. The UK Parliament's Commons European Scrutiny Committee held a debate on 17 June 2013 on Economic Governance. This covered the Council's Opinion on the UK's National Reform and Convergence Programme.	The UK presents copies of assessments of its Convergence Programme to Parliament. The UK Parliament's Commons European Scrutiny Committee held a debate on 17 June 2013 on Economic Governance. This covered the Council's Opinion on the UK's National Reform and Convergence Programme.	The EU Committee's Sub-Committee on Economic and Financial Affairs of the House of Lords' has conducted scrutiny of these documents and engaged in correspondence with the UK Government about them. The European Committee of the House of Commons organised a single debate on the 2014 European Semester took place on 14 June 2014.

				Programme Convergence Programme.	and		
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