



Final workshop of the PADEMIA project

THE IMPACT OF REFERENDA ON PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY

19-20 September 2016

Fondation Universitaire 11, Rue d'Egmont, 1000 Brussels

DRAFT PROGRAMME

The impetus for this workshop is the United Kingdom's vote to leave the EU. On 23rd June 2016, citizens of the United Kingdom were given a rare opportunity to engage in direct democracy. This was only the third national referendum in the United Kingdom's history and the second on its membership of the European Union. The PADEMIA network's focus is on parliamentary democracy in Europe. Given how significantly referenda can influence the work of parliamentary democracies, it is timely to explore the interaction of plebiscitary and parliamentary democracy, with reference to the UK as well as other recent referendum experiences.

The UK's vote to leave the EU raises a number of constitutional questions at the European Union level as well as within the United Kingdom itself. In addition, consequences of this step for other Member States are worth looking into. Given its constitutional requirement for referenda and its close relationship and land border with the UK, the Republic of Ireland is an obvious example. Another interesting case is Greece, in light of its 2015 referendum on the terms of its financial assistance programme. The Dutch referendum on the Association Agreement with Ukraine has also raised many questions.

TEPSA would hereby like to invite you to this final workshop of the PADEMIA project, developed under the lead of Dr Julie Smith (University of Cambridge), which seeks to bring together academics from the project's participating institutions, policy-makers and interested members of the public. We look forward to welcoming you in Brussels.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

(Please note some speakers are yet to be confirmed)

Monday, 19 September 2016

12:30 – 13:45 **Welcome, registration and sandwich lunch**

13:45 – 14:00 **Introduction by Dr Julie Smith (University of Cambridge) and Prof Michael Kaeding (TEPSA)**

14:00 – 15:30 **Panel Session I: Direct versus representative democracy - principles of holding referenda**

What drives the decision to hold a referendum when not constitutionally prescribed? This panel will address the question of when to hold a referendum, for example whether it should be for constitutional matters only, as well as whether referenda should be advisory or binding. The UK referendum will be examined alongside the recent Greek and Dutch ones.

Chair: **Prof Michael Kaeding** (University of Duisburg-Essen, TEPSA Chairman)

Speakers: **Prof Ben Crum** (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)

Dr Julie Smith (Cambridge University & House of Lords)

15:30 – 16:00 **Coffee Break**

16:00 – 18:00 **Panel Session II: Legal versus political aspects of sovereignty and democracy in the EU**

Sovereignty was a key issue for those calling for a referendum in the UK and in the case made for leaving the EU. This panel will look at the issues debated and the problems created for those trying to negotiate the UK's departure from the EU. In particular, it will explore the question who should trigger the procedure set out by Article 50 TEU, which has become a heated topic in the UK debate post-referendum.

Chair: **Dr Geoffrey Edwards** (University of Cambridge)

Speakers: **The Hon Bernard Jenkin MP** (House of Commons, UK)

Elmar Brok (MEP, EPP, Germany) (*invited*)

Andrew Duff (European Policy Centre)

Prof Jaap de Zwaan (Erasmus University Rotterdam, Secretary-General TEPSA)

18:00 – 18:30 **Coffee break**

18:30 – 19:00 **Keynote Speech**

Dara Murphy (TD, Minister of State for European Affairs, Data Protection and the EU Single Digital Market) (*invited*)

Is strengthening of direct democracy at the national level the right way of strengthening the democratic character of the European Union?

Tuesday, 20 September 2016

09:00 – 09:30 **Coffee break**

09:30 – 11:00 **Panel Session III - Constitutional questions in the UK in light of Brexit**

This session will look at the constitutional implications of the Brexit vote, including the rules of the referendum, the legal challenges to triggering Article 50, the impact of the vote on different parts of the UK and on relations with Ireland.

Chair: **Dr Julie Smith** (University of Cambridge)

Speakers: **Prof Philip Norton, Lord Norton of Louth** (University of Hull)

Graham Avery (Oxford University, European Policy Centre & TEPSA)

Prof Catherine Barnard (Cambridge University)

11:00 – 11:30 **Coffee break**

11:30 – 12:30 **Concluding discussion**

12:30 – 13:30 **Sandwich Lunch**