

Plenary debate on "European Semester for policy coordination"

30 November 2011, European Parliament, Brussels

Statement by Prof. Danuta Hübner MEP

It is vital for all of us present to realise that the Semester should not only focus on discipline and coordination as a process, but that it is also a serious instrument that we have to push for structural reform.

It would be very useful to receive from the Commission a comparative track record of the structural reforms that would allow us to see how individual member states advance on these reforms.

I also have another, related, question to the Commission. Many people have commented in this house that the Council has, in some cases, seriously toned down the Commission's recommendations of the 2011 European Semester. Has the Commission evaluated the Council's decisions on the recommendations? What does the Commission think about these changes in terms of its consequences for implementing structural reforms?