

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/euro-finance/news/spain-given-one-year-respite-over-budget/>

- July 10, 2012
- Spain given respite over budget
- “A tough tour de table of ministers will see each give their views on draft recommendations for their economies prepared under the European Semester, where a number of member states are unhappy with what they have seen”
- At time – the next meeting would be Baptism of Fire for Cypriot presidency – recommendations made under EUROSEM would be debated by leaders (who were unhappy with recommendations)

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/social-europe-jobs/opinion/minimum-wages-across-europe-require-solidarity/>

- July 16, 2012
- Op-ed by Klaus Heeger
- Minimum wage policy across EU – EU has no control say over pay
 - However, under recommendations from EUROSEM, national wage policy is included under guidelines for individual member states
- Setting of minimum wage (could be done through EUROSEM) seen as overriding national interest in sense of competitiveness

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/enlargement/interview/fule-enlargement-brings-positive-news-in-times-of-crisis/>

- August 13, 2012
- Op-ed – enlargement in times of crisis, expansion is in fabric of EU
- European Semester Light – way to engage aspiring member states
- Aspiring member states pass through semester and work toward synchronisation of their own gov.
- Under EUROSEM – only non-binding recommendations for member states

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/euro-finance/interview/emeta-fiscal-union-involves-tax-cooperation/>

- September 12, 2012
- Taxing and fraud need to be dealt with at the national level – this is addressed in framework of EUROSEM
 - Advice on how to improve anti-fraud

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/sustainable-dev/news/brussels-strives-to-keep-resource-efficiency-on-the-radar/>

- November 11, 2012
- Mentions how EUROSEM monitors resource efficiency
- EUROSEM opinion – subsidies harmful to environment should be reformed

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/central-europe/interview/hungarian-minister-a-budget-for-the-eurozone-will-destroy-the-eu/>

- November 13, 2012
- GOOD ARTICLE – MENTION IN EMAIL TO VALERIE
- “Eurozone budget will destroy the EU”
- Hungarian minister offers critique
- Framework of European Semester is not forceful – countries get no compensation for implementation, even though it is made clear that you must do them
- “Objective to assist countries which go through structural reforms is extremely problematic”
- But Eurozone countries may get funding if fiscal capacity is established
 - May result in two-rank membership
 - Eurozone and non-Eurozone

General search results from Lexis Nexis: (European Semester from 1/1/2012 – 12/31/2012)

https://www.bruegel.org/wp-content/uploads/imported/publications/WP_2011_09_semester.pdf

- September, 2011
- “HOW EFFECTIVE AND LEGITIMATE IS THE EUROPEAN SEMESTER? INCREASING THE ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT” - title
- “On the first issue, effectiveness, early evidence is that countries have adapted differently to the new procedures depending on if they are ‘old’ or ‘new’ Member States; if their economic interests lie exclusively with the EU or not; and if they have strong or weak national fiscal frameworks”
- “Clearer involvement of the European Parliament would also reduce legitimacy concerns”
- “The second institutional innovation is the alignment of the timing of fiscal and structural reform plans. EU Member States are now asked to submit their SCPs alongside their National Reform Programmes (NRPs)”

- “The legal ambiguities derive thus from the fact that the European Semester brings together two procedures (the Stability Pact’s preventive arm and the IGs) that generate two different types of legislative acts”
- Effectiveness on national level:
 - “The preliminary evidence shows that Member States have, in this first round, adapted differently to the new process depending on their historical relationships with the EU, their contribution to the launch of economic policy coordination initiatives (e.g. the Euro-Plus Pact), the strength of their commitment to macroeconomic adjustment and their national fiscal frameworks”
- Effectiveness on EU level:
 - “The effectiveness of the Semester is likely to depend not only on Member States’ capacities to adapt to it, but also on the Commission’s ability to deliver the required early and integrated surveillance”

<https://www-jstor-org.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/stable/23526155?pq-origsite=summon&seq=2>

- June, 2012
- Article is culmination of opinions from EU higher ups, and execs from member states
- EUROSEM – useful new policy framework
- Commentator commended the integrated nature of project
- Emerging divide between Eurozone and non-Eurozone
- Tax policy not effective in spurring growth
- Dangers stemming from establishment of stability bonds – (democratic legitimacy)
- Tool for enhanced policy surveillance

<https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/document/?pdmfid=1516831&crd=07286057-3040-4959-8d8a-f5ffd6f8b2f9&pddocfullpath=%2Fshared%2Fdocument%2Fnews%2Furn%3AcontentItem%3A552H-7RR1-JCBF-S22H-00000-00&pdcontentcomponentid=8058&pdteaserkey=sr7&pditab=allpods&ecom=szznk&earg=sr7&prid=bf55fba6-e9f3-4846-b4c6-2332de927507>

- February 27, 2012
- Speech by President Barroso of Commission
- Opening debate on the European Semester
- The first is the importance of the **Semester** in our response to the financial and economic crisis. The second is how the **Semester** can help to prevent future crises
- “That is why I believe that this **European Semester** represents the essence of this winning combination: the combination of national level input and **European** Union level work, of ensuring stability in the short-term and stimulating sustainable growth for the medium- and long-term”

Targeted News Service. (October 26, 2012 Friday). Politics and Accountability Must Characterise EU Economic Coordination. *Targeted News Service*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:56X4-N891-JC11-1016-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- October 26, 2012
- Resolution drafted by Jean-Paul Gauzcs – takes stock of agreed upon EUROSEM economic policy coordination proposals, that have turned into action as national level
 - Resolution was adopted
- EUROSEM arrangements are too complex and insufficiently political – legitimacy is also undermined
- Pushes for more EP involvement in next semester
- Low involvement from national parliaments in certain member states in EUROSEM
 - “Member states should develop ways to ensure their parliaments are involved before reform plans are submitted to the EU”
- “EU-wide coordination of national budgetary and economic policies must become more political, democratic, and include more stakeholders, says an opinion adopted Friday which evaluates the economic coordination done in 2012. The opinion also calls on national parliaments to play a greater role in this coordination and urges the Commission to check that countries act on its recommendations”

Targeted News Service. (November 28, 2012 Wednesday). Commission Economic Priorities Fail to Address Some Key Issues, Say MEPs. *Targeted News Service*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5756-6DM1-DYG2-R01J-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- November 28, 2012
- Following release of AGS – first step in EUROSEM – MEP’s have concerns
 - Recommendations based on unreliable economic forecasts
 - Administering the same prescription when it was clear that austerity was not working
 - Should come up with more concrete ideas for tackling unemployment and generating growth-oriented investment
 - should be tougher with "surplus" countries like Germany - contributes to economic imbalances
- “The **European** Parliament strongly believes that the **European Semester** needs much higher political visibility and the players involved in it need to be more accountable for their decisions”
 - Want national parliaments to take more ownership
 - “The **European** Parliament will hold an inter-parliamentary week on the **European Semester** at the end of January 2013, to bring together MEPs and national MPs”

Targeted News Service. (October 3, 2012 Wednesday). EU Ministers to Discuss Electromagnetic Fields and Employment. *Targeted News Service*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:56RP-X961-DYG2-R11M-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- October 3, 2012
- Release by Finnish ministry of Social Affairs and Health
- “The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO) will convene in Luxembourg on 4 October”
- Reaching an agreement on a proposal which would protect workers from overexposure to electromagnetic fields – this is the main objective of the meeting
 - As well, ministers will discuss EUROSEM, and experience gathered from it for Europe 2020 strategy
 - EUROSEM has developed in more positive direction than in previous year
 - However, some countries (such as Finland) want more time to consideration of country-level recommendations

Targeted News Service. (October 15, 2012 Monday). Tomorrow's EMU Needs All-round Accountability. *Targeted News Service*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:56TS-GFS1-DYG2-R2SW-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- October 15, 2012
- Resolution by Marianne Thyssen
- Article talking about accountability across the board – EU bank supervision, ESM
- Outlines a resolution put forward
- Measures to strengthen the role of the economic affairs Commissioner should also be balanced by making them more accountable to the EP
- “The resolution calls for a closer involvement in the **European Semester** of all players, ranging from civil society to national and regional parliaments, and says that member states should be made more accountable for implementing the EU2020 growth strategy, including by naming and shaming poor performers”
 - Closer involvement in EUROSEM was final aspect of resolution

(October 9, 2012 Tuesday). ECOFIN gives Portugal extra year to correct deficit. *Financial Mirror*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:56SG-5CR1-JDJN-649R-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- October 9, 2012
- Meeting of the Council of the European Union – Chaired by Cyprus Finance minister
- The Council also held a discussion on how to improve the **European Semester** process

- Shows that EUROSEM was popular topic of discussion, and that the consensus was that it needed improvement

Targeted News Service. (November 30, 2012 Friday). The Annual Growth Survey Shows Us the European Austerity Policy is Moving Europe Further and Further Away from the Objectives of the EU2020 Strategy. *Targeted News Service*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:575K-4XG1-JC11-10VV-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- November 30, 2012
- The **European** Trade Union Confederation news release
 - Europe is facing the challenge of a generation:
 - Widening inequities, deteriorating economic situations – lead to political and social unrest
 - “a quick stock take at the onset of the 3rd **European Semester** shows that the **European** Union is falling on nearly all the Europe 2020 Strategy targets”
 - Shows that EUROSEM can be effective in showing trends and achievements, and shortcomings

Targeted News Service. (December 5, 2012 Wednesday). Youth Employment: Commission Proposes Package of Measures. *Targeted News Service*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:576X-47V1-JC11-11N0-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- December 5, 2012
- European Commission release
- Commission's Youth Employment Package
- “The Commission will support Member States through EU funding, by promoting exchanges of good practice among Member States, monitoring implementation of Youth Guarantees in the **European Semester** exercise and awareness-raising”
- The 2013 AGS, first step in **European Semester** for 2013 –
 - stresses that Member States should do more to fight unemployment, improve employability and support access to jobs or a return to the world of work for young people
- An example of what the EUROSEM was doing at the time
- All articles show a wide contrast of utility for the EUROSEM

States News Service. (March 1, 2012 Thursday). "WE WILL PRESENT OUR PROPOSALS ACCORDING TO WHAT WE CONSIDER TO BE REASONABLE AND SENSIBLE", SAYS MARIANO RAJOY. *States News Service*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5537-MG91-DYTH-G2XS-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- March 1, 2012
- Release from Presidency of Gov. of Spain
 - Followed first session of European Council
- “The **European** Council meeting began with a first session that was mainly used to discuss two issues: the **European semester** and innovation”
 - “As regards the **European semester**, discussions took place on the recently announced economic forecasts from the **European** Commission”
 - Leaders believe sustainability of public finances must be maintained within Stability and Growth Pact and its framework

The Economist:

The name's Bond. Eurobond. (2011, January 22). *Economist*, 45. <https://link-gale-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/apps/doc/GP4100910307/ECON?u=uvictoria&sid=bookmark-ECON&xid=f334c80b>

- January 22, 2011
- Anglo-saxon Euro bonds seek to destroy EU's single currency
- Further integration (like EUROSEM) will make Eurosceptic countries far less likely to join the single currency
- The markets' view is that EU bail out funds must be expanded to remove any doubt about their capacity to save **Portugal** or Spain

The union within the union. (2011, February 12). *Economist*, 44. <https://link-gale-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/apps/doc/GP4100910770/ECON?u=uvictoria&sid=bookmark-ECON&xid=b5be1bb5>

- February 12, 2011
- Merkel and Sarkozy propose “Competitiveness Pact” for all to join
 - Part of it will be a peer-review of the budgets of the European Semester
- Dilemma of creating a union within a union – one that is Eurozone members only

Financial Times:

Peter Spiegel and Quentin Peel. (2011, January 31). Debate Continues over Final Details of Agreement. *Financial Times*, 5. <https://link-gale-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/apps/doc/HTVHGK923965365/FTHA?u=uvictoria&sid=bookmark-FTHA&xid=d50b052f>

- January 31, 2011

- Franco-German coordination suggests that Eurozone and other volunteer countries should agree to implement 5 or 6 policies to boost competitiveness – Commission included similar measures in EUROSEM
- Introduction of EUROSEM – ~~could be a vehicle for the austerity deal (author opinion)~~

Chaffin, J. (2011, June 8). Brussels Backs Osborne Deficit Plan but Doubts Growth Forecast. *Financial Times*, 4. <https://link-gale-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/apps/doc/PXLRST908657431/FTHA?u=uvictoria&sid=bookmark-FTHA&xid=4fbfca4f>

- June 8, 2012
- UK continues to shun Euro, but joins in the European Semester
- Even if UK followed plans laid out for them, its debt to GDP ratio would still be over 80% 2020

Spiegel, P. (2011, June 8). EU Sees Vision of New Europe Which Is Rather Less European. *Financial Times*, 8. <https://link-gale-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/apps/doc/YUBZRH005607235/FTHA?u=uvictoria&sid=bookmark-FTHA&xid=771373f9>

- June 8, 2011
- Published in 2011 – shows views of what it *could* be, before it was implemented
- Will not fix the financial crisis, rather prevent the next one
- EUROSEM could be beginning of a centralized fiscal policy essential to the functioning of the Euro
- Op-ed – CSRs are a tool of Brussels to influence countries decisions

(January 13, 2011 Thursday). Deeper budget cuts sought. *Financial Times (London, England)*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:51XW-1JJ1-DXXV-41SW-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- January 13, 2011
- Commission demanding member states make deeper budget cuts, raise retirement ages and increase taxes – to restore bloc's economic health – part of EUROSEM
 - Prescriptions unveiled under AGS
- “The Commission is also calling for speedier progress on reforms that could spur growth, including the extension of the European Union's single market and the establishment of a common energy market”
- Barroso remarked “that member states would have resisted such an intrusion just a few years ago”

EurActiv.com	6
Economist	2
Financial Times	4
General Sources	11