

The Lisbon Treaty: The European Parliament and its new powers

October 28, 2011

**University of Latvia, Faculty of Social Sciences,
Riga, Lomonosova Street 1A, Isaiah Berlin Auditorium**

10.00 – 10.40

Opening Plenary

- 10.00 Welcome speech by Mr Māris Graudiņš, Head of European Parliament Information Office
- 10.05 Welcome speech by Dr Daina Bāra, Associate Professor, University of Latvia, Latvian Association of Political Scientists
- 10.10 Opening of Conference by Dr Krišjānis Kariņš, Member of European Parliament (EPP)
- 10.20 Keynote speech Sir Julian Priestley, Former Secretary General of the European Parliament, Chairman of the Board of Directors of EPPA (European Public Policy Advisers), a Brussels based public affairs consultancy

10.40.– 12.10

Session 1 The practical impact of EU constitutional changes regarding the role of the European Parliament

Moderated by Dr Daunis Auers, Associate Professor, University of Latvia

Panelists:

Introduction by Dr Ivars Godmanis — Member of European Parliament (ALDE)

Dr Nils Muižnieks – Director of ASPRI “Human Rights in the European Union: How the Lisbon Treaty could help”

Dr Rolands Lappuķe – Ambassador at Large, Policy Planning Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Former Adviser to the Chairperson of the Reflection group on the future of the European Union

12.10. – 13.10

Coffee break

13.10. – 14.40

Session 2 — New relationships: Interaction of EU institutions and national parliaments in European politics

Moderated by Dr Toms Rostoks, Assistant Professor, University of Latvia

Introduction: Sir Julian Priestley, A Brief History of how the European Parliament has changed

Panelists:

Sir Julian Priestley, Former Secretary General of the European Parliament, Chairman of the Board of Directors of EPPA (European Public Policy Advisers), a Brussels based public affairs consultancy

Dr Artis Pabriks — Minister of Defence, “European crisis solutions: national parliamentary cooperation with the EU institutions“

Mr Imants Lieģis — Chairman of the European Affairs Committee of the 10th Saeima

Mr Kārlis Bukovskis — researcher, Latvian Institute of International Affairs: "Interinstitutional Struggle in the EU and Role of the National Parliaments in it"

Mr Ģirts Ostrovskis — adviser of the European Affairs Committee of the Saeima: "Post Lisbon Treaty Europe: National Parliaments in search of identity"

Mr Aldis Bulis – researcher, Baltic Vision Group, “The involvement of think tanks in European policy making in Latvia”

14.40–.15.00

Coffee break

15.00. – 16.30

Session 3 — The EP and the EU Citizens’ Initiative

Moderated with Introduction by Dr.sc.pol. Valts Kalniņš

Panelists:

Dr. Tatjana Ždanoka — Member of the European Parliament (Greens/EFA)

Ms Dace Akule – Public policy center "Providus" European Policy Researcher “Challenges to European Citizens’ Initiatives”

Mrs Evija Eglīte – Ministry of Justice, Public Law Department
“European Citizen’s Initiative’s implication in Latvia”

Mr Jānis Kapustāns, Lecturer, Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences

Mr Viktors Makarovs, Parliamentary Secretary of the ministry of Foreign Affairs: "Eurocivitas, director, "Latvians as Eurosceptics: Sceptical About What, Specifically?"

Mrs Ilze Greiškalna – University of Latvia, „Role of public administration implementing EU Citizens Initiative”

Closing plenary