



INSTITUT PRO EVROPSKOU POLITIKU  
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On Friday, 9 November, EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy in cooperation with Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and IIPS organised an international conference “**European Parliament - towards Parliamentary Democracy in Europe?**” within the framework of the EP Generation project. The conference took place in the venues of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Parliament and under the auspices of the Parliament’s European Affairs Committee.

The keynote speech was delivered by professor **Giandomenico Majone** from the European University Institute, one of the leading scholars on legitimacy and relations between national and supranational levels of governance in the EU. Professor Majone criticised the current institutional setting, e.g. the Commission’s monopoly on legislative initiative, and argued that today, one cannot use the same integration method that was developed during the 1950s. Instead of unified deepening of integration which is getting ever more difficult with the enlargement, he proposed a common basic level of integration which could be developed further on issue-driven “clubs” of member states.



The more successful clubs would attract more member states and pave the way to further integration more transparently and with more support from the general public. Professor Majone’s speech provoked a number of questions, but also criticism, which led to an interesting debate.

The following panel, chaired by Petr Bratský, MP, drew together Jana Hybášková, MEP, Ondřej Liška, Chairman of the Czech Parliament’s European Affairs Committee, Geoffrey Harris, EP Head of Human Rights Unit, and Mats Braun from the Institute of International Relations in Prague. The panelists not only commented the keynote speech, but also added their own reflections of the democratic legitimacy of the European integration and the specific role of the European Parliament.

The topic of the conference echoed with the demands of the public – with almost 100 participants the conference room was nearly filled up. The conference also deserved a detailed report on EurActiv.cz (<http://www.euractiv.cz/evropsky-parlament/clanek/evropa-se-zmenila-nemuzeme-pokracovat-s-institucemi-z-50-let>). It is worth mentioning that beside the usual experts and diplomats interested in the topic for professional reasons, a large part of the audience consisted of students and young people – the main target group of the EP Generation project. They also fully enjoyed the opportunity to approach the speakers informally during the closing refreshment.