

EuropolIS

Press release

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Replace Half of MEPs with National MPs

A think-tank event in Brussels has heard radical proposals to reduce the scale of EU operations and make it more accountable to national parliaments.

The seminar on Tuesday was addressed by *Markus C. Kerber*, an international economist and lawyer, professor of the Technology University of Berlin, and founder of the think-tank EuropolIS. He is best known for challenging ECB decisions in the European Court of Justice and in 2011, for taking the German government to its constitutional court in respect of Greek bail-outs.

According to *Prof Kerber*, the EU has overreached its remit and competence. The inception of the Euro project, followed by expert-predicted crisis is perhaps the most obvious example. Others include climate policy and foreign policy. This has been made possible by a lack of accountability to both national parliaments and EU citizens.

Prof Kerber's prescriptions are swingeing. To ensure greater accord with national opinion, he suggests that half of MEPs should be replaced with representatives from national parliaments. This would be accompanied by EU withdrawal from fields as diverse as social cohesion, industrial and tourism policies. The principle of subsidiarity – decision-taking as close as possible to citizen level – would be formally strengthened.

Prof Kerber said: *“The EU is often criticised for living in a parallel world to individual countries and their voters. However, proposals for change are few. These ideas, if implemented, would reduce the amount and cost of unnecessary EU activity, and bring it closer to the citizen. I hope that they receive further debate.”*

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Please find here *Prof Kerber's* entire speech during the conference "EU Reform – A German Perspective" in Brussels on March 3rd:

<http://www.europolis-online.org/allgemein/on-european-order/>

Notes to Editors

*Europolis is an independent Berlin-based think-tank with no party political affiliations.
Prof Kerber is available for interview by arrangement.*

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