



Conciliation Committee – Background Information

On October 23, the Cyprus Presidency and the European Parliament agreed to mandate a Conciliation Committee with finding an agreement on the EU Budget for 2013. The conciliation period set by the Treaty outlines that this has to take place within 21 days. The Conciliation Committee met on October 26 in the Parliament's premises and will meet again on Friday, November 9 in the Council premises for the final Conciliation. The deadline for the conclusion of the Conciliation between the two arms of the budgetary authority, i.e. the Council and the Parliament, is November 13.

Conciliation consists of direct negotiations between the two co-legislators of the EU, the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament, in the framework of the Conciliation Committee. The process is provided for in Article 294 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

Under the ordinary legislative procedure of the EU – codecision - between the Council and the Parliament, a Conciliation Committee may be set up to resolve differences between the two institutions on legislative proposals. Its aim is to reach agreement in the form of a 'joint text', a text acceptable to both parties.

The Conciliation Committee is composed of the 27 members of the Council and an equal number of members of the European Parliament, totaling 54. Conciliation meetings are prepared by trilogues, meetings between representatives of the Presidency, the European Parliament and the European Commission.

When the committee is convened for budgetary matters, as was also the case in the previous two years for the 2011 and 2012 budgets, both negotiated under the Lisbon treaty, it has twenty-one days to provide a decision. Should an agreement be reached, the Parliament and the Council will have 14 days from that time to approve the joint budget plan.

The meeting on Friday, November 9, will be prepared by the ECOFIN-Budget Council preceding this meeting and taking place on the same day.

LINKS:

Conciliation on EU budget 2013 launched – Press release of the Council of the European Union, 23/10/2012

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ecofin/133146.pdf

Europa - the official website of the European Union

http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/glossary/conciliation_committee_en.htm

European Parliament Conciliation guide

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/code/information/guide_en.pdf

Article 294 of the TFEU

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:12008E294:EN:HTML>

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