

EU Debate 2014 – Maastricht

Student Question Form

Please email this form to eudebate2014@gmail.com by mentioning “questions EU debate 2014” in the subject heading before April 6, 2014.

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Please indicate which category fits your question best by ticking one of the boxes below with an “x”

Democracy		Trade		Employment	
Future of Europe		Environment		Education	
Foreign Policy		Energy		Other	
Economy and Finance	x	Social Affairs		

Question (max. 200 words)

The Economic and Monetary Union suffers from a genetic defect: the EU withdraws the sovereign power over the issuance of currency and its value (i.e., monetary and exchange sovereignty) but Member States continue to conduct their own fiscal and budgetary policies. Thus, the EU crisis is a crisis created by itself. The Union’s main problem today concerns the inadequacy of policy responses.

Having in mind the Portuguese example, although all measures adopted to bringing an end to the situation of an excessive government deficit and to correspond to the requirements of Union financial assistance, according to the Commission services, Portuguese gross public debt rose from 108,3 % of GDP in 2011 to 123,6 % of GDP in 2012 and is expected to peak at around 124,2 % in 2014, thus exceeding the Treaty reference value in all years.

In this scenario, citizens of Member States undergoing intervention think to themselves: why so many sacrifices? They seem useless...Without a European solution will get us nowhere...

So, what should be the future Commission's agenda for the problem of debt repayment in Member States undergoing intervention and for the “mutualisation” of debt? What are the political implications of a financial solution like that?