

Parliamentary Practice of legislation in Europe Workshop on the “Day of Parliamentarism”

Budapest, 2nd May 2017, 14:00-16:00

Venue: Parliament Building, Budapest. Main Floor, Room 21

The Centre for Parliamentary Research commemorated for the second time the constituent session of the first free elected parliament (2nd May, 1990) with a scientific exchange. The event was organized and moderated by Zsolt SZABÓ PhD, adjunct professor, Károli Gáspár Reformed Church University, research fellow, Centre for Parliamentary Research. The working language was English, with simultaneous translation into Hungarian.

The opening remarks were delivered by Gergely GULYÁS MP, chair of the Legislative Committee, vice-president of the National Assembly of Hungary. Mr Gulyás praised the initiative to remember to the Hungarian parliamentary traditions with a yearly academic event and.

In the panel, three outstanding practitioners shared their knowledge and experience about rules and practice of legislative procedure of their parliaments, from both “old” and “new” democracies of Europe. Three parliaments were presented: the UK parliament by Paul EVANS, principal clerk, House of Commons, the German Bundestag by Andrea ERIKSSON, legal advisor, Parliamentary Law Division, and the Portuguese Parliament by Ana Paula BERNARDO, Head of the Plenary Support Division, Assembly of the Republic, Portugal. They talked about procedural rules, timeframe and other aspects of the parliamentary legislative process of their own parliament, and also included questions like transparency, ‘fast-tracking’ and ex-ante scrutiny of legislation. They also answered questions from the audience composed of students, practitioners and scholars.

In his concluding remarks, Péter SMUK PhD, associate professor, Széchenyi István University, research fellow, Centre for Parliamentary Research, argued for a common European parliamentary language: procedures may differ, but the main values of parliament are the same.

The event was supported by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.