

A European Ministry of Finance? Charting and testing the national constitutional limits to EU fiscal integration

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Propositions relating to the dissertation

A EUROPEAN MINISTRY OF FINANCE?

Charting and Testing the National Constitutional Limits to EU Fiscal Integration

by Frederik Behre

1. National constitutional concerns over EU fiscal integration surface in rigid and even highly flexible national constitutional systems which showcases substantive commonality in the critique formulated by Member States against a more fiscally integrated EU and which is a signal the EU should take very seriously.
2. Current national constitutional conceptions of democracy, sovereignty and parliamentary prerogatives sit uneasily with the conferral of discretionary fiscal competences to the EU.
3. By interpreting constitutional rules consistently, implementing *best practices* from other Member States and acknowledging the advantages of EU cooperation, even rigid national constitutional limits can become more open to EU fiscal integration.
4. The national constitutional challenges against the most far-reaching EU fiscal integration proposals can be further diminished by designing EU fiscal integration steps that emphasize the “added benefits” of supranational cooperation and that better connect national political processes with EU decision-making.
5. EU integration and national constitutional law are not opponents but can and should be mutually reinforcing allies in a globalized world.
6. Muddling through and conferring more political responsibilities to the EU under the current EU-Treaties is unsustainable without addressing the national constitutional concerns and without demonstrating how national democracies can effectively function in an ever-closer European Union.
7. National parliaments have to be comprehensively involved in the EU decision-making process on core political questions to increase national acceptance of EU policies.
8. Comparative legal research is a powerful methodological tool to locate within national legal orders *constitutional flexibility* for supranational cooperation which allows for a more flexible but at the same time stronger and more effective protection of core national constitutional principles.
9. Honesty and transparency are the best policy.
10. Many lessons can be learnt from the experiences of others.
11. Academic research should be a search for new knowledge and should resonate beyond the sphere of academia.
12. As Goethe said the best education is found in travel – as only distance allows for perspective.