

## **„Prospects for a European Constitution – Prospects for more Legitimacy?“**

EPIN-Workshop organised by the Center for European Integration Studies (ZEI), Bonn, May 13/14

The Convention on the Future of Europe was established under the impression of manifold legitimacy problems facing European Union today. The work of the Convention has developed with impressive speed and substance. Only weeks before the presentation of the Constitutional Proposal to the Heads of State and Government, the critical question remains whether the Convention is able to meet the optimistic expectations placed upon it. The key question of all: will the emerging European Constitution be able to solve the legitimacy problems of European governance? Will it lead to more democracy and more efficient decision-making procedures. These important issues were discussed at an Workshop, organised by ZEI, co-organised by the European Policy Institutes Network and funded by the PRINCE-Program of the European Commission. Practitioners as well as experts from all over Europe provided instructive internal and external views on the current state of deliberations of the Convention. While Nikolaus Meyer-Landrut, Spokesman of the European Convention, and Walpurga Speckbacher, Head of Chairman Giscard's Private Office in the Secretariat of the Convention, naturally were rather optimistic regarding the outcomes of the Convention, the experts from the EPIN network were a little more sceptical. Nevertheless, these experts including Kirsty Hughes from the Center for European Policy Studies, Brussels, Carlos Closa from the University of Zaragoza, Spain, Christopher Lord, University of Leeds, UK, Marcus Höreth and Uwe Leonardy from ZEI, Franz Eichinger, General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, also stressed their optimism that the European Convention will probably produce better results than ordinary "treaty-making" IGCs did in the past.

Contact for further information: [mhoereth@uni-bonn.de](mailto:mhoereth@uni-bonn.de)