## Contents

*List of Figures*  
*List of Tables*  
*Acknowledgements*  
*List of Abbreviations*  

### 1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose and Scope  
1.2 The European Parliament: A Normalising Abnormal Parliament  
1.3 The EP as an Accountability Forum  
1.4 Analytical Approach and Research Design  
1.5 Contribution  
1.6 Outline  

### 2 The Economic and Monetary Union, the Crisis, and Political Accountability

2.1 The Institutional Development of the EMU  
2.1.1 The Euro Crisis and the Reform of the EMU  
2.1.2 Post-Crisis Institutional Dynamics  
2.2 The Accountability Framework of the EMU  
2.2.1 Political Accountability in the EMU  
2.2.2 Filling the Accountability Void? The Role of the EP after the Crisis  
2.3 Summary
3 Studying Accountability at the European Parliament:
A Legislative Oversight Approach 35

3.1 The Concept of Accountability 36

3.1.1 Measuring the Stages of Accountability 39

3.2 Situating the Accountability Potential of Parliaments 41

3.2.1 Government Accountability and the Role
of Parliaments 41

3.2.2 Studying Oversight through Parliamentary Questions 46

3.3 The Analytical Framework: The Q&A Approach to Legislative
Oversight 48

3.3.1 Six Scenarios of Oversight Interactions 54

3.3.2 Expectations about the European Parliament
in the EMU 61

3.4 Methodological Considerations 63

3.4.1 Coding Guide 65

3.5 Outlook 68

4 Overseeing the European Central Bank in Banking Supervision 70

4.1 Background: The Crisis and the SSM Regulation 72

4.2 Political Accountability in Banking Supervision: Key Issues 75

4.3 Oversight Interactions: Main Findings 79

4.3.1 Profile of Questioners 81

4.3.2 Types of Questions 85

4.3.3 Types of Answers 89

4.4 The Record: Holding the ECB Accountable in Banking
Supervision 95

5 Overseeing the European Commission in the European Semester 97

5.1 Background: The European Commission in the EMU 99

5.1.1 The Euro Crisis and the Empowerment of the
Commission in the EMU 102

5.2 The Accountability of the Commission in the European Semester: Key Issues 104

5.3 Overseeing the Commission in the European Semester 108

5.3.1 Profile of Questioners and Respondents 112

5.3.2 Types of Questions 116

5.3.3 Types of Answers 124

5.4 The Record: Holding the Commission Accountable in the
European Semester 130
6 The Economic Dialogues with the ECOFIN Council and the Eurogroup

6.1 Background: ECOFIN, Eurogroup, and the Political Accountability of Intergovernmental Actors in the EMU

6.1.1 The Euro Crisis and the Domination of Intergovernmental Bodies

6.2 The Accountability of Intergovernmental Bodies: Key Issues

6.3 The Economic Dialogues with the ECOFIN Council Presidency

6.3.1 Profile of Questioners and Respondents

6.3.2 Types of Questions Asked

6.3.3 Types of Answers Provided

6.3.4 Summary

6.4 The Economic Dialogues with the Eurogroup President

6.4.1 Profile of Questioners and Respondents

6.4.2 Types of Questions Asked

6.4.3 Types of Answers Provided

6.4.4 Summary

6.5 The Record: Holding Finance Ministers Accountable in the EMU

7 Conclusions: Comparative Evaluation and Necessary Reforms

7.1 Case Comparison

7.1.1 The Performance of the EP as an Accountability Forum

7.1.2 The Responsiveness of EMU Executive Actors to EP Oversight

7.1.3 Assessing Oversight Interactions: A Comparison

7.2 Looking Forward: Policy Recommendations

7.3 The Big Picture: EP Oversight and EU Accountability

References

Index