

John Grahl

The European semester & institutional reform in the EU

The new governance rules of the EU are largely being implemented through the "European Semester" in which each member state submits a Stability Programme and a National Reform Programme for scrutiny by the Commission and Council. An examination of these documents from the first three semesters shows: that they represent surveillance without coordination; that they testify to an acceptance by policy-makers at both EU and member state level of current, very high levels of unemployment; that austerity measures have already put the 2020 objectives for poverty reduction, unambitious as they are, out of reach; that austerity is exacerbating inequalities within and across member states; and that growth and debt reduction targets implied in the programmes remain unrealistic.