

Working Group on the possibility of improving the "yellow card" procedure

Summary

of the proposals from working paper and the comments sent by national parliaments

Proposals	Stakeholders	Remarks
<p>Cluser involvement and cooperation by national Parliaments in European affairs - better use of the mechanisms available to them</p>		
Commission Work Programme		
	<p>Following the publication of the Commission Work Programme, national Parliaments, each in line with its own practice and internal procedure of its Chamber, should carry out a scrutiny Commission Work Programme and identify proposals they consider most important (or controversial).</p>	NPs
	<p>Exchanging of opinions on the CWP in the presence of an EU Commissioner</p>	NPs, EC
	<p>Discussion on the CWP during COSAC Chairpersons</p>	NPs, COSAC, EC

	meeting in the first half of each year (HU)		
	Time to analyse the Commission Work Programme by the end of March	NPs	
	Sharing information on the CWP priorities with other Parliaments	NPs, National Parliaments' Representatives in Brussels, COSAC secretariat, IPEX Information Officer	
	Preparation of a table of national Parliaments' priorities for a given year	NPs, National Parliaments' Representatives in Brussels, IPEX Information Officer	
	Each Parliament could both back and withdraw its support for each priority at any time	NPs	
	Sending the table of priorities of national Parliaments to the European Commission on 1 April each year	COSAC Presidency, COSAC Secretariat	
Role of the champion Parliament will vary depending the stage of a legislative work			
	Agreement on choosing of the champion Parliament for respective draft legislative act	NPs	
	tracking the progress of work on a given proposal	Parliament-Champion, EC	
	signalling the date of publication of the draft legal act to other Parliaments/Chambers,	Parliament-Champion, NPs, National Parliaments'	

		Representatives in Brussels	
	initiating informal meetings with other interested Parliaments/Chambers and/or with the relevant Commissioners,	Parliament-Champion, NPs, EC	
	drawing the attention of other Parliaments/Chambers to any problems found in a given draft legislative act	Parliament-Champion, NPs, National Parliaments' Representatives in Brussels	
	gathering all emerging arguments that could be used by other Parliaments/Chambers in the course of their work on a given draft legislative act	Parliament-Champion, NPs, National Parliaments' Representatives in Brussels	
	Coordination of work on triggering the yellow card mechanism	Parliament-Champion, NPs, National Parliaments' Representatives in Brussels	
Setting up a dedicated closed forum for the sole use of national Parliaments on the IPEX platform		NPs, IPEX Information Officer	
	Uploading all documents concerning the Commission Work Programme for a given year (the Commission Work Programme itself, lists of priorities of each national Parliament, a table of priorities of national Parliaments, and any correspondence on national Parliaments' priorities contained in the Commission Work Programme) to the forum.	NPs, IPEX Information Officer	

	Forum as a place for on-going, quick exchange of information, views and for discussions (mainly informal ones) on the different draft legislative acts in the form of chats.	NPs, IPEX Information Officer	
Adoption of guidelines on the criteria for reasoned opinion both on the contents and scope		NPs, COSAC, Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments	
In the case at least 9 reasoned opinions are issued by national Parliaments/Chambers, the relevant EU Commissioner should meet with the Parliaments that have issued reasoned opinions on a given draft legislative act and discuss with them all issues raising doubts on the part of national Parliaments		NPs, Parliament-Champion, EC	
In the course of further work on a proposal, the Commission should accurately show the impact of reasoned opinions on the final shape of the draft legislative act		NPs, EC	
Possibilities for national Parliaments to scrutinize proportionality on an equal footing with subsidiarity			
The Commission's special approach to national Parliaments' opinions on the breach of the principle of proportionality, especially if reservations in this respect were notified by a substantial number of Parliaments/Chambers		NPs, EC	

<p>In the case at least 9 opinions issued by national Parliaments/Chambers on the breach of the principle of proportionality only, the relevant EU Commissioner should meet with the Parliaments that have issued opinions on a given draft legal legislative act and discuss with them all issues raising doubts on the part of national Parliaments/Chambers.</p>		<p>NPs, EC</p>	
<p>The possibility of improving the timeliness and quality of the European Commission's response to reasoned opinions and opinions sent by national parliaments under the political dialogue</p>			
<p>The EC could express its intention of the new partnership between the Commission and national Parliaments by the Commission's commitment to:</p>			
	<p>reduce the time for the preparation of replies to reasoned opinions to a maximum of 2 months</p>	<p>EC</p>	
	<p>refer in details in its replies to all issues raised by national Parliaments in their reasoned opinions</p>	<p>EC</p>	
	<p>prepare, in addition to individual replies to the Parliaments/Chambers that have sent reasoned opinions, one reply comprising replies to all reservations raised by national Parliaments/Chambers in their reasoned opinions and circulate them to all</p>	<p>EC, NPs</p>	

	Parliaments/Chambers of the Member States		
<p>The possibility of extending the deadline for reasoned opinions from 8 to 12 weeks</p>			
The European Commission could take a more flexible approach to the existing provisions of the Treaty by:			
	excluding from the 8-week period any public holidays in the Member States	EC	
	excluding from the 8-week period the Christmas/New Year break, as is the case with the summer holidays in August	EC	
	exclude from the 8-week period any non-working periods in the EU Institutions	EC	