

Implementation of the Treaty provisions concerning national parliaments

2016/2149(INI) - 19/04/2018 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 518 votes to 50, with 46 abstentions, a resolution on the implementation of the Treaty provisions concerning national parliaments.

Members recalled that national parliaments improve and contribute actively to the good constitutional functioning of the European Union (Article 12 TEU), thereby playing an important role in its democratic legitimacy and realising it to the fullest extent.

Scrutinising governmental activity in European affairs: Members recognise that national governments are democratically accountable to national parliaments. Such accountability is the keystone of the role of national parliamentary chambers in the European Union. They encouraged national parliaments to fully exercise their European functions in order to directly influence and scrutinise the content of European policies, in particular via the monitoring of their national governments acting as members of the European Council and the Council.

Members noted that the European Parliament and national parliaments should be **better involved in the European Semester** and recommended that budgetary calendars at national and European level are better coordinated throughout the process in order to encourage more effective use of this instrument.

Creating a European public sphere: Parliament took note of the recent call for a series of democratic conventions across Europe. In this respect it considered that the establishment of an annual European week would allow Members and Commissioners to stand before all national parliamentary assemblies in order to discuss and explain the European agenda alongside together with national parliamentarians and representatives of civil society[^].

Backing reform of the early warning system: Parliament underlined the fact that the EWS has seldom been used since the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon, and believed that it could be reformed within the current constitutional framework. It noted that examples such as the triggering of the ‘yellow card’ procedure against the [Commission proposal on the revision of the Posting of Workers Directive](#) in 2016 show that the EWS is operational and that the principle of subsidiarity is, on balance, respected within the EU.

Acknowledging the request by national parliaments to extend the eight-week period during which they can issue reasoned opinions, Members recalled that the current Treaty framework does not provide for such an extension. The Commission is called on to implement a technical notification period within the EWS in order to grant additional time between the date on which draft legislative acts are technically received by national parliamentary chambers and the date on which the eight-week period begins.

They also suggested, in line with the political dialogue launched by the Commission in 2016, the full use of the system whereby national parliaments can submit constructive proposals to the Commission with the aim of positively influencing the European debate and the Commission’s power of initiative.

According to Members, in the event of a future revision of the Treaties, the right of legislative initiative should be mainly accorded to the European Parliament, as the direct representative of EU citizens.

Implementing the right to information: Article 12 TEU and Protocol No 1 give national parliaments the right to receive information directly from the European institutions. Parliament is committed to **promoting the use of the IPEX platform** to strengthen political dialogue. It recommended recommends using IPEX as a channel for the systematic sharing of information and the early **flagging of subsidiarity concerns**.

Better interinstitutional cooperation: Parliament called for the existing cooperation between the European Parliament and national parliaments in COSAC, in the Interparliamentary Conference on Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP-IPC) to be developed on the basis of the principles of consensus, information-sharing and consultation. It called for simplification and harmonisation of the current framework for relations between the Union and national parliaments.

It pointed out that strengthening political and technical dialogue between parliamentary committees, both at national and at European level, would be a greatly productive step towards full interparliamentary cooperation. It considered the possibility of allocating additional resources to achieve this aim and the use of videoconferences where possible.

Lastly, it recommended that the national parliaments be fully involved in the further development of the common security and defence policy.