Comitology: modification of the procedures for the exercise of implementing powers conferred on the Commission

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Adopting the report by Mrs Maria AGLIETTA (V, I) on comitology, the European Parliament insisted on the need to: - guarantee full compliance with the legislative procedure in order to avoid adopting legislative acts, including updates to acts adopted under the codecision procedure and amendments to annexes, as Commission measures outside the codecision procedure; - achieve a balance between the institutions, following the amendment to the codecision procedure, in order to guarantee real equality between the Council and the European Parliament; - limit the degree of autonomy of the Commission to implement rules by delegating more specific powers to it and laying down the implementation measures in the legislation, while at the same time ensuring that the legislative authorities (Parliament and the Council) do not interfere with implementation measures. In addition, the European Parliament stressed that, if the Commission is to be allowed to exercise its powers with regard to the budget under the control of Parliament, the power of the Commission to commit expenditure must not be limited by decisions of general or particular scope taken at the responsibility of the Council alone. This would exclude recourse to committees in which the Council would have the last word on decisions affecting the implementation of the budget. Consequently, the European Parliament considered that the future interinstitutional agreement should make provision for: - a distinction between the substance of the legislation and implementation measures by improving the definition of the implementing powers delegated in the basic instrument; - guaranteed and effective control of implementation rules by the European Parliament, allowing Parliament, if necessary, to contest the legitimacy of a Commission proposal for an implementation measure within a set time limit, in which case the Commission would be required to withdraw or amend its proposal or present a legislative proposal (on the basis of a representative vote by Parliament) and to do likewise if the Council or a Council committee opposed an implementation measure; - simplification of ad hoc committees and procedures, elimination of regulatory committees and the obligation for the institutions to systematically harmonise all existing implementation procedures; - a transparent implementation procedure; this implies the need for internal rules of procedure applicable to all committees to be adopted and Parliament's right of information to be respected.