



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

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*Committee on Constitutional Affairs*

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**2009/2142(INI)**

25.2.2010

## **DRAFT OPINION**

of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

for the Committee on Legal Affairs

on better lawmaking in 2007 and 2008 pursuant to Article 9 of the Protocol on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality (2009/2142(INI))

Rapporteur: Tadeusz Zwiefka

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## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Constitutional Affairs calls on the Committee on Legal Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

- A. whereas the Lisbon Treaty places Parliament on an equal footing with the Council in lawmaking under the ordinary legislative procedure,
- B. whereas the Lisbon Treaty gives EU citizens the right to initiate legislation,
- C. whereas under Article 225 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union Parliament may request the Commission to submit any appropriate proposal on matters on which it considers that a Union act is required for the purpose of implementing the Treaties,
- D. whereas the citizens' rights set out in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union include the right to good administration, which cannot be achieved without clear laws that the general public can understand,
  - 1. Urges the Commission to make every effort to ensure that Parliament and the Council are treated as equals in the law-making process, in particular by simultaneously notifying both institutions of all events and developments affecting that process;
  - 2. Calls on the Commission to lose no time in making, in cooperation with Parliament, the legal and organisational arrangements required in order to enable EU citizens to exercise their right to initiate legislation;
  - 3. Urges the Commission to give an undertaking regarding the deadlines by which it will meet requests made by Parliament pursuant to Article 225 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union;
  - 4. Stresses the vital importance of making simple, clear laws that EU citizens can understand.