

### Consultation with National Parliaments

#### A) Description and aim

The Treaty of Lisbon accorded for the first time a formal role to national Parliaments in assuring "the good functioning of the Union" (Art 12 TEU), i.a. introducing an early warning system as a new mechanism for national parliaments to watch over the respect of the subsidiarity principle in new legislative proposals. This new role for NPs required a new level of cooperation with the European Parliament and led to a review and modification of its Rules of Procedure and administrative structures aiming at a continuous further improvement of interparliamentary relations. From this well established basis, the EP has proposed to the national parliaments which wish to do so to also share with MEPs their views on existing European legislation and its implementation at national level when the European Commission envisages revising it. This early consultation with national parliaments *de facto* enlarges their role in the legislative process of the European Union beyond the strict control of subsidiarity.

#### B) History and state of play

The focus of the EP's cooperation with national Parliaments has been to offer the possibility to actively and positively contribute to improving legislation decided on European level, beyond the veto right the can exercise together on the basis of the subsidiarity principle. Following developments in European economic governance, the EP had hosted an interparliamentary conference on the European Semester for Economic Policy Coordination, later developed into the European Parliamentary Week on the European Semester. In the meantime, the provisions of the Fiscal Compact foresaw the organisation of an interparliamentary conference (*Article 13 TSCG*), held so far in Vilnius and Brussels. Additionally, Interparliamentary Conferences for the CSFP and the CSDP are organised, as well as joint committee meetings and joint parliamentary meetings between the European Parliament and the Parliament of the Member State holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

#### C) Future Milestones

Apart from the role attributed to national Parliaments under Protocol No 2 to the Treaty of Lisbon, giving national Parliaments the right to scrutinise draft EU legislative acts which do not come under the exclusive competence of the European Union, future developments in the cooperation with national Parliaments should focus on their expertise in implementing European legislation and monitoring its functioning on the ground. In this way, national Parliaments could provide valuable input to the European Parliament in assessing the performance of EU legislation and feeding back this expertise in the consultation process before the legislative phase starts at European level. The President of the European Parliament has proposed such an exchange to all national Parliaments which would be interested.

#### D) References and sources of information

- **IPEX** (Interparliamentary EU Information Exchange):  
<http://www.ipex.eu/IPEXL-WEB/home/home.do>
- **The Directorate for relations with national Parliaments**  
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/webnp/cms/pid/1>  
<http://www.connect.ep.parl.union.eu/parnaweb/>