



CROATIAN PARLIAMENT
European Affairs Committee

Conclusions of the European Affairs Committee on the

**Implementation of the principle of subsidiarity
in the European Union legislative procedure**

Zagreb, 6th March 2014

As a result of the thematic meeting held in the presence of the Speaker of the Croatian Parliament, members of the European Parliament elected in the Republic of Croatia, the representatives of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, diplomatic corps, academic community and civil society on the principle of subsidiarity in the European Union legislative procedure;

reaffirming its willingness to actively participate in discussions at the European level aimed at strengthening the role of national parliaments in the decision-making process in the European Union and at further monitoring of Member States' actions in exercising the powers of national parliaments in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon;

respecting the principle of subsidiarity as the fundamental principle of European Union law;

recognizing the importance of the principle of proportionality as the integral and inseparable part of the principle of subsidiarity;

acknowledging the fact that subsidiarity check is the only way of national parliaments to directly participate in the adoption of European acts;

calling upon all Members of Parliament, political groups and committees of Croatian Parliament to continue monitoring the directly delivered documents of the European Union and to involve more actively in the process of proposing the initiation of procedures of subsidiarity checks in the proposals of European Union legislative acts;

expressing the intention to further promote this power and the implementation of the procedure on its own initiative as well as to encourage the sponsors to regularly monitor the respect of the principle of subsidiarity in the European Union draft legislative acts;

reaffirming the commitment to further interparliamentary cooperation with the aim of achieving harmonized action and collective effects of national parliaments of European Union Member States within the framework of the Early Warning Mechanism and promoting the system itself;

taking into consideration the current discussions in individual Member States regarding the need and possibilities to review the application of the principle of subsidiarity with the objective of building up a better European Union, but also the discussions on growing euroscepticism in the European Union;

the European Affairs Committee of the Croatian Parliament,

calls upon the European Union institutions to support national parliaments of the Member States in their efforts to harmonize national actions in order to ensure greater democratic accountability of the Member States in issues that need not be regulated at EU level, thereby contributing to greater accountability of national parliaments in relation to the interests of the citizens of the European Union and the citizens of every Member State in searching for the best possible solutions at European and national level in the fields of shared competences;

reaffirms its commitment to the cooperation of national parliaments of EU Member States in considering possibilities to improve the system of subsidiarity and proportionality checks without amendments to the Treaties, by harmonizing the rules of procedure of national parliaments to ensure the efficiency of the Early Warning Mechanism and greater democratic legitimacy of the decision-making process in the European Union;

expresses its belief that further promotion of cooperation and coordination of national parliaments in scrutinising the procedures of adopting EU legislation, with full participation of all stakeholders, will contribute to the strengthening of citizens' confidence in EU policies and, as a consequence, their greater turnout in the elections of the Members of the European Parliament;

calls upon the European Commission to carry out proper and profound review of the reasoned opinions of national parliaments on the non-conformity of proposals with the subsidiarity principle by yielding precedence to legal over political interpretation of the principle, so as to ensure that the result of the revision of a draft legislative act would be consistent with the positions of EU citizens to the greatest possible extent.