



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 4.4.2019  
C(2019) 2497 final*

*Dear Chair,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Seimas for its Opinion on the Communication on 'The principles of subsidiarity and proportionality: Strengthening their role in the EU's policymaking' {COM(2018) 703 final}.*

*The Commission welcomes the support of the Seimas for the commitments and recommendations contained in the Communication. The principles of subsidiarity and proportionality are core elements of the Commission's better regulation agenda that underpin how it prepares its policy proposals. The Commission is currently taking stock of how this better regulation policy is working and will elaborate on the follow-up to the recommendations of the Task Force Subsidiarity, Proportionality and 'Doing less more efficiently', convened by President Juncker in 2017, as part of this stocktaking exercise.*

*The Commission has proposed to the European Parliament and to the Council to discount the Christmas/New Year period from the 8-week deadline for issuing reasoned opinions. It welcomes the support of the Seimas in this regard, as well as for the proposed common grid for the assessment of subsidiarity and proportionality. Moreover, it intends, as the Seimas suggests, to provide aggregated responses to reasoned opinions where a significant number of national Parliaments have raised similar concerns, thus giving greater visibility to the views of these national Parliaments. It notes with interest the Seimas' proposal that in such cases a broader debate on the respective matter should be organised with the participation of representatives from national Parliaments and the European Parliament.*

*Mr Gediminas KIRKILAS  
Chair of the Committee on European Affairs  
Gedimino pr. 53  
LT – 01109 VILNIUS*

*cc. Mr Viktoras PRANCKIETIS  
President of the Seimas  
Gedimino pr. 53  
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*The Commission takes note of the suggestions made by the Seimas that, in case a Treaty revision were envisaged in the future, the deadline for issuing reasoned opinions should be extended to 12 weeks, the threshold for triggering the yellow card should be lowered, and national Parliaments' check of Commission proposals should cover proportionality and their legal basis. Notwithstanding these suggestions, the Commission would like to point out that as a matter of policy it thoroughly checks the compliance of its initiatives also with the principle of proportionality. Moreover, its Better Regulation guidance and toolbox – just like the common assessment grid proposed – include criteria for proportionality analysis. In addition, National Parliaments are always welcome to analyse the proportionality of an initiative or the choice of its legal basis, as well as the substance of the proposal, in the opinions they submit under the political dialogue.*

*The Commission agrees with the Seimas that territorial impact assessments should be performed where appropriate, and has developed methodologies in this regard in its Better Regulation toolbox<sup>1</sup>.*

*The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Seimas and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

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<sup>1</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/better-regulation-toolbox-33\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/better-regulation-toolbox-33_en)