



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Mr Milan Štěch
President of the Senate
of the Parliament of the
Czech Republic
Valdštejnské náměstí 17/4
118 01 Praha 1

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion on the Annual Report 2010 on Relations between the Commission and National Parliaments {COM(2011) 345 final} and apologises for the delay in replying.

In reply to the comments raised in your Opinion, let me provide the following clarifications.

As already announced, I am happy to confirm that the Commission is ready to publish on its website devoted to opinions received by national Parliaments¹ a list of reasoned opinions received in the context of the subsidiarity control mechanism. Let me clarify in this context that reasoned opinions are only those opinions sent by a national Parliament within the deadline of 8 weeks and stating that the Commission proposal does not comply with the principle of subsidiarity.

The Commission would also like to reiterate that it fully recognises the importance of the active participation of national Parliaments during the pre-legislative phase, and in particular in the context of public consultations, since it sees this as a particularly effective way for national Parliaments to contribute constructively and positively to the shaping of future EU initiatives and legislation. As already stated on different occasions, the Commission is committed to take national Parliaments' contributions received during the pre-legislative phase into account.

Let me add in this context that further to its Communication on "Smart Regulation in the European Union"², the Commission is now carrying out a review of its consultation policy. Among other things, the review will look at how to increase the reach of its consultations and strengthen the quality and transparency of the information on the results of consultations.

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/secretariat_general/relations/relations_other/npo/index_en.htm

² COM(2010)543

I hope that these clarifications address the main issues raised in the Senat Opinion and I look forward to continuing our political dialogue on these and other important issues.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*