



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 19.3.2019
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Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senát 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} and on the Annual Reports 2017 on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and of proportionality {COM (2018) 490 final} and on relations between the Commission and national Parliaments {COM (2018) 491 final}.

The Commission welcomes the Senát’s support for the 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 agrees with the Senát that the explanatory memoranda of its proposals should provide relevant information on how the proposal complies with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality. While it already endeavours to do so, it intends, as indicated in the Communication (point 4.4), to present its assessments of subsidiarity and proportionality even more clearly in the future. Moreover, for more detailed information, executive summaries of impact assessments are being published in all languages.

The Commission has proposed to the European Parliament and the Council to discount the Christmas/New Year period from the 8-week deadline for issuing reasoned opinions. It welcomes in this regard the support of the Senát, also with a view to requesting the endorsement of the initiative by the Council.

It also welcomes the Senát’s support for the proposed common grid for the assessment of subsidiarity and proportionality and for the Commission’s intention 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.

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The Commission takes note of the Sénat's suggestion concerning the setting up of a deadline for replying to reasoned opinions. In the absence of a legal base for any such deadline, the Commission makes every effort to provide high-quality and politically pertinent replies to national Parliaments' opinions (including reasoned opinions) within a self-imposed delay of 3 months. .

The Commission hopes that the clarifications provided in this reply address the issues raised by the Sénat and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*