

**Joint session of
the Special Standing Committee for European Affairs and
the Standing Committee for Economic Affairs,
of the Hellenic Parliament**

The abovementioned Committees were convened to a joint session, on August the 26th 2010, in order to examine the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on amending Regulation (EC) No 1060/2009 on credit rating agencies.

The Members of the Committees, having considered:

- the text of the aforementioned proposal of a regulation
- the Regulation (EC) No 1060/2009
- the impact assessment accompanying the proposal
- the explanatory memorandum by the Ministry of Finance
- The oral report by the Deputy Minister of Finance Mr Philippos Sachinidis,

Concluded by majority upon the following opinion:

The proposal under consideration is part of the ongoing multifaceted political initiative that European Union has undertaken with a view to preventing the occurrence of crises, similar to that of 2008, by improving the European framework of financial regulation and surveillance.

Regarding the observance of the principle of subsidiarity:

The proposal conforms to the principle of subsidiarity: The necessity of assigning supervision of credit-rating agencies to a single European authority stems from the already experienced, significant cross-border financial – and, ultimately, real-economy – effects of the initiatives undertaken by those agencies. It is an act of aligning the scale of supervision to the scale of operation of credit-rating agencies. The principle of subsidiarity is further upheld by the proposed synergy between the single European and national supervisory authorities.

Regarding the observance of the principle of proportionality:

The proposal conforms to the principle of proportionality, since the single European authority's involvement is limited to the minimum necessary to achieve the goal of transparency – vital to attaining European financial stability – as well as the goal of safeguarding public interest across the European Union.

In conclusion, the proposed amendment, along with Regulation 1060/2009 actually in place, serves the stated end of transparency and public-interest protection. However, it is the competitive operation of the credit-rating market that would maximize public interest. New entrants to the market would add competition in the market, breaking the actual cartel of the three global credit-rating giants.

