

**RESOLUTION APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON  
COMMUNITY PROPOSAL COM(2012) 499 final,  
SUBMITTED FOR A REASONED OPINION ON  
SUBSIDIARITY (Doc XVIII-bis, No 93)**

The 14th Standing Committee, having examined document COM(2012) 499 final,

whereas the proposal amends and repeals the current Regulation (EC) No 2004/2003, as amended by Regulation (EC) No 1524/2007, creates a European legal status for political parties and their affiliated political foundations and introduces more detailed provisions on funding;

whereas the proposal aims to provide European political parties and their affiliated political foundations with instruments to allow them to meet current challenges, and above all to bridge the divide between national politics and that of the Union and to promote representative democracy at EU level, as fully recognised by Article 10 of the EU Treaty;

recalling that Article 10(4) of the EU Treaty requires political parties at European level to “contribute to forming European political awareness and to expressing the will of citizens of the Union”, which is a particularly complex task in view of the traditionally scant attention paid by national political movements to the issues relating to European integration;

also having regard to

1) Articles 11 (‘Freedom of expression and information’) and 12 (‘Freedom of assembly and association’) of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, with particular reference to Article 12(2), which provides that ‘Political parties at Union level contribute to expressing the political will of the citizens of the Union.’

2) Article 49 of the Italian Constitution, under which ‘every citizen has the right to associate freely in parties in order to participate democratically in national political life’,

comments favourably on the proposal, for matters within its remit, highlighting the following points:

1. The proposal is correctly based on Article 224 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), which establishes that the European Parliament and the Council, acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure, by means of regulations, must lay down the regulations governing political parties at European level referred to in Article 10(4) of the Treaty on European Union and in particular the rules regarding their funding.

2. The proposal complies with the principle of subsidiarity, since the rules pertaining to the status and funding of European political parties and their affiliated European foundations can be defined only at Union level.

3. The proposal complies with the principle of proportionality, since the measures provided for are confined to those necessary to achieve the objective of

reinforcing European democracy and the legitimacy of the EU institutions.

4. The Committee expresses its appreciation of

*a)* the recognition of the important role of ‘political parties’ within the institutions of the Union. It is to be hoped that among other things this will contribute to greater democratisation of the European institutions by allowing them to focus more attention on the activity of citizens’ representatives, in line with what has already been outlined in the ‘Four Presidents’ Report’ (Towards a genuine Economic and Monetary Union);

*b)* the consequent introduction of a European legal status for European political parties and their affiliated foundations (Article 8), which will bring with it full legal capacity and full recognition in all the Member States (Article 9). The proposal establishes a series of conditions to be met to obtain European legal status. However, to encourage the development of new political parties in Europe, these conditions are not excessive;

*c)* the amendments which provide for the introduction of more detailed rules and procedures regarding the funding of European political parties and their affiliated foundations and the establishment of objective criteria for the allocation of resources from the EU budget. The Committee considers that among these, Article 15, which lays down rules on donations and contributions, is particularly useful in that it promotes the capacity of political parties and foundations to generate their own resources, thereby alleviating the burden on the EU budget.