

TRANSLATION

SENATE OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC

XVII LEGISLATURE

Doc. XVIII No 79

**RESOLUTION OF STANDING COMMITTEE 14a**

**(European Union Policies)**

(Rapporteur: GINETTI)

approved at the session of 6 November 2014

ON THE

**COMMISSION REPORT - 2013 ANNUAL REPORT ON SUBSIDIARITY AND PROPORTIONALITY (COM  
(2014) 506 FINAL)**

AND ON THE

**COMMISSION REPORT - 2013 ANNUAL REPORT ON RELATIONS BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION AND NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS (COM (2014) 507 FINAL)**

pursuant to Article 144(1) and (6) of the Rules of Procedure

sent to the President's Office on 18 November 2014

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The Committee,

having examined COM (2014) 506 in conjunction with COM (2014) 507,

having examined in particular the 2013 Annual Report on subsidiarity and proportionality, which is the twenty-first annual report on the application of these principles, presented in accordance with Article 9 of Protocol No 2 on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality annexed to the Treaties;

whereas the European Commission is continuing to apply 'smart regulation' principles when assessing compliance with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality by means of verification procedures such as roadmaps, consultations and impact assessments, and also by means of the recommendations by the relevant Committee, and is applying indicators for effectiveness, efficiency and consistency when assessing the need for EU action and its added value;

whereas the national parliaments have adopted 88 reasoned opinions on 36 proposals by the European Commission, a 25 % increase out of a total of 621 opinions received, which appears to confirm that the individual parliaments have different political interests and different priorities when it comes to choosing the Commission proposals to discuss in relation to the subsidiarity checks and balances mechanism, and also apply different criteria when examining the proposals to ensure that they comply with the principle of subsidiarity;

having examined in particular the 2013 Annual Report on relations between the European Commission and the national parliaments (ninth report);

whereas in 2013 relations between the European Commission and national Parliaments continued to evolve through two channels: first, the mechanism for checking subsidiarity, introduced by the Lisbon Treaty, to verify the compliance of new legislative proposals issued by the Commission (the ones that are outside the scope of the EU's exclusive powers) with the principle of subsidiarity, and second, the political dialogue started by the Commission in 2006 to improve exchanges of information and opinions on various political aspects concerning both legislative proposals and non-legislative initiatives;

whereas the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC) continued to be a key forum for general debates and discussions;

whereas contacts and visits are the instruments of cooperation between the European and national institutions;

whereas in 2013 the Senate of the Italian Republic sent 36 opinions to the European institutions, including two reasoned opinions (on the proposal for a Directive on tobacco and on the draft Regulation on ports). On the whole, even in a year in which parliamentary activity was interrupted for a long period because of the elections, the Senate ranked sixth in terms of European activities;

having assessed the opinion of the Foreign Affairs and Emigration Committee;

having assessed the comments made by representatives of the Conference of the Presidents of the legislative assemblies of the regions and autonomous provinces;

having taken note of the content of the two reports, COM (2014) 506 and COM (2014) 507;

reiterates its full and unwavering support for the gradual 'Europeanisation' of the activities of national parliaments, of which the reports provide evidence each year;

observes that this should continue and pays great attention not only to examining the legislative proposals submitted for subsidiarity checks, but also to public consultations, green papers and communications in the pre-legislative phase, of a more programmatic political nature;

shares the view of the European Parliament that the early warning mechanism should be conceived and used as one of the tools to ensure effective cooperation between European and national institutions and could be used also as a channel for consultation and cooperative dialogue between the various institutions in the EU's multilevel governance system.

would point out, moreover, that a more rigorous statement on compliance with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality both in the text of the legislative proposals and in the replies to reasoned opinions should make it possible to respond effectively to questions raised on this point by some national parliaments;

points out that the political dialogue with national Parliaments has proved to be a success, with a clear added value for the European Union on the whole. It observes, however, that the political dialogue could provide opportunities in future for discussions and comparisons by national parliaments, in particular in relation to topics that are extremely relevant;

considers it advisable, moreover, to launch a process of regular monitoring of the written replies provided by the European Commission with a view to assessing the actual effect of the Senate's opinions and the possibility of establishing effective political dialogue in the context of devising European laws and policies;

reiterates the need to fully implement the new instruments introduced by Law No 234 of 24 December 2012 which ensure continuous contacts between the Parliament and Government, with particular reference to Article 7(2) which states that the Prime Minister or competent Minister should communicate in good time to parliamentary bodies the reasons why adopted positions differ from the guidelines and observations made by the Chamber in the upstream phase;

points out that the forthcoming COSAC meeting in Rome should provide political support for the various forms of interparliamentary cooperation at European level, as it would promote, in the context of the current rules, further developments in political dialogue provided to national parliaments in order to strengthen the democratic legitimacy of the European Union integration process;

guarantees, with a view to applying Article 6 of Protocol No 2 annexed to the Treaties and the relevant provisions of Law No 234 of 24 December 2012, the involvement of the Legislative Assemblies of the regions and autonomous provinces in the upstream processes of participation in the formation of European law, bearing in mind the procedures in the Resolution approved by Senate Committee 14a on allocated dossier No 375 (Doc. XXIV, No 35), with a view to strengthening multi-level governance and possibly establishing a joint impact assessment committee;

points out in particular that the cooperation between the Senate Committee 14a and the Conference of the Presidents of the legislative assemblies of the regions and autonomous provinces could focus on impact assessments in regional sub-committees. Moreover, cooperation could be achieved through the participation of their own representatives in the work of COSAC;

lastly, it is considered advisable to organise 'European seminars' to raise awareness of specific policies and important institutional matters, based on subjects in the political dialogue with the European institutions and on impact assessments.

Resolution of Standing Committee 3a  
(FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND EMIGRATION)

(Rapporteur: ORELLANA)

22 October 2014

The Committee,

having examined documents COM (2014) 506 and COM (2014) 507 and taken note that the report on subsidiarity and proportionality, in examining the way in which the two principles have been applied by the various institutions and bodies of the European Union, underlines that in the course of 2013 the national parliaments presented 88 reasoned opinions and had different political interests and different priorities;

having also taken note of the fact that the institutions involved in the legislative process made every effort to guarantee monitoring of the principle of subsidiarity and that the Committee continued to conduct in-depth assessment of compliance with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality;

whereas the report on relations between the European Commission and the national parliaments indicated a considerable increase in the number of opinions received and in the written political dialogue in recent years;

having expressed its appreciation of the effective contribution that the Senate has made to the European institutions, having presented 36 opinions in 2013, two of which were reasoned opinions, which indicates that the sixth parliamentary assembly proved to be very active despite having to shut down for the election;

having expressed the hope that the national parliaments will play an increasing role in the political dialogue launched by the Commission to improve the exchange of information and opinions on political matters, legislative proposals and non-legislative initiatives;

whereas also there is a need for the European Commission and the other institutions to provide further opportunities for national parliaments to consult and confer, in particular on matters that are extremely relevant;

lastly, trusting that the Inter-Parliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security Defence Policy, which will be hosted by the Senate in Rome on 6 and 7 November, might provide an opportunity for national parliaments to contribute to boosting EU action in this domain; expresses a favourable opinion.