



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senato della Repubblica for its Opinion concerning the Commission's Annual Report 2013 on subsidiarity and proportionality {COM(2014) 506 final} and the Annual Report 2013 on relations between the European Commission and national Parliaments {COM(2014) 507 final}.

The Commission agrees with the Senato della Repubblica that the subsidiarity control mechanism and the political dialogue are important tools for ensuring effective cooperation between European institutions and national Parliaments and shares the view that the political dialogue has proven to be a success. The Commission also agrees that it is beneficial if national Parliaments participate in the pre-legislative phase by replying to public consultations, green papers and communications. To facilitate that process the Commission has set up a system to alert national Parliaments when public consultations are launched. The Commission notes, however, that so far very few national Parliaments make their views known in the pre-legislative phase.

The Commission shares the view of the Senato della Repubblica that the statement on the compliance of legislative proposals with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality is important for national Parliaments when carrying out their subsidiarity scrutiny. The Commission provides in the explanatory memorandum a justification of how the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality have been complied with. Providing a clear and comprehensible reasoning in this regard is something to which the new Commission will attach particular importance. The Commission would also like to emphasise that it is determined to put the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality at the heart of its better regulation agenda.

The Commission notes the Senato della Repubblica's intention to monitor the Commission's responses to its Opinions in order to evaluate the impact of views expressed by the Senato della Repubblica. The Commission strongly supports that national Parliaments follow initiatives all along the decision-making process. The Commission would however like to point out that given the complexity of the legislative

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process, the precise influence of each individual actor on the finally adopted text is often very difficult – if not impossible – to determine.

As stated in President Juncker's political guidelines and in his mission letters to the Commissioners, the Commission stands ready, when invited, to participate in direct dialogue with national Parliaments. In that regard the new Commission has made it a priority to strengthen the political dialogue, in particular by Commissioners visiting national Parliaments and discussing major legislative initiatives.

The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Senato della Repubblica and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*