

Summary of the committee's position

The Committee would like to bring to mind that the political dialogue between the Commission and Sweden takes place via the Government which is accountable to the Riksdag. It is only within the framework of the subsidiarity check mechanism that the Riksdag can – with the support of the treaties – communicate directly with the Commission. The Committee would like to underline that it is important that the national parliaments which, for constitutional reasons, do not have the opportunity to participate in the political dialogue, are not at a disadvantage. The Committee considers that it is positive that the national parliaments can consider and examine documents from the Union preceding legislative work, as this can contribute to more in-depth debate about cooperation in the Union within the member states.

The Committee notes that just over 15 per cent of all proposals that were sent to the national parliaments in 2014 for subsidiarity checks lacked justifications with regard to the principle of subsidiarity. In the opinion of the Committee, this constitutes a weakness in the Union's legislative process, for which the Commission is ultimately responsible. The Committee also stresses how important it is that the Commission takes into account the member states' opinions in its continued legislative work, in particular when a proposal leads to a yellow card being issued. Furthermore, the Committee would like to stress that it is important that subsidiarity checks by the national parliaments can be carried out before negotiations on the proposals are begun. If this does not occur, the system may lose legitimacy.

The examined documents

The Commission's Annual Report 2014 on Subsidiarity and Proportionality, COM (2015) 315.

The Commission's Annual Report 2014 on Relations between the European Commission and National Parliaments, COM (2015) 316.