



**HOUSE OF LORDS**  
European Union Committee

House of Lords  
London  
SW1A 0PW

Tel: 020 7219 8663  
Fax: 020 7219 6715  
roperj@parliament.uk  
www.parliament.uk/lords

Maroš Šefčovič,  
Commissioner for Inter-Institutional Relations  
and Administration,  
Rue de la Loi 200,  
1049 Brussels,  
Belgium

26 October 2011

*Dear Commissioner*

**COM (2011) 344: 2010 Annual Report from the Commission on  
Subsidiarity and Proportionality**

**COM (2011)345: 2010 Annual Report from the Commission on its  
relations with national parliaments**

The House of Lords EU Select Committee considered the Commission's two annual reports on subsidiarity and proportionality and on relations with national parliaments at its meetings on 12 July and 25 October respectively.

We welcome both reports as useful summaries of the developing relationship between the Commission and national parliaments in the wake of the Lisbon Treaty. The publication of the reports gives us the opportunity to take stock of the progress made so far in implementing the subsidiarity control mechanism and in the continuing development of the political dialogue under the Barroso initiative.

On the first report, on the subsidiarity control mechanism, we would stress the importance of an adequate and thorough assessment by the Commission of the consistency of legislative proposals with the subsidiarity principle.

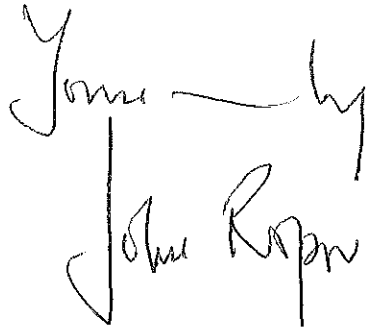
Turning to the second report, we attach equal importance to the quality of the Commission's responses to both reasoned opinions and other opinions which it receives from national parliaments. As you recall, this issue was discussed during the plenary debate at the recent COSAC meeting in Warsaw on 4 October. As I mentioned during my contribution, we were disappointed to receive what we

regarded as an unsatisfactory response to the reasoned opinion issued on 20 October 2010 by the House of Lords on the Seasonal Workers Directive. The response appeared to us to be a generic reply to the opinions issued by national parliaments and we expected to receive a reply specifically addressing the points made in our reasoned opinions.

We also find it particularly important that the Commission's responses address any of our reports' recommendations which fall within its responsibility. Our officials are always happy to discuss with their counterparts in the Commission those recommendations which fall to the Commission as well as or instead of the UK Government.

We hope that in future the Commission will endeavour to give substantive responses to individual parliaments, addressing the specific points they make. I was reassured by your response to the debate on 4 October, which indicated that you would take steps to ensure that this is always the case in future.

I am copying this letter to the Rt Hon David Lidington MP, Minister for Europe and Mr. William Cash MP, Chair of the Commons European Scrutiny Committee, Alistair Doherty, Clerk to the Commons European Scrutiny Committee and Les Saunders (Cabinet Office).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Roper', written in a cursive style.

The Rt Hon the Lord Roper  
Chairman of the Select Committee on the European Union