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FLASH

European Council meeting, 21-23 June 2007



A GREAT STEP FORWARD

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Le mot du coordinateur du Secrétariat Général

L'Union sur ses rails

Le Conseil européen a tenu ses promesses. L'accord négocié au bout de la nuit devrait remettre l'Union sur ses rails. La CIG doit encore mettre tout en musique et puis il y aura les ratifications.

La question des Parlements nationaux a été au centre du compromis. Respect de l'équilibre institutionnel et du droit d'initiative de la Commission, nouvelle forme de gouvernance participative: il est trop tôt pour évaluer l'importance politique que revêtira le nouveau mécanisme qui vient compléter et modifier le projet initial de Constitution.

L'heure est encore à l'information.

Le 29 juin 2007

Philippe GODTS
Secrétariat général de la Commission



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Results of the European Council meeting, 21-23 June 2007

National Parliaments will be given 8 instead of 6 weeks to give a reasoned opinion on compliance of draft legislative texts with the subsidiarity principle.

If a draft legislative act's compliance with this principle is contested by a simple majority of the votes allocated to National Parliaments, the Commission will have to maintain, amend or withdraw the act. If it chooses to maintain the draft, the Commission will have to justify its position by a means of a reasoned opinion.

A reasoned opinion of the Commission and the reasoned opinions of the NPs will be transmitted to the EU legislator, for consideration in the legislative procedure.

During the first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure, the legislator (Council and Parliament) will consider the compatibility of the legislative proposal with the principle of subsidiarity, taking particular account of the reasons expressed and shared by the majority of NPs as well as the reasoned opinion of the Commission.

If, by a majority of 55% of the members of the Council or a majority of the votes cast in the European Parliament, the legislator is of the opinion that the proposal is not compatible with the principle of subsidiarity, the legislative proposal will be abandoned.

Moreover, a new article on National Parliaments will be inserted into the EU Treaty, which will gather different provisions relating to National Parliaments.

A new Article on the role of national parliaments in the Union to be inserted into the EU Treaty

"National parliaments shall contribute actively to the good functioning of the Union:

a) through being informed by the institutions of the Union and having draft European legislative acts forwarded to them in accordance with the Protocol on the role of national parliaments in the European Union;

b) by seeing to it that the principle of subsidiarity is respected in accordance with the procedures provided for in the Protocol on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality;

c) by taking part, within the framework of the area of freedom, security and justice, in the evaluation mechanisms for the implementation of the Union policies in that area, in

accordance with Article [III-260], and through being involved in the political monitoring of Europol and the evaluation of Eurojust's activities in accordance with Articles [III-276 and III-273];

d) by taking part in the revision procedures of the Treaties, in accordance with Article [IV-443 and IV-444];

e) by being notified of applications for accession to the Union, in accordance with Article [49];

f) by taking part in the interparliamentary cooperation between national parliaments and with the European Parliament, in accordance with the Protocol on the role of national parliaments in the European Union."