

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for protocol on the role of national parliaments in the European Union

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DRAFT [PROTOCOL] ON THE ROLE OF NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES,

RECALLING that the way in which individual national parliaments scrutinise their own governments in relation to the activities of the Union is a matter for the particular constitutional organisation and practice of each Member State.

DESIRING, however, to encourage greater involvement of national parliaments in the activities of the European Union and to enhance their ability to express their views on matters which may be of particular interest to them.

HAVE AGREED UPON the following provisions, which shall be annexed to the Constitution:

I. ~~Information for Member States' national parliaments~~

1. All Commission consultation documents (green and white papers and communications) shall be forwarded directly by the Commission to Member States' national parliaments.
2. The Commission shall send all its proposals **and its amended proposals** for legislation directly to Member States' national parliaments at the same time as to the European Parliament and to the Council.
3. The Member States' national parliaments may send to the Presidents of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission a reasoned opinion on whether the Commission's legislative proposal complies with the principle of subsidiarity, according to the procedure laid down in the Protocol on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.

4. A six-week period shall elapse between a legislative proposal being made available by the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council and the Member States' national parliaments in their languages and the date when it is placed on a Council agenda for adoption or for adoption of a position under the legislative procedure set out in Article [X in Part II of the Treaty establishing a constitution for Europe], subject to exceptions on grounds of extreme urgency, the reasons for which shall be stated in the act or common position.
5. The agendas for and the outcome of Council meetings shall be transmitted directly to Member States' national parliaments.
6. The Commission shall send Member States' national parliaments, for information, any instrument of legislative planning or policy strategy that it submits to the European Parliament and to the Council, at the same time as to those institutions.
7. The Court of Auditors shall send its annual report to the Member States' national parliaments, for information, at the same time as to the European Parliament and to the Council.
8. The European Parliament and the national parliaments shall together examine how interparliamentary cooperation may be effectively promoted within the European Union.
9. The Conference of European Affairs Committees, set up on 16 and 17 November 1989, may submit any contribution it deems appropriate for the attention of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission. Such contributions shall in no way bind national parliaments or prejudge their position.

Explanation (if any) :

Paragraph 2:

The proposed paragraph 2 should be brought into line with paragraph 3 of the Protocol on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.

