



Cooperation between the National Parliaments and the European Parliament

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Proposals from the Folketing

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1. Subsidiarity and the Political Dialogue. Exchange of information

The Folketing finds that it could be useful to exchange information between National Parliaments and the European Parliament at an early stage and puts forward following initiatives for consideration:

1) To establish cooperation between National Parliaments/Chambers and the relevant committees in the European Parliament on draft legislative acts which raise problems in relation to subsidiarity, including exchange of informations as early in the process as possible, also during the 8 weeks period, which means that the committees in the European Parliament should refrain from voting on proposals in this period.

2) Extending the Political Dialogue with the Commission to the European Parliament and establish a (more or less) formalised cooperation between the specialised committees in national Parliaments and the relevant committees in the European Parliament - in this way opening up for a more specific cooperation on legislative proposals at a time before decisions are taken in the parliaments.

2. Interparliamentary meetings

The Folketing finds that we need a reform of the meetings between National Parliaments, especially the meetings co-organised with the European Parliament. Organisation of Joint Parliamentary Meetings and Joint Committee Meetings takes a long time and the result of these meetings are often difficult to see.

If a committee in the European Parliament wants to talk to relevant committees in national Parliaments on a specific proposal before the adoption in the committee it should be possible for the committee to do so within the time at its disposal. Today procedures make this almost impossible.

The Folketing finds that the organisation of meetings should be rationalised in a way that allows for calling meetings within a short time frame (a few weeks or less) in order to be able to react to political issues or influence draft EU legislation. The possibility of using new technologies should be made more concrete (time for preparation, number of participants, interpretation etc.)

The Folketing proposes that the Speakers' Conference on the basis of a report from the Secretaries General decides

- which interparliamentary meetings (and not just the meetings arranged in cooperation with the European Parliament) shall be arranged on a regular basis,
- format(s) of organisation for other (not regular) meetings which are held on an ad-hoc basis according to the political situation, and
- possibilities of an on-going political dialogue between the national Parliaments and the European Parliament: Networks of specialised committees, structured information exchange before and after adoption of legislative acts (first reading agreements etc.) and on other questions of common interest (foreign and security policy, Europol, Eurojust etc.).

In general the Folketing finds it more useful to arrange meetings (physically or electronically) about important legislative proposals rather than on more general political topics where it can be difficult to see the need and results of the meetings.

The possibility of influence should be the key for a more concrete cooperation between parliaments.

It is important for the Folketing to emphasize that we do not see the competences for national Parliaments in the Lisbon Treaty as a negative influence, trying to stop legislative proposals, but as a means to take part in the decisions in areas where national parliaments may have special competences and possibilities of influence (i.e. in relation to their own government) and in this way giving the adoption of EU legislation a double democratic legitimacy.