



„Raising national European Awareness“

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Information about discussions on Annual Policy Strategy and Commission Legislative and Work Programme

Department for European Affairs
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Introduction

In order to eliminate the so-called democratic deficit and strengthen the role of national parliaments in the European Union's decision-making processes, the national parliaments increasingly participate in the Annual Policy Strategy (APS) and Commission Legislative and Work Programme (CLWP) scrutiny procedure.

From the conclusions of the EU Speakers Conference held in Copenhagen follows that the Speakers of parliaments invited the national parliaments to scrutinize the Annual Policy Strategy and consult their conclusions with the Commission. Speakers of parliaments also encouraged the national parliaments to proceed with the experiment of holding a coinciding debate on the Commission Legislative and Work Programme within one month of its publication; however with respect to do so in a way enabling national parliaments to conduct the discussion in a form that appeals to their citizens. Speakers of parliaments also invited the Secretaries General to consider special arrangements to enable the Commission to present the EU Annual Policy Strategy and Commission Legislative and Work Programme in national parliaments during 2007.

During the meeting of the representatives of parliaments forming the Troika of the EU Speakers Conference¹ in November 2006 (Bratislava, the Slovak Republic) it was agreed that the Slovak Parliament prepares, for a March meeting of Secretaries General, an information document on the course of the debates on the Annual Policy Strategy and Commission Legislative and Work Programme in national parliaments and also on national parliaments' activities towards raising European national awareness during 2006. After consultations with the Danish Parliament a questionnaire consisting of three chapters was forwarded to all involved parliaments:

Chapter 1 dealing with the Commission Legislative and Work Programme,

Chapter 2 related to the activities of national parliaments aimed to raising European citizens' awareness during 2006 and

Chapter 3 concerning the Annual Policy Strategy scrutiny process.

¹ The meeting was attended by the representatives of EU chairing countries: the German Bundestag and Bundesrat and the Finnish Parliament.

The questionnaire was sent to national parliaments on January 22, 2007, asking the parliaments to send their responses till February 15, 2007. However, the answers sent by any parliaments past this deadline were incorporated into the report² as well.

Thirty national parliaments were addressed (i.e., 27 EU Member States and three candidate countries) along with the European Parliament. By the end of February 2007, the Slovak Parliament had received answers from 35 parliamentary chambers (representing 23 countries), including the report from the Turkish Parliament which stated that, as a candidate country not yet being a direct participant to the EU legislative procedure, they consider the issues concerning the APS and CLWP irrelevant for them.

From among the addressed parliaments/parliamentary chambers, the following replied to the questionnaire:

Austria - Nationalrat, Bundesrat ; **Belgium** - Chambre des Représentants, Sénat ; **Cyprus** - Vouli Antiprosopon; **The Czech Republic** - Poslanecká snemovna, Senát; **Denmark** – Folketinget; **Estonia** – Riigikogu; **Finland** – Eduskunta; **France** - Assemblée Nationale, Sénat; **Germany** - Bundestag, Bundesrat; **Greece** - Vouli Ton Ellinon; **Ireland** - Houses of the Oireachtas; **Italy** - Camera dei Deputati, Senato della Repubblica; **Lithuania** – Seimas ; **Luxemburg** - Chambre des Députés ; **Malta** – Il-Kamra Tad-Deputati; **The Netherlands** - Tweede Kamer, Eerste Kamer; **Poland** - Sejm, Senat; **Portugal** - Assembleia da República; **Romania** - Camera Deputatilor, Senatul; **The Slovak Republic** - Národná rada Slovenskej Republiky; **Slovenia** - Državni Zbor, Državni Svet; **Sweden** – Riksdagen; **Turkey** - Türkiye Büyük Millet Meclisi and **The United Kingdom** - House of Commons, House of Lords.

Unfortunately, the answers from the following parliaments/parliament chambers were not obtained:

The European Parliament; **Croatia** – Hrvatski Sabor; **Hungary** – Országgyűlés; **Latvia** – Saeima and **Spain** – Congreso de los Diputados, Senado.

Based on the gathered answers, the following report has been prepared concerning the CLWP and APS discussions progress in national parliaments, as well as the activities of national parliaments towards raising the European national awareness. The answers of national parliaments/parliamentary chambers to the questionnaire form an annex attached hereto.

² With the exception of the responses from the Bulgarian National Assembly (sent on March 7, 2007) and the Maltese House of Representatives (sent on April 9, 2007), received after the questionnaire's summary completion date and therefore not reflected herein.

1.

COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE AND WORK PROGRAMME

1.1. OVERALL ASPECTS

First of all, we will consider the overall aspects. Most EU member countries that delivered³ the answers to the questionnaire "Raising National European Awareness" find the 2007 Commission Legislative and Work Programme (hereinafter referred to as "the 2007 CLWP") improved in comparison to the 2006 Commission Legislative and Work Programme (hereinafter referred to as "the 2006 CLWP"). The most valued by the national parliaments was the fact that the 2007 CLWP was translated into all EU official languages, including the annexes, which were subsequently submitted for debate to the national parliaments. In the 2007 CLWP, the member countries stressed that the structure of the document was brief, clear and transparent. The 2007 CLWP is connected to the tasks arising from the Commission's "Strategic Objectives 2005-2009" and defines a number of particular steps (the so-called 21 strategy initiatives, forming a basis of the Commission's activity in 2007), as well as the priorities to be adopted during the next 18 months. Compared to the 2006 CLWP, all these initiatives are described in more detail. For instance, this progress is particularly welcomed by the Italian Senate, since this was criticised at the EU Speakers Conference held in Copenhagen in 2006. Some national parliaments (e.g., the Dutch Senate, the Cypriot House of Representatives) still consider the 2007 CLWP to be too general. The important objectives set out in the document by the Commission are too broad and vague. They also point out that the 2007 CLWP lacks a reference to the subsidiarity and proportionality principle, as well as the estimated publication date of individual drafts by the Commission. On the other hand, although Austria sees no improvement in the 2007 CLWP document, it does not consider it inferior. In relation to the 2007 CLWP, the House of Commons (the United Kingdom) has not observed any particular improvements either.

1.2. TIME FRAMEWORK

The second chapter of the questionnaire deals with the **time aspect**. The EU Speakers Conference held in Copenhagen between June 29 and July 2, 2006, adopted conclusions asking national parliaments to scrutinize the CLWP within one month of its publication by the Commission. The time frame of one month for scrutiny process of the CLWP was supported by a number of member countries (15). However, the one month term should start from the publication date of the CLWP in all the EU official languages. The CLWP should then be discussed in the national parliaments as soon as possible following its publication. The House of Lords (the United Kingdom) supported a

³ In aggregate, the questionnaire was answered by 22 European Union member countries.

synchronization of the discussion on annual EU documents, even though, it is very difficult to put this in practice from a feasibility point of view. The start deadline for scrutiny process of the CLWP by the national parliaments (end of the calendar year) is not acceptable for Italy and Portugal, since their MPs discuss the next year's budget in this period. The Italian proposal to postpone the discussions to January – February of the next year following the publication of the CLWP is in contradiction with the practices of the Lithuanian Parliament, which holds no sessions during the first two months of a year. Some parliaments proposed a more flexible timeframe, possibly an extension of the one-month period to six (the Netherlands, the Slovak Republic) or even eight (the Czech Republic) weeks. According to Luxembourg, in order for national parliaments to review the CLWP, a broader timeframe is needed. The Member States disagreeing with the one-month period pointed out the limited opportunity for national parliaments to engage in the consultation process, the review of proposals and associated documents, as well as a detailed discussion on the content of the CLWP (Ireland). According to five respondents (the Senate of the Belgian Parliament, the German Bundesrat, both Houses of the Irish Parliament, the Estonian Riigikog), the timeframe for the CLWP discussions should be determined by each individual national parliament, regarding its parliamentary convention, traditions and other practice in use. The French Senate pointed out the fact that during the 2006 CLWP debate in the plenary session of the European Parliament only 50 MEPs were present. It is necessary to think about the cause of such circumstances.

1.3. FORM OF DISCUSSIONS

As far as the third part of the Chapter 1 of the Questionnaire is concerned, i.e., the **form of discussions of the 2007 Commission Legislative and Work Programme** in the chambers of the national parliaments of EU Member States, our first conclusion is that (*out of the overall number of 35 answers from the chambers of the national parliaments representing thus the 22 EU Member States, including Slovakia*) the overwhelming majority of the chambers debated on the 2007 CLWP only in the respective “European”⁴ Committee [*this expression also includes a joint meeting of the European Affairs Committee and Foreign Affairs Committee (e.g. Seimas, Lithuania) or meeting of the joint European Affairs Committee of both chambers of the bicameral parliament (e.g. Houses of the Oireachtas, Ireland)*]. We find it quite surprising that only a few chambers deliberated on the 2007 CLWP within a plenary [e.g., the National Council of the Slovak Republic, the National Council of the Republic of Slovenia, the Sejm and the Senate of the Republic of Poland, the Italian Chamber of Deputies, the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of The Netherlands, the Nationalrat and Bundesrat of Austria, the Portuguese

⁴ - The expression “European Committee” is generally used to refer to the “European Affairs Committee” (e.g., National Council of the Slovak Republic) or to the “EU Affairs Committee” (e.g., National Assembly of the Slovenian Republic).

Parliament (Assembleia de República)]. The fact that the 2007 CLWP was debated on only in the European Committee was justified by some of the chambers due to a tense agenda of the parliamentary session schedule (e.g., Seimas, Lithuania); others reasoned by the fact that the CLWP is debated (and/or was debated) in the European Committee and therefore not in the plenary [e.g., the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia, the German Bundestag, the Finnish Eduskunta, the Swedish Riksdag, the Cypriot House of Representatives, the Belgian Chamber of Representatives and the Senate, the Luxembourg Chamber of Deputies, the Dutch Senate, the French National Assembly⁵ and Senate, the House of Lords of the United Kingdom Parliament, the Irish Parliament (the Houses of the Oireachtas), the Hellenic Parliament]. Other chambers (such as the Danish Folketinget) did not hold a debate on the 2007 CLWP at all. The House of Commons of the United Kingdom in 2007 (as opposed to the previous practice) decided not to scrutinize the 2007 CLWP, but the 2008 Annual Policy Strategy instead. Let us finish this point with the “freshman”; in light of the preparations for the EU entry (but also with regard to the administrative reasons), the bicameral Romanian Parliament did not debate on the 2007 CLWP at all⁶.

In relation to the **involvement of the other sectoral committees in the 2007 CLWP discussions**, it could be noted that, at first sight, the group stating such an involvement of the other sectoral committees slightly prevails. However, some of these chambers refer to a cooperation with only one sectoral committee – the Foreign Affairs Committee (see example of the Chamber of Representatives and the Senate of the Belgian Parliament). Other chambers leave the decision to participate up to the sectoral committees (e.g., the Swedish Riksdag or the National Council of the Republic of Slovenia). In principle, however, many parliaments submit the CLWP for discussion to the other (sectorally competent) committees (e.g., the Finnish Eduskunta, the Austrian Nationalrat and Bundesrat, the Lithuanian Seimas, the German Bundestag, both chambers of the Parliament of Ireland (the Houses of the Oireachtas), the Portuguese Parliament (Assembleia de República). The House of Commons (as well as the House of Lords⁷) of the United Kingdom differs from other parliaments, since it applies a slightly modified approach: it does not explicitly refer to an involvement of these committees in the discussions; however, the sectoral committees have their space for a more detailed scrutiny of the CLWP (based on their professional competence) following the CLWP scrutiny by the

⁵ - However, it was noted by the French National Assembly that the scrutiny by the committee/s in respect of the 2007 CLWP was not yet completed (or not even commenced /“non encore examiné“/).

⁶ - It is worth noting that the Senate of the Romanian Republic consider it appropriate (following the solution of the administrative capacity) that, in addition to the European Committee, the CLWP should be debated on by parliamentary political groups’ leaders and the standing committees chairpersons together with senior government officials and representatives of the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

⁷ - There is no typical (“extensive”) sectoral committee system established within the House of Lords of the United Kingdom. Its European Committee consists of seven sub-committees, each being responsible for a particular (professional) agenda. Each of the above mentioned seven sub-committees was engaged in the 2007 CLWP discussions.

European Committee contained in the committee report (extended by specialized annexes). A slightly smaller group of chambers debated on the 2007 CLWP in the European Committee only; for example the National Council of the Slovak Republic, the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia, the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, the Sejm and Senate of the Republic of Poland, the Senate of the French Parliament, the Parliament of the Hellenic Republic, the German Bundesrat and the Dutch Senate. This group also includes a specific example worth mentioning: in the Estonian Riigikogu it is only the European Committee that debates on the 2007 CLWP; despite this fact, the 2007 CLWP was electronically distributed by the European Committee to the secretariats of all other sectoral committees in Riigikogu.

As far as the **nature of sessions** of the European Committee is concerned (in relation to the 2007 CLWP), we detected two unusually equally divided groups of parliaments which deliberated on the 2007 CLWP, either at an open session (the National Council of the Slovak Republic, the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Czech Republic, the National Assembly and the National Council of the Republic of Slovenia, the Sejm and the Senate of the Republic of Poland, the Seimas of the Lithuanian Republic, the House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus and the Italian Chamber of Deputies, the House of Lords and the House of Commons of the Parliament of Ireland, the Hellenic Parliament, the Belgian Chamber of Representatives and the Senate, the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Netherlands, the Nationalrat of the Austrian Republic, the Portuguese Parliament) or at a closed⁸ session (the Estonian Riigikogu, the Italian and the French Senate, the Finnish and Swedish Parliament, the German Bundestag and Bundesrat, the Chamber of Deputies of the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg, the Dutch Senate, the House of Commons of the United Kingdom Parliament).

In relation to the **presence of government** (and/or government officials) **at sessions of the committee dealing with the 2007 CLWP**, it could be concluded that only a small number of the European Committees do not insist on having government officials present at sessions (examples include the Czech House of Representatives, the Slovenian National Council, the Estonian Riigikogu, the Cypriot House of Representatives, French, Finnish and Swedish Parliaments and the House of Commons of the United Kingdom); all other

⁸ - In connection with non-public sessions of the European Committee dealing with the 2007 CLWP, we noticed that, for instance, Estonian MPs conduct the debates within closed formats not only at the European Committee, but also at (regular) sessions of the sectoral committees of Riigikogu. The same applies to both chambers of the German Parliament: both European Committees (in the Bundestag as well as in the Bundesrat) have non-public sessions; however, the sessions of other sectoral committees of the Bundestag are also closed to the public. A similar practice is applied by the Austrian Parliament: the sectoral committees of the Federal Council have non-public sessions. It seems the same also applies to the committees of the National Council of Austria; however, as far as the CLWP debate in the National Council of Austria is concerned (government reports on various parts of CLWP), those sessions are open to public.

chambers more or less consider obvious the fact that the government submits (and substantiates) the CLWP. (For instance, also through its Permanent Representative to the EU in Brussels, as it illustrates the example of both chambers of the Belgian Parliament)

The question of whether the **Rules of Procedure of the relevant chamber allows (potential) participation of the Member of the European Parliament and/or the European Commission at a session of the European Committee dealing with the 2007 CLWP** was answered with various types of responses. None of the chambers state the possibility of the presence of only a Commission member (which was not surprising). The prevailing majority of the parliaments state the possibility for “both” (i.e., the EP as well as the European Commission). However, in this respect, it is necessary to note that many of these chambers refer to the requirement of the invitation of the committee chairman, which is to open the door to the European Committee for the EP as well as the European Commission members. (In relation hereto, let us sum up that the chairman of the European Affairs Committee of the National Council of the Slovak Republic does not invite the EP members based on a separate invitation; this right for the MEPs is directly derived from the Rules of Procedure of the National Council of the Slovak Republic). The periphery is represented by chambers stating that their Rules of Procedure do not include specific provisions regarding the participation of such representatives (those include the Danish Folketinget, Bundesrat of the German Parliament and the Dutch Senate). Also, in this part, it is worth mentioning the example of the German Bundestag and the Chamber of Deputies and Senate of the Belgian Kingdom, since the MEPs elected for relevant states are the members of the European Committees as well, whereas they have a consultant position in the Bundestag, as opposed to Belgium, where full membership status takes place (in the Belgian Senate together with Senate members).

As regards the question of **which (concerned) subjects are allowed to participate in the 2007 CLWP discussions in the committee**, it could be concluded that the prevailing majority of the chambers allow for a certain form of participation. Only a smaller number of the chambers do not allow for participation of these subjects at committee sessions; e.g., the French National Assembly and Senate, the Danish Folketinget, the Hellenic Parliament, the German Bundesrat⁹, the Chamber of Deputies of the Luxembourg Parliament, and both chambers¹⁰ of the Dutch Parliament. In the case of the Dutch Senate, a much more interesting fact appears to be that the committee chairman is proactive, and initiated the gathering of comments on the 2007 CLWP by a

⁹ - It was expressly noted by the Bundesrat that this is not feasible, since the Federal Council consists of federal states (i.e., “Länder”).

¹⁰ - However, it was stated by the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of the Netherlands that, although the specified subjects are not allowed to take part in a committee session, the subjects in question may, for instance, forward their 2007 CLWP comments in writing.

professionally involved public. Viewing the first (larger) group, we see the opportunity (by means of a presentation) for the representatives of the second chamber (in case of bicameral parliaments). However, many chambers agreed on the possibility to practically invite anyone to the committee session dealing with the 2007 CLWP, if the committee considers it necessary (e.g., the House of Commons of the United Kingdom, the German Bundestag, the Finnish Eduskunta, the Estonian Riigikogu, the Swedish Riksdag, the Belgian Senate, the Polish Sejm and Senate). The House of Representatives of the Czech Republic enables a presentation at the session of the European Committee on the CLWP to any out of the defined subjects. The Senate of the Czech Republic is likewise accommodating, going even further beyond its lower chamber. That is, it allows all defined subjects any form of participation, i.e., not only passive participation (hearing), but also an active form (presentation), as well as the form of written comments. The only potential problem noted by the Senate in this respect is of a technical nature. A similar accommodating approach could be seen in the Irish Parliament as well (the Houses of the Oireachtas). Also, the extensive approach of the Cypriot House of Representatives is too, appealing; in practice, it has no limits for any of the defined subjects in terms of their participation at the European Committee session dealing with the 2007 CLWP. However, it concludes that none were present at the 2007 CLWP committee session (in other words “none were invited”), which proves that more or less everywhere (except for Czech practices), an invitation by the committee chairman to other subjects shall be necessary in relation to a CLWP session.

In order to answer the question **whether (and if so, which) other professionally concerned subjects are allowed to take part in the 2007 CLWP discussions held at the plenary session in parliament**, our first conclusion can, to some extent, be useful. We previously concluded that only a few chambers debated on the 2007 CLWP within the plenary session¹¹. Within this limited number of chambers, a further selection was made, resulting in the

¹¹ - It was impossible to come to a definite conclusion, for instance, in the case of the House of Representatives of the Czech Republic, which stated in the questionnaire that the 2007 CLWP was discussed by it only at the European Committee session (therefore, not within a parliament plenary session). In another section of the questionnaire, however, it was stated by the House of Representatives of the Czech Republic that it is allowed by the plenary of the House of Representatives of the Czech Republic discussing the 2007 CLWP to grant passive participation to the second chamber representatives, representatives of regional and local municipalities, NGOs, trade union representatives and associations of entrepreneurs. Other examples were given by the Senate of the Czech Republic. The answers by the Senate show that the 2007 CLWP was debated in its European Committee as well. As regards the opportunity for other concerned subjects to take part in the plenary session discussions (regarding the 2007 CLWP), the following general answer was given: “in general, the Senate’s Rules of Procedures allow participation of any party, provided it is approved by the Senate.” We therefore assume that, in theory, anyone could take part at a CLWP Senate session; however, as regards the 2007 CLWP discussions, no plenary session of the Czech Senate took place in this respect, and it was only discussed by its European Committee. Also, the example of the German Bundestag is interesting, according to which on one hand it is concluded that the German Federal Parliament submitted the 2007 CLWP to its European Committee as well as to another 15 sectoral committees; on the other hand, it is not so clear whether the 2007 CLWP will also be debated (or has already been debated) by the Bundestag within the plenary. /However, we have been generally informed that only second chamber representatives may take part in a Bundestag plenary session – i.e., the Bundesrat representatives. Since the scrutiny process within the Bundestag has not yet been completed, we are unable to provide a definitive conclusion.

conclusion that there are only a few parliaments placing no obstacles for participation of defined subjects at a 2007 CLWP plenary session (going beyond even the defined frame, including the participation of the academics or media (the Portuguese Parliament). In relation to Portuguese practice, only the form of participation is restricted (obviously, only passive participation is permitted). The National Council and Federal Council of the Austrian Parliament allows a participation (opportunity to make a presentation is mentioned by the National Council; only passive participation is permitted by the Federal Council) of the regional and local municipality representatives. As far as other chambers are concerned, only lawmakers themselves are allowed at the 2007 CLWP plenary session. This group includes the Sejm of the Republic of Poland, the Italian Chamber of Deputies, the National Council of the Republic of Slovenia and the Dutch House of Representatives. The particular provisions of the Rules of Procedure are explicitly quoted by the Senate of Poland, based on which the guests to the plenary session are invited by the speaker of the house or the Senate's Presidium. The above-mentioned most likely applies also to the CLWP session by the Senate of Poland as such.

1.4. COOPERATION WITH GOVERNMENT/EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The scope of chapter four of the questionnaire was **cooperation with the government and the European Commission**. To all the EU member countries having taken part in the survey on the "Raising National European Awareness", except for six countries (Denmark, France, Luxembourg, Sweden, Cyprus, Estonia), national governments delivered their opinion to the 2007 CLWP. Only the Danish Folketinget did not scrutinize the 2007 CLWP at all. In Ireland, on the basis of the relevant legislation, each minister having responsibility for a legislative/non-legislative act presented by the EC is obliged to inform both Houses of the Irish Parliament without delay about its content, purpose and possible implications. It is, however, not clear from the answer of the Irish Parliament whether this was also the case of the Irish government officials in relation to the 2007 CLWP. In Belgium, the government opinion is delivered to the Senate of the Belgian Parliament through the Permanent Representative to the EU. Four national governments sent their 2007 CLWP opinions to their parliaments upon their own initiative. In addition to the Hellenic Parliament, those included the upper chambers of the German and the United Kingdom Parliaments and the lower chamber of the Dutch Parliament. The procedure, based on a legal arrangement of the relations between the parliament and the government, was applied by seven national parliaments (lower chambers of the German, Czech, Polish Slovenian and United Kingdom Parliaments, as well as both chambers of the Austrian Parliament). The opinion was provided by the government upon a parliament's request or a request of the European Committee to six respondents (both chambers of the Belgian Parliament, upper chambers of

the Dutch, Polish and Slovenian Parliaments, as well as the National Council of the Slovak Republic). Eight of the delivered responses were not possible to be clearly classified due to the fact that those included several proposed answers at the same time and were not explicit with respect to the 2007 CLWP. Those included the Finnish Eduskunta, which quoted the Constitution, Art. 97, allowing the government to send documents on its own initiative, as well as the right of the parliament to ask such documents. It was stated by Ireland, Portugal and the Senate of the Czech Republic that the government opinion is acquired by the parliament on the basis of legal arrangements of relations between the government and the parliament, as well as upon parliament's request. A combination of the government's own initiative, a legal arrangement of relations between the government and the parliament, as well as a parliament's request for delivery of the opinion to the 2007 CLWP by the government, was stated by the Italian legislative body. The Lithuanian Government is not legally obliged to deliver the opinion to the CLWP to the parliament; however, it has recently (2005) become a common practice of the CLWP scrutiny in Lithuania that the committees of the Lithuanian Seimas request the presentation of the government's opinion to the CLWP. The German Federal Government has a specific position, since its obligation to inform the Bundestag with regard to the EU affairs results from the Constitution.

The question **“on what kind of basis does the government deliver to the national parliament its opinion to the 2007 CLWP”** was not answered by six countries (Denmark, France, Luxembourg, Sweden, Cyprus and Estonia). The priorities of individual EU member countries were mentioned in the national government opinions to the 2007 CLWP in fourteen cases. The Permanent Representative to the EU has the opportunity to present the Belgian Government's priorities orally to the Senate during a presentation of the CLWP in the Senate. It is not mentioned whether he actually did so within the discussion of the 2007 CLWP. In its “Explanatory memorandum” submitted to the House of Lords, the Government of the United Kingdom welcomed the focus of the European Commission on employment, growth and better regulation. Support of any European Commission's policy is, however, not considered to be an expression of government's priorities. The Lithuanian Government and Seimas consider the EC's instruments expressed in the annexes highly significant. The Seimas adopted the 2007 CLWP extract submitted by the government in the form of “Summarized Priorities of Lithuania in the EU Policies for 2007”. The Slovenian National Assembly annually discusses a report related to the membership of Slovenia in the EU, including Slovenia's priorities with respect to EU activities and policies. Slovenian priorities are set out by the Slovenian Government on the basis of the CLWP. The National Assembly is empowered to change the defined government priorities. The priorities were not specified by the national governments in thirteen cases (the German Bundestag, the House of Commons of the United Kingdom Parliament, the Czech and Polish Senates, the Slovenian National Assembly, both chambers

of the French and Italian Parliament, the Finnish, Swedish, Cypriot and Estonian Parliament). Four legislative bodies failed to answer the question of the national government priorities definition with respect to the 2007 CLWP. In general, the national parliaments do not invite an EC Representative to the 2007 CLWP discussions with respect to the opportunity of having the CLWP presented by himself/herself, with an exception of seven parliaments (the Slovak Parliament, the lower chamber of the Belgian Parliament, the Dutch and Italian Parliament, the Irish Parliament – both chambers, the Portuguese Parliament and the Polish Senate). This year, Portugal didn't invite the European Commission's Representative to its CLWP discussions; however, the Director of the Portuguese Representation to the EC is usually invited to the CLWP session. In the Slovenian National Assembly as well as in the Estonian Parliament, the 2007 CLWP was presented by a representative of the European Commission's Representation in the Member State in question. The Polish Senate sent an official invitation to the European Commission for the 2007 CLWP session in the parliament. No answer from the Commission was received and no Commission's representative took part in the session. According to the Finnish Parliament, the 2007 CLWP did not raise a sufficient interest to deserve a participation of an EC's representative in the session.

1.5. CONCLUSION OF DISCUSSIONS

The fifth part of the Chapter 1 of the Questionnaire deals with the results of 2007 CLWP discussions in the national parliaments of the EU Member States. Taking into account the parliaments which answered the questions posed, it is reasonable to conclude that there is no single form of CLWP discussions prevailing in quantity over other forms. With regards to the question **what form of conclusions do 2007 CLWP discussions have in your parliament/committee**, the parliaments which adopt resolutions form relatively the largest group. Other forms stated include, for instance, assessment paper (Cyprus), official report (Belgium - Senate), notice (Germany - Bundesrat), opinion (Slovenia), and conclusions (Poland). It was stated by some parliaments that such a form is not determined, or that no document with a specific form results from such discussion. Another type of result is, for instance, the report of the European Committee including the opinions of the parliament's sectoral committees (Portugal) – this is submitted to the plenary and is published together with the plenary debate in the Journal of the Assembly of the Republic. For instance, Finland stated that the above-mentioned plenary debates are open-ended, since it is impossible to submit the draft amendments or supplements to the CLWP or negotiate its content; therefore, it would be problematic to substantiate the formal conclusions.

Nor did the parliaments reach clear unification in respect of the **issue of submission of parliament session conclusions to the government**. Certain number of parliaments do not submit these conclusions to the government at all:

for instance, Finland stated that, since all of its European Committee conclusions¹² are in the form of instructions to the government, it is irrelevant to request the government to conduct any steps with respect to an internal document of the European Commission such as the CLWP. On the other hand, it has been stated by The Netherlands (Senate) that no such thing exists as direct delegation of any session result to the government; however, in case the respective committee responsible for a subsidiarity check¹³ detects a violation, these findings are then relayed to the government, so the feedback towards the government is more or less intermittent. Several types of documents have then been repeatedly listed as forms of feedback of the parliament to the government – resolution, parliamentary document, the Senate Speaker's letter, and opinion. It was specified by some of the parliaments (e.g., Greece, Poland) that the member/s of the government are present in the parliament specifically for the session on a given issue and therefore this represents “the most direct“ form of notifying the government of a session outcome. Another form is the already mentioned publication of the European Committee report including the opinions of the parliament’s sectoral committees, and the plenary debate in the Journal of the Assembly of the Republic, by which outcomes are made available to the government as well.

Approximately half of the respondents responded to the question of **delegation of the 2007 CLWP parliament session conclusions to the European Commission** in such a way that no such conclusions are delegated to the Commission. The forms of communication with the Commission listed in this section include expedition of the Senate Speaker’s letter, and expedition of the resolution or official letter or communication via IPEX (France - Senate). Other options include expedition of the report to the Commission to those legislative proposals listed in the CLWP, which are especially significant for a given country or publication of the CLWP debate outcomes in the Journal of the Assembly of the Republic available to the Commission.

1.6. SPECIFIC CHALLENGES

The sixth chapter includes the sole question “**which one of the following should play the central role in the coordination of the scrutiny of the CLWP at EU level**”. From among the given options (COSAC, EU Speakers Conference, other entity), the highest amount of respondents opted for COSAC. It was mentioned in some of the answers that coordination is not necessary in their opinion (Belgium - Senate, Finland), but if the responsible entity is to be determined, it would be COSAC. In one of the answers, it was noted that the report on the discussion about this issue should subsequently be forwarded to the EU Speakers Conference. The minority of answers favoured the EU Speakers

¹² - the so-called “Grand Committee”

¹³ the States-General Temporary Committee on the Subsidiarity Check

Conference, while again, one of those included a note that the coordination is not necessary; however, should a need arise, this forum should be used. In other answers forming another minority, it was expressed that both the COSAC and the EU Speakers Conference should be responsible for coordination of this agenda. One answer included suggested notification via IPEX, and eventual assessment within COSAC (France - Senate).

In relation to this part of the chapter of the questionnaire, it is appropriate to note that the EU Speakers Conference (Copenhagen, June 2006) asked the following presidency (National Council of the Slovak Republic) to establish a working group in order to review the options for improvement of inter-parliamentary cooperation. This Working Group on Interparliamentary Cooperation prepared a separate questionnaire which, in one of its chapters, also dealt with the role of COSAC and the EU Speakers Conference in relation to CLWP and APS discussions at the Member States level. The draft report¹⁴ prepared in connection with the results of this questionnaire indicates that a significant majority of respondents consider it most appropriate if CLWP discussions are subject to individual procedure by individual national parliaments, although a certain amount of parliamentary chambers favour a collective approach. COSAC is viewed by a significant number of respondents as the most appropriate forum for any type of joint discussion regarding either the CLWP or the APS. The above-mentioned work group considers these preferences as logically substantiated, since COSAC has statutory power to adopt the political conclusions and address the same to EU institutions. Based on the conclusions of the above-mentioned report by the Working Group on Interparliamentary Cooperation, the timeframe for holding individual COSAC conferences and the existence of its Secretariat make this forum the most appropriate place for COSAC to fulfil the coordination tasks for individually acting parliaments and to organise joint actions concerning these Commission documents.

¹⁴ FINAL DRAFT REPORT OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION IMPROVEMENT WORK GROUP – status as of 27 February 2007.

2.

WHAT HAS YOUR PARLIAMENT/PARLIAMENT CHAMBER DONE IN 2006 IN ORDER TO BRING THE EU CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS?

The national parliament/parliament chambers' activities devoted to bringing the EU closer to the citizens of their countries could be divided according to their target groups and the means used to carry out these activities.

Target groups

As far as the target groups are concerned, all the parliaments focused primarily on youth, pupils and students. The MPs visited schools, took part in discussions at various forums and at the same time invited pupils and students to their parliaments, where they were informed about their activities related to the EU. The invitation of students to the 35th session of COSAC held in Vienna is a good example of an interesting action. Currently, a large conference regarding Europe's future is being prepared by the Dutch Senate for MPs and students of Dutch and Belgian universities. In connection with the 50th Anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, many parliaments are preparing youth and student competitions as well.

Most parliaments are involved in traditional events such as "Spring Day in Europe", "European Week" and "Youth European Parliament".

Spring Day in Europe is an annual project on democracy and citizenship, where young people are educated and express their opinions on European issues. Spring Day in Europe 2006 was held between March 21 and May 9, 2006. Its theme was "We Discuss Our Future" and was focused mainly on Plan D.

Various events took place at schools throughout Europe, such as sessions and meetings with specialists (MPs of national parliaments, members of the EP, EU personalities, local authorities, etc.), online discussions, debates among students from various regions and countries, European days, European markets and others.

In 2006, the **European Week** was held for already the 12th time between May 5 and May 14, 2006 with the slogan of "I Am Europe". This event is held in all the EU member countries and its goal is to bring EU action closer through various events to all citizens regardless of their age.

European Youth Parliament (EYP) was founded in 1987 and today consists of 32 national youth organizations and associations in the EU member countries. The main mission of the national EYP branches is to spread information about the EU, winning secondary schools for cooperation and selection of delegations for the international EYP sessions. These are held three

times a year in various EU countries. Their mission is to truly copy the work of the European Parliament procedure-wise, enhanced by a wide range of accompanying events and programmes.

Further activities were devoted to the professional public. Many parliaments organized seminars and conferences regarding sectoral issues such as the European Technology Institute, equality of opportunities, free movement of citizens, entry into the Eurozone, energy policy, the Lisbon Strategy, Europass and others.

The third group is represented by associations and NGOs participating in various forms in the above-mentioned events. In Poland, for instance, the Polish Institute for Foreign Affairs was a co-organizer of a series of discussions on European cooperation. In Italy, NGOs took part in professional investigation forums concerning issues relating to the EU agenda. In the Netherlands and in the Slovak Republic, they took part in commenting on the 2007 Commission Legislative and Work Programme.

Means

Concerning the means of communication with citizens, the first method was the Internet. All parliaments strived to improve their websites, many of those created new websites or new sections of the original websites (e.g., the Dutch Senate created special pages devoted to the draft European Constitution). This way, the interactivity was improved and citizens had an opportunity to be directly involved in the relevant discussions.

Many parliaments publicised their activities via the press, either by regular columns or by a creation of special sections. Some parliaments issued their own publications relating to EU topics relevant to citizens (e.g., Chamber of Deputies in Italy and Ireland).

Almost all the parliaments took a broad advantage of local and national TV opportunities. Many parliaments enable watching of plenary debates or Committee for European Affairs sessions online or via video-on-demand on the parliament websites.

In most parliaments, press conferences are held prior to or after the Committee for European Affairs session. The sessions attended by individual European Commission members and European Parliament members attracted a wide TV attention. These sessions took place in almost all parliaments and were open to the public.

It could be stated, that a significant step towards bringing the EU agenda to its citizens was made primarily thanks to the Internet; at the same time, wide opportunities are emerging for further future improvements.

Frequently organized activities

Finally, it could be concluded that the most frequent activities organized by **all** national parliaments in order to promote European awareness were the following:

1. School visits and participation of the MPs in discussions with students,
2. Inviting students to parliament,
3. Improvement of parliament websites,
4. Public sessions of the Committee for European Affairs and the parliament's plenary attended by the European Commission and European Parliament members, and
5. Cooperation with the mass media.

3.

ANNUAL POLICY STRATEGY

Many of the involved parliaments/parliament chambers (15) are of the opinion that **joint inter-parliamentary discussions** on the Annual Policy Strategy (APS) should be held. The supporters add that the national parliaments should not be excluded from the discussions; therefore, the discussions in the national parliaments should take place prior to or after the inter-parliamentary discussion in question. Others point out that the national parliaments should be focused on their own priorities and vice versa, the inter-parliamentary discussions should be the ones to harmonize the different opinions. According to the Polish Senate's opinion, the joint inter-parliamentary discussions are beneficial, but it's not possible for them to replace the national parliament discussions, since both discussions are very important and necessary. The German Bundestag considers the Annual Policy Strategy to be a very important part of the agenda of the May session of COSAC in Berlin. Despite the fact that the Lithuanian Parliament agrees with the joint inter-parliamentary discussions, at the same time it emphasises that this issue should be dealt with in each parliament separately.

The parliaments/parliament chambers with different opinions (12 in number: Austria – Nationalrat and Bundesrat, Cyprus – the House of Representatives, Finland – Eduskunta, France – Assemblée nationale and Senate, Germany – Bundesrat, Italy – Camera Dei Deputati and Senate, The Netherlands – Senate, Slovenia – Drzavni zbor, Slovakia – the National Council of the Slovak Republic) stress that the national parliament discussions cannot be replaced by the joint inter-parliamentary discussions. It was pointed out that this could lead to an overload of the inter-parliamentary session agenda and to repetitious agenda topics. The Slovenian Drzavni zbor supported the idea of placing the Annual Policy Strategy discussions on every national parliament's agenda, while expressing no objections against the debates on this topic at the EU Speakers Conference if and when necessary.

Some parliaments (7 in number: Belgium – the Senate and the House of Representatives, Ireland – the Houses of Oireachtas, The Netherlands – the House of Representatives, Poland – Senate, Romania – the Chamber of Deputies and Senate) failed to state a definitive answer and are of the opinion that the Annual Policy Strategy should be discussed at both - the national parliaments and European level.

Despite the various opinions, the parliaments agreed that the Annual Policy Strategy discussions shouldn't be ruled out at the national parliaments' level. It is the opinion of the Belgian House of Representatives that each national parliament should run its discussion on the Annual Policy Strategy following the discussion at the European level.

It has been stated by the prevailing majority of parliaments/parliament chambers involved (18) that the Annual Policy Strategy discussions at the European level should be held within the **COSAC** session. According to these parliaments' opinions, COSAC is **the most appropriate forum** for the APS discussions. It was proposed by the Irish Parliament that the discussion be held at COSAC, informing the EU Speakers Conference of the outcome afterwards. Such reports could form a foundation for the APS discussions at the national level. In spite of the fact that the Finnish Parliament (Eduskunta) didn't agree with the joint inter-parliamentary APS discussions, it is of the opinion that only COSAC may adopt politically relevant decisions. Other inter-parliamentary meetings could be made use of in such cases when their objective is not an adoption of specific conclusions, but instead only making the APS discussion happen.

Some of the responding countries would prefer discussions in the EU Speakers Conference (4), other prefer the joint inter-parliamentary sessions (6). According to the Lithuanian Parliament's opinion the APS should be presented at the COSAC and the discussion could also be conducted at the EU Speakers Conference.

The responses, answering the question **when** the joint inter-parliamentary discussion on the Annual Policy Strategy should be held, varied. It was stated by 11 parliaments (Austria – Nationalrat and Bundesrat, Germany – Bundestag, Greece, Ireland – the Houses of Oireachtas, Lithuania, Poland – Sejm, Senate, Romania – Senate, Slovakia – the National Council of the Slovak Republic, the United Kingdom – the House of Commons) that **spring** is the most appropriate time; the second most frequent answer (6) included **4 to 6 weeks following the APS's publication**. Further opinions preferred mid-year sessions, end-of-the-year sessions, the beginning of the calendar year, during the COSAC session in the spring and also the opinion of the Czech House of Representatives, that the most appropriate time for such a discussion is following the individual APS discussions within the national parliaments.

The last question of the questionnaire, whether the Commission should be represented by the competent Commissioner/s at the joint inter-parliamentary discussion answering the comments and questions of the national parliaments, registered 27 positive responses. Some of the involved parliaments added that it should be the President of the Commission, the Vice President of the Commission or the Commissioner responsible for relations with the national parliaments. It was also stated that it would be seen as an advantage for the parliaments' representatives to have the opportunity to pose questions relating to the Annual Policy Strategy directly to the person responsible for its preparation. If possible, the Commission should be represented by more Commissioners at the joint inter-parliamentary discussions if held in Brussels. According to the

opinion of the Finnish Parliament, since the APS covers all the planned activities of the Commission, it should be represented by its President or by the Commissioner responsible for some of the significant portfolios, since a hearing of such persons is considered to be valuable. In respect to the other Commissioners or Commission's Vice President responsible for the relations with national parliaments, a sceptical approach was expressed by the Finnish Parliament, since in this case the discussion would be more general and less interesting.

The remaining parliaments (6: Cyprus – the House of Representatives, Estonia, Germany – Bundesrat, Italy – Senate, Slovenia – Drzavni zbor, United Kingdom – the House of Lords) failed to submit their view of the issue of representation of the Commission by its members at the potential inter-parliamentary discussions on the APS, since these expressed their negative view towards the joint inter-parliamentary discussions on the Annual Policy Strategy. The Estonian Parliament did not express its view of the above-mentioned issues, since no discussions regarding this issue were held within the Committee for European Affairs.

Information prepared by:

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ANNEX

ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE:

RAISING NATIONAL EUROPEAN AWARENESS

A. COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE AND WORK PROGRAMME

I. OVERALL ASPECTS

1. Following the critical observations made by the national parliaments in connection with the 2006 CLWP, have there been any improvements as regards the 2007 CLWP content?

- a) yes (please comment)
- b) no (please comment)

II. TIME FRAMEWORK

2. Conclusions made by the Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments held in Copenhagen between 29 June – 2 July 2006 encouraged the national parliaments to “proceed with the experiment of holding a coinciding debate on the Legislative and Work Programme within one month of its publication.” In respect to this do you believe that the time framework referred to in the conclusions is adequate?

- a) yes
- b) no (what time framework do you suggest?)

III. FORM OF DISCUSSIONS

3. At which level does your Parliament discuss the 2007 CLWP?

- a) in the plenary
- b) in a committee/committees
- c) both

4. The sessions dealing with the 2007 CLWP are:

- a) open to the public
- b) closed

5. Did/Will your committee ask representatives of the Government to be present during the 2007 CLWP discussions?

- a) yes (please specify)
- b) no

6. Are there any sectoral committees involved in these discussions?

- a) yes (please specify)
- b) no

7. Do your Rules of Procedure¹⁵ allow for the possibility of the participation of a Member of the European Parliament or the European Commission on a regular session of the Committee for European Affairs dealing with CLWP?
- MEP
 - Member of the European Commission
 - both
8. Can any other (concerned) subjects take part in the discussions about the 2007 CLWP in the committee?
- no
 - yes - mark the subject and identify the form of participation (i. written contribution, ii. possibility of a presentation, iii. passive participation):
 - representatives of the second Chamber (i.; ii.; iii.)
 - representatives of regional and municipal government (i.; ii.; iii.)
 - non-governmental organizations (i.; ii.; iii.)
 - trade unions and associations of entrepreneurs (i.; ii.; iii.)
 - ambassadors (i.; ii.; iii.)
 - others (please specify)
9. Can any other (concerned) subjects take part in the discussions about the 2007 CLWP in the plenary?
- no
 - yes - mark the subject and identify the form of participation (i. written contribution, ii. possibility of a presentation, iii. passive participation):
 - representatives of the second Chamber (i.; ii.; iii.)
 - representatives of regional and municipal government (i.; ii.; iii.)
 - non-governmental organizations (i.; ii.; iii.)
 - trade unions and associations of entrepreneurs (i.; ii.; iii.)
 - ambassadors (i.; ii.; iii.)
 - others (please specify)

IV. COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT / EUROPEAN COMMISSION

10. Does the Government deliver its opinion concerning the 2007 CLWP to the committee/the plenary?

¹⁵ According to our Rules of Procedure (§58a deals particularly with the Committee on European Affairs) the Members of the European Parliament elected in the territory of the Slovak Republic can be present at the sessions of the Committee on European Affairs

- a) yes
 - b) no
11. If yes, on what kind of basis does the Government deliver the opinion in question to the committee/the plenary?
- a) on its own initiative
 - b) on the basis of a legal arrangement of the relations between the parliament/the committee and the Government
 - c) on the basis of a request of the parliament/ the committee
 - d) other (please specify)
12. In the Annexes to the 2007 CLWP does the Government define the priority initiatives for your country?
- a) yes
 - b) no
13. Does the committee/the plenary invite a member of the European Commission to present the 2007 CLWP?
- a) yes
 - b) no

V. CONCLUSIONS OF THE DISCUSSIONS

14. Which form of conclusions do the discussions about the 2007 CLWP have in your parliament/ your committee? (i. e. resolution, conclusions, position...)
15. Were/Will these conclusions from the discussions about the 2007 CLWP be submitted to the Government as a way of a feedback from the national parliament?
- a) yes (in what form?)
 - b) no
16. Were/Will these conclusions from the discussions about the 2007 CLWP be submitted to the European Commission as a way of a feedback from the national parliament?
- a) yes (in what form?)
 - b) no

VI. SPECIFIC CHALLENGES

17. In your opinion, which one of the following should play the central role in the coordination of the scrutiny of the CLWP at EU level?
- a) COSAC
 - b) EU Speakers Conference
 - c) other (please specify)

B. WHAT HAS YOUR PARLIAMENT / PARLIAMENTARY CHAMBER DONE THROUGHOUT 2006 TO BRING THE EU CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS?

C. COMMISSION'S ANNUAL POLICY STRATEGY

18. In your opinion, should there be organized a Joint Annual Interparliamentary debate on the Commission's Annual Policy Strategy?
- a) Yes
 - b) No, such debates should rather take place in each national parliament.
19. If yes, which Interparliamentary body or structure at the European level should in your opinion be used for such a debate on the Commission's Annual Policy Strategy?
- d) COSAC
 - e) EU Speakers Conference
 - f) Joint Parliamentary Meeting organized by the European Parliament and the national parliament holding the EU-Presidency.
 - g) other (please specify)
20. When should such a Joint Interparliamentary debate on the Annual Policy Strategy take place?
21. Should the Commission be represented by the competent Commissioner(s) at such a Joint Interparliamentary debate so as to allow it to respond to comments or questions from national parliaments?



Austria
Nationalrat, Bundesrat

Questionnaire:

Answer:

A. COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE AND WORK PROGRAMME

I. OVERALL ASPECTS	1.	b) no This does not mean that the quality of the 2007 CLWP is not good. However, it is not really understandable why the reference number for each project has not been included in the annex anymore, nor in the index for roadmaps. In cases where there are quite similar projects or where titles are still not fixed this may cause confusion.
II. SPACE	2.	a) yes
III. FORM OF DISCUSSIONS	3.	c) both
	4.	a) open to the public - plenary b) closed – sectorial committees (only in the Bundesrat, in the Nationalrat reports of members of government on different parts of the CLWP are discussed in public in general)
	5.	a) yes it is the general understanding that the respective member/s of government are present at plenary/committee debates.
	6.	a) yes since 2005 government is obliged to report on different parts of the CLWP in a written document that is referred to a specific committee. The committee can (as a general rule) decide on behalf of the plenary (in the Nationalrat) or report to the plenary (the general way in the Bundesrat).
	7.	c) both after a (majority) decision on the invitation as “expert”, MEPs elected in Austria may participate in the debate without invitation.

	8.	b) yes - representatives of the second Chamber – only Nationalrat (in the Bundesrat a permission of the president is needed to allow members of the Nationalrat to listen) - Other persons not being member of a committee only may listen with permission of the president or being invited by the committee as expert.
	9.	b) yes - representatives of regional and municipal government – in plenary meetings of the Bundesrat heads of regional governments may participate in the debates
IV. COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT / EUROPEAN COMMISSION	10.	a) yes
	11.	b) on the basis of a legal arrangement of the relations between the parliament/the committee and the Government
	12.	a) yes
	13.	b) no not possible in the plenary, for the committees not envisaged for the time being
V. CONCLUSIONS OF THE DISCUSSIONS	14.	According to the rules of procedure a resolution addressed to the Austrian (members of) government may be the result of such discussion.
	15.	a) yes resolution of Nationalrat or Bundesrat
	16.	b) no not envisaged for the time being
VI. SPECIFIC CHALLENGES	17.	a) COSAC (for EU affairs committees) and b) EU Speakers Conference (for general issues)
B. WHAT HAS YOUR PARLIAMENT / PARLIAMENTARY CHAMBER DONE THROUGHOUT 2006 TO BRING THE EU CLOSER TO		During the Austrian EU Presidency parliament organised/co-organised a series of conferences and events which were broadly covered by the media. In addition school classes were invited to attend the XXXV COSAC in Vienna. In December

ITS CITIZENS?	2005 a discussion between scholars and the Conference of Presidents of the EP was organized at parliament and broadcast live throughout Austria.	
C. COMMISSION'S ANNUAL POLICY STRATEGY		
	18.	b) No such debates should rather take place in each national parliament, but there should be an exchange of views within COSAC.
	19.	d) COSAC as already planned for the XXXVII COSAC
	20.	Such a debate should take place in spring.
	21.	Of course.



Belgium
Chambre des Représentants

Questionnaire:

Answer:

A. COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE AND WORK PROGRAMME

I. OVERALL ASPECTS	1.	b) no Not yet. We wait for the rationalization of the debates of the LWP and the APS at the European level (in the framework of the CS and COSAC)
II. SPACE	2.	b) no see our answer in the questionnaire of the Working group on parliamentary cooperation
III. FORM OF DISCUSSIONS	3.	b) in a committee/committees: Advisory committee on European affairs
	4.	a) open to the public
	5.	a) yes Permanent and Deputy representative of Belgium within the EU
	6.	a) yes the Committee on foreign affairs
	7.	a) MEP The MEPs are fullfledged member of the Advisory committee on European affairs(ACEA) b) Member of the European Commission: can be invited
	8.	b) yes - representatives of the second Chamber: The ACEA is mixed (H+S): in function of the agenda: regional parliaments are also invited - others Since all the meetings are public, the last three groups are allowed to attend the debates
	9.	Not applicable: the discussion doesn't take place in the plenary

IV. COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT / EUROPEAN COMMISSION	10.	a) yes (the ACEA)
	11.	c) on the basis of a request of the parliament/ the committee
	12.	no answer
	13.	a) yes
V. CONCLUSIONS OF THE DISCUSSIONS	14.	Resolution
	15.	a) yes a resolution is formulated on the basis of a parliamentary report on the debate of the LWP
	16.	a) yes (maybe in the future in the framework of the Barroso-initiative) b) no
VI. SPECIFIC CHALLENGES	17.	c) COSAC d) EU Speakers Conference
B. WHAT HAS YOUR PARLIAMENT / PARLIAMENTARY CHAMBER DONE THROUGHOUT 2006 TO BRING THE EU CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS?	Publicity of the Committee work	
C. COMMISSION'S ANNUAL POLICY STRATEGY		
	18.	c) both each NP should discuss the APS and the LWP after a debate at European level (CS and COSAC)
	19.	f) COSAC g) EU Speakers Conference
	20.	Before the start of the new calendar, year
	21.	YES



Belgium
Sénat

Questionnaire:

Answer:

A. COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE AND WORK PROGRAMME

I. OVERALL ASPECTS	1.	No comments.
II. SPACE	2.	Our position is that it is important for each national parliament to debate the Work Programme as soon as possible after its publication, but each parliament should decide for itself about the appropriate time. Making all these debates coincide within a given time frame (whether it be a week or a month) is an unnecessary constraint. It does not add anything substantial to the parliamentary scrutiny of EU affairs and has only symbolic value at best. And even the latter is questionable, particularly if the chosen time frame is as long as one month.
III. FORM OF DISCUSSIONS	3.	b) in a committee/committees: Federal Advisory Committee on European Affairs (the meeting on the 2007 CLWP was held on 16 January 2007)
	4.	a) open to the public
	5.	a) yes the Permanent Representative to the EU
	6.	a) yes the foreign affairs committees of House and Senate
	7.	a) MEP: yes : the Federal Advisory Committee on European Affairs of the Belgian Federal Parliament is made up of 10 members of the House, 10 members of the Senate and 10 Belgian MEP's. b) Member of the European Commission: yes, by invitation – thus, the 2006 CLWP was discussed at two meetings of the European Affairs Advisory Committee, on 22 February and 21 March 2006 – the Belgian

		Member of the European Commission was heard at the second meeting (both on the 2006 CLWP and the 2007 APS). c) Both
	8.	b) yes By right - representatives of the second Chamber : see question 7 a) - others: members of the regional assemblies of the country (occasionally, they are explicitly invited, but they can always attend these debates and when they do, they can take part in the discussion : By invitation Anybody the Committee wishes to invite to take part in the debate. These could include: - representatives of regional and municipal government - non-governmental organizations - trade unions and associations of entrepreneurs - ambassadors
	9.	Not applicable.
IV. COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT / EUROPEAN COMMISSION	10.	a) yes via its Permanent Representative to the EU
	11.	c) on the basis of a request of the parliament/ the committee
	12.	The Permanent Representative will, where appropriate, indicate the priority initiatives for our country in his presentation to the Committee.
	13.	b) no not for the debate on the 2007 CLWP (a member of the Commission was invited for the debate on the 2006 CLWP and the 2007 APS last year – see our reply to question 7 b)
V. CONCLUSIONS OF THE DISCUSSIONS	14.	Official report of the debate, published as a parliamentary document.
	15.	a) yes As a parliamentary document

	16.	a) yes Via IPEX
VI. SPECIFIC CHALLENGES	17.	As mentioned in our reply to question 1, we believe there is no need for coordination of the scrutiny of CLWP at EU level. But if one must have it, we consider COSAC to be the most appropriate framework.
B. WHAT HAS YOUR PARLIAMENT / PARLIAMENTARY CHAMBER DONE THROUGHOUT 2006 TO BRING THE EU CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS?		There were no big-scale events in the Belgian Senate in 2006 to bring the EU closer to citizens, like the ones we had in December 2004 (a full “European Week” with debates on all aspects of the draft Treaty) and will have again on 16 March 2007 (to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome). The Senate was involved in other major projects in 2006, such as the organization of the annual session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and of the European Interparliamentary Space Conference.
C. COMMISSION’S ANNUAL POLICY STRATEGY		
	18.	We are not opposed to the idea, although we do not consider such a debate to be indispensable either. What we do not want is yet another interparliamentary meeting with, by and large, the same participants (see our reply to question 20).
	19.	a) COSAC
	20.	If such a debate is held, it should be on the agenda of one of the habitual (half-yearly) sessions of COSAC.
	21.	Yes, preferably by the President or a Vice-President of the Commission, since many different sectors will normally be dealt with in the APS.



Bulgaria
Narodno Sobranie

Questionnaire:

Answer:

A. COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE AND WORK PROGRAMME

<p align="center">I. OVERALL ASPECTS</p>	<p>1.</p>	<p>a) yes we have a more clear definition of the strategic initiatives that, while envisioned to be pursued over a longer period of time, are important for the Union's global competitiveness; as well as the specific priorities for 2007 that need to be implemented if we are to attain the desired progress in the main areas of development of the EU, incl. the Lisbon Strategy for Sustainable Growth and Employment.</p>
<p align="center">II. SPACE</p>	<p>2.</p>	<p>b) no No, since the publication of this program took place in the autumn, which is a very busy period in terms of the Parliamentary work schedule, because of the adoption of the State Budget and all the relevant legislation that goes with it. We therefore propose that this time limit be extended to 3 months, or by the end of the year preceding that year during which the program is to be implemented.</p>
<p align="center">III. FORM OF DISCUSSIONS</p>	<p>3.</p>	<p>b) in a committee/committees in the Committee for European Affairs</p>
	<p>4.</p>	<p>a) open to the public</p>
	<p>5.</p>	<p>a) yes Yes, the minister of foreign affairs</p>
	<p>6.</p>	<p>b) no No, because the procedure of scrutiny was not started at the time of the discussion.</p>
	<p>7.</p>	<p>a) MEP Yes, MEP can participate.</p>
	<p>8.</p>	<p>b) yes - non-governmental organizations (i.; ii.; iii.)</p>

		- trade unions and associations of entrepreneurs (i.; ii.; iii.) - others – experts written contribution and possibility of a presentation
	9.	a) no No, because this is not scheduled for discussion in plenum.
IV. COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT / EUROPEAN COMMISSION	10.	a) yes
	11.	b) on the basis of a legal arrangement of the relations between the parliament/the committee and the Government
	12.	a) yes
	13.	b) no
V. CONCLUSIONS OF THE DISCUSSIONS	14.	Conclusions
	15.	a) yes in written form
	16.	b) no
VI. SPECIFIC CHALLENGES	17.	a) COSAC
B. WHAT HAS YOUR PARLIAMENT / PARLIAMENTARY CHAMBER DONE THROUGHOUT 2006 TO BRING THE EU CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS?		The Parliamentary Committee on European Integration (European Affairs) organized, in January and July 2006, meetings with the Ambassadors of Austria and Finland, in which Members of Parliament, members of the public and the press were familiarized with the priorities on the agenda of their respective Presidencies of the Council of the EU.
C. COMMISSION'S ANNUAL POLICY STRATEGY		
	18.	a) Yes
	19.	c) COSAC
	20.	On the corresponding COSAC meeting.
	21.	Yes, it is a very good idea.



Cyprus
Vouli Antiprosopon

Questionnaire:

Answer:

A. COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE AND WORK PROGRAMME

I. OVERALL ASPECTS	1.	b) no The House of Representatives is of the opinion that the important goals set by the European Commission are very wide and rather vague. In addition, despite the fact that in the 2006 CLWP there was a reference in the checks of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality, in the 2007 CLWP, there is no such reference.
II. SPACE	2.	b) no
III. FORM OF DISCUSSIONS	3.	b) in a committee/committees
	4.	a) open to the public
	5.	b) no
	6.	a) yes The House Standing Committee on European Affairs
	7.	According to usual practices, Committee meetings are open to public, unless a matter is deemed to be confidential.
	8.	b) yes All three forms of participation For the discussion of the 2007 CLWP no subjects were invited to participate. However this is possible for all the subjects above, if it is deemed to be necessary.
IV. COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT / EUROPEAN COMMISSION	9.	Discussions of the 2007 CLWP are held only in the meetings of the European Affairs Committee.
	10.	b) no
	11.	no answer
	12.	Not relevant (N/A)
V. CONCLUSIONS OF THE DISCUSSIONS	13.	b) no
	14.	Assessment paper
	15.	b) no
VI. SPECIFIC CHALLENGES	16.	b) no
	17.	b) EU Speakers Conference

B. WHAT HAS YOUR PARLIAMENT / PARLIAMENTARY CHAMBER DONE THROUGHOUT 2006 TO BRING THE EU CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS?	Throughout 2006 the House of Representatives and in particular the Chairman of the House Standing Committee on European Affairs have received students from different schools to inform them on the EU and the workings of the Committee on European Affairs.	
C. COMMISSION'S ANNUAL POLICY STRATEGY		
	18.	b) No such debates should rather take place in each national parliament.
	19.	no answer
	20.	no answer
	21.	no answer



Czech Republic
Poslanecká snemovna

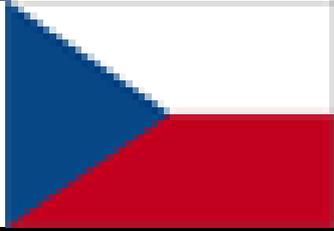
Questionnaire:

Answer:

A. COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE AND WORK PROGRAMME

I. OVERALL ASPECTS	1.	a) yes translation of the whole document including the Annexes; better cooperation between national parliaments and the European Commission
II. SPACE	2.	a) yes
III. FORM OF DISCUSSIONS	3.	b) in a committee
	4.	a) open to the public
	5.	b) no
	6.	b) no
	7.	a) MEP
	8.	b) yes - representatives of the second Chamber - representatives of regional and municipal government - non-governmental organizations - trade unions and associations of entrepreneurs - ambassadors
IV. COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT / EUROPEAN COMMISSION	9.	b) yes - representatives of the second Chamber - representatives of regional and municipal government - non-governmental organizations - trade unions and associations of entrepreneurs
	10.	a) yes
IV. COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT / EUROPEAN COMMISSION	11.	b) on the basis of a legal arrangement of the relations between the parliament/the committee and the Government
	12.	a) yes

	13.	b) no
V. CONCLUSIONS OF THE DISCUSSIONS	14.	Resolution
	15.	a) yes Resolutions by the Chamber or the committee is automatically dispatched to the Government.
	16.	a) yes as a resolution of the committee
VI. SPECIFIC CHALLENGES	17.	a) COSAC
B. WHAT HAS YOUR PARLIAMENT / PARLIAMENTARY CHAMBER DONE THROUGHOUT 2006 TO BRING THE EU CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS?		- holding various seminars - taking part in Government's information campaign - creating web page with EU newsreels
C. COMMISSION'S ANNUAL POLICY STRATEGY		
	18.	a) yes
	19.	d) COSAC
	20.	Collective approach should take place after each parliament's individual discussion of the ASP.
	21.	Yes



Czech Republic
Senát

Questionnaire:

Answer:

A. COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE AND WORK PROGRAMME

I. OVERALL ASPECTS

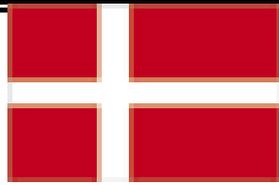
1. a) yes
- The Senate had previously criticized the fact that the annexed tables are not available in all the official languages but a mix of the two working languages instead. Thus the Senate have noted with satisfaction that the complete text of LWP 2007 including annexes is in Czech.
 - The improvements in the structure (especially the conciseness of the text) of the document were also noted with satisfaction.
 - On the contrary, it was noted that the current programme lacks indications as to the date or at least quarter that the Commission intends to propose the particular act or issue the communication document. They were thought quite helpful for planning, especially provided the dates were adhered to.

II. SPACE

2. a) (a light) yes
- In respect to the abovementioned conclusions it should be said that in general technical terms such time framework for the “experiment” can be feasible, on a very exceptional basis. Though let us add that there is no particular need to constrain to such a short period (eight weeks from publication in all official languages would be more proper).
- Given the fact that the LWP 2007 was not debated in the Senate plenary the added value of such experiment with regard to "raising common European

		awareness" will need to be established more persuasively judging by the experience of the Czech Senate in 2006.
III. FORM OF DISCUSSIONS	3.	b) in a committee/committees
	4.	a) open to the public
	5.	a) yes Foreign Affairs Ministry representatives were present and introduced the document and the government's position
	6.	b) no
	7.	c) both
	8.	b) yes - representatives of the second Chamber - representatives of regional and municipal government - non-governmental organizations - trade unions and associations of entrepreneurs - ambassadors - others All mentioned can generally be involved: asked to submit a written contribution, be given the floor to make statements, passive participation is always possible due to the publicity of committee and plenary meetings, possible constraints would mainly be of a technical nature (i.e. room size and length of deliberation).
	9.	b) yes The Standing Rules of the Senate generally allow for participation of any person, provided the Senate approves of it.
	10.	a) yes
	11.	b) on the basis of a legal arrangement of the relations between the parliament/the committee and the Government providing that the opinion is submitted if requested by the chamber
IV. COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT / EUROPEAN COMMISSION	12.	b) no, but there is some indication of that in the Government' Position submitted to the Parliament
	13.	b) no

V. CONCLUSIONS OF THE DISCUSSIONS	14.	Resolution
	15.	a) yes letter of the President of the Senate
	16.	a) yes letter of the President of the Senate
VI. SPECIFIC CHALLENGES	17.	a) COSAC
B. WHAT HAS YOUR PARLIAMENT / PARLIAMENTARY CHAMBER DONE THROUGHOUT 2006 TO BRING THE EU CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS?	<p>This topic can hardly be summarized for purposes of a questionnaire like this one. The general answer would read as follows:</p> <p>The Senate has continued in its most important activity of its European Agenda, i.e. ex-ante scrutiny of EU legislation, by selecting the most important proposals and communication documents with regard to Czech citizens and deliberating them publicly (often in the presence of TV cameras of a news network). In addition to this, itself demanding work, the Senate has organized several seminars for professional public dealing with current European issues – e.g. European Technology Institute, gender equality etc.</p>	
C. COMMISSION'S ANNUAL POLICY STRATEGY		
	18.	a) Yes might be an asset, provided there is time beforehand for the national parliaments to have an internal debate first
	19.	b) COSAC c) EU Speakers Conference COSAC is most probably the best forum for debate over APS. The Speakers Conference, being at higher level, could also be considered but APS debate should be held on a regular basis which the COSAC is more suitable for.
	20.	Some time (i.e. six weeks) after the APS is made available in all official languages.
	21.	That would certainly be a sensible idea, but considering the possible thematic expanse of an APS, it is unlikely the whole College would want to take active part. Maybe the President would be enough.



Denmark
Folketinget

Questionnaire:

Answer:

A. COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE AND WORK PROGRAMME

I. OVERALL ASPECTS	1.	a) yes The 2007 CLWP appears to be better structured than the 2006 CLWP.
II. SPACE	2.	a) yes
III. FORM OF DISCUSSIONS	3.	not relevant
	4.	not relevant
	5.	not relevant
	6.	not relevant
	7.	no
	8.	a) no
	9.	a) no
IV. COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT / EUROPEAN COMMISSION	10.	b) no We don't have a debate on the CLWP in Parliament in 2007.
	11.	not relevant
	12.	not relevant
	13.	not relevant
V. CONCLUSIONS OF THE DISCUSSIONS	14.	not relevant
	15.	not relevant
	16.	not relevant
VI. SPECIFIC CHALLENGES	17.	a) COSAC
B. WHAT HAS YOUR PARLIAMENT / PARLIAMENTARY CHAMBER DONE THROUGHOUT 2006 TO BRING THE EU CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS?	<p>A large scale public hearing on the future of the EU was organized during the Period of Reflection. Live tv from the hearing was broadcasted on national television program 2.</p> <p>The public was also invited to a number of smaller expert hearings on important topics such as the role of the EC Court of Justice, Comitology, etc. For further information see the enclosed annex.</p> <p>Finally it should be mentioned that the European Affairs Committee of the Danish Parliament in the autumn of 2006 decided to hold its meetings in public.</p>	

C. COMMISSION'S ANNUAL POLICY STRATEGY

	18.	a) yes
	19.	f) Joint Parliamentary Meeting organized by the European Parliament and the national parliament holding the EU-Presidency.
	20.	Preferably in the period February-April.
	21.	Yes the Commission should be represented either by the President of the Commission or by the commissioner responsible for relations with national parliaments.



Estonia
Riigikogu

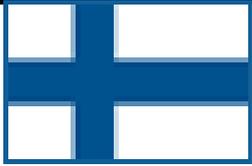
Questionnaire:

Answer:

A. COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE AND WORK PROGRAMME

I. OVERALL ASPECTS	1.	a) yes (However it has to be proved that this has been the result of the abovementioned comments)
II. SPACE	2.	c) it should be up to each assembly to arrange its activities on this matter
III. FORM OF DISCUSSIONS	3.	b) in a committee/committees: EU Affairs Committee
	4.	b) closed as are the normal sessions of the committees of the Riigikogu
	5.	b) no
	6.	b) no however the sectorial committees secretariats were sent the LWP by e-mail
	7.	c) both as guests/invited persons
	8.	b) Yes theoretically anybody invited by the Committee Chair could participate
IV. COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT / EUROPEAN COMMISSION	10.	b) no
	11.	no answer
	12.	b) no
	13.	c) Representative of the EC

		Representation was presenting the LWP in the EU Affairs Committee
V. CONCLUSIONS OF THE DISCUSSIONS	14.	The EU AC “took notice”.
	15.	b) no
	16.	b) no but most probably “yes” in case anything specific would have been decided
VI. SPECIFIC CHALLENGES	17.	d) COSAC
B. WHAT HAS YOUR PARLIAMENT / PARLIAMENTARY CHAMBER DONE THROUGHOUT 2006 TO BRING THE EU CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS?		Riigikogu ratified the European Constitutional Treaty (9.05.2006) Open sessions of the EU Affairs Committee (White Hall Fora) were held (Higher Education, Energy Efficiency); Riigikogu organized International Conference “Values and Interests in International Politics” (open to the general public)
C. COMMISSION’S ANNUAL POLICY STRATEGY		
	18.	The Issue has not been discussed by the EU Affairs Committee of the Riigikogu
	19.	The Issue has not been discussed by the EU Affairs Committee of the Riigikogu
	20.	The Issue has not been discussed by the EU Affairs Committee of the Riigikogu
	21.	The Issue has not been discussed by the EU Affairs Committee of the Riigikogu



Finland
Eduskunta

Questionnaire:

Answer:

A. COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE AND WORK PROGRAMME

I. OVERALL ASPECTS	1.	a) yes The document was somewhat more lucid and lively. However, the criticism of our parliament did not really relate to the content of the LWP itself. We were more concerned that the LWP is a technical document related to the implementation of the Annual Policy Strategy. In view of this, the LWP was deemed to be uninteresting as a vehicle for parliamentary debate.
II. SPACE	2.	a) yes We doubt that a coinciding debate is a good idea. The time frame is in itself not a problem.
III. FORM OF DISCUSSIONS	3.	b) in a committee/committees In the Grand Committee.
	4.	b) closed but open to all members of parliament.
	5.	b) no
	6.	The document was forwarded to (virtually all) sectoral committees for possible action, but is not known to have raised any interest.
	7.	The RoP make no special provision for any of these categories. However, the committees are free to invite whomever they like in an expert capacity.
IV. COOPERATION WITH	10.	In principle, yes but, given the status and

THE GOVERNMENT / EUROPEAN COMMISSION		purpose of the LWP, the government document was more of a narrative than an opinion.
	11.	a) on its own initiative b) on the basis of a legal arrangement of the relations between the parliament/the committee and the Government Both, section 97 of the Constitution allows the government to send documents on its own initiative, and the parliament to ask for them. This particular document is covered by a standing arrangement between the government and the Grand Committee as to which documents should be sent on an automatic basis.
	12.	b) no
	13.	b) no The LWP does/did not raise sufficient interest to be given such priority treatment.
V. CONCLUSIONS OF THE DISCUSSIONS	14.	Open-ended discussion. As the LWP is not open for negotiation or amendment, formal conclusions would be difficult to justify.
	15.	b) no All conclusions by the Grand Committee take the form of a formal instruction to the government. This is precisely why no conclusions were contemplated concerning the LWP – it would be pointless to ask the government to take action on an internal Commission document.
	16.	b) no
VI. SPECIFIC CHALLENGES	17.	a) COSAC We do not believe that any coordination is needed on this subject. However, of the bodies mentioned, only COSAC has both the legal mandate and the capacity to take on any coordinating role.
B. WHAT HAS YOUR PARLIAMENT / PARLIAMENTARY		About 50 percent of the Eduskunta's (and its committees') caseload relates to the scrutiny of EU legislative proposals. Keeping the

<p>CHAMBER DONE THROUGHOUT 2006 TO BRING THE EU CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS?</p>	<p>public confident that EU legislation is subject to sufficient scrutiny – and is hence democratically legitimate – is seen as the Eduskunta's task in this context.</p>
<p>C. COMMISSION'S ANNUAL POLICY STRATEGY</p>	
<p></p>	<p>18. No, such debates should rather take place in each national parliament. - when/if deemed useful by each parliament. More to the point, we believe that the interparliamentary calendar should not be overburdened with yet more recurring items, whose topicality may vary from year to year.</p>
	<p>19. COSAC EU Speakers Conference Joint Parliamentary Meeting organized by the European Parliament and the national parliament holding the EU-Presidency. No particular preference. However, of these bodies, COSAC is the only one that could adopt politically salient conclusions. The others would, presumably, be chosen, if the idea is to carry out an open-ended debate, not aiming at conclusions.</p>
	<p>20. If at all, only within a relatively short period after publication of the APS.</p>
	<p>21. As the APS covers the totality of the Commission's planned activities, "the competent Commissioner" would presumably be the President of the Commission – or possibly the holder of one of the other weighty portfolios. Such persons are always worth listening to. We would be less enthusiastic about a "light-weight" or the Vice-President in charge of relations with national parliaments, as the debate with such a counterpart would necessarily be more general and less interesting.</p>



France
Assemblée Nationale

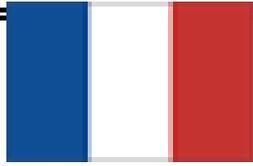
Questionnaire:

Answer:

A. COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE AND WORK PROGRAMME

I. OVERALL ASPECTS	1.	a) YES Le programme était mieux conçu et plus précis.
II. SPACE	2.	b) No Il n'est nullement certain qu'il soit opportune d'organiser un débat sur ce thème en séance plénière.
III. FORM OF DISCUSSIONS	3.	b) in a committee/committees Non encore examiné.
	4.	Non encore examiné.
	5.	no answer
	6.	no answer
	7.	c) Both
	8.	a) no
IV. COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT / EUROPEAN COMMISSION	9.	a) no
	10.	b) no
	11.	no answer
	12.	b) no
V. CONCLUSIONS OF THE DISCUSSIONS	13.	b) no
	14.	Non encore examiné.
	15.	no answer
VI. SPECIFIC CHALLENGES	16.	no answer
	17.	a) COSAC Bilan dans le cadre de la COSAC.
B. WHAT HAS YOUR PARLIAMENT / PARLIAMENTARY CHAMBER DONE THROUGHOUT 2006 TO BRING THE EU CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS?		<p>Un débat est organisé en séance publique avant chaque réunion du Conseil européen.</p> <p>? Le Président de la Commission européenne, M. Barroso, a été entendu en séance publique le 24 janvier 2006.</p> <p>? Le dialogue avec la Commission européenne sur le respect des principes de subsidiarité et de proportionnalité a été lancé depuis septembre 2006.</p> <p>?Le site Internet de l'Assemblée nationale concernant l'Union européenne a été enrichi. Une "Lettre européenne", diffusée</p>

	par voie électronique, est destinée à mieux faire connaître l'Europe.	
C. COMMISSION'S ANNUAL POLICY STRATEGY		
	18.	b) No, such debates should rather take place in each national parliament.
	19.	no answer
	20.	no answer
	21.	Si un tel débat devait avoir lieu, la Commission devrait être représentée par son Président.



France
Sénat

Questionnaire:

Answer:

A. COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE AND WORK PROGRAMME

I. OVERALL ASPECTS	1.	a) yes Le programme était un peu plus précis et mieux structuré.
II. SPACE	2.	b) no En France, c'est le Gouvernement qui fixe l'ordre du jour de la séance plénière du Parlement. De plus, l'organisation d'un débat sur ce thème en séance plénière est-elle justifiée ? On doit constater que, au cours des dernières années, le débat en séance plénière du Parlement européen sur le programme législatif et de travail de la Commission s'est tenu en présence de 50 députés européens seulement. Il serait nécessaire de se demander pourquoi.
III. FORM OF DISCUSSIONS	3.	b) in a committee
4.	4.	b) closed
5.	5.	b) no
6.	6.	b) no
7.	7.	c) Both
8.	8.	a) no
9.	9.	a) no
IV. COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT / EUROPEAN COMMISSION	10.	b) no
11.	11.	no answer
12.	12.	b) no
13.	13.	b) no
V. CONCLUSIONS OF THE DISCUSSIONS	14.	Prise de position.
15.	15.	a) yes Le Gouvernement a été informé. Chaque décision du Sénat en matière européenne fait l'objet d'une publication écrite et sur le site Internet du Sénat.
16.	16.	b) no
VI. SPECIFIC CHALLENGES	17.	c) other

	Information réciproque dans le cadre de l'IPEX. Eventuellement, bilan dans le cadre de la COSAC.								
<p>B. WHAT HAS YOUR PARLIAMENT / PARLIAMENTARY CHAMBER DONE THROUGHOUT 2006 TO BRING THE EU CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Désormais, un débat est organisé en séance plénière avant chaque réunion du Conseil européen. – Un débat spécifique a été organisé sur le problème de la libre circulation des travailleurs en Europe. – Le dialogue avec la Commission européenne sur le respect des principes de subsidiarité et de proportionnalité a été lancé. – Enfin, des débats sur des thèmes européens ont été organisés par la chaîne de télévision parlementaire. 								
<p>C. COMMISSION'S ANNUAL POLICY STRATEGY</p>									
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="742 902 810 987">18.</td> <td data-bbox="810 902 1396 987">b) No, such debates should rather take place in each national parliament.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="742 987 810 1032">19.</td> <td data-bbox="810 987 1396 1032">no answer</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="742 1032 810 1077">20.</td> <td data-bbox="810 1032 1396 1077">no answer</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="742 1077 810 1205">21.</td> <td data-bbox="810 1077 1396 1205">Si un tel débat devait avoir lieu, la Commission devrait être représentée par son président.</td> </tr> </table>	18.	b) No, such debates should rather take place in each national parliament.	19.	no answer	20.	no answer	21.	Si un tel débat devait avoir lieu, la Commission devrait être représentée par son président.
18.	b) No, such debates should rather take place in each national parliament.								
19.	no answer								
20.	no answer								
21.	Si un tel débat devait avoir lieu, la Commission devrait être représentée par son président.								



Germany
Bundestag

Questionnaire:

Answer:

A. COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE AND WORK PROGRAMME

<p>I. OVERALL ASPECTS</p>	<p>1. a) yes The 2007 CLWP has been more specific than the 2006 CLWP in giving a short overview of the contents of proposed legislative measures instead of just headlines. In addition, the translation was more complete: the annex was also translated into German. However, in contrast to the 2006 CLWP, concrete dates foreseen for the publication of a proposal were not specified in the 2007 CLWP.</p>
<p>II. SPACE</p>	<p>2. Not applicable: The German Bundestag has held no special session in the plenary dealing with the 2007 CLWP. It is felt that the Legislative and Work Programme is a management instrument of the Commission and of informational value to Members of Parliament. However, the Bundestag has received the Programme for 2007 in November 2006 and forwarded it not only to the EU Affairs Committee, but also to 15 other sectoral committees for scrutiny.</p>
<p>III. FORM OF DISCUSSIONS</p>	<p>3. b) in a committee/committees As stated above, the Bundestag has forwarded the 2007 CWLP to the EU Affairs Committee and to 15 other sectoral committees for scrutiny. The process has not been concluded yet.</p> <p>4. b) closed Committee sessions in the Bundestag are as a rule closed to the public. However, each committee may decide to open a particular session or a part of it to the public. As the scrutiny process has not yet been concluded, it is not known which committees held public sessions.</p>

	5.	Each committee dealing with the 2007 CLWP may decide to invite government representatives to its sessions. As the scrutiny process has not yet been concluded, it is not known which committees will make use of this possibility.
	6.	a) yes The Bundestag has forwarded the CLWP to the EU Affairs Committee and 15 other sectoral committees.
	7.	c) both The Bundestag's EU Affairs Committee consists not only of 33 Members of the Bundestag, but also of 16 German Members of the European Parliament who can participate in any of the Committee sessions in an advisory capacity. The Committee has the right to invite Members of the European Commission to testify.
	8.	Participation in the discussion is only possible upon special invitation of the Committee. In principle, any of the representatives stated above can be invited to testify.
	9.	b) yes Members of the Bundesrat.
IV. COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT / EUROPEAN COMMISSION	10.	a) yes The 2007 CLWP document was forwarded to the Bundestag by the Federal Government; it was accompanied by a short report of the Government stating its main contents and giving other relevant information regarding the Programme.
	11.	b) on the basis of a legal arrangement of the relations between the parliament/the committee and the Government There is a constitutional obligation as well as special legislation defining the obligation of the Federal Government to inform the Bundestag with regard to affairs of the European Union.

	12.	b) no
	13.	b) no See answer to question 2.
V. CONCLUSIONS OF THE DISCUSSIONS	14.	The scrutiny procedure has not yet been concluded.
	15.	b) no
	16.	b) no
VI. SPECIFIC CHALLENGES	17.	a) COSAC
B. WHAT HAS YOUR PARLIAMENT / PARLIAMENTARY CHAMBER DONE THROUGHOUT 2006 TO BRING THE EU CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS?		During the Football World Championship, the Bundestag has opened a special "Bundestag Arena" designed for visitors. Presentations, debates and discussions held in this arena portrayed not only the work of parliament in general but also the Bundestag's approach towards European Union affairs. The Committee on the Affairs of the European Union has held a number of public sessions in 2006, i.a. with the President of the European Commission, and two special sessions with the delegation for the affairs of the European Union of the French National Assembly. In addition, the chairman of the EU Affairs Committee as well as many of its individual members have participated in numerous public debates and discussions on EU affairs.
	C. COMMISSION'S ANNUAL POLICY STRATEGY	
	18.	a) Yes A debate on the Annual Policy Strategy (APS) is foreseen as an important part of the agenda of the COCAC Conference under German presidency in May this year.
	19.	d) COSAC See answer to question 18.
	20.	See answer to question 18.
	21.	Yes. Commission President Barroso is invited to the COSAC under German presidency in May this year.



**Germany
Bundesrat**

Questionnaire:

Answer:

A. COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE AND WORK PROGRAMME

I. OVERALL ASPECTS	1.	no answer
II. SPACE	2.	b) no Each parliament should be enabled to decide by itself about the Framework, to respect the individual frequency of plenary sessions.
III. FORM OF DISCUSSIONS	3.	b) in a committee/committees The Committee on European Affairs discussed the CLWP 2007, afterwards the Bundesrat decided (without discussion in public): “notice”
	4.	b) closed The Committee on European Affairs holds its sessions closed, the Bundesrat in public.
	5.	a) yes Government’s representatives
	6.	b) no
	7.	No answer
	8.	a) no The Bundesrat is composed of representatives of the federal states (“Länder”).
IV. COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT / EUROPEAN COMMISSION	9.	a) no Regular members, deputy members and representatives of the government are allowed to address in audience.
	10.	a) yes The government delivered his opinion with an oral comment during the committees meeting and in written form by sending a statement.
	11.	a) on its own initiative
	12.	a) yes

		Priorities are defined within the program of the German EU-Presidency.
	13.	b) no
V. CONCLUSIONS OF THE DISCUSSIONS	14.	“notice”
	15.	b) no The plenary did not conclude a resolution.
	16.	b) no
VI. SPECIFIC CHALLENGES	17.	a) COSAC b) EU Speakers Conference
B. WHAT HAS YOUR PARLIAMENT / PARLIAMENTARY CHAMBER DONE THROUGHOUT 2006 TO BRING THE EU CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS?		The Länder deepened the understanding of Europe and especially the constitutional treaty with a number of activities, such as “The European Week”.
C. COMMISSION’S ANNUAL POLICY STRATEGY		
	18.	b) No, such debates should rather take place in each national parliament.
	19.	Obsolete
	20.	Obsolete
	21.	Obsolete



Greece
Vouli Ton Ellinon

Questionnaire:	Answer:
A. COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE AND WORK PROGRAMME	
I. OVERALL ASPECTS	1. a) yes The most obvious one was the interpretation of the annex in all the EU languages that facilitated its examination, by NPs.
II. SPACE	2. a) yes
III. FORM OF DISCUSSIONS	3. b) in a committee
	4. a) open to the public
	5. a) yes The Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs was present and delivered the Government's views.
	6. b) no
	7. c) both
	8. For the moment, none of the above options has been envisaged.
IV. COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT / EUROPEAN COMMISSION	9. a) no
	10. a) yes
	11. This year the competent Minister acted on his own initiative, on the basis of a close cooperation that has been developed with the European Affairs Committee
	12. a) yes
	13. b) no, because of practical reasons.
V. CONCLUSIONS OF THE DISCUSSIONS	14. It is mostly a text of guidelines and priorities for the exercise of scrutiny during 2007.
	15. a) yes The Government was informed by the presence of the competent Minister in the discussion.
	16. b) no
VI. SPECIFIC CHALLENGES	17. a) COSAC
B. WHAT HAS YOUR PARLIAMENT / PARLIAMENTARY	In the course of 2006, our Parliament and especially the Committee for European Affairs has been trying to reorganize and

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improve the system of scrutinizing EU draft legislation in order to take advantage of the direct transmission of documents from the EU Commission.

Though all Committee meetings are being broadcasted on the Parliamentary TV Channel, some of the meetings of the Committee for European Affairs drew special attention of media in general, either because of their agenda or because of the presence of well known personalities (i.e. President of the European Commission Mr Barroso, President of the European Parliament Mr Borrell, Commissioners Mr Almunia, Mrs Croes, and so on).

C. COMMISSION'S ANNUAL POLICY STRATEGY

	18.	a) Yes
	19.	d) COSAC
	20.	Since APS is usually published on March, we think the respective debate should be organized in spring, and that is why COSAC seems an appropriate forum for such a discussion.
	21.	It is easier for the President of the Commission or its members to attend an interparliamentary debate (such as COSAC or those organized jointly in Brussels) than responding to invitations from individual Parliamentary bodies from all over Europe.



Ireland
Houses of the Oireachtas

Questionnaire:

Answer:

A. COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE AND WORK PROGRAMME

I. OVERALL ASPECTS

1. The 2007 CLWP places a greater emphasis on meeting the needs of citizens and on connecting with them. There is also a recognition that efforts to connect beyond the traditional contact points need strengthening. The current CLWP, in addition, contains a more direct recognition that the Commission has on-going responsibilities in relation to the acquis, as well as their role in advancing new initiatives.

II. SPACE

2. The proposal to hold debates in national parliaments in relation to the Commission's Legislative and Work Programme provides a valuable opportunity to raise national European awareness and to further strengthen the role and involvement of national parliaments in the EU decision-making process.
In giving practical effect to this proposal greater recognition might be given to the flexibility required by national parliaments in scheduling these debates so that they may apply an appropriate level of parliamentary scrutiny and debate to the Legislative and Work Programme. To set a time-frame at the outset may diminish the opportunity for full debate as it is unclear at that stage what will be required in terms of parliament's consideration of the LWP. The one-month timeframe may limit the opportunity for parliaments to engage in a consultation process, review the proposals and associated documents in any detail and allow a full exchange of views on the content of the LWP.

		<p>Therefore the timeframe for the debate might be determined by each individual national parliament having regard to its particular parliamentary convention and tradition and other practical considerations. This would facilitate individual national parliaments in transmitting directly to the Commission any comments they might have on the Legislative and Work Program. This would also facilitate the timely tabling of a report on the outcome of the debate.</p>
<p>III. FORM OF DISCUSSIONS</p>	<p>3.</p>	<p>b) in a committee/committees Committees: Oireachtas Joint Committee on European Affairs, EU Scrutiny Committee, Sectoral Committees. In accordance with the EU scrutiny process in the Oireachtas, the EU Scrutiny Committee considered the 2007 LWP. Following consideration the LWP was referred to each sectoral committee for information and consideration. Sectoral committees may scrutinise and debate proposals, when presented by the Commission, which fall within their area of competence.</p>
	<p>4.</p>	<p>a) open to the public</p>
	<p>5.</p>	<p>a) yes The relevant Minister and/or representatives of the government department with lead responsibility for the proposals being considered may be invited to attend the discussion.</p>
	<p>6.</p>	<p>a) yes Oireachtas sectoral committees may scrutinise and debate those proposals in the LWP which fall within their area of competence.</p>
	<p>7.</p>	<p>c) both Irish MEPs may attend and participate at meetings of the Joint Committee on European Affairs; Members of the European Commission may attend and</p>

		participate at meetings of the Joint Committee on European Affairs and all sectoral committees upon invitation.
	8.	<p>b) yes</p> <p>(i) representatives of the second Chamber (members of the relevant committees are drawn from both Houses of the Oireachtas.)</p> <p>(ii) non-governmental organizations</p> <p>(iii) trade unions and associations of entrepreneurs</p> <p>(iv) ambassadors</p> <p>(v) others—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ministers of Government and Ministers of State o representatives of government agencies and statutory bodies o representatives of European Union Institutions o representatives of EU national parliaments o representatives of intergovernmental organizations;); o members of the Irish delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
	9.	a) no
IV. COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT / EUROPEAN COMMISSION	10.	Under the Oireachtas EU Scrutiny legislative framework, as soon as practicable after each proposed measure is presented by the Commission, the Minister having responsibility for the measure is obliged to present a statement to both Houses of the Oireachtas outlining the content, purpose and likely implications for Ireland of the proposed measure and including such other information as he or she considers appropriate.
	11.	(b) and (c) Please refer also to reply to No. 10.
	12.	Please refer to reply to No. 10.
	13.	a) yes
V. CONCLUSIONS OF THE	14.	In accordance with the framework for

DISCUSSIONS		EU scrutiny in the Oireachtas, the EU Scrutiny Committee reaches conclusions and makes recommendations, including recommendations that proposals be referred to the appropriate sectoral committee for further scrutiny; The Joint Committee on European Affairs, the EU Scrutiny Committee and sectoral committees present reports, including recommendations as appropriate, on the outcome of their deliberations to the Houses of the Oireachtas. Copies of the reports are also forwarded to the relevant government department.
	15.	Reports on the outcome of committees' deliberations are forwarded to the relevant government department. The legislative framework for EU scrutiny in the Oireachtas provides that 'The Minister shall have regard to any recommendations made to him or her from time to time by either or both Houses of the Oireachtas or by a committee of either or both such Houses in relation to a proposed measure'.
	16.	The committees of the Oireachtas may forward contributions to the European Commission on proposals that raise significant questions.
VI. SPECIFIC CHALLENGES	17.	COSAC would coordinate the scrutiny of the CLWP and present a report on the outcome of this exercise to the Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments.
B. WHAT HAS YOUR PARLIAMENT / PARLIAMENTARY CHAMBER DONE THROUGHOUT 2006 TO BRING THE EU CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS?		On May 10th 2006 Europe was celebrated in the Dáil Chamber by members of both Houses of the Oireachtas. For the first time in the history of Dáil Éireann a European Commissioner, Mariann Fischer Boel, responsible for the Agriculture and Rural Development portfolio, addressed members of both Houses of the Oireachtas and took questions from the floor of the Dáil Chamber. A dedicated website was set up which invited

	<p>members of the public to contribute to the debate in the Dáil by submitting comments and questions on EU issues for discussion during the special Dáil session. Many of the comments and questions received from members of the public were raised during the course of the debate. Detailed replies to all questions were subsequently prepared by relevant government departments and sent to the questioners.</p> <p>The Joint Committee on European Affairs produced a commemorative brochure to mark the occasion entitled Bringing the European Union and the Citizen Closer Together. Following the success of this event in 2006, it was agreed that this exercise should be repeated in 2007. In March this year the Dáil will hold a special debate on Europe under the title A Focus on Europe and broad theme of the 50th Anniversary of the Treaty of Rome.</p>
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C. COMMISSION'S ANNUAL POLICY STRATEGY

	18.	Perhaps these options should not be mutually exclusive but rather complementary approaches that would contribute to raising national European awareness.
	19.	COSAC would debate the Annual Policy Strategy and present a report on the outcome of this exercise to the EU Speakers Conference; these reports could be resources in any national discussion on the Annual Policy Strategy and other debates in relation to raising national European awareness.
	20.	COSAC plenary in Spring.
	21.	Yes



Italy
Camera dei Deputati

Questionnaire:	Answer:
A. COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE AND WORK PROGRAMME	
I. OVERALL ASPECTS	<p>1. a) yes The new design of the Commission Legislative and Work Programme (CLWP) seems better suited to identifying the Commission's effective legislative priorities and, in particular, to distinguishing between strategic initiatives (those deemed to be of particular political importance and at an advanced state of preparation) and priority initiatives (those ready for submission within the next 12 to 18 months).</p>
II. SPACE	<p>2. b) no The Chamber of Deputies cannot support the proposal to consider the Commission Legislative and Work Programme within one month of its publication because, unfortunately, that period generally coincides with the budget session. This precludes the possibility of carrying out the complex consideration of the Commission's legislative programme, which, in our Parliament, involves all the Committees and the full House. For this reason, the most suitable period for the Italian Chamber of Deputies would be January-February. In any case it has to be reaffirmed that the examinations should start when the CLWP is translated in all EU languages.</p>
III. FORM OF DISCUSSIONS	<p>3. c) both</p> <p>4. a) open to the public (in the manner generally prescribed for normal parliamentary business)</p> <p>5. a) yes The Chamber of Deputies involved in</p>

		the discussion all the Parliamentary Committees, which, as a matter of course, carry out their activities in the presence of the competent representative of Government.
	6.	a) yes All the Parliamentary Committees are involved in discussions, each in regard to its particular area of competence.
	7.	c) Both During the consideration of the European Commission's legislative programme, all Parliamentary Committees of the Chamber of Deputies may schedule hearings with Members of the European Parliament or members of the European Commission (whereas external subjects are not allowed to take part in ordinary sittings). The European Affairs Committee usually organizes a hearing of all the Italian MEPs for the consideration of the legislative programme; for the discussion of the 2007 programme, it intends also to organize a hearing with a representative of the European Commission.
	8.	b) yes - representatives of regional and municipal government (i.; ii.; iii.) - non-governmental organizations (i.; ii.; iii.) - trade unions and associations of entrepreneurs (i.; ii.; iii.) The subjects indicated above. However they can be heard by the competent Parliamentary Committees in the course of the Committees' consideration of the legislative programme. This is the only occasion in which they may take part in the discussions.
	9.	a) no

IV. COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT / EUROPEAN COMMISSION	10.	a) yes
	11.	a) on its own initiative b) on the basis of a legal arrangement of the relations between the parliament/the committee and the Government c) on the basis of a request of the parliament/ the committee
	12.	a) yes Not in the Annexes to the CLWP, however, but in an annual report on Italy's participation in the European Union that the Government presents to Parliament. In the report, the Government sets out the orientations that it intends to follow regarding the priorities under discussion at a European level. The Chamber of Deputies has a specific procedure for the consideration of this report, which, like the consideration of the CLWP itself, involves all Parliamentary Committees in relation to their areas of competence and the Full House.
	13.	a) yes (this is possible only for the Committees)
V. CONCLUSIONS OF THE DISCUSSIONS	14.	A resolution voted by the Full House.
	15.	a) yes All policy-setting instruments approved by Parliament or its organs are addressed to the Government.
	16.	a) probably yes The approved resolution, which is addressed to Government and refers to the activities it will carry out in European institutions, may include an instruction to transmit all or part of the text to the European Commission. If so, the Secretary General of the Chamber of Deputies transmits it to the Secretary General of the European Commission.
VI. SPECIFIC CHALLENGES	17.	b) EU Speakers Conference
B. WHAT HAS YOUR		The Chamber of Deputies has provided the

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fullest possible publicity of all its debates on European issues by, among other things, providing audio, video, online and satellite TV broadcasts. The Chamber of Deputies, operating through its "Foundation" is also organizing meetings and seminars on European themes, with the participation of scholars, representatives of civil society, regional and local governments and universities. The Chamber of Deputies has also issued a number of publications dealing with parliamentary debates on European themes, and others are currently in preparation. The Parliamentary Committees, meanwhile, have carried out several fact-finding investigations into issues with a European relevance, in which they have sought the involvement of members of civil society.

C. COMMISSION'S ANNUAL POLICY STRATEGY

	<p>18. b) No, such debates should rather take place in each national parliament. It could be foreseen an interparliamentary meeting, that should have the sole aim of providing an opportunity for individual parliaments to learn about and compare their procedures. In no case should it supplant individual parliaments in the examination of the Commission's Annual Policy Strategy.</p>
	<p>19. d) COSAC f) Joint Parliamentary Meeting organized by the European Parliament and the national parliament holding the EU-Presidency, or other intraparlimentary meetings.</p>
	<p>20. In the two months following the presentation of the annual policy strategy</p>
	<p>21. Yes.</p>



Italy
Senato della Repubblica

Questionnaire:

Answer:

A. COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE AND WORK PROGRAMME

I. OVERALL ASPECTS	1.	<p>In the CLWP for 2007, the European Commission has, for the first time, defined a series of concrete actions the so-called 21 strategic initiatives, which will represent the core business for the activity of 2007, and other priority initiatives, to be adopted during next 18 months.</p> <p>All these initiatives are described in a more detailed manner than previous programmes did for the Commission's proposals.</p> <p>This improvement is welcomed by the Italian Senate, because it was a critical point brought to the attention in the Copenhagen Conference.</p>
II. SPACE	2.	<p>The period of one month seems sufficient to allow the examination in most of the Parliaments, but in some circumstances the Italian Senat is obliged to postpone the exam because of the coinciding debate on the budget law.</p> <p>In any case it has to be reaffirmed that the examinations should start when the CLWP is translated in all EU languages.</p>
III. FORM OF DISCUSSIONS	3.	b) At a committee level. The Committee on EU Policies examines the document and receives the views of specialised Committees.
	4.	b) Closed.
	5.	a) Yes the Minister of Community Policies.
	6.	a) Yes all the other standing Committees.
	7.	a) Both The Committee on EU Policies may

		gather information on matters within its terms of reference (as is the case of CLWP) from both the members of the European Parliament and the members of the European Commission.
	8.	b) Yes Italian Senate Committees may gather information, in relation to the subject matter falling within its competence, from all relevant actors involved.
	9.	a) no
IV. COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT / EUROPEAN COMMISSION	10.	a) yes
	11.	a) On its own initiative c) On the basis of a request of the committee.
	12.	No However, the Government submits an annual report to Parliament concerning the participation of Italy in European Union activities, which contains its views on issues debated at EU level. This document is considered jointly with the European Union bill.
	13.	b) No
V. CONCLUSIONS OF THE DISCUSSIONS	14.	The 21 February a draft resolution has been presented in the Committee on EU Policies.
	15.	a) Yes The President of the Senate shall forward the resolution to the President of the Council of Ministers.
	16.	b) Probably no
VI. SPECIFIC CHALLENGES	17.	b) EU Speakers Conference
B. WHAT HAS YOUR PARLIAMENT / PARLIAMENTARY CHAMBER DONE THROUGHOUT 2006 TO BRING THE EU CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS?		The Senate ensures that all its debates are open to the public by making the relevant records available on its website. A number of publications containing parliamentary debates and speeches also exist. Furthermore, the records of the sittings of the Standing Committee on European Union policies are reported by a major Italian newspaper on the site Europalex.cataweb.it .
C. COMMISSION'S ANNUAL POLICY STRATEGY		

	18.	a) No, such debates should rather take place in each national parliament.
	19.	See answer 18
	20.	See answer 18
	21.	See answer 18



Lithuania
Seimas

Questionnaire:

Answer:

A. COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE AND WORK PROGRAMME

<p>I. OVERALL ASPECTS</p>	<p>1.</p>	<p>a) Yes the committees considered the 2007 CLWP to be better structured. I was also clearer than the CLWP of 2006 mainly because of a better-organized explanatory part. In addition, an important improvement was the fact that the Commission translated the 2007 CLWP (including the Annex) into Lithuanian and the period between receiving this document in English/French and Lithuanian was adequate.</p>
<p>II. SPACE</p>	<p>2.</p>	<p>a) Yes the CLWP is usually received by the end of November and this is comparatively convenient to Seimas, because there are no plenary sittings in January and February. Thus, debates on the CLWP in our case proceed as it was suggested in the conclusions made by the Conference of the Speakers of EU Parliaments held in Copenhagen.</p>
<p>III. FORM OF DISCUSSIONS</p>	<p>3.</p>	<p>b) The 2007 CLWP was presented by the Head of the Commission Representation in Lithuania at the joint meeting of the Committees on European Affairs and Foreign Affairs; all specialized committees of the Seimas discussed the document and delivered their conclusions. The conclusions were summarized at a joint meeting of the Committees on European Affairs and Foreign Affairs and submitted to the Government.</p>
	<p>4.</p>	<p>a) Hearings of the 2007 CLWP in the Seimas committees were open to the</p>

		public, social and economic partners were invited to deliver their opinion.
	5.	a) Yes, according to the Statute of the Seimas the Government should be present in the meetings on CLWP.
	6.	a) Yes, please see answer No. 3.
	7.	a) According to Article 180 the following officials shall attend the meetings: the President of the Republic and the Speaker of the Seimas at their own discretion, the Prime Minister, minister and the representatives of state institutions assisting them, representatives of other state institutions, Members of the European Parliament elected in the Republic of Lithuania, Members of other Seimas Committees.
	8.	b) Yes non-governmental organizations (ii&iii, i.e. Lithuanian Energy Agency presented in the debates of the 2007 CLWP).
IV. COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT / EUROPEAN COMMISSION	9.	The Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania did not hold a debate on 2007 CLWP in plenary sittings due to its tense agenda.
	10.	a) Yes the Government of the Republic of Lithuania debated on the 2007 CLWP, the relevant ministries submitted their proposals and the summary thereof was adopted in the format of the Summary of Lithuanian Priorities in the EU Policy for 2007.
	11.	c) The Government's obligations in respect of the 2007 CLWP are not provided for in the legal acts, however, back in 2005 the Seimas committees requested the Government to present its opinion. Thus the

		Government participation in the deliberation of the CLWP formed as a practice.
	12.	a) Yes the Seimas and the Government attach high importance to the Commission instruments set out in the Annex.
	13.	b) No.
V. CONCLUSIONS OF THE DISCUSSIONS	14.	The 2007 CLWP was presented by the Head of the Commission Representation in Lithuania at the joint meeting of the Committees on European Affairs and Foreign Affairs; all specialized committees of the Seimas debated on the document and delivered their conclusions. The conclusions were summarized at a joint meeting of the Committees on European Affairs and Foreign Affairs and submitted to the Government.
	15.	a) Yes, the Conclusion of the Committees on European Affairs and Foreign Affairs “The Priorities of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania According to the European Commission Legislative and Work Program for 2007” was submitted to the Government.
	16.	b) No.
VI. SPECIFIC CHALLENGES	17.	a) COSAC
B. WHAT HAS YOUR PARLIAMENT / PARLIAMENTARY CHAMBER DONE THROUGHOUT 2006 TO BRING THE EU CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS?		<p>During 2006 the <i>European Information Centre of the Committees on European Affairs</i> continued its activities and informed public about the EU and the work of the Seimas in this field. Around 13 900 people visited the European Information Centre during 2006. In addition, the staff of the Information Centre answered about 4 500 questions and requests submitted by phone or email.</p> <p>In April – May 2006, within the framework of the traditional “<i>Europe Week</i>”, all Seimas specialized committees in cooperation with the European Information</p>

Center of the Committee on European Affairs organized public debates on various European issues (i.e., European Cooperation in Combating Crime and Terrorism, European Structural Funds, Regional Development, Illegal Migration and Asylum Policy, Renewable Energy Sources, Enlargement of the EU, etc.). Members of the Committee on European Affairs participated in discussions the *Europe Direct Centers*.

In April – May 2006 Committee on European Affairs together with the Government and the Commission Representation in Lithuania carried out a joint project - *essay competition* for all those wishing to participate, “My Opinion for Lithuania and Europe”.

On 2 May 2006 a *solemn plenary sitting* “*Lithuania about the Future of Europe. Two Years of Membership*” was organized at the Seimas.

In addition the Committee on European Affairs has organized a conference on the development of the society and democracy”.

Currently the Committee on European Affairs is working on a modified concept of its transparency agenda and openness in European issues. This would comprise increasing number of public debates on Commission proposals, better involvement of specialized committees in the process of policy formulation and subsidiarity check in particular, and a new public relations exercise for the Committee on European Affairs.

C. COMMISSION’S ANNUAL POLICY STRATEGY

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 18. | a) Yes, there could be an exchange of views on the Annual Policy Strategy of the Commission, though it should be underlined, that, basically, each parliament should deal with it individually. |
|-----|---|

	19.	d) The Annual Policy Strategy should be presented before COSAC, e) and could be debated by the EU Speakers Conference.
	20.	Presentation – in spring, debate – in summer.
	21.	Yes



Luxemburg
Chambre des Députés

Questionnaire:

Answer:

A. COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE AND WORK PROGRAMME

I. OVERALL ASPECTS	1.	a) no the CLWP still is too general to organize a detailed debate.
II. SPACE	2.	b) no a larger timeframe is necessary
III. FORM OF DISCUSSIONS	3.	b) in a committee/committees
	4.	b) closed
	5.	no answer
	6.	no answer
	7.	a) MEP
	8.	a) no
IV. COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT / EUROPEAN COMMISSION	9.	a) no
	10.	b) no
	11.	no answer
V. CONCLUSIONS OF THE DISCUSSIONS	12.	no answer
	13.	b) No.
	14.	no answer
VI. SPECIFIC CHALLENGES	15.	no answer
	16.	no answer
	17.	a) COSAC
B. WHAT HAS YOUR PARLIAMENT / PARLIAMENTARY CHAMBER DONE THROUGHOUT 2006 TO BRING THE EU CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MPs participated in meetings on European affairs organized in schools. • Parliamentary TV channel regularly informs on activities of the European Parliament during its weekly summary of parliamentary work. • A youth forum on European affairs was organized. • During Finnish presidency, an exhibition was organized on 100th anniversary of the Eduskunta. • An exchange of views with commissioners Margot Wallström was transmitted by parliamentary TV channel. • Preparation started for a youth contest on the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome.

C. COMMISSION'S ANNUAL POLICY STRATEGY

	18.	a) Yes
	19.	b) COSAC
	20.	No answer
	21.	Yes



Malta
Il-Kamra Tad-Deputati

Questionnaire:

Answer:

A. COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE AND WORK PROGRAMME

I. OVERALL ASPECTS	1.	The CLWP for 2007 is scheduled to be discussed during the next meeting of the Committee dealing with EU scrutiny (scrutiny committee). Comparisons cannot be made at this stage.
II. SPACE	2.	b) no At least 2 months, but in any case not later than the end of the year in which it is published.
III. FORM OF DISCUSSIONS	3.	b) in a committee/committees 2 Committees are involved in the debate of this document: the Foreign and European Affairs Committee (FEAC) and the Scrutiny Committee.
	4.	a) open to the public - the FEAC b) closed - the Scrutiny Committee
	5.	a) yes – during the FEAC debate Malta's Permanent Representative to Brussels will present the programme
	6.	b) no
	7.	a) MEP – during the FEAC meeting
	8.	- others (please specify) - Malta's Permanent Representative to Brussels (ii)
	9.	no answer
IV. COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT / EUROPEAN COMMISSION	10.	a) yes
	11.	b) on the basis of a legal arrangement of the relations between the parliament/the committee and the Government – as part of the standard scrutiny procedure
	12.	a) yes
V. CONCLUSIONS OF THE DISCUSSIONS	13.	b) no
	14.	When a document is cleared from scrutiny the House is advised

		accordingly and the Government is informed that the Committee accepts the position on the document
	15.	a) yes – by way of a letter to the Minister responsible for the document
	16.	b) no
VI. SPECIFIC CHALLENGES	17.	a) COSAC
B. WHAT HAS YOUR PARLIAMENT / PARLIAMENTARY CHAMBER DONE THROUGHOUT 2006 TO BRING THE EU CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS?		All documentation related to scrutiny of EU proposals is tabled in the House after the documents are cleared and they are also made available on the Committee’s website.
C. COMMISSION’S ANNUAL POLICY STRATEGY		
	18.	a) Yes
	19.	d) COSAC
	20.	Within 2 or 3 months from its publication
	21.	Yes



Netherlands
Tweede Kamer

Questionnaire:

Answer:

A. COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE AND WORK PROGRAMME

I. OVERALL ASPECTS	1.	a) yes The lay out of the 2007 CLWP is more practical than the 2006 version. The introduction of the categories is an improvement.
II. SPACE	2.	a) yes however on 'best effort' basis. There should be room for flexibility.
III. FORM OF DISCUSSIONS	3.	c) both
	4.	a) open to the public
	5.	a) yes the minister for European Affairs takes part in the debate
	6.	a) yes providing input to the spokesmen on European Affairs
	7.	a) MEP there is a procedure that the Dutch MEP's can speak at the beginning of a debate, but they can not make interruptions and the Government is not formally obliged to answer their questions.
	8.	a) no The above mentioned subjects can take part in hearings or send in their written comments.
IV. COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT / EUROPEAN COMMISSION	9.	a) no
	10.	a) yes
	11.	a) on its own initiative
	12.	a) yes
V. CONCLUSIONS OF THE DISCUSSIONS	13.	a) yes
	14.	There are no specific conclusions at the end of the debate. It is however possible that one or more Members table a motion for the plenary. The result of the debate is a list of specific proposals from the LWP that will be

		used by the Temporary Subsidiarity Committee to scrutinize.
	15.	b) no Not in particular, as the Government participates in the debate, it is aware of the position of the parliament.
	16.	a) yes Only when the parliament concludes on the basis of a scrutiny process that a specific proposal is not in line with the principles of subsidiarity or proportionality. This is communicated by the parliament in an official letter to the Commission.
VI. SPECIFIC CHALLENGES	17.	a) COSAC
B. WHAT HAS YOUR PARLIAMENT / PARLIAMENTARY CHAMBER DONE THROUGHOUT 2006 TO BRING THE EU CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS?		Public debates with the government, with members of the European Commission, round table discussions, participation of individual members in panel discussions and media events.
C. COMMISSION'S ANNUAL POLICY STRATEGY		
	18.	Such debates should take place in each national parliament and could as a follow-up also be discussed in a Joint Parliamentary Meeting or in COSAC .
	19.	d) COSAC e) Joint Parliamentary Meeting organized by the European Parliament and the national parliament holding the EU-Presidency.
	20.	Within 2 months after the presentation would be ideal
	21.	Yes



Netherlands
Eerste Kamer

Questionnaire:

Answer:

A. COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE AND WORK PROGRAMME

I. OVERALL ASPECTS	1.	The information regarding the content of the proposals is still very brief which makes it very difficult to grasp the intent of the proposal, the possible breach of subsidiarity and proportionality.
II. SPACE	2.	a) yes it could also be extended to a six week period
III. FORM OF DISCUSSIONS	3.	b) in a committee/committees
	4.	b) closed (standard procedure for committee meetings; however the follow-up of the debate will take place in the plenary which is open to public)
	5.	a) yes the programme was discussed with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the follow-up in plenary will also involve the Minister of Foreign Affairs.
	6.	b) no (not yet)
	7.	d) No
	8.	a) no However, by letter the Senate has asked NGO's, other institutions and organizations to send their comments on the LWP 2007 to the Senate.
IV. COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT / EUROPEAN COMMISSION	9.	a) no
	10.	a) yes
	11.	c) on the basis of a request of the parliament/ the committee
	12.	a) yes
V. CONCLUSIONS OF THE DISCUSSIONS	13.	b) no
	14.	No specific document with conclusions is adopted after the deliberations. The committee uses the debate on the 2007 CLWP to indicate as early as possible which European proposals might need to be scrutinized in depth. Plus the short-list of those proposals is send to the

		States-General Temporary Committee on the Subsidiarity Check to scrutinize those proposals at the same time in both houses of parliament.
	15.	b) no the findings of the States-General Temporary Committee on the Subsidiarity Check on these specific proposals (if a breach on subsidiarity or proportionality is found) are however also send to the government. If advisable the European Cooperation Organizations committee of the Senate discusses specific proposals with government. So the feedback is more on an ad-hoc basis instead of a general feedback.
	16.	The States-General only addresses findings to the European Commission if both houses of parliaments – through the States-General Temporary Committee on the Subsidiarity Check – suspect a breach on subsidiarity or proportionality. a) yes A letter that is sent to the European Commission, the Council, the European Parliament, COSAC and the Dutch government.
VI. SPECIFIC CHALLENGES	17.	a) COSAC
B. WHAT HAS YOUR PARLIAMENT / PARLIAMENTARY CHAMBER DONE THROUGHOUT 2006 TO BRING THE EU CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Senate is currently preparing a big conference between students from Dutch and Belgian Universities and Members of the Senate on four important topics regarding the European future. There will be about 500 participants. - The Senate has asked the civil society, different organizations and institutes to give their opinion on the Legislative and Working program of the European Commission 2006 and 2007 - The Senate made an appeal to all citizens through the European website of the Senate (www.europapoort.nl) to give their remarks and opinions on European proposals as well as the Senate's activities in the field of the

	<p>EU.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On the European website of the Dutch Senate more news items were put as well as some specific pages about for example the European Constitutional Treaty were created. - Commissioner Frattini was invited for a debate (20 June 2006) that was open to the public. - In beginning of 2006 the Senate took the initiative in COSAC to increase the pressure on the Council to have more deliberations in public. It was a successful initiative. - The Senate thoroughly discussed the EU future with the Dutch government in the annual debate on the European Union which is a debate open to the public. - Initiatives: The request to the Dutch Council of State: advisory body and administrative court to report on the increase of European agencies, specifically on the criteria to establish agencies and the democratic control. An Annual discussion with the national Court of Auditors on the European financial management. It is important to discuss certain matters in public and try to raise the public awareness for this. - More often press releases are being sent out with regard to European activities/issues to involve and get more coverage in the Dutch media 				
C. COMMISSION'S ANNUAL POLICY STRATEGY					
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center; vertical-align: top;">18.</td> <td style="padding: 5px;"> <p>b) No, such debates should rather take place in each national parliament. However, it might be a good idea to look into the option of a Joint Annual interparliamentary debate in the same format as the current Joint Interparliamentary meetings that are held in Brussels, of course with participation of the European Commission.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center; vertical-align: top;">19.</td> <td style="padding: 5px;"> <p>f) Joint Parliamentary Meeting organized by the European Parliament and the national parliament holding the</p> </td> </tr> </table>	18.	<p>b) No, such debates should rather take place in each national parliament. However, it might be a good idea to look into the option of a Joint Annual interparliamentary debate in the same format as the current Joint Interparliamentary meetings that are held in Brussels, of course with participation of the European Commission.</p>	19.	<p>f) Joint Parliamentary Meeting organized by the European Parliament and the national parliament holding the</p>
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19.	<p>f) Joint Parliamentary Meeting organized by the European Parliament and the national parliament holding the</p>				

		EU-Presidency.
	20.	Within a period of 4 – 6 weeks after the presentation of the Strategy by the European Commission.
	21.	Yes. If a Joint Interparliamentary debate is held in Brussels of course the Commission should be present with preferably as many Commissioners a possible.



**Poland
Sejm**

Questionnaire:

Answer:

A. COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE AND WORK PROGRAMME

I. OVERALL ASPECTS	1.	a) yes we kindly took notice that the whole document was sent in the Polish language
II. SPACE	2.	a) yes
III. FORM OF DISCUSSIONS	3.	b) in a committee/committees we are waiting for the debate during the plenary session
	4.	a) open to the public
	5.	b) no the compulsory participation of the representatives of the Government stems from the act on cooperation of the Council of Ministers with the Sejm
	6.	b) no
	7.	a) MEP
	8.	b) yes all guests, invited to the meeting of the committee, can participate in the discussion, if the Chairman gives permission to speak
IV. COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT / EUROPEAN COMMISSION	9.	a) no
	10.	a) yes
	11.	b) on the basis of legal arrangements for the relations between the parliament/the committee and the Government
	12.	a) yes
V. CONCLUSIONS OF THE DISCUSSIONS	13.	b) no
	14.	Conclusions
	15.	a) yes Government is present during the debate.
VI. SPECIFIC CHALLENGES	16.	a) yes letter to the Commission
B. WHAT HAS YOUR PARLIAMENT /	17.	a) COSAC The first debate of series of debates about the idea of European cooperation and order,

**PARLIAMENTARY
CHAMBER DONE
THROUGHOUT 2006 TO
BRING THE EU CLOSER
TO ITS CITIZENS?**

organized by the Marshal of the Sejm and the Polish Institute for Foreign Affairs, took place on 11th May 2006. During the conference, participants discussed about situation, effectiveness and cohesion of the EU institutions and their way of development.

The second debate of series of debates about the idea of European cooperation and order, organized by the Marshal of the Sejm and the Polish Institute for Foreign Affairs, took place on 22th June 2006. The topic of the conference was as follows: "The European tradition and identity".

The third debate of series of debates about the idea of European cooperation and order, organized by the Marshal of the Sejm and the Polish Institute for Foreign Affairs, took place on 12th October 2006. During the conference, participants discussed about the chances and tasks in a context of Poland's accession to the Euro zone.

The international conference: "What a Union? Which future? Which Europe?", organized by the Jagiellonian University, took place in Krakow, from 11th till 14th September 2006. The conference was under the auspices of the Marshal of the Sejm and the Senate as well as the European Parliament.

The host had invited to the conference inter alia the Chairman of the European Parliament, Mr Josep Borrell Fontelles and the Commissioner of Regional Policy, Ms Danuta Hübner. During the conference the following issues were discussed: the future of Europe, the role of the European Parliament and national parliaments in civil society and the possibilities of bringing citizen closer to the European institutions and legal aspects of the Polish membership of the EU.

The Sejm publishes "Kronika Sejmowa" twice a week, which is an informative brochure about the functioning of the Sejm and its bodies that stipulate the activities of

	the Sejm in matters regarding the EU.
C. COMMISSION'S ANNUAL POLICY STRATEGY	
	18. a) Yes, it don't exclude the debate in the national parliaments
	19. e) EU Speakers Conference
	20. In May
	21. Yes



Poland
Senat

Questionnaire:

Answer:

A. COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE AND WORK PROGRAMME

I. OVERALL ASPECTS

1.
 - a) yes

We noted several improvements compared to the 2006 CLWP. They concern the following.

First of all, the whole document, including the annex with legislative initiatives, has been translated into Polish, which made it possible for all the senators to understand its content. It was a frequently noted disadvantage last year.

Secondly, as far as the content is concerned, it was noted that the 2007 CLWP in general followed the objectives outlined in the Commission's document entitled *Strategic Objectives 2005-2009*. The senators agreed that the strategic goals of the European Commission such as prosperity, solidarity, and security both in Europe and in the external world, were well reflected in the programme. Also the priorities concerning better regulation and simplification and the European Neighbourhood Policy were welcomed. The senators therefore expressed their general positive attitude towards the broad objectives of the Commission's Programme but, as it was last year, they stressed their vagueness and lack of concrete proposals for the specific actions to be undertaken.
 - b) no

As noted above, the senators agreed that when it came down to details, there were no specific proposals for actions to be undertaken, only very

broad and general visions, which made the assessment of the 2007 CLWP difficult.

Moreover, similar to last year, the senators noted the fact that a lot has been said and written on the issue of a Lisbon Strategy so far, but no concrete legislative proposals and solutions have been presented.

The senators also noted the fact that the constitutional crisis should finally be solved. However, neither last year, nor this year, any specific arrangements have been proposed. The senators welcomed the Commission's initiative to participate in the process of exploration of future developments with regard to the Constitutional Treaty and to cooperate with the other institutions, with the aim of contributing to a comprehensive institutional settlement. However, the 2007 CLWP does not present any solutions to this problem.

The senators underlined the fact that looking at last year, a lot of goals could have been achieved faster and coordinated better, in such areas as the modernization of the European economy, competition (final version of the services directive, with a very limited scope – which is against the principle of solidarity and prosperity), the Lisbon Strategy (very slow implementation of its objectives which is counter to the principles of prosperity, innovation and investment growth in R&D and modernization of the European economy), enlargement of the Schengen area (postponement of the date for enlargement is against the principle of the security of the EU citizens), growing unemployment (against the principle of sustainable employment growth), etc. They also

		<p>fear that looking at the 2007 CLWP, this year no significant improvements in those areas can be expected. There seem to be a resistance in some Member States towards progress in those areas and inability of the Commission to facilitate the completion of those goals.</p> <p>Moreover, the senators noted that last year the issue of security of energy supplies was more pronounced in the Programme compared to this year's solutions.</p>
<p>II. SPACE</p>	<p>2.</p>	<p>a) yes</p> <p>In general, it can be concluded that so far, it hasn't been a problem and one month proved sufficient enough. However, we note the fact that other parliaments might experience some problems due to the fact that some concurrent activities might be taking place at the same time or that it might prove difficult to gather members of parliaments in order to undertake such discussions due to the fact that they might have other commitments.</p>
<p>III. FORM OF DISCUSSIONS</p>	<p>3.</p>	<p>c) both</p>
	<p>4.</p>	<p>a) open to the public</p>
	<p>5.</p>	<p>a) yes</p> <p>We invited a representative of the Government to present their position on the 2007 CLWP. The person in question was present at both the Committee sitting and at the plenary session. The Government was represented by the under-secretary of state from the Office of the Committee for European Integration.</p>
	<p>6.</p>	<p>b) no</p>
	<p>7.</p>	<p>a) MEP</p> <p>According to art. 60, para. 2 of the Rules and Regulations of the Senate: "Committee sittings may be attended by Deputies, representatives of the</p>

		Council of Ministers, and Members of the European Parliament elected in the territory of the Republic of Poland”.
	8.	<p>b) yes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - representatives of the second Chamber (i.; ii.; <u>iii.</u>) - representatives of regional and municipal government (i.; ii.; <u>iii.</u>) - non-governmental organizations (i.; ii.; <u>iii.</u>) - trade unions and associations of entrepreneurs (i.; ii.; <u>iii.</u>) - ambassadors (i.; ii.; <u>iii.</u>) - others (please specify) <p>According to art. 60 of the Rules and Regulations of the Senate, the following subjects can participate in the discussions in the following forms:</p> <p><i>Article 60</i></p> <p>1. Committee sittings may be attended by Senators who are not members of this committee. They may take the floor in discussion and submit motions but shall not hold any voting rights.</p> <p>2. Committee sittings may be attended by Deputies, representatives of the Council of Ministers, and Members of the European Parliament elected in the territory of the Republic of Poland.</p> <p>2a. Professional lobbyists can participate in sittings of committees during consideration of legislation or legislative proposals. They are entitled to present their desired outcome of such consideration on terms specified by the committee chairman.</p> <p>3. On the request of a committee or committee chairman, representatives of the Council of Ministers, state and local government bodies, institutions, works and enterprises, commercial law companies with state holdings or municipal corporate bodies and social organisations receiving subsidies from the state budget, are obliged to co-</p>

	<p>operate with the committee on issues being the subject of its activities, and in particular:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) to present information, clarifications, opinions in writing or using suitable media; 2) to provide materials; and 3) to actively participate in committee sittings. <p>4. In the work of committees the Council of Ministers is represented by an authorised member of the Council of Ministers, a secretary of state, an under-secretary of state, a government plenipotentiary or head of a central office, and in particularly justified cases also by another person operating in the specified area of government administration with written authorisation from the Prime Minister. Other entities are represented by a person authorised in accordance with the procedure of external representation required for this entity or, with the consent of the committee chairman, a different person.</p> <p>6. The chairmen of committees can request the preparation of opinions and can invite experts, representatives of groups and organisations interested in the subject of a committee's work, and other persons, to attend the sittings.</p>
	<p>9. b) yes - others (please specify) Article 33, para. 1 and 2 and Article 50, para. 1 and 2 of the Rules and Regulations of the Senate specify who is authorised to attend the plenary: <i>Article 33</i> 1. The right to attend the sittings of the Senate is held by the persons named in Article 32, para. 2, and members of the Presidium of the Sejm, members of the Council of Ministers, the President of the Constitutional Tribunal, the</p>

		<p>Ombudsman, and the First President of the Supreme Court.</p> <p>2. The right to attend the sittings of the Senate is also given to guests invited by the Presidium of the Senate.</p> <p><i>Article 50</i></p> <p>1. Beyond the scheduled order of speakers, the Marshal of the Senate shall grant the floor to the Prime Minister and members of the Council of Ministers, upon request.</p> <p>2. Beyond the scheduled order of speakers, the Marshal of the Senate shall also grant the floor to persons referred to in Article 32, para. 2 and Article 33, para. 1, and may also grant the floor to invited guests.</p>
<p>IV. COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT / EUROPEAN COMMISSION</p>	10.	a) yes
	11.	c) on the basis of a request of the parliament/ the committee
	12.	<p>b) no</p> <p>The Government in its opinion referred only to the general objectives, not to the specific legislative and non-legislative proposals.</p>
	13.	<p>a) yes</p> <p>An official invitation was sent to the European Commission but there was no response and in the end nobody from the European Commission took part in the discussions.</p>
<p>V. CONCLUSIONS OF THE DISCUSSIONS</p>	14.	<p>Discussions on the CLWP take place first within the European Union Affairs Committee and later at the plenary sitting of the Senate. They provide an interesting and constructive forum for an exchange of views and so far proved very useful. The conclusions take the form of the summary of both debates. There have been no specific resolution or position being proposed.</p>
	15.	<p>a) yes</p> <p>The conclusions from the discussions about the 2007 CLWP will be</p>

		submitted to the Government in the form of a summary of debates which took place in both the European Union Affairs Committee and at the plenary sitting of the Senate. The summary will include: the key issues which were discussed, the key points which were raised by the senators and the main conclusions from both debates. The summary will also cover the references which were made to the Government's opinion on the 2007 CLWP.
	16.	a) yes The conclusions from the discussions about the 2007 CLWP will be submitted to the European Commission in the form of a summary of debates which took place in both the European Union Affairs Committee and at the plenary sitting of the Senate. The summary will include: the key issues which were discussed, the key points which were raised by the senators and the main conclusions from both debates.
VI. SPECIFIC CHALLENGES	17.	a) COSAC
B. WHAT HAS YOUR PARLIAMENT / PARLIAMENTARY CHAMBER DONE THROUGHOUT 2006 TO BRING THE EU CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS?		In 2006, the European Union Affairs Committee organised two conferences, which were open to public, aiming to bring the EU closer to its citizens, on the following subjects: 1) "Conference on the pros and cons of Poland's accession to the Eurozone" held on 15th November 2006 2) "Conference on security of Poland's energy supplies vs European energy policy" held on 30th May 2006 More initiatives are planned for the upcoming months.
C. COMMISSION'S ANNUAL POLICY STRATEGY		
	18.	a) Yes Such debate would be very useful. However, in no way it should provide a substitution for a debate in the national

		parliament. Both are considered important and necessary.
	19.	d) COSAC
	20.	Such debate should follow debates in each of the national parliaments. Bearing in mind the fact that the Annual Strategy Policy is published in February and the translations into the national languages are available approximately in March, then the reasonable timing of such Joint Interparliamentary debate should be in May.
	21.	We believe so. It would give the members of the national parliaments an opportunity to ask questions related to the Commission's Annual Strategy Policy to the person directly involved and responsible for its preparation.



Portugal
Assembleia da República

Questionnaire:	Answer:
A. COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE AND WORK PROGRAMME	
I. OVERALL ASPECTS	<p>1. a) YES 2 reasons: i) 2007 CLWP was, for the first time, presented in Portuguese (all of it, including annexes); ii) It has a different layout/organization: clearer, shorter, with explicit priorities and better explanations/fundaments.</p>
II. SPACE	<p>2. b) NO End of December/early January for two main reasons: (i) In October and November, the Portuguese Parliament is debating the national budget in committee and plenary session; (ii) according to the Law 43/2006, dated 25th August, article 4 (Means of monitoring and assessment) previews that the Portuguese Parliament shall monitor and assess Portugal's participation in the process of constructing the European Union, particularly a plenary debate in which the Government shall take part, following the conclusion of the last European Council* of each Presidency of the European Union; the debate in the first half of the year may also include assessment of the European Commission's annual political strategy, and that in the second half of the year assessment of its legislative and working programme; * which only occurs mid-December</p>
III. FORM OF DISCUSSIONS	<p>3. c) Both, Plenary and committees</p> <p>4. a) Open to the public</p> <p>5. a) YES The European Affairs Secretary of State, at the committee level, and the Foreign Affairs Minister, at the plenary level.</p>

	<p>6. a) YES</p> <p>All specialist committees are involved, as stressed in the article 7 of Law 43/2006 (Assessment process) - “1 – The European Affairs Committee shall distribute proposals with a rule-making content, as well as other guideline documents referred to in Article 5, among both its own members and the other specialist parliamentary committees with responsibility for the matter in question, for information or the issue of a formal written opinion.”</p> <p>Apart from that, every year, since 2003, the Assembleia da República organizes a public meeting exclusively dedicated to this issue (CLWP) with the participation of the European Affairs Secretary of State, members of the regional legislative assemblies, MEP’s and a representative of the European Commission.</p>
	<p>7. BOTH (MEP’s and member of the European Commission)</p> <p>The participation of MEP’s in specialist committee meetings is possible under the Rules of procedure of the Assembly of the Republic, which, in articles 112 to 114 states that there can be a participation or audition of “other entities”, which may include MEP’s;</p> <p>Regarding EAC, there are two rules to be considered:</p> <p>Article 6 of Law 43/2006 (European Affairs Committee) - 1 – ... (g) Intensifying the exchanges between the Assembly of the Republic and the European Parliament, by proposing the attribution of appropriate reciprocal facilities and regular meetings with interested members, particularly those elected in Portugal; (h) Promoting meetings or hearings with European Union institutions, bodies and agencies on matters that are important to Portugal’s participation in the construction of the</p>

		European Union; Article 3 of the Rules of Procedure of the EAC, which previews the powers of the committee: 1- The Committee may request the participation of members of the Government under the terms of Article 177 (3) of the Constitution and the presence in their proceedings of any staff of ministerial departments, managers or experts from any public bodies, asking for their opinion or information, under the terms of Article 111 (2) of the Rules of Procedure. Portuguese MEP's may be invited to attend those meetings.
	8.	b) YES Subject: analysis of the parliamentary scrutiny regarding the 2006 CLWP and committee scrutiny process concerning the daily initiatives transmitted to the National Parliament by the EC Form of participation (i. written contribution, ii. possibility of a presentation, iii. passive participation): - representatives of regional and municipal government (i.; ii.; iii.) - non-governmental organizations (i.; ii.; iii.) - trade unions and associations of entrepreneurs (i.; ii.; iii.) - ambassadors (ii.; iii.) - others: Media (iii.) and academics (i.; ii.; iii.)
	9.	b) YES - representatives of the second Chamber (iii.) - representatives of regional and municipal government (iii.) - non-governmental organizations (iii.) - trade unions and associations of entrepreneurs (iii.) - ambassadors (iii.) - others - Media (iii.) and academics (iii.)
	10.	a) YES, in an oral basis
IV. COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT / EUROPEAN COMMISSION	11.	b) on the basis of a legal arrangement of the relations between the parliament/the

		committee and the Government (Law 43/2006); c) on the basis of a request of the parliament/ the committee.
	12.	a) YES
	13.	a) YES
V. CONCLUSIONS OF THE DISCUSSIONS	14.	The EAC issues a report (that includes the opinions from all the specialized committees) which is presented during the plenary debate. This report, as well as the plenary debate, is fully published in the Journal of the Assembly of the Republic. It is legally possible for the EAC, a MP or a Political Group to present a draft resolution for the Plenary to adopt it, but, until now, this procedure hasn't been followed for the CLWP.
	15.	a) YES EAC issues a report that includes the opinions from all the specialist committees which is presented during the Plenary Debate. This report, as well as the plenary debate, is fully published in the Journal of the Assembly of the Republic. Furthermore, the Government participates in the Plenary Debate, having an immediate and direct feedback from the national parliament's debate.
	16.	b) NO There is no formal communication but, as explained above, both Report from the EAC and the Debate of the Plenary can be consulted by everyone, including the European Commission, in the Official Journal of the Assembly of the Republic.
VI. SPECIFIC CHALLENGES	17.	a) COSAC
B. WHAT HAS YOUR PARLIAMENT / PARLIAMENTARY CHAMBER DONE THROUGHOUT 2006 TO BRING THE EU CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS?		Considering the text of the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe, European Affairs Committee (EAC) took account of the period of reflection which the European Council of 15 and 16 June 2005 had decided upon in the wake of the "No" results in the French and Dutch referenda, as well as of the current uncertainty

about what is going to happen to the Treaty. EAC decided to ask around 150 people and bodies that are representatives of the academic community, social partners and civil society for their input. A questionnaire was drawn up and sent to them. Other eleven Specialist Parliamentary Standing Committees were also asked for formal opinions on the subject. The opinions were gathered in a report and presented in a public hearing on May 2006. This report is available in Portuguese and English, on the webpage , and dedicated to the period of reflection: <http://www.europa.parlamento.pt/>, which contains several information concerning this period (including plan D). Furthermore, several EAC meetings concerning the Future of Europe, both with members of the Portuguese Government and members of other Parliaments and Governments were held and broadcasted throughout 2006.

C. COMMISSION’S ANNUAL POLICY STRATEGY

18.	a) YES
19.	d) COSAC
20.	During COSAC meeting of the first semester
21.	YES



Romania
Camera Deputatilor

Questionnaire:	Answer:
A. COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE AND WORK PROGRAMME	
I. OVERALL ASPECTS	<p>1. a) yes</p> <p>The debate on the 2006 CLWP in the Romanian Chamber of Deputies benefited the Chamber in terms of both transparency and proactive involvement in European affairs. The Romanian Parliament is committed to play an active part and add value to Europe's policies and actions. In this respect, the Romanian Parliament welcomes the inclusion in the 2007 CWLP of the following initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Review of the Energy Policy for Europe (1); • Proposal for a Council Regulation on common market organization for wine (17); • Initiative on Black Sea Cooperation (20.b) • Communication sur un réseau ferroviaire orienté fret and the Freight Transport Logistics Action Plan (both in the Priority Initiatives) <p>All these initiatives are to be found among the proposals made by the Romanian Chamber of Deputies in the frame of the 2006 CWLP debate, carried out in December 2005.</p>
II. SPACE	<p>2. a) yes</p> <p>The time frame is adequate provided that the CLWP is already translated in all the official languages. If not so, the translation may delay the debate by 1-2 week, since the actual administrative preparations require 2-4 weeks.</p>
III. FORM OF DISCUSSIONS	<p>3. The debate was to take place in a</p>

		special séance of the Standing Bureau of the Chamber of Deputies, on 14 December 2006. However, due to the full agenda of the Romanian Parliament on the eve of the accession to the EU it had to be postponed.
	4.	b) closed
	5.	a) yes Secretaries of state/High-ranking officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and from the Ministry for European Integration were to be invited.
	6.	a) yes The chairs of all standing committees of both Chambers were invited. The MPs belonging to the Joint Committee for European Integration and to the Committees for foreign affairs of both Chambers were also invited.
	7.	Yet to be officially regulated. However, the Romanian observers to the EP (now MEPs) were invited to attend the debate.
	8.	the debate did not take place within the committee
	9.	b) yes - representatives of the second Chamber, including all Members of the Senat's standing bureau - representatives of government - others : the leaders of the political party groups of both Chambers
IV. COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT / EUROPEAN COMMISSION	10.	No relevant answer possible in the given conditions
	11.	No relevant answer possible in the given conditions
	12.	No relevant answer possible in the given conditions
	13.	No relevant answer possible in the given conditions
V. CONCLUSIONS OF THE	14.	No relevant answer possible

DISCUSSIONS	15.	No relevant answer possible
	16.	No relevant answer possible
VI. SPECIFIC CHALLENGES	17.	a) COSAC b) EU Speakers Conference While the COSAC constitutes a forum for debating specific issues related to the scrutiny of the CLWP and to the parliamentary scrutiny in general, the Romanian Chamber of Deputies believes that it is the Conference of the EU Speakers to set the major guidelines and priorities to be followed in this field.
B. WHAT HAS YOUR PARLIAMENT / PARLIAMENTARY CHAMBER DONE THROUGHOUT 2006 TO BRING THE EU CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS?		<p>The Romanian Parliament is constantly committed to raising national European awareness among Romanian citizens. Romania's accession to the EU benefited from the large support of the population and of all political parties and was regarded as a national strategic priority during the recent years.</p> <p>The parliament's contribution to the accession process was essential, in that it provided for the adoption of the acquis and other required legislation.</p> <p>One of the main tasks of the Directorate for public relations of the Chamber of Deputies is to bring the Parliament and the EU closer to the Romanian citizens. To that respect it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-operates with other directorates and committees, in order to make public relevant information concerning the European agenda; • Co-ordinates press conferences on European issues and matters of national interest; • Issues leaflets, brochures and other information materials related to the activity of the Romanian Parliament and to the accession to the EU; • Publicizes the parliament's actions in view of the (former) EU accession, together with the Press directorate;

- Co-ordinates the activity of the Educational Centre of the Chamber of Deputies on bringing the Parliament and the European values closer to the youth under the motto “Learning democracy early enough”.

Also, the Romanian version of the homepage of the Chamber of Deputies (www.cdep.ro) hosts a webpage dedicated to Romania’s membership to the EU, in 3 sections:

- A webpage where the citizens may consult and download relevant papers, speeches and footage related to the Parliament’s Solemn Joint Plenary Session from 20 December 2006 on Romania’s accession to the EU :

http://www.parlament.ro/informatii_publice/aderare.home

- A webpage on the Committee for European Affairs, with general data on its activity, its members and a list of downloadable documents received from the European Commission:
http://www.cdep.ro/pls/parlam/afaceri_europene.pagina?den=afeu_co_introl

- A forum (launched on the 1st of January 2007) where citizens are encouraged to post messages, in answer to the four questions asked: How do you think the accession to the EU will change your life?; What do you expect from the accession?; Do you think the integration may lead to a loss of national identity?; What expectations do you have from the EU?

http://www.cdep.ro/informatii_publice/forum.dispSub?catid=3&tmpl=2

C. COMMISSION’S ANNUAL POLICY STRATEGY

18. Debates on the Commission’s APS may be carried out at both the national and Union level. While at national level the national priorities can be identified, a debate within a

		Joint Annual Interparliamentary debate can help further harmonize different views and present common conclusions to the European Commission.
	19.	<p>e) Joint Parliamentary Meeting organized by the European Parliament and the national parliament holding the EU-Presidency.</p> <p>A JPM organized by the EP (on the model of the JPM on the Future of Europe) may provide the opportunity for various stakeholders and interested national MPs to take part at the debate in larger delegations, while at the same time the COSAC and the EU Speakers Conference can anticipate the debate and present reports/resolutions bringing to the essential points.</p>
	20.	Between the publication of the APS and of the CLWP, in such a way so as to provide for the inclusion of the debate's conclusions in the CLWP. This should be done in consultation with the Commission.
	21.	The competent Commissioner may help strengthen the interinstitutional dialogue and respond directly to comments from national parliaments, thus avoiding unnecessary delays



Romania
Senatul

Questionnaire:

Answer:

A. COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE AND WORK PROGRAMME

I. OVERALL ASPECTS	1.	A debate on the CLWP2006 was organized on December 2005 by the Standing Bureau of the Chamber of Deputies
II. SPACE	2.	a) yes Nevertheless, we think that administrative problems would raise some problems in the case of the first exercise of this kind.
III. FORM OF DISCUSSIONS	3.	No relevant questions. In our opinion, debates shall include, apart the Committee of European Affairs, the chairmen of the standing committees involved with the CLWP, the leaders of the political group, high representatives from the Government and Foreign Affairs Ministry implicated in the European affairs.
III. FORM OF DISCUSSIONS	4.	No relevant questions. In our opinion, debates shall include, apart the Committee of European Affairs, the chairmen of the standing committees involved with the CLWP, the leaders of the political group, high representatives from the Government and Foreign Affairs Ministry implicated in the European affairs.
III. FORM OF DISCUSSIONS	5.	No relevant questions. In our opinion, debates shall include, apart the Committee of European Affairs, the chairmen of the standing committees involved with the CLWP, the leaders of the political group, high representatives from the Government and Foreign Affairs Ministry implicated in the European affairs.
III. FORM OF DISCUSSIONS	6.	No relevant questions. In our opinion, debates shall include, apart the

		Committee of European Affairs, the chairmen of the standing committees involved with the CLWP, the leaders of the political group, high representatives from the Government and Foreign Affairs Ministry implicated in the European affairs.
	7.	No relevant questions. In our opinion, debates shall include, apart the Committee of European Affairs, the chairmen of the standing committees involved with the CLWP, the leaders of the political group, high representatives from the Government and Foreign Affairs Ministry implicated in the European affairs.
	8.	No relevant questions. In our opinion, debates shall include, apart the Committee of European Affairs, the chairmen of the standing committees involved with the CLWP, the leaders of the political group, high representatives from the Government and Foreign Affairs Ministry implicated in the European affairs.
	9.	No relevant questions. In our opinion, debates shall include, apart the Committee of European Affairs, the chairmen of the standing committees involved with the CLWP, the leaders of the political group, high representatives from the Government and Foreign Affairs Ministry implicated in the European affairs.
IV. COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT / EUROPEAN COMMISSION	10.	No relevant question
	11.	No relevant question
	12.	No relevant question
	13.	No relevant question
V. CONCLUSIONS OF THE DISCUSSIONS	14.	No relevant question
	15.	No relevant question
	16.	No relevant question
VI. SPECIFIC CHALLENGES	17.	We appreciate that the Conference is entitled to play such role, in order to improve the position of the national

	parliaments concerning the legislative issues.								
<p>B. WHAT HAS YOUR PARLIAMENT / PARLIAMENTARY CHAMBER DONE THROUGHOUT 2006 TO BRING THE EU CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS?</p>	<p>Due to a political consensus, the Parliament had an important role alongside within the accession negotiations. Although the legal framework defining the involvement of the both Chambers in the European affairs and the relations between Parliament and Government is under construction, the Romanian senators began to treat more and more with the European topics. Thus, they used take into consideration, during plenary sessions, different aspects related to European issues. Actually, they are very active in public forums, conferences or TV debates, in which European matters are analyzed. Moreover, there were some encouraging initiatives implying direct contacts with the citizens. We could mention common concerns expressed through specific activities developed by a large number of NGO's. We also underline the fact that the Romanian euro-observers acquired a good experience in the European institutions, most of them trying to bring it for the national debate. To conclude, we may consider that there are good perspectives with a view to limit the democratic deficit.</p>								
<p>C. COMMISSION'S ANNUAL POLICY STRATEGY</p>									
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="722 1458 798 1675">18.</td> <td data-bbox="798 1458 1412 1675">a) Yes following a national debate, a Joint Interparliamentary debate is needed in order to create a strengthening of the parliaments opinions.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="722 1675 798 1850">19.</td> <td data-bbox="798 1675 1412 1850">We think COSAC is the body which could better focus on the APS, a new joint meeting could alter the effectiveness of the decisions</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="722 1850 798 1935">20.</td> <td data-bbox="798 1850 1412 1935">The debate should take place in the spring session of the COSAC.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="722 1935 798 2065">21.</td> <td data-bbox="798 1935 1412 2065">To have a strong support, it is important to have a high rank participation at the Commission level.</td> </tr> </table>	18.	a) Yes following a national debate, a Joint Interparliamentary debate is needed in order to create a strengthening of the parliaments opinions.	19.	We think COSAC is the body which could better focus on the APS, a new joint meeting could alter the effectiveness of the decisions	20.	The debate should take place in the spring session of the COSAC.	21.	To have a strong support, it is important to have a high rank participation at the Commission level.
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19.	We think COSAC is the body which could better focus on the APS, a new joint meeting could alter the effectiveness of the decisions								
20.	The debate should take place in the spring session of the COSAC.								
21.	To have a strong support, it is important to have a high rank participation at the Commission level.								



Slovakia
Národná rada Slovenskej
Republiky

Questionnaire:

Answer:

A. COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE AND WORK PROGRAMME

I. OVERALL ASPECTS	1.	yes 2007 CLWP was translated including Annex into Slovak. 2007 CLWP was better structured and clearer.
II. SPACE	2.	b) no we suggest six week period and the discussion should start within this period from the publication of the CLWP in all official languages of the EU
III. FORM OF DISCUSSIONS	3.	b) both (i.e. Committee on European Affairs along with the plenary of the NC SR itself)
	4.	a) open (committee sessions as well as the plenary sessions)
	5.	a) yes (Yes, our committee asked the representatives of the Government of the SR to be present during the CLWP 2007 discussions, although the obligation of the Government to participate is covered by the legal instruments regulating the role and the remit of the Committee on European Affairs of the NC SR)
	6.	b) no
	7.	a) MEPs (MEPs participation is explicitly covered by the Rules of Procedure of the NC SR)
	8.	b) yes (theoretically all three forms of participation might be in place, though for an oral presentation it is necessary to get an approval by the committee. As regards CLWP 2007, we received in written form the comments from the

		Association of Entrepreneurs of the Slovak Republic. <i>Note: NC SR is unicameral, therefore the possibility of representatives of the second Chamber is non applicable.</i>)
	9.	b) yes (however non-problematic would only be a passive participation in the plenary. Remaining forms of participation (i.e. written contribution or possibility of a presentation) would need the approval by the plenary.)
IV. COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT / EUROPEAN COMMISSION	10.	a) yes
	11.	c) on the basis of a request of the parliament/ the committee
	12.	a) yes
	13.	a) yes
V. CONCLUSIONS OF THE DISCUSSIONS	14.	A resolution.
	15.	a) yes a resolution
	16.	b) no
VI. SPECIFIC CHALLENGES	17.	a) COSAC
B. WHAT HAS YOUR PARLIAMENT / PARLIAMENTARY CHAMBER DONE THROUGHOUT 2006 TO BRING THE EU CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS?		Members of the Committee on European Affairs participated in the public debates with the government, with member of the European Commission, in panel discussions and media events. The Committee has asked the civil society, different organization and institutes to give their opinion on the Legislative and Working program of the European Commission 2007. Commissioner Figel was invited for a debate in the Committee and in the plenary session, that was transmitted by the parliamentary TV channel. Almost all debates of the Committee on European Affairs are open to the public and broadly covered by the media. Relevant records are available on the website of Slovak parliament.
	C. COMMISSION'S ANNUAL POLICY STRATEGY	
	18.	b) No such debates should rather take place in each national parliament, but there

		should be an exchange of views within COSAC.
	19.	d) COSAC as already planned for the XXXVII COSAC
	20.	Such a debate should take place in spring.
	21.	Of course.



Slovenia
Državni Zbor

Questionnaire:

Answer:

A. COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE AND WORK PROGRAMME

I. OVERALL ASPECTS	1.	a) yes The 2007 CLWP in Slovenian language was available more quickly than the 2006 CLWP.
II. SPACE	2.	a) yes The one-month time frame is adequate, however it is advisable that discussions take place within one month from the publication of the CLWP in all official languages of the EU.
III. FORM OF DISCUSSIONS	3.	b) in a committee/committees
	4.	a) Open to the public
	5.	a) yes The competent committee, i.e. the Committee on EU Affairs, invited the Government to attend the open session and participate in the 2007 CLWP debate.
	6.	b) no
	7.	c) both The Rules of Procedure of the Slovenian National Assembly do not provide for a MEP or a member of the European Commission to attend the sessions of the Committee on EU Affairs, however they can participate upon invitation.
	8.	b) yes - representatives of the second Chamber Other participants (such as non-governmental organizations, trade unions and associations of entrepreneurs, ambassadors) can take part in the discussion upon invitation to attend the open session by the competent committee.
	9.	As already mentioned, the 2007 CLWP was examined and discussed by the competent working body - the

	<p>Committee on EU Affairs. The document was therefore not discussed at plenary session.</p> <p>In addition, according to the Act on Cooperation between the National Assembly and the Government in EU Affairs, once a year the National Assembly discusses the state of affairs in the EU and the position of Slovenia therein on the basis of the priorities for the functioning of Slovenia within EU institutions which the National Assembly receives from the Government. In this context, government policies take into account and are based on the legislative and work programme of the European Commission. The discussion takes place in most parliamentary committees and at the plenary session and represents a further opportunity for examining the CLWP proposals (also in terms of compliance with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality).</p>
<p>IV. COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT / EUROPEAN COMMISSION</p>	<p>10. a) yes</p> <p>The State Secretary for European Affairs from the Government Office for European Affairs was present at the Committee session and delivered a statement.</p>
	<p>11. c) on the basis of a request of the parliament/ the committee</p>
	<p>12. b) no</p> <p>As mentioned above, the National Assembly yearly discusses the state of affairs in the EU and the position of Slovenia therein on the basis of the priorities for the functioning of Slovenia within EU institutions which the National Assembly receives from the Government. In this context, based on the CLWP the government defines priority initiatives for Slovenia. These priorities can be modified by the National Assembly and are adopted at</p>

		its plenary session.
	13.	b) no However, at the open session the CLWP was presented by the Head of the EC Representation in Slovenia.
V. CONCLUSIONS OF THE DISCUSSIONS	14.	The form of a conclusion. (= which, by its legal nature, is a non-binding act).
	15.	a) yes The adopted conclusion by the Committee on EU Affairs was sent to the Government.
	16.	b) no The Head of the EC Representation in Slovenia was present when the Committee adopted its conclusion regarding the 2007 CLWP.
VI. SPECIFIC CHALLENGES	17.	b) EU Speakers Conference
B. WHAT HAS YOUR PARLIAMENT / PARLIAMENTARY CHAMBER DONE THROUGHOUT 2006 TO BRING THE EU CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS?		<p>The Slovenian National Assembly was actively involved in bringing the EU closer to the Slovenian citizens by organizing various activities such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - monthly open sessions conducted by the Committee on EU Affairs and other specialized working bodies devoted to a specific EU related topic (e.g. energy policy, Lisbon strategy, future enlargement, transport policy); - numerous presentations of members of the National Assembly in schools and universities in Slovenia about the EU; - cooperation with local authorities in promoting the EU throughout Slovenia (e.g. organizing round tables on EU); - involved in the project “Spring Day in Europe”; - the Committee on EU Affairs organized open sessions with MEP where the specific EU related topics were presented by the MEP, namely the EU legislative proposals that are important to the citizens (e.g. the Europass).
C. COMMISSION’S ANNUAL POLICY STRATEGY		
	18.	b) No, such debates should rather take place in each national parliament

		(periodically they could also be placed on the Agenda of the EU Speakers Conference)
	19.	no answer
	20.	no answer
	21.	no answer



Slovenia
Državni Svet

Questionnaire:	Answer:
A. COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE AND WORK PROGRAMME	
I. OVERALL ASPECTS	1. b) no
II. SPACE	2. no answer
III. FORM OF DISCUSSIONS	3. c) both
	4. a) Open to the public
	5. b) no
	6. a) yes it is up to the sectoral committees to decide
	7. c) both
	8. b) yes All of them if they want
	9. a) no
IV. COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT / EUROPEAN COMMISSION	10. a) yes
	11. b) on the basis of a legal arrangement of the relations between the parliament/the committee and the Government
	12. a) yes
	13. b) no
V. CONCLUSIONS OF THE DISCUSSIONS	14. Opinion
	15. a) yes in form of opinion - usually not directly but through the National Assembly
	16. b) no
VI. SPECIFIC CHALLENGES	17. no answer
B. WHAT HAS YOUR PARLIAMENT / PARLIAMENTARY CHAMBER DONE THROUGHOUT 2006 TO BRING THE EU CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS?	Sessions open to the public Deliberations on EU topics
C. COMMISSION'S ANNUAL POLICY STRATEGY	
	18. no answer
	19. no answer
	20. At the beginning of the Year
	21. Yes



Sweden
Riksdagen

Questionnaire:

Answer:

A. COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE AND WORK PROGRAMME

<p>I. OVERALL ASPECTS</p>	<p>1.</p>	<p>a) yes The annex of the 2006 CLWP was in French and English and the 2007 CLWP annex was mostly in Swedish.</p>
<p>II. SPACE</p>	<p>2.</p>	<p>a) yes We had a debate in the plenary in 2005 shortly after its publication. However, after this debate no other debate on CLWP has been held and there are no plans to repeat this arrangement. (Instead the 18 month programme will be debated 1 March in plenary)</p>
<p>III. FORM OF DISCUSSIONS</p>	<p>3.</p>	<p>b) in committees It's up to the sectoral committees to decide whether they should discuss the programme or not on political level. This is also done to different extent in different committees. The committee then discusses parts concerning their field of responsibility. Nevertheless, CLWP is used by all committees as an instrument for planning of the committee work with EU matters.</p>
	<p>4.</p>	<p>b) closed But since 1 January 2007, it is possible to hold these meetings in public if the committee so decides.</p>
	<p>5.</p>	<p>b) no</p>
	<p>6.</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>
	<p>7.</p>	<p>d) All committees could invite whom they want to be present during committee meetings, but invited persons would be allowed to participate in the debate only if a hearing is organized. These rules</p>

		apply to everyone. There are no specific rules for MEPs or the Commission.
	8.	- representatives of regional and municipal government - non-governmental organizations - trade unions and associations of entrepreneurs - ambassadors - others See above under 7)
	9.	a) no
IV. COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT / EUROPEAN COMMISSION	10.	b) no
	11.	no answer
	12.	a) yes and no. The government presents a work program with their priorities, but it's not exclusively linked to the CLWP. The government programme is published on the Governments website but not submitted to parliament formally.
	13.	b) no
V. CONCLUSIONS OF THE DISCUSSIONS	14.	None
	15.	b) no. Not applicable.
	16.	b) no. Not applicable.
VI. SPECIFIC CHALLENGES	17.	b) If at all, the EU Speakers Conference
B. WHAT HAS YOUR PARLIAMENT / PARLIAMENTARY CHAMBER DONE THROUGHOUT 2006 TO BRING THE EU CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS?		-----
C. COMMISSION'S ANNUAL POLICY STRATEGY		
	18.	a) Yes (this does not exclude debates in each NP)
	19.	f) Joint Parliamentary Meeting (organized by the European Parliament and the national parliament holding the EU-

		Presidency)
	20.	4-6 weeks after it has been presented
	21.	Yes



Turkey
Türkiye Büyük Millet Meclisi

Answer:

Turkey is a candidate state only, and is not a direct party to the process of legislation in EU. Therefore, the questions regarding APS and CLWP seem to be non-relevant yet.



United Kingdom
House of Commons

Questionnaire:

Answer:

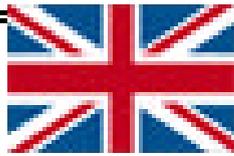
A. COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE AND WORK PROGRAMME

<p align="center">I. OVERALL ASPECTS</p>	<p>1.</p>	<p>The UK National Parliament (House of Commons) did not make any specific observations with regards to the 2006 CLWP.</p>
<p align="center">II. SPACE</p>	<p>2.</p>	<p>The CLWP is one of the approximately 1200 inter-institutional documents which the European Scrutiny Committee considers each year. Though the committee reports on the CLWP, the document's main purpose is seen as a source of information for departmental committees to indicate the areas into which they may wish to conduct inquiries of their own. On past performance the European Scrutiny Committee is unlikely to recommend a debate in the House or in a European Standing Committee, and has not done so in the case of the 2007 CLWP. The European Scrutiny Committee concentrates on the political/legal importance of inter-institutional documents and procedural matters, and is not in a position to pronounce on the overall balance or desirability of the programme or on whether any particular initiative mentioned in it is a good idea or not.</p>
<p align="center">III. FORM OF DISCUSSIONS</p>	<p>3.</p>	<p>b) In the case of the House of Commons, in the European Scrutiny Committee</p>
	<p>4.</p>	<p>b) Closed (but see answer to 8 below)</p>
	<p>5.</p>	<p>b) No (but see answer to 8 below)</p>
	<p>6.</p>	<p>b) Not in the discussions; but the</p>

		report of the European Scrutiny Committee on the CLWP contains an annex in which the programmes are matched against their respective responsible UK Government department. This annex is produced for the use of the departmental select committees in order to encourage them to scrutinize Commission legislative proposals and other initiatives which fall within their remit.
	7.	c) Both Members of the European Commission and MEPs could be invited as witnesses to give evidence to the European Scrutiny Committee but only members of the committee may take part in its deliberations on the scrutiny of documents, including the CLWP.
	8.	<p>It is always open to the Committee to take evidence on a document. Should it choose to do so the Committee could invite any of the individuals and bodies listed below either to make a written submission to the Committee or to give oral evidence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - representatives of the second Chamber - representatives of regional and municipal government - non-governmental organizations - trade unions and associations of entrepreneurs - ambassadors - others <p>The Committee has on a previous occasion taken evidence from Commission officials on the CLWP. In the case of the 2007 CLWP it has decided not to do so and to reserve its major scrutiny effort for the Annual Policy Strategy 2008.</p>
	9.	a) No only Members of the House of

		Commons may participate in its debates.
IV. COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT / EUROPEAN COMMISSION	10.	a) Yes to the Committee in the form of an Explanatory Memorandum
	11.	b) On the basis of an arrangement between the committee and the Government covering all depositable European documents. The Government is required to submit an Explanatory Memorandum on all documents which it deposits with Parliament.
	12.	b) No
	13.	b) No
V. CONCLUSIONS OF THE DISCUSSIONS	14.	The European Scrutiny Committee produces a report to the House “clearing” the document in terms of the House’s scrutiny reserve resolution. (This means that the UK Government can then agree to it in the Council of Ministers.)
	15.	a) Yes in the form of a report to the House which is sent to the Government.
	16.	b) No
VI. SPECIFIC CHALLENGES	17.	In its decision to concentrate scrutiny on the Annual Policy Strategy rather than the CLWP, the Committee had in mind a discussion of the APS at the forthcoming COSAC spring meeting (May 2007), and at subsequent spring COSACs.
B. WHAT HAS YOUR PARLIAMENT / PARLIAMENTARY CHAMBER DONE THROUGHOUT 2006 TO BRING THE EU CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS?		The House of Commons has not, as a body, taken any formal initiatives and has not instructed its administration to do so. Reports by the European Scrutiny Committee, which describe the more significant EU documents and the UK Government’s policy on them, are (like all other committee reports) available to the public on the Parliamentary website www.parliament.uk .
C. COMMISSION’S ANNUAL POLICY STRATEGY		

	18.	a) Yes, in COSAC
	19.	In its decision to concentrate scrutiny on the Annual Policy Strategy rather than the CLWP, the Committee had in mind a discussion of the APS at the forthcoming COSAC spring meeting (May 2007), and at subsequent spring COSACs.
	20.	At the COSAC spring meeting.
	21.	This would seem appropriate. Commissioners attend COSAC meetings on a regular basis.



United Kingdom
House of Lords

Questionnaire:

Answer:

A. COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE AND WORK PROGRAMME

I. OVERALL ASPECTS

1. The House of Lords European Union Committee (“the Committee”) continues to scrutinize the CLWP and has agreed a report on the 2007 programme which states: “The Committee notes that the section of the Programme relating to Better Regulation was encouraging”. Generally the Committee has noticed an improvement in the format and presentation of the CLWP.

II. SPACE

2. The organisation of debates in the Lords is a matter for the House itself on the basis of discussions between the parties and groups in the House. Neither the Lord Speaker nor the Committee has any responsibility for such matters. The Committee has reported (in its report: “EU Legislation—Public Awareness of the Scrutiny Role of the House of Lords” 25 May 2006 HL 179) that “We already produce an annual report on the Commission's Work Programme, and each year we seek to improve our scrutiny of it. We recognise, however, that more can be done. We recommend that the House make time for an annual debate on the Commission's Work Programme to be held in the Chamber of the House. We think that it would be desirable for such a synchronised series of debates to take place annually across Europe but we recognise that practically it would be hard to implement this idea and that it would be impossible for a debate to be held in each Member State on the same day. We recommend that

		<p>debates in Member States be held within a reasonably compact timeframe, perhaps within the same month. We await the outcome of the ongoing consultation on the suggestion and its attempted implementation with interest.” The Committee will review this recommendation during its scrutiny of the 2008 Annual Policy Strategy.</p>
<p>III. FORM OF DISCUSSIONS</p>	3.	b) in a committee/committees
	4.	Sessions are open to the public where evidence is taken and private where the Committee deliberates, as is usual practice.
	5.	b) no
	6.	The House does not have an extensive system of sectoral committees. The Committee has seven policy-based Sub-Committees, all of which were involved.
	7.	c) Both MEPs and representatives of the Commission can be invited to appear before the Committee as witnesses. There is no provision for non-Members to participate in plenary debates.
	8.	The Committee issued a public call for evidence. Any individual or organisation may therefore send a written contribution to the Committee. The views of all witnesses are taken into account. This year, the Committee received a range of evidence from business, trade unions, local governmental bodies, MEPs, NGOs and think tanks, covering almost all policy areas.
<p>IV. COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT / EUROPEAN COMMISSION</p>	9.	a) no
	10.	<p>a) yes</p> <p>A Government Explanatory Memorandum (EM) is deposited in Parliament, considered by the Committee and is publicly available. If a debate is held in the Chamber of the House, a Government Minister is present and responds to questions.</p>

	11.	The production of the EM is a standard part of the scrutiny process for all EU documents and is in a standard form. The scrutiny process is governed by the Scrutiny Reserve Resolution which has been agreed by the House.
	12.	The Government's Explanatory Memorandum welcomed the content of the CWLP and the emphasis on jobs, growth, delivery and better regulation.
	13.	The Committee has the power to seek evidence from the Commission and has in the past done so but did not do so on this occasion - the Committee is considering taking oral evidence from the Commission on the 2008 Annual Policy Strategy.
V. CONCLUSIONS OF THE DISCUSSIONS	14.	A report is produced and published on paper and on the internet.
	15.	The Government receives a copy of the Committee's report. The Government is obliged to respond in writing to the report.
	16.	The Committee is considering this question.
VI. SPECIFIC CHALLENGES	17.	The role of COSAC is to exchange best practice on scrutiny issues and COSAC can usefully discuss how parliaments have scrutinised the CLWP.
B. WHAT HAS YOUR PARLIAMENT / PARLIAMENTARY CHAMBER DONE THROUGHOUT 2006 TO BRING THE EU CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS?		Matters concerning the EU are regularly debated in the House both in plenary and through the scrutiny work of the Committee
C. COMMISSION'S ANNUAL POLICY STRATEGY		
	18.	The Committee has no view on this question at present but will consider, as part of its scrutiny of the 2008 APS, both the question of whether to propose a debate in our Chamber and whether collective discussion of the APS would add value to national debates.

	19.	Generally the Committee has taken the view that Joint Parliamentary Meetings add value when focused on specific issues,
	20.	no answer
	21.	no answer

BRATISLAVA 2007

