



HOUSE OF LORDS

European Union Committee

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Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič
European Commission
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11 September 2014

Dear Maroš,

Letter of 23 June re House of Lords European Union Committee's Role of National Parliaments in the European Union Report

Thank you for your prompt response to our report on the role of national parliaments in the European Union. The Committee welcomes the engaged and positive tone of the response.

Alongside the areas where you share the view of the Committee, there are some recommendations which you disagree with that we will continue to consider as we follow up on the work of the report. These include the use of future annual reports in identifying where national parliaments have made an impact on policy; better upstream engagement in the legislative process; and the possibility of using inter-institutional agreements (without Treaty change) to achieve changes to the subsidiarity control mechanisms. In respect of this last area, the Committee remains firmly of the view (as does the United Kingdom Government) that significant improvements (for example, increasing the time allowed to national parliaments to submit reasoned opinions) could be introduced by means of inter-institutional agreement at a political level.

We will continue to pursue all of the recommendations made in the report, but, in the coming months, we intend to focus in particular on reforming the procedure for reasoned opinions and developing and if possible introducing a 'Green Card' procedure. We hope to argue the case for these improvements in the working group proposed by the Danish Folketinget, but pending the establishment of the working group we will continue to engage with other national parliaments and the EU institutions, including the Commission, with a particular emphasis on improving the subsidiarity mechanisms under Protocol No. 2.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your work on inter-institutional relations and your support for national parliaments over the course of your time in office.

*Yours,
Tim*

The Lord Boswell
Chairman of the European Union Committee