


Basic information	
2008/2120(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure Development of the relations between the European Parliament and national parliaments under the Treaty of Lisbon Subject 8.10 Revision of the Treaties, intergovernmental conferences 8.40.11 Relations with Member State governments and national parliaments	Procedure completed

Key players				
European Parliament	Committee responsible		Rapporteur	Appointed
	AFCO Constitutional Affairs		BROK Elmar (PPE-DE)	19/05/2008
	Committee for opinion		Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	AFET Foreign Affairs		DUFF Andrew (ALDE)	30/05/2008
	DEVE Development		BERMAN Thijs (PSE)	21/01/2009
	LIBE Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs		The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	Commission DG		Commissioner	
	Secretariat-General		BARROSO José Manuel	

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
22/05/2008	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
09/03/2009	Vote in committee		Summary
13/03/2009	Committee report tabled for plenary	A6-0133/2009	
06/05/2009	Debate in Parliament	CRE link	
07/05/2009	Decision by Parliament	T6-0388/2009	Summary
07/05/2009	Results of vote in Parliament		
07/05/2009	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2008/2120(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55-p4 Rules of Procedure EP 55
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFCO/6/62315

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE415.140	26/01/2009	
Committee opinion	DEVE	PE419.941	18/02/2009	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE420.192	18/02/2009	
Committee opinion	AFET	PE407.591	24/02/2009	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A6-0133/2009	13/03/2009	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0388/2009	07/05/2009	Summary
European Commission				
Document type		Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2009)3564	11/11/2009	

Development of the relations between the European Parliament and national parliaments under the Treaty of Lisbon

2008/2120(INI) - 07/05/2009 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 379 votes to 65, with 16 abstentions, a resolution on the development of the relations between the European Parliament and national parliaments under the Treaty of Lisbon.

The resolution stresses that the necessary parliamentarisation of the European Union must rely on two fundamental approaches: the broadening of the European Parliament's powers vis-à-vis all the Union's decisions and the strengthening of the powers of the national parliaments vis-à-vis their respective governments.

MEPs note that the last resolution adopted by the European Parliament on the issue of relations with national parliaments dates from 2002, and it carries out a reassessment of relations between the two. They welcome the obligations and rights of the national parliaments under the Treaty of Lisbon – which is a 'Treaty of the parliaments' – which enhance their role in the political processes of the EU. Members note with satisfaction that relations with the national parliaments and their members have developed fairly positively in recent years, but not yet to a sufficient extent.

With regard to **future relations**, the Parliament is of the opinion that new forms of pre- and post-legislative dialogue between the European Parliament and national parliaments should be developed. It urges national parliaments to:

- strengthen their efforts to hold national governments to account for their management of the spending of EU funds;
- scrutinise the quality of national impact assessments and the manner in which national governments transpose EU law into domestic law and implement EU policies and funding programmes at the level of the state, regions and local authorities;
- monitor rigorously the reporting of the national action plans of the Lisbon agenda.

MEPs deem it appropriate to **offer national parliaments support** in their scrutiny of draft legislation prior to its consideration by the Union legislature, as well as in the effective scrutiny of their governments when they are acting in the Council.

The resolution states that regular bilateral Joint Committee Meetings of corresponding specialised committees allow for **dialogue to take place at an early stage** on legislation or political initiatives and should therefore be developed systematically into a permanent network of corresponding committees. Such meetings can be accompanied by ad hoc bilateral committee meetings to deal with specific national concerns.

MEPs recommend granting an **adequate budget** to organise meetings of specialised committees with corresponding committees of national parliaments and of European Parliament rapporteurs with their counterparts in national parliaments. They also recommend examining the possibility of establishing the technical facilities for holding videoconferences between the rapporteurs in the specialised committees of the national parliaments and the European Parliament. In this context, they recommend appropriate **financial support for the electronic platform for the exchange of information between parliaments, the IPEX website.**

The Parliament envisages more systematic monitoring of the pre-legislative dialogue between the national parliaments and the Commission (**the "Barroso initiative"**) in order to be informed about the national parliaments' position at an early stage of the legislative process. It calls on national parliaments to make the opinions they issue in this context available to the European Parliament at the same time.

It also calls for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Western European Union (WEU) to be dissolved as soon as the WEU has been absorbed fully into the EU with the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty.

Role of COSAC: lastly, the Parliament considers that the political role of the Conference of Community and European Affairs Committees of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC) in the future will have to be defined by close cooperation between the European Parliament and the national parliaments, and that COSAC should remain primarily a **forum for the exchange of information and debate** on general political issues and best practices with regard to the scrutiny of national governments.

Moreover, it considers that information and debate should be focused, secondly, on legislative activities pertaining to the area of freedom, security and justice and on respect of the principle of subsidiarity at European Union level. According to MEPs, specialised committees should be more strongly involved in the preparation of, and representation at, COSAC meetings.