

President Kumitat Permanenti dwar I-Affarljiet Barranin u Ewropej Chairman Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs

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Hon. Kristian Vigenin
Chair of the Committee on European Affairs
and Oversight of the European Funds
National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria
Sofia

Contribution from the Parliament of Malta to the work of the Task Force on Subsidiarity, Proportionality and "Doing Less More Efficiently"

On behalf of the Standing Committee of Foreign and European Affairs I would like to thank you for the good work you have done during the Bulgarian Presidency, also in the context of the Task Force on Subsidiarity, Proportionality and "Doing less More efficiently".

The Parliament of Malta already endorsed the good initiative taken by the Czech Senate last February on how to better apply the principle of subsidiarity and the subsidiarity control mechanism, and therefore agrees with their recommendations, based on past COSAC Contributions which are adopted by consensus amongst national Parliaments.

We believe that a list of competences to be redelegated or returned to the member States would be very difficult to arrive at, and in any case, identifying specific areas in which the EU should not act could potentially fuel euro-scepticism.

It is widely acknowledged that any Treaty change is likely to involve lengthy negotiations, and also likely to give rise to situations where different Member States have different demands and red lines. Thus we feel that any improvements to EU legislative process should be proposed within the context

of the current Treaties. Specifically, we believe that for the current framework to work better, the following recommendations are being proposed:

- More effort by the EU institutions and national Parliaments to make the current yellow-card procedure more effective;
- Directives should return to the form in which they were originally intended, i.e. laying down the objects to be achieved but leaving the detail of the legislation in the hands of the Member States;
- Limit the use of delegated acts by the Commission and improve the democratic
 accountability of legislation introduced by way of delegated acts; and
- Access by national Parliaments to Trilogue and Council decisions.

Yours sincerely,

Edward Zammit Lewis