

<b>Questionnaire for the Parliaments of the member states</b>
---------------------------------------------------------------

**Scrutiny of European policy by member states national parliaments**

*Answers from the Advisory Committee on EU-Affairs of the Swedish Parliament*

1°) Since 1995, has the role of your committee been modified, either in its proceedings or in its relationship to other bodies in your Parliament?

*The committee started its work when Sweden joined the EU at January 1st, 1995. The main organisational set up is still the same, but there have been continuous modifications of the work.*

2°) Do you think that your committee receives European legislative proposals in sufficient time? Has the protocol on the role of the national Parliaments in the European Union of the Treaty of Amsterdam improved the situation?

*Over all, the problem is not that the committee does not receive legislative proposals in sufficient time. The protocol has not changed the way the committee receives the proposals. The six-week period was not a problem before the protocol either.*

*It may be more important to ensure that there is enough time between Coreper and the Council meeting. The rule of Trumpf-Piris - one full week between Coreper and the Council - should be upheld.*

3°) Do you think that your committee gets an adequate period of time to consider these legislative proposals? Has the aforementioned protocol improved the situation?

*See answer no 2.*

4°) Art. 7 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council of the European Union is the base for the notion of 'legislative proposal' as understood by the protocol on the role of the national Parliaments in the European Union of the Treaty of Amsterdam. In your opinion, is this definition satisfactory or do you think that some acts, not deemed as legislative by art. 7, should be included in the definition?

If so, which ones?

*There have not been any problems due to the definition, but it may be said in the rules of procedure that at least for "acts concerning institutional or international relations or non-binding acts (such as conclusions, recommendations or resolutions)" the rules of time-limits for "legislative proposal" should normally be applicable (i.e. Trumpf-Piris - one week between Coreper and Council).*

5°) Do you think your committee sufficiently informed, and in good time, on the proceedings of other EU affairs committees? In what ways could the system be improved?

*The Swedish Committee receives papers from the Danish European Committee, which help in many issues. The secretariat also follows the homepages at Internet for some national parliaments and we have some contacts with the Finnish parliament.*

*It would be of great help if as much material as possible was published on the Internet by each national parliament. Since the European Committees all deal with the same issues useful information can be gathered from the material of each committee.*

6°) Are members of your committee participants to the joint meetings organised by the European Parliament? If such is the case, are there any improvements you would like to suggest?

*It is important that the meetings are scheduled far ahead.*