

XXIIIrd COSAC - Versailles - 16-17 October 2000

Questionnaire for the Parliaments of the member states

Reply of the House of Lords (United Kingdom)

Scrutiny of european policy by member states national  
parliaments

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

*Yes. The European Union Committee's terms of reference (its powers and duties) were changed in December 1999. The Committee's name was also changed (from « European Communities Committee » and, for the first time, the Committee was given explicit competence to consider documents relating to all three pillars of the Union. For the first time, a Scrutiny Reserve Resolution was adopted by the House of Lords. This replaced earlier informal understandings between the Committee and the Government, and effectively duplicates the provisions of the House of Commons Scrutiny Reserve Resolution (see the separate response of the House of Commons).*

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?

*See the response from the House of Commons.*

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 the response from the House of Commons.*

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?

*See the response from the House of Commons*

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?

*See the response from the House of Commons.*

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

*See the response from the House of Commons.*