



FRANS TIMMERMANS

First Vice-President

05. 03. 2019

Dear Chairpersons,

On behalf of the Commission, I am pleased to send you the European Commission's reply to the contribution which was adopted at the plenary meeting of the Conference for Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs (COSAC) in Vienna from 18 to 20 November 2018.

The Commission appreciates very much the close engagement of national Parliaments in debates on issues that affect all Europeans. In this context, I welcome the constructive debate you had with Vice-President Šefčovič on Climate policy and Energy Union. The Commission is committed to ensuring a prosperous, modern, competitive and secure economy, to providing sustainable growth and jobs and to improving the quality of life of European citizens. Significant progress has indeed been made towards the achievement of the Energy Union. All elements of the Clean Energy for All Europeans package have now been politically agreed and will soon be published in the Official Journal of the European Union. Let me also recall that on 28 November 2018, the Commission set out an ambitious long-term vision for a climate neutral Europe by 2050.

The Commission also appreciates COSAC's active participation in the ongoing debate on the follow up to the recommendations of the Task Force on Subsidiarity, Proportionality and "Doing Less More Efficiently". It is important to continue this

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debate and to involve all relevant stakeholders, such as national Parliaments and local and regional authorities as well as interested citizens. The Commission concurs with COSAC that the principle of subsidiarity and due involvement of national Parliaments in policymaking are crucial to ensure transparency and a European Union that is close to its citizens.

In this regard, I would also like to let you know that the Commission has listened carefully to the repeated requests by national Parliaments to discount their parliamentary recess periods when determining the eight weeks period. As indicated in the Communication "The principles of subsidiarity and proportionality: Strengthening their role in the EU's Policymaking" of 23 October 2018¹, the Commission is considering how to accommodate the wish of national Parliaments in a pragmatic way that does not affect relevant Treaty provisions.

I look forward to continuing cooperation with national Parliaments.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'F' and 'T' followed by a horizontal line.

Frans Timmermans

Annex: Commission reply to the LX COSAC Contribution

¹ COM(2018) 703 final