

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002198/25
to the Commission
Jean-Paul Garraud (PfE)
(2 June 2025)**

Subject: Misuse of interinstitutional agreements to circumvent national parliaments

For several years now, the Commission has been concluding an increasing number of interinstitutional agreements with the European Parliament and the Council in order to provide a framework for or to accelerate the adoption of common policies, such as those on climate, digital technologies or migration.

However, these agreements, which are not legally binding, are increasingly being used to impose major policy guidance without any real parliamentary debate in the Member States.

A clear example of this is the Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Regulation (adopted in April 2021) ⁽¹⁾, used to integrate the goals of the European Green Deal into all EU policies.

This mechanism has made it possible to impose binding guidance regarding the energy and environmental transition, including carbon neutrality, without prior democratic debate in national parliaments.

This is thus illustrative of a form of governance by means of internal policy agreements within EU institutions, to the detriment of the Member States' legislative sovereignty, and allows the Commission to move forward on structuring projects while circumventing national sovereignty.

In view of the above:

1. Does the Commission recognise that this practice weakens the role of national parliaments in the shaping of European policies?
2. Does the Commission plan to revise the legal framework of these agreements in order to ensure effective democratic scrutiny?

Submitted: 2.6.2025

**Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(4 September 2025)**

Interinstitutional agreements are an important tool for ensuring efficient and constructive cooperation between the EU institutions.

The Commission would like to clarify that the Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making ⁽¹⁾, which the Honourable Member refers to, dates back to 2016 and provides a general framework for all EU law-making. Principles outlined therein applies to all new legislative and non-legislative initiatives adopted by the Commission.

Interinstitutional agreements do not weaken the role of national Parliaments, including when it comes to the shaping of European policies. In areas of shared competence, the Treaties grant national Parliaments the power to scrutinise legislative proposals tabled by the Commission in order to assess whether they are in line with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.

In light of input received from national Parliaments under this control mechanism, the Commission may be required to review its proposal.

Moreover, the Commission has established a political dialogue with national Parliaments to facilitate their participation in EU policy-making and raise awareness about their views on Commission initiatives.

This includes written replies, visits and meetings. For example, since the beginning of the current mandate, Members of the Commission have had 84 meetings (81 of them in-person) with national parliaments.

The Commission ensures that all its initiatives, including those related to the European Green Deal, are subject to the regular democratic scrutiny and consultation processes.

¹ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/better-regulation/#:~:text=Proposal%20for%20an%20interinstitutional%20agreement%20on,delegated%20and%20implementing%20acts>

⁽¹⁾ Interinstitutional Agreement between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on Better Law-Making, OJ L 123, 12.5.2016, p. 1.

The European Parliament, as a co-legislator, plays a crucial role in shaping EU policies, and national Parliaments are involved in the policy-making process through the subsidiarity control and political dialogue with the Commission.

The Commission will continue to engage with national Parliaments, ensuring their effective involvement in shaping European policies.
