

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003218/25  
to the Commission  
Jean-Paul Garraud (P/E)  
(8 August 2025)**

*Subject:* Growing marginalisation of national parliaments in the functioning of the European Union

National parliaments are the legitimate representatives of popular sovereignty in each Member State. Yet their role in the European decision-making process is becoming increasingly marginalised.

Despite the scrutiny mechanisms enshrined in the Treaties, such as the early warning procedure or the principle of subsidiarity, it is clear that these instruments are largely ineffective or even ignored. The European institutions, in particular the Commission, are continuing to centralise powers to the detriment of national sovereignty.

This technocratic drift further distances citizens from decisions taken in Brussels, fuelling distrust in the European Union.

Can the Commission say:

1. How it analyses the real role of national parliaments in current European governance?
2. Whether it envisages a reform of democratic control mechanisms to return effective power to national parliaments?
3. What specific measures it intends to propose to ensure compliance with the principle of subsidiarity?

Submitted: 8.8.2025

**Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission  
(6 October 2025)**

1. Article 12 of the Treaty on European Union and Protocols 1 and 2 attached to the Treaties clearly define national Parliaments' competence in the European governance.
2. The Commission believes that national Parliaments' subsidiarity checks of legislative proposals are crucial for EU decision-making and considers that their effectiveness is not just measured by the number of reasoned opinions or yellow or orange cards. Beyond reasoned opinions, numerous opinions under the political dialogue with the Commission covered proposals subject to the subsidiarity control mechanism and concluded that the legislative proposals complied with the principle of subsidiarity. Today, many national Parliaments engage earlier and more strategically on EU policies, as reflected in the intensifying feedback on the Commission Work Programme or other strategic policy documents.
3. The Commission is committed to the application of the subsidiarity principle and has made a subsidiarity assessment part of its Better Regulation agenda. A subsidiarity grid accompanies legislative proposals with impact assessment. The Commission also reinforced its public consultations and political dialogue with national Parliaments to facilitate their input to the Commission's initiatives allowing for better alignment with national priorities and concerns. The Commission improved its portal publishing the opinions of national Parliaments and the Commission's replies, equipping it with better search possibilities as acknowledged in the relevant European Parliament draft report <sup>(1)</sup>. The Commission will continue to engage with national Parliaments, facilitating their involvement in shaping EU policies.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Draft report on the application of the Treaty provisions related to the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality and the role of national parliaments in the EU legislative process [https://oeil.secure.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/en/procedure-file?reference=2025/2042\(INI\)](https://oeil.secure.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/en/procedure-file?reference=2025/2042(INI)).