

EN

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Answer given by Mr Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
(13.1.2026)

1. Any amendment to the EU Treaties needs to follow the procedures laid down in those same Treaties. Modifications of the EU Treaties would have to follow the various steps in the ordinary or simplified revision procedure laid down in Article 48 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU), both of which require ratification by all Member States, in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements. Under Article 48(6) TEU, the simplified procedure is limited to ‘all or part of the provisions of Part Three of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union relating to internal policies and actions of the Union’. The simplified revision procedure may not increase the competences conferred by the Treaties on the Union.

2. The Commission is committed to the subsidiarity principle and has made a subsidiarity assessment part of its Better Regulation agenda. The Commission supports national Parliaments in executing their role within the ‘Early Warning Mechanism’. It discounts the recess periods in August and at the end of the year in the calculation of the eight-week period for national Parliaments to submit reasoned opinions. It has revamped its portal on the opinions of national Parliaments and Commission’s replies to them. Moreover, it has committed to enhance the visibility of national Parliaments’ views by providing an aggregated response where a significant number of national Parliaments have raised similar concerns even where the threshold for a ‘yellow card’ is not attained¹. The Commission will continue to engage with national Parliaments, facilitating their involvement in shaping EU policies.

¹ As set out in the Communication ‘The principles of subsidiarity and proportionality: Strengthening their role in the EU’s policy making’, COM(2018) 703.