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Parliamentary Dimension
Bulgarian Presidency of the Council
of the European Union

Questionnaire for the 29th Bi-annual Report of COSAC

PARLIAMENT/CHAMBER AND CONTACT DETAILS

Please enter the name of your Parliament/Chamber and your contact details.

Contact person:

Tel:

E-mail:

Chapter 1 – THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

Section A: Task Force on Subsidiarity, Proportionality and “Doing Less More Efficiently”

1. Has your Parliament/Chamber discussed the creation and the work of the Task Force on Subsidiarity, Proportionality and “Doing Less More Efficiently”?
 - Yes, during committee sittings
 - Yes, in plenary sessions
 - Yes, in other formats
 - No

If yes, please summarise briefly the position/opinion of your Parliament/Chamber (maximum 500 characters)

2. Has your Parliament/Chamber discussed the Better Regulation Guidelines¹ presented by the Commission in July 2017?
 - Yes, during committee sittings
 - Yes, in plenary sessions
 - Yes, in other formats
 - No

If yes, please summarise briefly the position/opinion of your Parliament/Chamber (maximum 500 characters)

¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/rep/10102/2017/EN/SWD-2017-350-F1-EN-MAIN-PART-1.PDF>

3. Does your Parliament/Chamber find the process, established with Protocol №2 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union², effective and efficient?

- Yes
- No
- No opinion

Please summarise briefly the position/opinion of your Parliament/Chamber (maximum 500 characters)

4. In the opinion of your Parliament/Chamber, what could be done to improve this process, without changing the Treaty? (maximum 500 characters)

5. According to your Parliament/Chamber, are there any policy areas, where, over time, decision-making and/or implementation could be redelegated in whole or in part or definitively returned to the Member States?

- Yes
- No
- No opinion

If yes, please specify (maximum 500 characters)

6. Would your Parliament/Chamber support a Treaty change that would give national Parliaments a more significant role in the EU legislative process?

- Yes
- No
- No opinion

² <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A12008E%2FPRO%2F02>

Section B: EU Enlargement and EU perspective of the Western Balkans

7. Has your Parliament/Chamber discussed the strategy “A credible enlargement prospective for and enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans”, presented by the Commission on 6 February 2018³?

- Yes, during committee sittings
- Yes, in plenary sessions
- Yes, in other formats
- No

If yes, please summarise briefly the position of your Parliament/Chamber: (maximum 500 characters)

8. Does your Parliament/Chamber find realistic the accession of new members to the EU within the next seven years?

- Yes
- No
- No opinion

9. The European Commission proposed on the 6 February 2018⁴ the following six flagship initiatives to support the transformation process in the Western Balkans` countries. Please indicate from 1 to 6 their importance with this regard, according to your Parliament/Chamber? (“1” being the most important ; “6” being the least important)

- Strengthening support to the rule of law
- Reinforcing engagement on security and on migration
- Supporting socio-economic development
- Increasing connectivity
- A Digital Agenda for the Western Balkans
- Supporting reconciliation and good neighbourly relations

³ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/publications/eu-western-balkans-strategy-credible-enlargement-perspective_en

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/annex-communication-credible-enlargement-perspective-western-balkans_en.pdf

10. According to your Parliament/ Chamber the share of funds provided in the next Multiannual Financial Framework for the Instrument for pre-Accession Assistance to the Western Balkans should be:

- Increased
- Decreased
- Maintained at the existing level

11. Does your Parliament/Chamber support an increased participation of the Western Balkans' countries in informal Councils as well as Ministerial level meetings, as proposed by the Commission in the above-mentioned strategy?

- Yes
- No
- No opinion

12. Does your Parliament/Chamber support an increased involvement of the Western Balkans' countries in COSAC work and activities?

- Yes
- No
- No opinion

13. What is the overall scrutiny policy in your Parliament/Chamber on the EU Enlargement policy, especially in relation to Monitoring Reports/ Annual Progress Reports/ Enlargement Package? (maximum 500 characters)

14. If you wish to provide any additional information on Chapter 1, please do so below (maximum 500 characters)

Chapter 2 – THE NEXT “MULTIANNUAL FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK” 2021 – 2027

Section A: Cohesion Policy after 2020

1. Has your Parliament/Chamber discussed the Seventh Report on economic, social and territorial cohesion of the European Commission published in October 2017⁵?

- Yes, during committee sittings
- Yes, in plenary sessions
- Yes, in other formats
- No

If yes, please summarise briefly the position/opinion of your Parliament/Chamber (maximum 500 characters)

2. In the opinion of your Parliament/Chamber, which of the following challenges have been most successfully addressed by the Cohesion policy so far? (please indicate from 1 to 6, “1” being the most successful ; “6” being the least successful)

- Support the “catching-up” efforts of the less developed Member States
- Reduce regional disparities within the Member States
- Promote social inclusion and combat poverty
- Boost economic development within the EU as a whole
- Promote the EU values enshrined in Article 2 TEU (e.g. rule of law, fundamental rights)
- Address the adverse side effects of globalisation

Other, please specify (maximum 500 characters)

3. According to your Parliament/Chamber, are Member States able to achieve comparable results without the instruments of the Cohesion policy?

- Yes, to a large extent
- Yes, to some extent

⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/information/cohesion-report/

- No
- No opinion

4. Does your Parliament/Chamber support the continuation of the Cohesion policy after 2020?

- Yes, maintaining the existing financing and structure
- Yes, by limiting its financing and scope
- Yes, by introducing new instruments to finance it
- No
- No opinion

Please elaborate more on your answer (maximum 500 characters)

5. In the opinion of your Parliament/Chamber, what are the main deficiencies implementing the Cohesion policy? (up to three answers)

- Insufficient information about the programmes/funds among the public
- Long and complex administrative procedures
- Delayed payments to beneficiaries
- Lack of flexibility when managing the projects
- Heavy audit and control procedures
- Burdensome co-financing requirements
- Top-down approach when designing the programmes

Other, please specify (maximum 500 characters)

6. According to your Parliament/Chamber, what should be done in order to improve the Cohesion policy post 2020? (up to three answers)

- Simplify rules
- Alignment of rules between EU Funds
- Allow for more flexibility
- Simplify the ex-ante conditionalities
- Raise the level of self-financing
- Lower the level of self-financing
- Change the "Grants - Financial Instruments" ratio

- Improve the administrative capacity

Other, please specify (maximum 500 characters)

7. In the opinion of your Parliament/Chamber, should the disbursement of the EU funds be conditional to the respect of the rule of law in the Member States?

- Yes
- No
- No opinion

Section B: The EU budget in the context of Brexit aftermath

8. Has your Parliament/Chamber discussed the report of the High-level group on own resources, chaired by Mario Monti⁶?

- Yes, during committee sittings
- Yes, in plenary sessions
- Yes, in other formats
- No

If yes, please summarise briefly the position/opinion of your Parliament/Chamber (maximum 500 characters)

9. In the opinion of your Parliament/Chamber, which of the following potential new sources of revenue, examined by the above-mentioned group, could be used to finance the MFF 2021-2027? (up to three answers)

- CO2 levy / Carbon pricing
- Inclusion of the EU Emission Trading System proceeds
- Motor fuel levy (taxes on fossil fuels/excise duties)
- Reformed VAT-based own resource
- Financial Transaction Tax (FTT)
- Change the GNI-based contribution of the Member States to the EU Budget

⁶ http://ec.europa.eu/budget/mff/hlgor/index_en.cfm

- No opinion

Other, please specify (maximum 500 characters)

10. Would your Parliament/Chamber be willing to support an increase of your country's contribution to the EU budget after Brexit?

- Yes
- No
- No opinion

If yes, please specify under which conditions (maximum 500 characters)

11. In the opinion of your Parliament/Chamber, what should be the focus of the EU spending over the next financial period (up to three answers)?

- Reducing economic and social divergences between and within Member States
- Strengthening the EU Security and Defence Policy
- Reinforcing border control and tackle irregular migration
- Renewable energy sources and low-carbon infrastructure
- EU external policies
- Digital Agenda

Other, please specify (maximum 500 characters)

12. According to your Parliament/Chamber, should the next MFF be based on a comprehensive strategy for the future of the EU, similar to Europe 2020?

- Yes
- No
- No opinion

13. According to your Parliament/Chamber what should be the duration of the next Multiannual Financial Framework?

- 7 - years period
- 5 - years period (the minimum prescribed by the Treaty)

No opinion

14. Does your Parliament/Chamber support the idea of enhancing the flexibility of the EU's budget to enable a prompt response to challenges?

Yes

No

No opinion

If yes, please specify (maximum 500 characters)

15. Does your Parliament/Chamber support the abolishment of rebates on contributions of Member States?

Yes

No

No opinion

16. If you wish to provide any additional information on Chapter 2, please do so below (maximum 500 characters)

Chapter 3 – EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS

Section A: Jobs and Growth

1. Has your Parliament/Chamber discussed the European Pillar of Social Rights⁷?

Yes, during committee sittings

Yes, in plenary sessions

Yes, in other formats

No

2. According to your Parliament/Chamber, which of the main principles of the Pillar⁸ are the most important in achieving its goals? (up to three answers)

⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/priorities/deeper-and-fairer-economic-and-monetary-union/european-pillar-social-rights_en

- Access to education, training and life-long learning
- Equal opportunities
- Guaranteed minimum income
- Healthy and safe work environment
- Active involvement of the social partners
- Work-life balance, incl. Childcare
- Social protection and unemployment benefits
- Inclusion of people with disabilities

Other, please specify (maximum 500 characters)

3. In the opinion of your Parliament/Chamber, what is the most pressing issue that the Pillar could help to address?

- The social consequences of the financial crisis: poverty, social exclusion, inequalities and unemployment
- Technological progress and automation and its consequences for the future labour market
- Demographic developments across Europe: ageing of the population and the need for modernisation of welfare systems
- Economic divergence across Member States

Other, please specify (maximum 500 characters)

4. According to your Parliament/Chamber what are the most appropriate tools to implement the 20 principles stated in the Pillar? (up to three answers)

- Specific EU Legislation (European Action Plan)
- A strengthened European Semester covering the Pillar's principles
- Policy coordination between Member States
- Establishing benchmarks that Member States have to meet
- Through EU funding instruments designed to support reforms at national level

⁸ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/priorities/deeper-and-fairer-economic-and-monetary-union/european-pillar-social-rights/european-pillar-social-rights-20-principles_en

- A sanctioning mechanism for Member States if social criteria are not met (including cutting access to EU funds)
- Exchange of good practices and strengthened cooperation between social partners and national regulators

Other, please specify (maximum 500 characters)

Section B: Working conditions, Social Affairs and Inclusion

5. According to your Parliament/Chamber is there a need for more coordination of Member States' social policies at an EU-level?
- Yes, full harmonisation is needed
 - Yes, we should coordinate more without full harmonisation
 - No, there is already a sufficient level of coordination
 - No, the Union should avoid interference with Member States' social policies
6. On 19 January 2017 the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the European Pillar of Social Rights (2016/2095(INI))⁹. Would your Parliament/Chamber support any of the following suggestions contained therein? (more than one answer possible)
- A framework Directive on decent working conditions in all forms of employment
 - More effective and efficient implementation and control of existing labour standard
 - A Recommendation on the establishment of national wage floors based on a regional living wage calculation
 - An action plan on long-term care
 - A Recommendation on social protection in all forms of employment
 - Legislation on maternity, paternity, parental and carers' leave
 - An appropriate level of social investments

⁹ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P8-TA-2017-0010+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>

- A Skills Guarantee as a new right for everyone, at every stage of life, to acquire fundamental skills for the 21st century
- The extension of the Youth Guarantee to all young people below the age of 30
- A Child Guarantee in all Member States
- Best practice analysis for the calculation of minimum pensions

7. Does your Parliament/Chamber support clear and binding targets to reduce the gender pay gap be introduced and monitored in the European Semester?

- Yes
- No
- No opinion

8. Does your Parliament/Chamber support the initiative for European Labour Authority, proposed by the European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker in his 2017 State of the Union Speech, which aims to ensure EU rules on labour mobility and their enforcement in a fair, simple and effective way?

- Yes
- No
- No opinion

9. Name three main social topics debated at your Parliament/Chamber in the past year (maximum 500 characters)

10. If you wish to provide any additional information on Chapter 3, please do so below: (maximum 500 characters)