



10 January 2018

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Parliamentary Dimension
Bulgarian Presidency of the Council
of the European Union

Dear colleagues,

LVIII COSAC invited the Bulgarian Presidency to set up a working group in order to facilitate regular and comprehensive discussions related to the work of the Task Force on Subsidiarity, Proportionality and “Doing Less More Efficiently”, which was created by President Juncker on 14 November 2017.

As agreed during our meeting in Tallinn, representatives of the national Parliaments of the Troika will participate in the Task Force. In addition, we asked the Commission to expand the number of representatives of the national Parliaments in the Task Force in order to achieve a broader representation and a wider range of expertise. On 4 January 2018, we received a reply from First Vice-President Timmermans, in which the Commission presented its arguments for keeping the number of representatives of national Parliaments limited to three. It is my sincere belief, however, that by establishing the above-mentioned working group we could widen the debate among all the national Parliaments and coordinate our efforts to represent the interests of the European citizens.

In order to set up the above-mentioned working group, COSAC Chairpersons should address the following aspects:

1) Composition of the working group

The Presidency suggests that one member, accompanied by one member of staff, should represent each Parliament of the Member States at political level. In case of bi-cameral parliaments, only one member should be nominated to represent both Chambers. This would allow for a more focused and manageable discussion, and at the same time would ensure that all Member States are represented.

2) Scope

The working group should be a forum for fruitful and constructive debates on the matters of subsidiarity, proportionality and better functioning of the Union. The agenda of its meeting(s) shall be closely coordinated with the agenda of the Task Force. During the meeting(s), the representatives of the national Parliaments who are also members of the Task Force will be able to provide up-to-date information on the work of the Task Force.





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3) Frequency of meetings

The Bulgarian Presidency suggests one or two (if necessary) meetings of the working group to be organized in Brussels, depending on the schedule of the Task Force. The Presidency will kindly ask the European Parliament to assist with the logistical aspects of the meeting(s) of the working group, such as providing a meeting room and interpretation.

4) Language regime

The Presidency suggests that interpretation during the meeting(s) of the working group should be provided in English and French.

5) Secretariat

The secretariat of the Presidency Parliament shall provide the secretariat for the working group assisted by the COSAC Secretariat.

Further details about the agenda, the working methods and the frequency of the meetings of the working group will be made available after the first meeting of the Task Force, provisionally scheduled for the end of January 2018.

Yours sincerely,

Kristian VIGENIN

Chair of the Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of the European Funds
National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria

