

Dear Mr President,
Ladies and Gentlemen

The question of involvement of national parliaments in the European Union decision-making process has been put on the Convention's agenda in order to make the EU more democratic and close to its citizens.

The working groups on national parliaments and subsidiarity have proposed some concrete improvements in that respect.

Unfortunately, the amendments proposal of the Presidium of the Convention of the protocols on subsidiarity and the role of national parliaments poorly reflect the conclusions of the working groups..

And as my colleague Hubert Haenel rightly said – the plenary Convention has not opposed the major lines of the conclusions of those two working groups!

Let's take only three of the many examples:

- The six week period.

It is not only the question of not putting an issue on the Council's agenda but first of all to prevent all kind of formal or informal agreement on a proposal of the Commission!

- Proportionality.

It should be made possible for the national parliaments not only to express their views on the question of subsidiarity, but also on the respect of proportionality! It happens that a decision is taken by the right body at the right level but simply the instrument used is too strong as to the effect to be achieved.

- And finally, the right for the national parliaments to refer to the Court of Justice. Another thing which is not reflected in the Presidium proposals.

Mr President,

Not respecting the will expressed by the biggest parliamentary part of the Convention would certainly be a bad signal for the population as regards the present and future democratic life of the Union.

Moreover, how can we imagine building consensus in the final phase of our work if we do not write down things, on which consensus has been achieved?