

EUROPEAN HIGHLIGHT | 07.11.2018

EUROPEAN COMMISSION SETS OUT WAY FORWARD TO STRENGTHEN SUBSIDIARITY AND PROPORTIONALITY IN EU POLICY-MAKING

On 23 October 2018, the European Commission sets out the changes it intends to introduce to the EU policy-making process in order to focus its limited resources on a smaller number of activities and deliver on its political priorities more efficiently. The Communication on how to strengthen the principles of proportionality and subsidiarity in EU decision-making also seeks to address the recommendations of the Task Force on Subsidiarity, Proportionality and 'Doing Less, More Efficiently' (hereinafter: the "**Task Force**").

In its Communication, the Commission sets out how the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality will guide its future work and how their role in EU policy-making can be strengthened further. For example, the Commission will:

- Integrate the 'subsidiarity grid' proposed by the Task Force into all its Impact Assessments and explanatory memoranda. The grid is a tool to guide the analysis of subsidiarity and proportionality in a structured way.
- Make it easier for national Parliaments to respect the timelines for submitting their opinions on draft proposals.
- Examine how to better collect and report on local and regional authorities' views in its public consultations.
- Reshape the REFIT Platform, which assesses the regulatory burden of existing EU laws, in order to increase the presence of local and regional authorities. It should also widen its focus to look at subsidiarity and proportionality in addition to its current focus on regulatory burden. In particular, the Commission will ensure that relevant delegated and implementing acts are addressed systematically in its evaluations.

During the [Austrian Presidency conference in Bregenz](#) in November, other institutions will be able to make their own commitments to implement the Task Force's recommendations. The proposals made by the Commission for Bregenz include the following elements:

- All relevant institutions should clarify whether they will use the 'subsidiarity grid'.
- The European Parliament and Council should agree to examine the impact on subsidiarity and proportionality of their amendments to Commission proposals.
- Following repeated requests by national parliaments, the European Parliament and Council should agree to discount the recess period over Christmas and New Year from the 8-week period for submitting opinions on draft EU legislation.
- The European Parliament and Council should improve the transparency of their proceedings (for example trilogies) to step up the involvement of local and regional authorities; they should also consider involving local and regional authorities during the legislative procedure.
- The Committee of the Regions should raise awareness amongst their members of the opportunities to contribute to EU policy-making, and should establish a hub to channel this input more effectively into the institutional process.
- National authorities should examine how to involve local and regional authorities more effectively during the legislative procedure.

The official press release can be found [here](#).

The Communication and its annexes can be accessed through this [link](#). Additional information on the Task Force is available [here](#).

This update relates to how the European Commission intends to implement the subsidiarity and proportionality principle in its policy-making. According to these principles the EU Commission must always evaluate whether it is preferable that action is taken at EU-level. If that is not the case, any initiative should be taken at member state level. Also regulatory action must not go beyond what is proportionate. When undertaking action or an initiative vis-à-vis the European Commission in order to defend the interests of the dental dealers in the European Union, ADDE should be aware that these principles apply and take this into account in the way it addresses the relevant issue or topic.

We hope this information is useful. You should not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions or require further information.

Kind regards,

Sarah – Evi

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