



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 14 April 2010 (15.04)
(OR. de,en)**

8589/10

**INST 111
PARLNAT 1**

COVER NOTE

from: The President of the Bundesrat of the Federal Republic of Germany
date of receipt: 29 March 2010
to: Mr Miguel Angel Moratinos, President of the Council of the European Union
Subject: Reply of the Bundesrat of the Federal Republic of Germany to the letter of the
President of the Council of the European Union sent on 12 March 2010
regarding the implementation by the Council of its obligations in relation to
National Parliaments

Delegations will find attached a copy of the above letter.

Bundesrat

To:
The President of the Council
of the European Union
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Bundesrat (German Federal Council)
The President

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Berlin, 26 March 2010

Sir,

Thank you for the letter from the Council dated 12 March 2010 explaining how the Council intends to implement the provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon, which provide for greater involvement of national parliaments in the activity of the European Union, within its own area of competence

The Lisbon Treaty represents a milestone on the road to a European Union which will be closer to the citizen. The involvement of the national parliaments in the legislative process will mean that European policy topics will receive more attention in Member States' internal policy discussions. The Bundesrat has accordingly been preparing itself thoroughly for the subsidiarity verification procedure, which it hopes to make use of as a positive and constructive instrument.

For the practical application of the subsidiarity verification procedure, the Bundesrat considers it to be of great importance that in particular arrangements regarding the provision of draft legislative acts should be handled in the same way by the Council and the Commission. It is thus very much to be hoped that the practical measures taken by the Council are generally similar to those of the Commission.

The need to keep to the eight-week deadline sets the national parliaments major challenges. This applies in particular to the parliamentary summer break. It would therefore be very helpful to the national parliaments if the Council, like the Commission, were to leave the month of August out of the calculation of the deadline. This would considerably reduce the pressure on parliamentary discussion times.

Lastly, I hope you will permit me to mention that it would also make for optimal use of the short time for discussion available if the Council, when transmitting draft legislative acts, would at the same time inform the parliaments that the drafts in question are subject to subsidiarity verification.

I am sure that the new procedure will lead to closer cooperation between the Council and the Bundesrat, contributing to a successful European policy in the interest of all citizens.

(Complimentary close.)

(signed)

Jens Böhrnsen

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