



## Questionnaire for the 44<sup>th</sup> COSAC Bi-annual Report

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

- Name of Parliament/Chamber: **Senate of the Netherlands**
- Contact person:
- Phone:
- E-mail:

### Chapter I: Simplification of EU legislation and fast track procedures.

The European Commission's work programme for 2025 has a strong focus on simplification. It includes a series of Omnibus packages and other simplification proposals to tackle EU priority areas. The Commission invites the European Parliament and the Council to consider fast-tracking these files<sup>1</sup>. This chapter will examine whether and how EU national parliaments manage to scrutinize such proposals when they are being adopted by the European Parliament and Council under fast-track procedures. The chapter will take a closer look at a selected number of simplification proposals that were tabled by the Commission during first half of 2025.

1. Does your Parliament/Chamber have parliamentary procedures in place, which enables it to scrutinise EU legislative proposals that are adopted under fast-track-procedures in the EU decision-making process?

- Yes
- **No, there is no specific parliamentary procedure for fast-track. Regular procedures would apply.**

**If yes**, please outline these

.....

(Open-ended question)

Please explain what the main challenges are (if any) for your Parliament/Chamber connected with scrutinising fast-track procedures.

**The meeting schedule for the Senate is limited because it convenes once a week**

(Open-ended question)

2. May your Parliament/Chamber adopt opinions as a result of the monitoring procedure?

- **Yes, by way of motions to the government, although the committee procedure to submit questions to the government (usually through written consultation) would be a more common approach**
- No

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<sup>1</sup> These include the 41 initiatives adopted alongside the 2024 Commission work programme, as well as subsequent Commission proposals such as the simplification package for agriculture.



- If yes**, are the opinions of your committee binding for the government?
- Yes
  - **No**
3. Was your Parliament/Chamber consulted by your government on the first Omnibus package on sustainability ([Com\(2025\)80](#), [Com\(2025\)81](#) and [Com\(2025\)87](#))?
- **Yes, the government consulted Parliament *prior* to the Council's approval of its position**
  - Yes, the government consulted Parliament *after* the Council's approval of its position

**If yes**, please specify at what level:

- European Affairs Committee
- **Sectoral Committee**
- Other, please specify:

.....

**If yes**, did your government provide you with an explanatory memorandum or any other written or oral information on the dossier?

- **Yes, in accordance with their normal obligations**
- Yes, on a voluntary basis
- No
- Other, please specify:

.....

**If no**, would you explain why you didn't examine the package?

- It was not planned to be examined (It was not part of priorities, or was not chosen for scrutiny for normal reasons)
  - Should have been but was not consulted by government
  - Not enough time
  - Not enough resources
  - Other, please specify.....
- .....

4. Was your Parliament/Chamber consulted by your government on the second Omnibus package on investment simplification ([Com\(2025\)84](#))?

- **Yes, the government consulted Parliament *prior* to the Council's approval of its position**



- Yes, the government consulted Parliament *after* the Council's approval of its position

If **yes**, please specify at what level:

- European Affairs Committee
- **Sectoral Committee**
- Other, please specify:

.....

If **yes**, did your government provide you with an explanatory memorandum or any other written or oral information on the dossier?

- **Yes, in accordance with their normal obligations**

- Yes, on a voluntary basis
- No
- Other, please specify:

.....

If **no**, would you explain why you didn't examine the package?

- It was not planned to be examined (It was not part of priorities, or was not chosen for scrutiny for normal reasons)
- Should have been but was not consulted by government
- Not enough time
- Not enough resources
- Other, please specify.....

5. Was your Parliament/Chamber consulted by your government on the third Omnibus package on the Common Agricultural simplification package ([Com\(2025\)236](#))?

- **Yes, the government consulted Parliament *prior* to the Council's approval of its position**

- Yes, the government consulted Parliament *after* the Council's approval of its position

If **yes**, please specify at what level:

- European Affairs Committee
- **Sectoral Committee**
- Other, please specify:

.....



If **yes**, did your government provide you with an explanatory memorandum or any other written or oral information on the dossier?

- **Yes, in accordance with their normal obligations**

- Yes, on a voluntary basis
- No
- Other, please specify:

.....

If **no**, would you explain why you didn't examine the package?

- It was not planned to be examined (It was not part of priorities, or was not chosen for scrutiny for normal reasons)
  - Should have been but was not consulted by government
  - Not enough time
  - Not enough resources
  - Other, please specify.....
- .....

6. Was your Parliament/Chamber consulted by your government on the fourth Omnibus package on small mid-caps and removal of paper requirements ([Com\(2025\)0501](#))?

- **Yes, the government consulted Parliament *prior* to the Council's approval of its position**

- Yes, the government consulted Parliament *after* the Council's approval of its position

If **yes**, please specify at what level:

- European Affairs Committee
- **Sectoral Committee**
- Other, please specify:

.....

If **yes**, did your government provide you with an explanatory memorandum or any other written or oral information on the dossier?

- **Yes, in accordance with their normal obligations**

- Yes, on a voluntary basis
- No
- Other, please specify:

.....

If **no**, would you explain why you didn't examine the package?



- It was not planned to be examined (It was not part of priorities, or was not chosen for scrutiny for normal reasons)
- Should have been but was not consulted by government
- Not enough time
- Not enough resources
- Other, please specify.....

7. Should the EU-institutions in your opinion set up clear criteria for the use of fast-track decision-making on EU legislative proposals?

- Yes
- No
- **The committee has not issued an opinion on this matter**

If **so**, please specify if you think certain minimum conditions should be met to allow fast-track decision making):

.....  
(Open-ended question)

8. Is there anything else you would like to note about the Commission's, Council's and the European Parliament's use of fast-track procedures in EU decision-making?

**The use of fast-track procedures should be made public in a timely and transparent manner**

.....  
(Open-ended question)

9. Have you ever experienced that your government have not fulfilled its obligations towards your Parliament/Chamber due to a fast-track procedure? (Yes/**No**)

If **yes**, please specify how the government justified it

.....(Open-ended question)

### Addendum: Resources in national parliaments

Draghi suggests in his recent [report](#) on the future of European competitiveness that initiatives should be taken to reinforce the role of national parliaments and Member States in controlling the EU institutions' legislative activity. He suggests that this could include further supporting the administrative capacity of national parliaments. Therefore, this part of the questionnaire will look at how Members and Committees of parliaments are supported by the Parliamentary



Administration when it comes to assisting them in carrying out parliamentary scrutiny of EU-legislative proposals.

10. What is the overall number of staff employed in your Parliament's/Chamber's Administration in charge of providing EU-related assistance to Members of Parliament and Parliamentary committees  
**6: 3 EU information officers, 2 advisors on European affairs (1 of which part-time) and 1 committee clerk for the committee on European Affairs, who is also the national parliamentary representative of the Eerste Kamer in Brussels.**
11. Where in the Parliamentary Administration are they affiliated?  
**▪ The European Affairs Committee secretariat (the committee clerk + 2 advisors)**  
**▪ A secretariat of a sectoral committee**  
**▪ A horizontal unit in parliament (e.g. research unit) or other, please specify: The 3 EU information officers are part of the central information point of the Senate. Each information officer is attached to multiple sectoral committees.**
12. What are the main services provided by the Parliamentary Administration's staff to support Members of Parliament and Committees in their work with European Union affairs?  
**▪ Research and background notes to committees on EU legislative proposals, decisions by the European Court of justice or other relevant EU initiatives.**  
**▪ Individual research and analytical support to Members of Parliament**  
**▪ Other, please specify:**  
**- coordination of procedural aspects of European affairs and files (such as prioritisation on the basis of the EC Work programme), including EU scrutiny procedures**  
**- managing the flow of information and updating European dossiers on the website**  
**- preparation for and accompaniment to interparliamentary (committee) meetings**

## Chapter II: Transparency and access to documents

This chapter will examine the current status of EU national parliaments' access to information about EU-legislative activities via the EU-institutions and their respective governments. The chapter will aim to identify best practices in national parliaments regarding both access to relevant Council documents and to the different types of documents produced by the respective governments on EU legislative proposals and other key initiatives.

### *Access to Council documents*

13. Does your Parliament/Chamber use the Council Information Exchange Platform (CIxP) to get access to non-public council documents?
- Yes



- **No**

14. Which of the following non-public council documents do you have access to via the CIXP?

- WK-documents (Working)
- ST-documents (Standard)
- CM-documents (Communication)
- **None**

15. Which of the following categories of classified Council documents do you have access to?

- **Restricted**
- Confidential
- Secret
- Top secret
- None

If so, from whom and how do you get access to these documents?

**From the government (upon request of the Senate)**

#### *Access to interinstitutional documents*

16. Does your Parliament/Chamber have access to EU legislative documents related to the trilogue negotiations between Council, Parliament and the Commission (for instance the so-called four column documents)?

- **Yes**
- No

If so, what trilogue documents do you have access to and from whom?

**Only when available on the Delegates Portal (limité or public)**

17. Does the staff of your Parliament/Chamber use the new interinstitutional database the EU Law Tracker, which was launched 30 April 2024?

- **Yes**
- No

#### *EU background information from the governments*

18. How many EU related documents (Explanatory memoranda and other background notes prepared by your government) does your Parliament/Chamber receive annually?

- 0
- less than 50



- Between 50-100
- Between 100-200
- Between 200-500
- **Over 500**

19. What type of EU related documents prepared by your government does your Parliament/Chamber receive on EU legislative proposals and other important EU initiatives?

- **Explanatory memoranda**  
The Beoordeling Nieuwe Commissievoorstellen (BNC fiche) is an instrument used to inform both Chambers about new European Commission initiatives. The fiche includes the position of the Dutch government regarding a (new) initiative.
- **Non-papers produced or co-signed by your government in key policy areas**
- **Other background notes:**
  - **Annotated agendas of Council meetings and Council meeting reports. Cabinet appreciations, quarterly reports, implementation progress updates and reports about infringement procedures**

#### *Access to information from other national parliaments*

20. Does the staff of your Parliament/Chamber use the IPEX-database to get access to information from other national parliaments?

- **Yes**
- No

21. Are there functionalities in the IPEX you would like to see improved?

**The way of presenting the list of 'Documents with high activity' should be improved** (Open-ended question)

22. Is there anything else you would like to add about the access to documents?

**The decision to end the access of national parliaments to the Delegates Portal has resulted in a discussion with the government to find a workable alternative to the access of Council documents. This has so far not resulted in a concrete solution.**

### **Chapter III: Should the political dialogue with the European Commission include a green card?**

Over the years some national parliaments have promoted the idea of enhancing the political dialogue with the Commission through a so-called green card mechanism as a means by which national parliaments can invite the Commission to act within a particular policy field. A green card would provide national parliaments with a right, which is similar to the one, held by the European Parliament, the Council and 1 million European Citizens (The Citizens' initiative) today. This chapter will assess whether and how national parliaments would be interested in further strengthening the political dialogue with the European Commission, for instance through such a green card mechanism.



23. Did your Parliament /Chamber make use of the direct political dialogue with the European Commission over the past year?

- **Yes**
- No

**If so**, how did your Parliament/Chamber engage in the political dialogue with the European Commission over the past year?

- By submitting an opinion to the Commission on an EU legislative proposal or other relevant EU initiatives.
- **By submitting enquiries in writing to the Commission regarding EU legislative proposals and Commission consultation documents.**
- **By inviting a commissioner to address Parliament or a parliamentary committee.**
- **Other, please specify: Prioritisation of the Commission Work programme, work visit of the committee on European Affairs in Brussels to European institutions, European Commissioner and EU-officials.**

24. How many times did you make use of the different modes of political dialogue in the course of the past year?

- Number of opinions to the Commission on an EU legislative proposal or other relevant EU initiatives.
- **A) none**, B) between 1-3 or C) more than 3
- Number of enquiries in writing to the Commission regarding EU legislative proposals and Commission consultation documents?
- A) none, B) between 1-3 or **C) more than 3**
- Number of meetings with a commissioner in Parliament or a parliamentary committee?
- A) none, **B) between 1-3** or C) more than 3  
**During their working visit to Brussels in 2025, members of the European Affairs Committee met Executive Vice-president of the European Commission Henna Virkkunen.**

**An invitation to European Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis to speak during parliamentary committee briefings was declined.**

25. Did your Parliament/Chamber over the past five years take the initiative of inviting the European Commission to act at the European level in a particular policy field, where you considered common European rules were needed?

- Yes
- **No**

**If so**, please specify in what policy area you invited the Commission to take action and if it was done jointly with other national parliaments:



.....(Open-ended question)

26. Should the existing political dialogue between national parliaments and the European Commission be expanded through a green card mechanism, which would give national parliaments a right to request the Commission to act in a particular policy field at the European level?

- Yes
- No

**The Senate has not recently adopted an opinion in this matter**

**If so**, please specify how you think such a green card mechanism should work in practise (Should there for instance be a minimum threshold of national parliaments to trigger the green card mechanism and how should the right be recognised by the Commission?)

**The Senate has not recently adopted an opinion in this matter. However, in the past it has stated that a green card should be seen as an informal political dialogue with the Commission, without any restrictions or thresholds. (Open-ended question)**

27. Does your Parliament/Chamber have other proposals on how to strengthen the political dialogue between national parliaments of the EU member states and the European Commission? Is there anything you would like to add in relation to this topic?

.....(Open-ended question)