

Outline of the 33rd Bi-annual Report

The **33rd Bi-annual Report** aims at building on the good practice of the Finnish Presidency and reinventing the Bi-annual Report by continuing to focus on the role of the national Parliaments as defined in Articles 10 and 12 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) and further elaborated in Protocol No 1 on the role of national Parliaments in the European Union, annexed to the TEU, to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and to the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community, as well as on the way in which they perceive and execute their competences and interact with other stakeholders.

Chapter 1 focuses on upcycling the input provided by Parliaments/Chambers in their responses to the questionnaire for the 32nd Bi-annual Report. This Chapter therefore aspires to assign a new dimension to the Bi-annual Report - that of a forum for continuous exchange of ideas, which would provide the respondents of the questionnaire for the 33rd Bi-annual Report with a beneficial tool to react to, expand and build upon the suggestions, comments and remarks provided by Parliaments/Chambers in their responses to the 32nd Bi-annual Report. Furthermore, this Chapter also builds on the comments and ideas stemming from the LXII COSAC in Helsinki. Finally, with intention to broaden the debate initiated by the Finnish Presidency on the tasks and responsibilities of the COSAC secretariat, the Chapter also aims at opening the discussion on the role of the COSAC secretariat in the new institutional setup, as well as at gathering ideas on the future functioning of COSAC and organisation of its meetings.

Chapter 2 focuses on analysing and contextualising the ways in which national Parliaments set their priorities and cooperate with the Union institutions, advisory bodies and agencies, notably in the light of the new institutional cycle. Furthermore, it examines best practices and explores what tools Parliaments have at their disposal to tackle various priority issues they are faced with at the EU level (for example, Brexit, the migration crisis, the ongoing debate on the future of Europe, the ongoing procedure for the adoption of the next MFF, the possibility of a no-deal Brexit). The aim is to provide a comprehensive review on parliaments' practices with a view to contribute to the ongoing debate on the transparency in the EU.

Chapter 3 zooms in on the ways in which national Parliaments perform their competences when contributing actively to the good functioning of the Union, in line with Article 12 TEU, and on their different constitutional and legal practices. The intention is to provide the readers of the Bi-annual Report with a unique insight into the



diversity of approaches and philosophies guiding Parliaments/Chambers in their work, notably by analysing the manner in which they exercise their prerogative of scrutiny of the EU Agencies pursuant to the powers granted to the national Parliaments by the Treaties, or of the national representatives where they are attached to the respective agencies. Furthermore, it aims to explore what tools and mechanisms are at the national Parliaments' disposal for their scrutiny of the expenditure of EU funds.

