

Questionnaire for the 43rd COSAC Bi-annual Report

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

- Name of Parliament/Chamber:
- Contact person:
- Phone:
- E-mail:

Chapter I: Agenda of the European Commission and the European Parliament in the new institutional cycle. EU Strategic Agenda

The chapter explores best practices and assesses the resources available to parliaments for tackling the priorities set out in the Political Guidelines for the next European Commission 2024-2029 and the Strategic Agenda 2024-2029 (as adopted by the European Council in October 2023). From the standpoint of the new institutional cycle, it will be valuable to examine the expectations of national parliaments regarding cooperation with the new European Commission.

Part 1 - Agenda of the European Commission and the European Parliament in the new institutional cycle

1. Having regard to the start of the new institutional cycle after the European elections in June 2024, was your Parliament/Chamber involved in the process of nomination of the European Commissioner for the 2024-2029 term of office designated by your government?

- Yes
- **No**
- Not applicable

2. If so, at what level? (more than one answer is possible)

- Plenary debate in the Parliament/Chamber
- EU Affairs Committee
- Other committee
- Other, please specify:

3. If so, in what form? (more than one answer is possible)

- Binding opinion
- Non-binding opinion
- Other, please specify:

4. Did the Commissioner candidate participate in the nomination procedure at parliamentary level by presenting their candidacy and proposed agenda?

- Yes, they were present
- No, their candidacy was presented by a government representative
- **Not applicable**

5. Was your Parliament/Chamber involved in shaping your government's input to the European Commission's priorities for the new term of office (2024–2029)?

- Yes
- **No**

6. If so, at what level? (more than one answer is possible)

- Plenary debate in the Parliament/Chamber
- EU Affairs Committee
- Foreign Affairs Committee
- Other sectoral committee/s
- Other, please specify:

7. If so, in what form? (more than one answer is possible)

- A binding position adopted by the Parliament/Chamber
- A non-binding position adopted by the Parliament/Chamber
- A binding position adopted at committee level
- A non-binding position adopted at committee level
- Other, please specify:

8. How in your opinion could national parliaments better contribute to setting the strategic direction of the EU in the context of the European Commission's new 2024–2029 agenda? (Open-ended question)

.....

9. Did your Parliament/Chamber debate the Political Guidelines for the next European Commission 2024–2029 presented by the European Commission?

- Yes
- **No**

10. If so, at what level?

- Plenary debate in the Parliament

- EU Affairs Committee
- Other committee/s
- Other, please specify

11. Will your Parliament/Chamber take into account in its activities the European Commission's Political Guidelines for the next European Commission 2024-2029?

- **Yes**
- No
- Not applicable

12. If so, in what way? (more than one answer is possible)

- Debate at committee level
- Resolution or opinion
- **Meetings with Commissioners or European Commission representatives**
- Partnership with rapporteurs and co-rapporteurs of relevant legislative proposals in the European Parliament
- **Other, please specify: The committee on EU Affairs has an annual working visit to the European institutions in Brussels, in which the political guidelines may be discussed during meetings with Commissioners of European Commission representatives.**

13. Does your Parliament/Chamber have specific expectations for the new European Commission in terms of boosting national parliaments' involvement in the decision-making process?

- **Yes**
- No
- We do not have an opinion
- Not applicable

14. Has your Parliament/Chamber considered any of the following measures to boost national parliaments' involvement in the decision-making process? (more than one answer is possible)

- Earlier consultation with national parliaments
- **Better communication concerning legislative proposals**
- **Enhanced role of parliamentary scrutiny concerning EU legislation**
- Greater involvement in the implementation of EU legislation
- Other, please specify:

15. If so, what forms could this take? (more than one answer is possible)

- Regular presentation of the Commission Work Programme by EU Commissioners in national parliaments
- Presentation of the European Commission's key legislative proposals by EU Commissioners to national parliaments (in-person meetings)
- Presentation of the European Commission's key legislative proposals by EU Commissioners to national parliaments (on-line meetings)
- **Better taking account of national parliaments' opinions in the EU legislative process**
- **Regular exchange of views with EU Commissioners at COSAC meetings and other inter-parliamentary conferences such as: Inter-parliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy (IPC CFSP/CSDP), Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the EU (IPC SECG), Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on Europol (JPSG on Europol)**
- **Other, please specify: The committee on EU Affairs noted that the quality of the responses of the European Commission with regard to political dialogues at times falls short and that due to the nature of the response certain questions or remarks do not get addressed.**

16. How frequently have EU Commissioners visited your Parliament/Chamber since the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty in December 2009?

- More than 100
- 76-100
- 51-75
- 26-50
- 16-25
- **1-15**

17. How many members of the European Commission have visited your Parliament/Chamber in the 2019-2024 term of office?

- 0
- **1-5**
- 6-10
- 11-15
- 16-20
- More than 20

18. How many times has a Commissioner from your country visited your Parliament/Chamber during the 2019–2024 term of office?

- 0
- **1-2**

- 3-5
- 6-10
- more than 10

19. What was the character of the meetings of EU Commissioners in your Parliament/Chamber?
(More than one reply possible.)

- Meeting with the President of the Parliament/Chamber?
- Participation in the EU Affairs Committee meetings?
- **Participation in the sectoral committee meetings?**
- Meetings with committee representatives?
- Other, please specify **In addition the committee on European Affairs yearly visits the European institutions and on that occasion meets with several Commissioners in Brussels.**

20. Is there anything else you would like to point out, in the context of your expectations towards the new European Commission in terms of cooperation with national parliaments? (Open-ended question)

Part 2 - The EU Strategic Agenda

21. Taking into account the new institutional cycle that has started in the second half of 2024, has your Parliament/Chamber debated the priorities of the European Union's Strategic Agenda 2024-2029 adopted by the European Council?

- **Yes**
- No

22. If so, what was the outcome of the debate? (more than one answer is possible)

- Opinion of the Parliament/Chamber
- Opinion of the Committee
- Report of the Committee
- Working document
- **Other, please specify:**
The Committee of EU Affairs asked written questions to the government on the strategic agenda and on the Dutch priorities for the strategic agenda. Furthermore, during a plenary session of the Senate the democratic control of the Strategic Agenda decision making procedure was raised. However a motion on this topic did not reach a majority.

23. Does your Parliament/Chamber find that the Political Guidelines for the next European Commission 2024-2029 are complementary to the EU Strategic Agenda 2024-2029 as adopted by the European Council?

- Yes
- No
- **We do not have an opinion**

24. Should the European Commission and the Council hold a debate with national parliaments on the priorities for the Commission's work programme and the Council's Strategic Agenda?

- Yes
- No
- **We do not have an opinion.**

25. If so, in what form? (more than one answer is possible)

- During individual visits to national Parliaments/Chambers
- During COSAC
- During special Interparliamentary Committee Meetings (ICM) organised by the European Parliament
- Other, please specify.

26. Is there anything else you would like to add in the context of your Parliament's/Chamber's expectations for the EU's priorities included in the Strategic Agenda 2024–2029 adopted by the European Council? (Open-ended question)

Chapter II: Multiannual Financial Framework

The chapter seeks to evaluate the current and future role of national parliaments in cooperating with and scrutinizing their governments throughout the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) development process. In light of the significant challenges facing the EU today, it is vital to establish the roles and powers of both national parliaments and the European Parliament in shaping and monitoring key EU policies during the upcoming institutional cycle. Successfully achieving this will require coordinated efforts from decision-makers at both the national and EU levels.

27. Was your Parliament/Chamber involved in establishing the position of your government on the MFF 2021–2027?

- **Yes**

- No
- Not applicable

28. If yes, in what way? (more than one answer is possible)

- **Debate during the sessions of EU Affairs Committee**
- **Debate during the sessions of Committee for Budgetary Affairs**
- Debate during the sessions of other committees
- Debate during plenary sessions of Parliament/Chamber
- Preparing the opinion for government
- Establishing a subcommittee for Multiannual Financial Framework
- In other way....

29. Will your Parliament/Chamber be involved in establishing the position of your government on the MFF 2028–2034?

- **Yes**
- No
- Not decided yet
- Not applicable

30. If yes, in what way? (more than one answer is possible)

- Debate during the sessions of EU Affairs Committee
- Debate during the sessions of Committee for Budgetary Affairs
- Debate during the sessions of other committees
- Debate during plenary sessions of Parliament/Chamber
- Preparing the opinion for government
- Establishing a subcommittee for MFF
- In other way: **Not yet established. The MFF 2028-2034 will be addressed in the committees on European Affairs and on Finance ...**

31. Did your Parliament/Chamber organise a debate/conference on previous MFFs with participation of experts, academics, social partners, members of government?

- Yes
- **No**

32. Is your Parliament/Chamber going to organise a debate/conference on MFF 2028–2034 with participation of experts, academics, social partners, members of government?

- Yes
- No

- **Not decided yet**

33. Has your Parliament/Chamber discussed possible changes in the structure of the MFF (e.g. replacing the current EU funding programs by 27 national plans, creating European Competitiveness Fund)?

- Yes
- **No**

34. If so, in what form (more than one answer is possible)

- Debate during the sessions of EU Affairs Committee
- Debate during the sessions of Committee for Budgetary Affairs
- Debate during the sessions of other committees
- Debate during plenary sessions of Parliament/Chamber
- Other debate

35. Is the EU Affairs Committee responsible for formulating the opinion on the 2028-2034 MFF?

- Yes
- No
- **Not decided yet**

Chapter III: Towards strengthening the EU's collective effort to improve cyber-resilience and tackle disinformation

The chapter aims to explore the issue of cyber-resilience in terms of disinformation in greater depth by collecting best practices from the parliaments of the European Union. It will present whether and how Parliaments/Chambers have so far dealt with the EU legislation in this field. It will also address the relevant measures introduced on the level of Member States.

36. Did or does your Parliament/Chamber have a special committee dealing with cyber-resilience and disinformation?

- Yes
- **No**

37. If no, is cyber resilience and disinformation dealt with in another sectoral committee?

- **Yes (please specify)**
- No

The standing committee on the Interior deals with the topic of disinformation, while the standing committee on Digitalisation deals with the topic of cyber resilience in all other circumstances.

38. If your Parliament/Chamber has a special committee dealing with cyber-resilience and disinformation, how often did or does the committee meet per year?"

- One to six times
- More than six times

39. Name the main topics that have been debated in the relevant committee dealing with cyber-resilience and disinformation of your Parliament/Chamber. (more than one answer is possible)

- **Need for a coordinated strategy against foreign interference (2020 EU Cybersecurity Strategy, NIS2, Cyber Resilience Act)**
- **Building resilience through situational awareness, media and information literacy, media pluralism, independent journalism and education**
- Foreign interference using online platforms
- Enhance the resilience of critical infrastructure and strategic sectors
- Foreign interference during electoral processes
- **Covert funding of political activities by foreign actors and donors**
- Cooperation of EU Member States, institutions, agencies, delegations and missions in terms of detecting, monitoring and sharing information during and/or to prevent cyber-attacks
- **Cybersecurity and resilience against cyberattacks**
- Interference through global actors via elite capture, national diasporas, universities and cultural events
- Deterrence and collective countermeasures, including sanctions
- Global cooperation and multilateralism

40. In what way did or does the special committee dealing with cyber resilience and disinformation interact with the government? (more than one answer is possible)

- Presentation of government positions on specific EU legislative proposals by government's representative at committee sitting;
- Presentation of government positions on relevant agenda points to be discussed during the Council of the European Union meetings in advance by government's representative at committee sitting;
- Presentation of government positions on relevant agenda points discussed during the Council of the European Union meetings by government's representative at committee sitting (ex-post);
- Other, please specify:

N/A

41. What were the outcomes of the sittings of the special committee dealing with cyber resilience and disinformation? (more than one answer is possible)

- Opinion binding for government
- Non-binding opinion for government
- Resolution of Chamber/Parliament
- Opinion in the framework of political dialogue
- Reasoned opinion
- Other, please specify:

N/A

42. Has your Parliament/Chamber discussed the Action Plan against Disinformation¹?

- Yes
- **Not**

43. In the view of your Parliament/Chamber, on which of the following pillars should action be taken to envisage closer cooperation among EU Parliaments/Chambers? (more than one answer is possible)

- improving the capabilities of Union institutions to detect, analyse and expose disinformation
- strengthening coordinated and joint responses to disinformation
- mobilising private sector to tackle disinformation
- raising awareness and improving societal resilience

44. Has your Parliament/Chamber scrutinised the Digital Services Act² (DSA)?

- **Yes**
- No

45. What was the outcome of the DSA scrutiny process?

- Approval without remarks
- Opinion in the framework of political dialogue
- Reasoned opinion
- Other, please specify: **The standing committee on Justice and Security and the standing committee on Asylum and Integration/Justice and Home Affairs jointly posed questions to the European Commission in light of the political dialogue regarding the DSA proposal. They similarly posed questions to the state secretary of Economic Affairs regarding the proposal. The committees took note of both replies to their questions.**

¹ Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic And Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions from 5 December 2018, JOIN(2018) 36 final.

² Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on a Single Market For Digital Services and amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Services Act).

46. In the view of your Parliament/Chamber, how does the DSA address the threats of disinformation?

- Sufficiently
- Not sufficiently and needs changes
- **No opinion**

47. According to your Parliament/Chamber, is there a need for more coordination and interaction of Member States' disinformation policies at EU level?

- Yes, full harmonisation is needed
- Yes, there should be more coordination without full harmonisation
- No, there is already a sufficient level of coordination
- No, there should not be any interference by the EU

The Dutch Senate has not issued an opinion on this policy matter

48. Have your Parliament's/Chamber's administration taken measures to strengthen your institution's cyber-resilience? And if yes, please provide details. (Open-ended question)

The Dutch Senate's administration has recently appointed a Chief Information Security Officer

49. If you wish to provide additional information or example of a best practice in your Parliament/Chamber in dealing with disinformation, please do so below.

Regarding question 39: The committees have not necessarily debated these topics within a committee meeting, but European Commission proposals regarding these topics have been scrutinised by the relevant Senate committees.

Regarding question 43: The Dutch Senate mainly focuses on legislation and is therefore less focused on policy. Hence, the Dutch Senate has not taken a stance in this matter of policy.