

OPINION
OF THE SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND
of 29 April, 2016

on the incompatibility with the principle of subsidiarity
of the Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending
Directive 96/71/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 1996
concerning the posting of workers in the framework of the provision of services
COM(2016)128

Having considered the Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 96/71/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 1996 concerning the posting of workers in the framework of the provision of services (COM(2016)128), the Senate finds that the proposal is incompatible with the principle of subsidiarity as referred to in Article 5(3) of the Treaty on European Union.

1. Article 3 (1a) of the proposed Directive submits subcontractors from other Member States to requirements laid down in acts of law, implementing regulations, administrative provisions and collective agreements, to which subcontractors have not been submitted so far on a general basis.
This restrains the Member States' discretion to establish such an obligation or not. The Commission did not convincingly justify that in this case full harmonisation would contribute to better protection of employees. At present, the Member States are free to decide on the scope of subcontractors' obligations in this field; the current wording of the directives allows them to reduce this scope in relation to service providers from other Member States. Therefore, in our opinion, this issue should be left to the Member States' regulatory discretion, while providing for the possibility to submit subcontractors from other Member States to all requirements arising from agreements (collective agreements) which are not generally binding.
2. Article 3 (1b) of the proposed Directive restrains the Member States' discretion to decide whether posted workers employed by temporary work agencies must meet the requirements specified in Article 5 of the Directive 2008/104/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on temporary agency work. Currently, such an obligation is optional, which allows the Member States to assess by themselves if the introduction of such an obligation is necessary, for instance, due to the local labour market conditions. Therefore, it seems that the intervention of the Union legislator is not required in this case.

Therefore, we find that the proposed regulation is in breach of the principle of subsidiarity.