

**Question for written answer E-006119/2013
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Michael Theurer (ALDE)

Subject: Application of the principle of subsidiarity in accordance with the Treaty of Lisbon

The principle of subsidiarity was strengthened in the Treaty of Lisbon. Decisions are to be taken as closely as possible to citizens. The principle of subsidiarity was strengthened in Article 5(3) of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) and in the Protocol (No 2) on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality. The instruments available to national parliaments for monitoring legislative acts in terms of subsidiarity are subsidiarity complaints and the right to take action against infringements of the principle of subsidiarity.

1. How many cases have been filed with the Court of Justice of the European Union with reference to the principle of subsidiarity (action against infringements of the principle of subsidiarity)? If these cases were unsuccessful, what was the reason for this?
2. How many subsidiarity complaints have been made by national parliaments in respect of the fact that the legislative acts to which the complaint relates do not comply with the principle of subsidiarity in accordance with the Treaty on European Union? If these complaints were unsuccessful, what was the reason for this?
3. Regional parliaments have been given greater opportunity to participate in the early warning mechanism, although in contrast to national parliaments, regional parliaments have less time to act. How could the regional aspect be better taken into account in future amendments to the Treaty?
4. What internal structures does the Commission have in place for reasoned opinions from national parliaments? What resources (in terms of staff) are available to the Commission for this purpose? Has there been a change in this regard since the parliamentary question for oral answer to the Commission of 4 October 2011 concerning use of the principle of subsidiarity?
5. With regard to Article 2 of Protocol No 2, how is the consultation in respect of the local and regional dimensions carried out?
6. Does the Commission believe that strengthening the national parliaments in the EU has improved their powers of codecision, or should further measures be taken, where relevant?