

QUESTIONNAIRE: CONFERENCE OF EU SPEAKERS

RAISING NATIONAL EUROPEAN AWARENESS

A.

COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE AND WORK PROGRAMME

General information:

In order to eliminate the so-called democratic deficit and in respect to strengthening the role of the national parliaments in the EU decision-making processes, the national parliaments increasingly participate in the Annual Policy Strategy (APS) and Commission Legislative and Work Programme (CLWP) scrutiny process.

Previously the National Council of the Slovak Republic did not discuss the APS in the same way as the CLWP. However, in the light of strengthening the role of the national parliaments that has been recently emphasized, the National Council of the Slovak Republic has now begun to pay attention to the both documents. (Note: The NC SR used to focus primarily on the CLWP.)

On the delivery of the 2007 CLWP to the NCSR, the Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs (CEA) asked the Government of the Slovak Republic to submit to the NCSR its opinion on the 2007 CLWP along with the Slovak Republic priorities' list as regards the 2007 CLWP. The 2007 CLWP was discussed in public by the CEA as well as in the plenary where it was submitted by Commissioner Ján Figel'. Speaker of the National Council of the Slovak Republic Pavol Paška invited Commissioner Figel' to introduce the 2007 CLWP on behalf of the European Commission. The Government of the Slovak Republic was represented by the Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Knowledge-Based Society, European Affairs, Human Rights and Minorities, Mr. Dušan Čaplovič. Deputy Prime Minister Čaplovič presented the opinion of the Government of the Slovak Republic along with the Slovak Republic priorities in relation to the 2007 CLWP. Chairman of the CEA Milan Urbáni was the Rapporteur. By the resolution of the National Council of the Slovak Republic number 202 the NCSR took note of the 2007 CLWP on 15 December 2006. In this resolution the NCSR recommended to the Government to submit annually its opinion on each CLWP. The session of the Committee on European Affairs dealing with the 2007 CLWP took place on 7 December 2006 and the opinion of the Government of the Slovak Republic in relation to the 2007 CLWP was presented by the Deputy Prime Minister Dušan Čaplovič. The other sectoral NCSR committees did not have any comments as regards the 2007 CLWP scrutiny process.

QUESTIONS:

I. OVERALL ASPECTS

1. Following the critical observations made by the national parliaments in connection with the 2006 CLWP, have there been any improvements as regards the 2007 CLWP content?
 - a) yes (please comment)
 - b) no (please comment) **X**

II. SPACE

2. Conclusions made by the Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments held in Copenhagen between 29 June – 2 July 2006 encouraged the national parliaments to "proceed with the experiment of holding a coinciding debate on the Legislative and Work Programme within one month of its publication." In respect to this do you believe that the time framework referred to in the conclusions is adequate?
 - a) yes **X**
 - b) no (what time framework do you suggest?)

III. FORM OF DISCUSSIONS

3. At which level does your Parliament discuss the 2007 CLWP?
 - a) in the plenary **X**
 - b) in a committee/committees
 - c) both
4. The sessions dealing with the 2007 CLWP are:
 - a) open to the public **X**
 - b) closed
5. Did/Will your committee ask representatives of the Government to be present during the 2007 CLWP discussions?
 - a) yes (please specify) **X**
Mr. Ali Babacan, Minister of State responsible for EU Affairs and the Chief Negotiator, took the floor to assess the initiatives vis-à-vis the European Union.
 - b) no
6. Are there any sectoral committees involved in these discussions?
 - a) yes (please specify)
 - b) no **X**

7. Do your Rules of Procedure¹ allow for the possibility of the participation of a Member of the European Parliament or the European Commission on a regular session of the Committee for European Affairs dealing with CLWP?
- a) MEP
 - b) Member of the European Commission
 - c) Both **X**
8. Can any other (concerned) subjects take part in the discussions about the 2007 CLWP in the **committee**?
- a) no **X**
 - b) yes - mark the subject and identify the form of participation (i. written contribution, ii. possibility of a presentation, iii. passive participation):
 - representatives of the second Chamber (i.; ii.; iii.)
 - representatives of regional and municipal government (i.; ii.; iii.)
 - non-governmental organizations (i.; ii.; iii.)
 - trade unions and associations of entrepreneurs (i.; ii.; iii.)
 - ambassadors (i.; ii.; iii.)
 - others (please specify)
9. Can any other (concerned) subjects take part in the discussions about the 2007 CLWP in the **plenary**?
- a) no **X**
 - b) yes - mark the subject and identify the form of participation (i. written contribution, ii. possibility of a presentation, iii. passive participation):
 - representatives of the second Chamber (i.; ii.; iii.)
 - representatives of regional and municipal government (i.; ii.; iii.)
 - non-governmental organizations (i.; ii.; iii.)
 - trade unions and associations of entrepreneurs (i.; ii.; iii.)
 - ambassadors (i.; ii.; iii.)
 - others (please specify)

IV. COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT / EUROPEAN COMMISSION

10. Does the Government deliver its opinion concerning the 2007 CLWP to the committee/the plenary?
- a) yes **X**
 - b) no

¹ According to our Rules of Procedure (§58a deals particularly with the Committee on European Affairs) the Members of the European Parliament elected in the territory of the Slovak Republic can be present at the sessions of the Committee on European Affairs

11. If yes, on what kind of basis does the Government deliver the opinion in question to the committee/the plenary?

- a) on its own initiative
- b) on the basis of a legal arrangement of the relations between the parliament/the committee and the Government **X**
- c) on the basis of a request of the parliament/ the committee
- d) other (please specify)

12. In the Annexes to the 2007 CLWP does the Government define the priority initiatives for your country?

- a) yes
- b) no **X**

13. Does the committee/the plenary invite a member of the European Commission to present the 2007 CLWP?

- a) yes
- b) no **X**

V. CONCLUSIONS OF THE DISCUSSIONS

14. Which form of conclusions do the discussions about the 2007 CLWP have in your parliament/ your committee? (i. e. resolution, conclusions, position...)

At the 65th sitting of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (GNAT), which was held on February 20th, 2007, Mr. Ali Babacan, Minister of State responsible for EU Affairs and the Chief Negotiator took the floor to assess the initiatives vis-à-vis the European Union and the deliberations took place in two sessions. At the sitting, Mr. Babacan and after him, four MPs took the floor on behalf of their party groups and they all elaborated on Government's policy on the European Union as well as the EU's approach towards Turkey and raised various criticism.

15. Were/Will these conclusions from the discussions about the 2007 CLWP be submitted to the Government as a way of a feedback from the national parliament?

- a) yes (in what form?)
- b) no **X**

16. Were/Will these conclusions from the discussions about the 2007 CLWP be submitted to the European Commission as a way of a feedback from the national parliament?

- a) yes (in what form?)
- b) no **X**

VI. SPECIFIC CHALLENGES

17. In your opinion, which one of the following should play the central role in the coordination of the scrutiny of the CLWP at EU level?

- a) COSAC **X**
- b) EU Speakers Conference
- c) other (please specify)

B.

WHAT HAS YOUR PARLIAMENT / PARLIAMENTARY CHAMBER DONE THROUGHOUT 2006 TO BRING THE EU CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS?

The EU Harmonization Commission has visited 9 EU countries and met with parliamentarians, academicians, members of the NGOs to discuss various issues of mutual concern on Turkey's accession process. Bulgarian and Romanian EU Harmonization Commissions also visited to Turkey. Such visits are considered to be an important means to create an atmosphere of mutual understanding and cooperation as well as to help counteract the negative perceptions of the Turkish EU-accession process that exists in certain segments of public opinion.

Member of the GNAT including EU Harmonization Commission released articles and had interview regarding EU in international and national dailies, magazines, television programs in order to contribute to bring the EU closer to its citizens.

C. COMMISSION'S ANNUAL POLICY STRATEGY

18. In your opinion, should there be organized a Joint Annual Interparliamentary debate on the Commission's Annual Policy Strategy?

- a) Yes **X**
- b) No, such debates should rather take place in each national parliament.

19. If yes, which Interparliamentary body or structure at the European level should in your opinion be used for such a debate on the Commission's Annual Policy Strategy?

- d) COSAC **X**
- e) EU Speakers Conference
- f) Joint Parliamentary Meeting organized by the European Parliament and the national parliament holding the EU-Presidency.
- g) other (please specify)

20. When should such a Joint Interparliamentary debate on the Annual Policy Strategy take place?

Joint Interparliamentary debate should take place in December

Questionnaire on “Raising national European awareness”

Country: **TURKEY**

Chamber: **THE GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF TURKEY**

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21. Should the Commission be represented by the competent Commissioner(s) at such a Joint Interparliamentary debate so as to allow it to respond to comments or questions from national parliaments?

The Commission should be represented by the competent Commissioner in the debate in order to respond to questions and comments.

Thank you very much for your cooperative approach and patience.