



*Hearing to support the work of the
Task Force on Subsidiarity, Proportionality and "Doing Less More Efficiently"*

On 28 May 2018, the European Committee of the Regions will host a hearing to inform the work of the Task Force on Subsidiarity, Proportionality and "Doing Less More Efficiently"ⁱ. The hearing will provide an opportunity for the Chairman and members of the Task Force to listen to the views of national, regional and local stakeholders on the three objectives of the Task Force set out in the decision of President Juncker. The conclusions from the hearing will inform the work of the Task Force in preparing its report to President Juncker.

<i>Programme</i>	
09.00	Registration
09.30	Opening remarks from Frans Timmermans, the First Vice President of the European Commission, & Karl-Heinz Lambertz, President of the European Committee of the Regions.
09.45	Session 1: The participation of local and regional authorities in policymaking and implementation, and the application of subsidiarity in the work of the institutions. Interactive discussion with members of the Task Force. <i>This discussion will focus on Tasks (a) and (c) as identified by President Juncker.</i>
10.30	Session 2: "Doing less, more efficiently" - Interactive discussion with members of the Task Force. <i>This discussion will focus on Task (b) of the Task Force mandate - the identification of areas where decision-making and/or implementation could be re-delegated in whole or in part or definitively returned to the Member States.</i>
11.15	Closing remarks.
11.30	Hearing closes.
11.30-12.00	Light buffet lunch in the VIP area of the Jacques Delors Building (1st floor).

Venue:	Room JDE 52, Jacques Delors Building, Committee of the Regions, Rue Belliard 99-101, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium. (A listening room will also be available in room JDE 51).
Interpretation:	Languages provisionally available are: FR/EN/DE/IT/ES/PT/PL/CZ/HU/RO/BG/ET.
Webstreaming:	We have arranged for live web streaming of the Hearing, which will be available through the following link: https://livestream.com/corlive1/events/8164874
Formalities:	Please confirm your participation to the following email address (SG-TF-Subsidiarity@ec.europa.eu) and bring a passport or identity card with you.
Documents:	All background documents relevant to the Task Force's work can be viewed online ¹ .
Conclusions:	A short summary of the issues raised in the hearing will be posted to the web site of the Task Force together with a list of participants.

Background information

The President of the Commission established the Task-Force to provide advice and recommendations regarding the current application of the Treaty-based principles of subsidiarity and proportionalityⁱⁱ. Article 3 of the President's Decision sets out the three tasks that the Task Force should address in its work:

- (a) *How to better apply the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality in the work of the Union's Institutions, notably regarding the preparation and implementation of Union legislation and policies.*
- (b) *The identification of any policy areas where, over time, decision making and/or implementation could be re-delegated in whole or in part or definitively returned to the Member States.*
- (c) *The identification of ways to better involve regional and local authorities in the preparation and the follow up of Union policies.*

The Task Force will present its findings in the form of a written report to President Juncker by **15 July 2018**. The Commission will assess the advice it receives from the Task Force and has indicated that it will present a policy Communication in the autumn of this year. The members of the Task Force have been appointed to act in a personal capacity and do not represent the views of any particular body or institution in their work for the Task Force.

Session 1:

This session examines issues related to the participation of local and regional authorities in policymaking and in the implementation of EU legislation, and also looks at the application of the subsidiarity and proportionality principles in the EU decision-making process. The Task Force has itself discussed these issues on 23 Februaryⁱⁱⁱ and 15 March^{iv}, and the discussion papers presented at the meeting and the minutes can be found online.

The key questions addressed by the Task Force are the following:

<i>Task (a)</i>	<i>Task (c)</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality be better reflected in the work of the EU institutions? • Does the process of subsidiarity assessment by national Parliaments function effectively? Do national Parliaments feel they can adequately express their concerns in their "reasoned opinions"? • Would better cooperation and coordination between national Parliaments – and possibly with the Committee of the Regions' Subsidiarity Monitoring Network – bring greater effects? • How can the Commission better justify and explain how its proposals conform to the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can the EU improve its consultation and feedback process to better involve local and regional authorities in assessing the territorial impact of legislation, and the functioning of existing legislation? • How can the views of regional and local authorities about subsidiarity and proportionality be better taken into account by the European Parliament and the Council when considering Commission proposals? • Do the Commission's and national implementation plans facilitate the realisation of Union policies at regional and local level? How can they be improved? • How can practical experience and hard data from local and regional authorities be more effectively captured and used by the Commission when evaluating and revising Union law?

Session 2:

This session tackles the issue of whether the Union should do less and how it can deliver its policies more efficiently. The Task Force has devoted one meeting to this subject on 27 April, and will discuss it again at a meeting on 28 May after the hearing. The discussion papers presented at the meeting on 27 April are available online^v.

The key questions addressed by the Task Force are the following:

<i>Task (b)</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What means can be identified to "do less more efficiently"? (i.e. Treaty change to reduce competences, repeal of legislation, political restraint, reducing the "density" of EU legislation).• Are there concrete examples of policy areas or legislation where these means should be applied?• What processes or mechanisms could be envisaged to tackle the issue of doing less more efficiently on an ongoing basis (c.f. the REFIT programme for tackling unnecessary regulatory costs)?• How might legislation that is "too dense" be identified? And how might such legislation be "lightened" to give more flexibility and discretion to national regional and local authorities in their implementation?• On what basis might Union competences be identified for removal from the Treaty or might individual policy instruments be identified for repeal?

In addition to participating in the Hearing, invitees are also welcome to submit documents or suggestions to the Task Force via its [website](#)ⁱ.

ⁱ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/priorities/democratic-change/better-regulation/task-force-subsidiarity-proportionality-and-doing-less-more-efficiently_en

ⁱⁱ C(2017) 7810 of 14 November 2017

ⁱⁱⁱ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/priorities/democratic-change/better-regulation/task-force-subsidiarity-proportionality-and-doing-less-more-efficiently/23-february-2018_en

^{iv} https://ec.europa.eu/commission/priorities/democratic-change/better-regulation/task-force-subsidiarity-proportionality-and-doing-less-more-efficiently/15-march-2018_en

^v https://ec.europa.eu/commission/priorities/democratic-change/better-regulation/task-force-subsidiarity-proportionality-and-doing-less-more-efficiently/27-april-2018-0_en