INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

transparent processes for reliable law-making

- It is urgently necessary to improve the transparency of law-making: the framework conditions for the so-called trilogues or interinstitutional negotiations need to be codified and working documents published more promptly; discussions in the EU institutions should be made public to the greatest extent possible.

- Deadlines for national parliaments to raise subsidiarity objections should be extended; national parliaments often have insufficient time to verify the content and legal basis for a new legislative proposal.

- The EU and its Member States should ensure better implementation and enforcement of the existing acquis, for instance by drawing up guidance and greater use of implementation and expert groups.

- The rule of law must be guaranteed throughout Europe: establish an evaluation mechanism for all Member States, rapidly draw up guidance for the conditionality mechanism governing EU subsidies.

- The European Commission must carry out consultations in a neutral manner and without prejudging the outcome. Questions must not be drafted in such a way as to elicit the desired response; in addition, we need a transparent and more streamlined consultation process with clear criteria for the evaluation of results.

- We need clear criteria for the choice of legal basis: where the EU treaties do not confer clear competences for a specific piece of legislation, the legal basis for other policy areas should be applied only in exceptional cases.

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