

EUROPEAN UNION



Médiateur européen

- 8 AVR. 2016

Date d'arrivée



**Committee of the Regions**

The President

The European Ombudsman  
Ms Emily O'Reilly  
1 Avenue du Président Robert Schuman  
CS 30403  
F-67001 Strasbourg

Brussels,  
MM/ST/KS/df (2016) D616

30.03.16 00407

Dear Ms O'Reilly,

The European Committee of the Regions supports better law-making. We believe that the quality of European legislation should be improved by adopting working methods that entail subsidiarity-monitoring and territorial impact assessments and which operate in an inclusive environment.

The CoR has enhanced its institutional working methods in order to ensure that its voice is heard by the legislative branches at each phase of the legislative procedure. As part of this process, we have signed cooperation agreements with the European Commission and the European Parliament and have developed closer cooperation with those institutions in order to present our views throughout the legislative process.

Regarding the current debate on transparency, we are convinced that this plays a vital role for the process as a whole. We also believe that there is room for further improvement in other areas, such as the organisation of trialogues. Within the context of your own-initiative inquiry OI/8/2015/JAS concerning transparency of trialogues we would like to share with you our considerations.

One valuable tool in this regard would be the proactive inter-institutional publication of trialogue documents containing the different positions and the finalised compromise text. In addition, the publication of meeting agendas would help ensure a better understanding of the content and the state of play in negotiations. Transparency would indeed also benefit the European Committee of the Regions, because the current set-up of trialogue negotiations might affect its institutional role and prerogatives as laid down in the treaties.

**The EU's Assembly of Regional and Local Representatives**

In conclusion, we wish to emphasise that our institution is currently consulted by the EU legislators in certain policy fields, as specified by the treaties. However, if a compromise reached by the three negotiating institutions in one such area of mandatory consultation differed substantially from the original Commission proposal on which the European Committee of the Regions had been consulted, we would feel that our prerogatives were no longer being fully respected and would expect further consultation to take place.

We therefore believe that improved institutional working methods would achieve the aim of more transparent and democratic EU decision-making procedures.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of Markku Markkula.

Markku Markkula