

**PARLIAMENT OF ROMANIA**

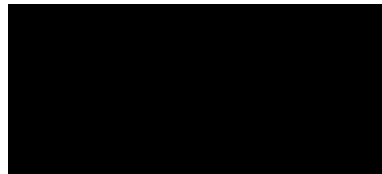


**European Affairs Committee  
Chairperson**

Bucharest, April 11 , 2016

Following the debate generated by the European Ombudsman concerning informal negotiations between the European Parliament, the EU Council and the European Commission in order to reach agreement on legislation proposals (trilogues), we will send you the opinion of the European Affairs Committee of the Romanian Senate.

**Senator Anca Daniela BOAGIU**



**Public consultation launched by the European Ombudsman on**  
**transparency in the conduct triologue**

*1. In your opinion, is the way in which EU legislation is negotiated through the trilogue process sufficiently transparent? Please give brief reasons for your answer.*

The transparency of the procedure triologue negotiations is a matter of great interest and, in our opinion, we need greater access to information on negotiations between the Commission, Council and the European Parliament.

*2. Please explain how, in your view, greater transparency might affect the EU legislative process, for example in terms of public trust in the process, the efficiency of the process or other public interests.*

Better transparency would ensure greater accountability for the Member States and the European institutions should strengthen the relationship between European policymakers and citizens.

*3. The institutions have described what they're doing about the **proactive publication** of trilogue documents. In your opinion, would the proactive release of all documents exchanged between the institutions during trilogue negotiations, for example "four-column tables", **after the trilogue process has resulted in an agreement on the compromise text**, ensure greater transparency? At which stage of the process could such a release occur? Please give brief reasons.*

Yes , it would ensure a greater transparency by publishing all proactive documents and, also, it would ensure a review of decisions and a control of the Lobbyists.

*4. What, if any, concrete steps could the institutions take to inform the public in advance about trilogue meetings? Would it be sufficient a) to publicly announce only that such meetings will take place and when, or b) to publish further details of forthcoming meetings such as meeting agendas and a list of proposed participants?*

It would be useful to publish more details on future meetings, such as the agenda and the list of the proposed participants.

*5. Concerns have been expressed that detailed advance information about trilogue meetings could lead to greater pressure on the legislators and officials involved in the negotiations from lobbyists. Please give a brief opinion on this.*

A better transparency would consolidate the relationship between citizens and the European institutions and would diminish the power of the lobbyists.

*6. In your opinion, should the initial position ("mandate") of all three institutions on a legislative file be made publicly available before trilogue negotiations commence? Briefly explain your reasons.*

The mandate should be prepared by each institution, after a public consultation should reflect the public opinion.

7. *What, if any, concrete measures could the institutions put in place to increase the visibility and user-accessibility of documents and information that they **already** make public?*

A good promotion of the information sources at citizen's level from the Member States through public information campaigns.

8. *Do you consider that, **in relation to transparency**, a distinction should be made between "political trilogues" involving the political representatives of the institutions and technical meetings conducted by civil servants where no political decisions should be taken?*

Yes, but both situations involve informing citizens about political and technical issues.

9. *Please comment on other areas, if any, with potential for greater trilogue transparency. Please be as specific as possible.*

As the discussions are highly technical, until „the political trilogue”, presenting them in an appropriate and understandable language the citizens would facilitate the transparency of the process and would cause better involvement of the citizens.