



## RESOLUTION:

### **Improving the position and participation of national parliaments in EU law-making**

*Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting in Zürich on the 23rd September 2017*

#### **Recognizing that:**

- To date, the 'yellow card' procedure has been triggered three times and the 'orange card' procedure has never been used.
- The current thresholds for the yellow card and the orange card, respectively one third and a majority of all the votes allocated to the national parliaments, have caused these two measures to remain a dead letter.
- The period in which national parliaments can send a reasoned opinion stands at a mere 8 weeks.

#### **Acknowledging that:**

- There is a need for reinforcing the ownership of European legislation by national parliaments throughout every step of the legislative process.
- Current procedures put national parliaments at a disadvantaged position vis-à-vis both the European Parliament and the European Council as a whole.
- Current procedures put opposition parties and junior coalition partners at a disadvantaged position.
- Current procedures impede the emergence or development of real democratic debates.
- That as a result of these constraints the democratic legitimacy of the European decision-making process can be questioned.

## **YEPP calls on:**

- The European Council, European Commission and European Parliament to reduce the thresholds for the yellow and orange cards to respectively 20 and 30 percent of all the votes allocated to the national parliaments.
- The European Council, European Commission and European Parliament to introduce a new measure, a "red card", which can be triggered by 50 percent of all the votes allocated to the national parliaments.
- The European Parliament to work together with national parliaments in order to establish a "green card" system that would allow a group of national parliaments to review existing legislation in tandem with the European Parliament's power to ask the European Commission to submit any appropriate legislative proposal.
- The European Council, European Commission and European Parliament to extend the period in which national parliaments can send a reasoned opinion to the European Commission from 8 to 12 weeks.
- EPP MPs to work inside their national parliaments towards stronger oversight of the government's negotiating position inside the European Council, to ensure greater scrutiny of the compliance of EU legislation with the subsidiarity principle and to increase their efforts in cooperating inside the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs.
- EPP MEPs to work with their national counterparts when formulating EU legislation and afterwards in its implementation in national legislation.
- All political actors to work together with the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs.