

Scrutiny of documents coming from the European Union and monitoring compliance with the principle of subsidiarity		
Date	Responsible body or unit	Description of the procedure
Day 1	Transmission to the Eerste Kamer by the Commission or Council Received by the staff of the Dutch Senate	"Direct transmission" of the European legislative proposal by the Commission or the Council, pursuant to Article 4 of Protocol No. 2 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU), with a "lettre de saisine". When the Senate has prioritised this proposal (based on the working programme of the European Commission) an electronic file is prepared at www.europapoort.nl
By the Senate's next meeting	The staff of the Dutch Senate	A summary of the European legislative proposal is prepared and the proposal is put on the agenda of the competent standing committee that selected the proposal in order to discuss the procedure.
Time limit; within 8 weeks after receipt of the lettre de saisine	The competent standing committee	The first time that a European (legislative) proposal appears on a committee's agenda the 'procedure' is discussed, just as in the case of a national bill. If a European proposal has been classified by the Senate beforehand as a priority dossier (and thus included in the Senate's European Work Programme) it is automatically put on the committee's agenda for discussion of the procedure. In addition to this procedure MP's have the opportunity to table proposals that were not prioritised beforehand. This based on a weekly list of proposals publishes by the European

		Commission. If the committee decides that no dialogue with either the government or the European institutions is necessary, it 'takes note' of the proposal, thereby completing the procedure.
	the competent standing committee	The committee should decide as quickly as possible whether 1) there is a breach in the legal base, the subsidiarity and proportionality of the proposal, if so, 2) whether it wishes to submit an opinion to the European Commission. The committee may also decide to submit subsidiarity objections to the European Commission and (substantive) questions/objections to the Dutch government.
	the competent standing committee	In case a breach in the legal base, subsidiarity and proportionality of the proposal is found, the Senate's competent standing committee seeks cooperation with the competent standing committee in the House of Representatives in order to send a joint letter of both chambers of the States-General to the European institutions. The response of the House of Representatives committee is then discussed in a subsequent committee meeting in the Senate. If necessary, consultations can be held with the House of Representatives committee and a joint letter can be drafted to the European Commission
	De Eerste Kamer at the plenary meeting	The drafted letter with subsidiarity (and possible proportionality)

		objections is put on the agenda of the plenary meeting and after a (possible) debate and (possible) amendments a vote takes place.
	The Speaker of the Eerste Kamer	If a breach of the principle of subsidiarity is established during the plenary meeting, the Speaker of the Senate sends the reasoned opinion stating the infringements to the President of the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission.