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Plenary Statement
Implementation of the Treaty provisions concerning national Parliaments

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The Treaty of Lisbon has become known as the treaty of parliaments. It has not only considerably increased the power of European Parliament but also recognized prerogatives of national parliaments and their constitutional role within the European framework. Among others the control over subsidiarity and proportionality, ensuring democratic legitimacy of European decision making, in particular when double legitimacy is at stake.

There are 41 national Chambers in the European Union. They cooperate with the European Parliament through numerous platforms. But, of course the core function of national parliaments in the area of European decision making remains democratic scrutiny and monitoring of their national governments' activity in the Council and European Council. This is their shortest way to influence European decision making.

National parliaments are even more relevant for the process of European legislation through their role in transposition, implementation and enforcement of European legislation at national level. They are irreplaceable in the better law making agenda. They can effectively prevent the gold plating of European legislation and improve the institutional capacity to implement European legislation at national level.

But today let me add one more issue and invite national parliaments to involve in launching national debates on Europe's future as they can indeed be an excellent vehicle for engaging citizens in shaping the future of Europe.