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***“Evaluation of the Lisbon Treaty”***

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The Lisbon Treaty has brought an immense progress to the functioning of the EU in terms of efficiency, democracy and transparency.

But it maintained and enhanced the system of inter-governmental policy coordination, very different from the community method.

For many of us, this has been a disappointment. As a result, important policy decisions and actions are based on voluntary commitment of member states with all its consequences.

We could see during time of multiple crises, that this working method does not work when key challenges are at stake.

AFCO has proposed, and the whole House accepted when voting a series of reports last year, a logic to, first, explore fully the potential of the Lisbon Treaty, and only then to reflect on changes of the Treaties that would be necessary to attain desiderata that boundaries of the Treaty of Lisbon do not allow to pursue.

But, we all know that today unanimity makes treaty revision virtually impossible.

There is a long list of issues where the Union moved forward building on the unexploited Treaty potential. PESCO is a recent example here.

But the list regarding the unused Treaty potential remains even longer: pasarelle clause, that has never been used, European parliament’s right

of inquiry and its right of legislative initiative, reinforcement of the rule of law framework, transparency of Council legislative decision making or accession to ECHR.

Without doubt, within the Lisbon Treaty framework, we can move forward on completing reforms of the EMU. All we need is the political will.

We have called for the use of QMV in the Council, but also for the general use of the ordinary legislative procedure.

Eventually, all decisions, including on the MFF, should be taken by QMV, even if a very high one in some particular cases.

So yes, indeed, we can use the unexploited potential of the Lisbon Treaty, which clearly exists, to improve governance of the EU and its institutional set-up.

This will make the Treaty of Lisbon more relevant to challenges that our policy making will face in the years to come.