

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Competences

The European Affairs Committee, without prejudice to the competences of the Plenary and other specialist committees, is responsible for the following:

- Monitoring and assessing, pursuant to the Constitution (in particular Article 161(n) and Article 163(f) and Law no. 43/2006 of 25 August 2006, as amended by Law no. 21/2012 of 17 May 2012), all matters of interest to Portugal in the context of the construction of Europe, or cooperating with all Member States of the European Union, namely the Government's actions with respect to such matters;
- Encouraging greater participation by the Assembleia da República in the work of the European institutions, namely by promoting meetings or hearings with the European Union's institutions, bodies and agencies on subjects that are relevant to Portugal's participation in the construction of the European Union;
- Intensifying, in particular, exchanges between Assembleia da República and the European Parliament by encouraging cooperation and regular meetings (in person or by means of video conferences) with interested members, particularly those elected in Portugal;
- Without prejudice to the competences of other authorities, promoting inter-parliamentary cooperation within the European Union, notably by establishing and maintaining contact with counterpart committees, relations between Assembleia da República and the National Parliaments of the EU Member States, within the scope of the Protocol on the role of national Parliaments in the European Union and the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality attached to the treaties that govern the European Union;
- Requesting from the Government the information needed for the Assembleia da República to monitor and assess Portugal's participation in the process of the construction of the European Union;
- Promoting hearings with the Government in the weeks leading up to and following the date of the European Council;
- Preparing and approving opinions on documents that the Government submits to the Assembleia da República related to the European Union or that it is obliged to submit to European Union institutions;
- Promoting the implementation of formal mechanisms for the Assembleia da República to effectively monitor, assess and pronounce on European Union matters, namely by preparing an opinion when matters within the sphere of the Assembleia da República's exclusive legislative competence are pending a decision in the bodies of the European Union;
- Within the scope of the process of the construction of the European Union, cooperating with the other committees with competences for the matter in question in the monitoring of the following areas:

I. The European Semester, economic governance and the treaty on economic and financial governance of the European Union;

II. The implementation of the Portugal 2020 Partnership Agreement;

III. Matters related to refugees;

– Coordinating with the specialized committees with competences in question to exchange information and appropriate forms of cooperation so as to achieve efficient intervention by the Assembleia da República in matters that concern the construction of the European Union, with particular reference to drawing up an opinion by the Assembleia da República on whether or not a draft normative act that is pending at the European institutions conforms with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality;

– Approving the method that defines the process for issuing reports and opinions on compliance with the principle of subsidiarity by draft legislative acts of the European Union, taking into account the time limits and proceedings established by the Protocol on the role of national Parliaments in the European Union and the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality attached to the treaties that govern the European Union;

– Presenting draft resolutions on draft European acts of a normative nature to be submitted to the Plenary for consideration and decision;

– Holding an annual meeting with the Members of the Legislative Assemblies of the Autonomous Regions, maintaining the necessary dialogue with counterpart bodies for the purpose of practically applying the principle of subsidiarity, and asking them for an opinion whenever regional legislative competences are at stake in the process of considering legislative initiatives;

– Proposing the appointment of the Portuguese representatives to the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC), and considering their work and the results of the Conference;

– In cooperation with the other parliamentary committees involved, participating in the appointment of members of the delegation of the Assembleia da República to the Inter-parliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy of the European Union (CFSP-CSDP) and to the Inter-parliamentary Conference on Economic and Financial Governance of the European Union (Conference under the terms of Article 13 of the Budgetary Treaty);

– Organising the hearing and assessment of the Curriculum Vitae of the persons chosen to be appointed by the Government for European Union offices of a non-judicial or judicial nature in the institutions, bodies or agencies of the European Union;

– Arranging hearings and debates on European matters with civil society, thereby contributing to the creation of an European affairs debate at a national level.