

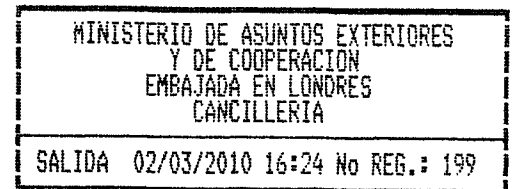


European and External Affairs Committee
EUR(3)-05-10-p4: 16 March 2010

The Ambassador of Spain

London, 2 March 2010

Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan AM
Chair
European and External Affairs Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA



Dear Mr Morgan,

Thank you for your letter of 24 February 2010. It was also a pleasure for me to take part in the meeting on 9 February.

As you may know, the Protocol on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality states that “it will be for each national Parliament or each chamber of a national Parliament to consult, where appropriate, regional parliaments with legislative powers.”

With regard to the implementation of this Protocol, the Spanish Parliament passed the Act 24/2009 on 22 December 2009, which introduces a new chapter aimed to regulate the process of parliamentary opinions related to the violation of the subsidiarity principle by the Spanish Parliament.


Furthermore, Act 24/2009 also regulates the participation of the Regional Legislative Assemblies in the above-mentioned process. Once the Spanish Parliament receives a draft European legislative act, it will be forwarded to the Parliaments of the Autonomous Regions for their information. If any of the regional Assemblies then decide to put forward a parliamentary opinion, according to the European rules applicable to the principle of subsidiarity, they have four weeks to do so, starting from the date on which the draft European legislative act was forwarded.



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Since both the Treaty of Lisbon and the Act 24/2009 of the Spanish Parliament entered into force on 1 and 24 December 2009 respectively, the new principles have not yet been put into practice.

Yours sincerely,



Carles Casajuana