

# Future of Europe: President Juncker creates Task Force on 'doing less more efficiently'

The Task Force will report to the President by 15 July 2018, making recommendations on how to better apply the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality, identifying policy areas where work could be re-delegated or definitely returned to Member States, as well as ways to better involve regional and local authorities in EU policy making and delivery.

President **Juncker** announced the creation of the Task Force in his State of the Union address, on 13 September, saying: *"This Commission has sought to be big on big issues and small on the small ones and has done so. To finish the work we started, I am setting up a Subsidiarity and Proportionality Task Force to take a very critical look at all policy areas to make sure we are only acting where the EU adds value."*

The Task Force will start its work on 1 January 2018, and it will be chaired by Frans **Timmermans**, Commission First Vice-President in charge of Better Regulation, Interinstitutional Relations, the Rule of Law and the Charter of Fundamental Rights. It will be composed of 9 additional members, with 3 members from national Parliaments, 3 from the European Parliament and 3 from the Committee of the Regions. In letters sent out today, President **Juncker** has invited the Presidents of the European Parliament, of the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC) and of the Committee of the Regions to nominate Members from their institutions for the Task Force.

In his State of the Union Address on 13 September 2017, President Juncker presented his vision for the future of Europe, based on the debate launched by the White Paper on the Future of Europe by 2025. One of the Scenarios presented – Scenario 4 – was "Doing less more efficiently" under which the European Union should step up its work in certain fields while stopping to act or doing less in domains where it is perceived as having more limited added value, or as being unable to deliver on its promises. The work of the Task Force will contribute to the further evolution of the European Union in the context of the Commission's Roadmap for a more united, stronger and more democratic Union. The Roadmap will be completed in time before the European Parliament elections at a Leaders' meeting in Sibiu (Romania) on 9 May 2019.

## **Background**

The Political Guidelines of President Juncker, presented on 15 July 2014, have bound the Commission to focus on 10 priority policy areas, shaping the work of the Institution for the past 3 years and ensuring that as much work as possible is left in the hands of Member States. The Commission further

developed this concept in its White Paper on the Future of Europe on 1 March 2017, which presented 5 scenarios, including one entitled 'Doing Less More Efficiently'.

The **principles of subsidiarity and proportionality** are laid down in Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union. The subsidiarity principle aims to ensure that decisions are taken as closely as possible to the citizen and that the EU does not take action unless it is more effective than action taken at national, regional or local level. The proportionality principle limits the exercise of the EU's powers to what is necessary to achieve the objectives of the Treaties. As an example of the application of these principles under this Commission, state aid control has already been largely re-delegated to national authorities, and 90% of all state aid measures are now in the hands of national, regional and local authorities.

**For more information**

[Decision on the establishment of a Task Force on Subsidiarity, Proportionality and "Doing Less More Efficiently"](#)

[State of the Union Address 2017](#)

[White Paper on the Future of Europe](#)

[Political Guidelines of President Juncker](#)