



**CALRE 2015 – Working group on Subsidiarity
Work Program**



1. Introduction and Challenges

Since the introduction of the Treaty of Lisbon in 2009, the strengthening of the position of the Regional Parliaments by the incorporation of Article 5 TEU and the implementation of the Protocol on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality, this working group has had time to slowly outgrow its infancy. Entering into a new year this Working Group is facing a newly composed European Commission and – as a reaction to the current Working program 2015 “A new Start” – this group will need to prepare for new beginnings. It is not a new criticism that the European Union suffers from a substantial democratic deficit. Yet participation of regional actors could go further to counterbalance the current political imbalance.

2. Objectives

2.1. General objectives

- In an effort to **increase the effectiveness of the early warning system**, it will be necessary for all participating members to find and to stick to a number of criteria which will more or less automatically trigger the early warning mechanism or at least the attention of the guardians of subsidiarity.
- The working group aspires to continue the exchange of knowledge and the deepening of **best practice**.
- It lies furthermore in the interests of the Regions to push for increased representation creating a true example of **multi-level governance** in which regional actors possess the political weight to stand against but also side-by-side with national and supranational representatives.

2.2. Proposed aims for the Working Group on subsidiarity 2015

- **Scrutinize and evaluate the integration and involvement of regional parliaments through their national parliaments** according to **Art. 6(2)** of the **Protocol on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality**. For this year, the group envisions **to exchange current practices** among the CALRE Parliaments and **identify the rights of regional parliaments within the inner-national dialogue** and to conclude **whether the procedure according to Art. 6(2)** is respected.
- **Finding out what the “new start”** and the **new European Commission** with its captivating move to install a strong a first Vice President - ensuring that that every proposal respects the principle of subsidiarity - signals to Regional Parliaments with legislative powers and their role on the European platform.
- **Review and assess projects areas** which are considered **critical in terms of adherence to the principle of subsidiarity**.

3. Activities 2015

The Working Group Subsidiarity will meet on **Friday, July 10th 2015, 10am-1pm, in Brussels.**