

The President

Ms Maryant Fernandez Perez
Advocacy Manager
European Digital Rights
Rue Belliard 20
B- 1040 Brussels

D 320940 08.12.2015

Dear Ms Fernández,

Thank you for your letter dated 30 September 2015 regarding the inter-institutional negotiations between the Parliament and the Council, with the assistance of the Commission, in legislative procedures (so-called Trilogues).

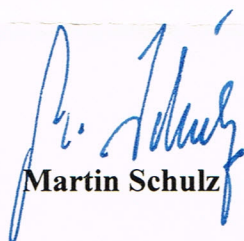
The European Parliament takes transparency and accountability very seriously. In 2012 Parliament amended its Rules of Procedure, ensuring that negotiating mandates, including the draft reports and the amendments to them, are prepared, discussed and voted in public during committee meetings and plenary sessions. The mandates are published on the committees' webpage and where possible the meetings are web-streamed. After each trilogue meeting, Parliament's negotiation team is required to report back to the committee responsible and the agreed final text resulting from the trilogue negotiations is put to a public vote, both in committee and plenary.

Under the Ordinary Legislative Procedure it is necessary that the co-legislators explain their positions to each other and negotiate compromises, whether at first, second or third reading. The use of trilogues and multi-column documents ensures a non-discriminatory access to information to all participants in these negotiations, thereby, as far as the Parliament team is concerned, allowing all political groups to closely monitor and influence all different steps. The use of trilogues and of these documents has therefore significantly strengthened the transparency and accountability of the decision making process.

An undue formalisation of the trilogue process might have the opposite result, as the real negotiations might then take place at other occasions, without having all political groups in the room and without text proposals being exchanged in an orderly way between the institutions.

The Parliament is currently in the process of further revising its rules of procedure. In this process the questions addressed in your letter will play an important role. I have therefore transmitted your letter to the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, which is the responsible committee for this revision, so that it can feed into their further work.

Yours sincerely,



Martin Schulz