

**Y Pwyllgor Materion Cyfansoddiadol a Deddfwriaethol  
Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee**

Cynulliad  
Cenedlaethol  
Cymru

National  
Assembly for  
Wales



Mr Maroš Šefčovič  
Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for  
Inter-Institutional Relations and Administration  
Rue de la Loi 200  
1049 Brussels  
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15 May 2013

Dear Vice President Šefčovič

**Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council  
on measures to reduce the cost of deploying high-speed electronic  
communications networks (COM(2013)147)**

I wanted to draw to your attention recent correspondence on subsidiarity concerns raised by the National Assembly for Wales' Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee (which I Chair) at its meeting last week.

I have written to William Cash MP and to Baroness O'Cathain, the Chairs respectively of the House of Commons' European Scrutiny Committee and the House of Lords' EU Sub-Committee B, about the above proposal. I attach a copy of my letters and the associated report from my Committee.

As you will be aware, the Treaty of Lisbon introduced an 'early warning mechanism' on subsidiarity (set out in Protocol No.2 to the treaty) which gives national parliaments (in consultation with their regional parliaments where appropriate) the opportunity to submit 'Reasoned Opinions' to the European Commission on any subsidiarity aspects of draft legislative proposals published by the EU Institutions.

You will see from the correspondence that the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee shares the concerns raised by both the UK Government and the House of Commons European Scrutiny Committee. In particular, the Committee believes that the proposed Regulation's aim would be best achieved by action at Member State level, and that the measures supported by the proposed Regulation – such as infrastructure sharing, information

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provision, street works coordination and in-built broadband equipment in buildings – would all be best implemented at a local level.

I would be grateful if you could take the Committee's representations into account, on behalf of the National Assembly for Wales. As a sub-state legislature we aim to engage positively with EU matters, particularly in relation to our consideration of issues relating to subsidiarity. We very much look forward therefore to hearing your thoughts on how our concerns could be effectively addressed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Melding". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

**David Melding AM**  
**Chair**