

Abstract

Subsidiarity and the Early Warning Mechanism (EWM) are two concepts whose nature is heavily debated in the academic literature. Subsidiarity is a principle enshrined in the Treaties of the European Union that serves as a guideline for the proper distribution of powers between the EU institutions and its Member States. It is defined in the Treaty of the European Union which also provides national parliaments of the Member States with a way to ensure that the principle of subsidiarity is respected by the EU. They provide their opinions to participate in the mechanism of scrutiny and the opinions serve as reviews of legislative proposals if Member States believe that the decisions should be taken at the national level. This is considered as both a legal and a political act. To determine whether the nature of the Early Warning Mechanism is legal or political, a qualitative content analysis was carried out on the opinions of Romania, Croatia, Denmark, and Sweden, which were subject to parliamentary scrutiny from 2013 to 2022. The nature of their content was also assessed and several important factors contributing to the choice of their arguments were found. Complementing the existing research, this thesis provides additional insights into the reasons aforementioned national parliaments used in their opinions, which include both reasoned opinions and Political Dialogues, especially the more recent ones that are not well evaluated. In addition, the thesis will provide further insights into less-researched reasoned opinions and Political Dialogues of Romania and Croatia, especially Croatia, whose opinions have not yet been fully analyzed. The analysis of the reasoned opinions can also contribute to future research by providing a window into the four states' views on the EWM and highlighting similarities in its use in the Western/older and Eastern/newer EU Member States.