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### Correlation between the Sovereignty and Supranationality in the political and legal practice of European Union

*The purpose of the article is to find out the correlation of sovereignty and the main features of supranationality in the example of the European Union, in a view of the increased scientific interest to the problems of the functioning of the EU. The article analyzes the main features of supranationality and establishes the conformity of the European Union to the main features of a supranational organization. Definition of the essence of supranationalism has enabled us to analyze the peculiarities of the implementation of state sovereignty in the European Union's reality which depends of supranational features. In order to determine the peculiarities of state sovereignty realization in the EU, we have analyzed scientists' positions about the restriction or expansion of the sovereignty of the Member States of the European Union was conducted.*

**Keywords:** European Union, sovereignty, state sovereignty, supranationality, supranational organization.

\* \* \*

UDC 32

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### THE FUNCTIONAL ROLE OF THE MILLIE MEDGLIS OF THE AZERBAIJAN REPUBLIC IN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION

*Participating in the work of interparliamentary organizations and parliamentary bodies of international organizations, the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan carries out a great work on establishing and further cooperation*

*with parliaments of other countries. The activity of Milli Mejlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan is based on the principles of transparency, openness and is reflected on the website: <http://www.meclis.gov.az>.*

**Keywords:** legislative body, parliament, foreign policy decisions, interparliamentary relations, interparliamentary organizations, the principle of transparency and openness.

*(стаття друкується мовою оригіналу)*

An analysis of the degree of real participation of public authorities in making foreign policy decisions presupposes an approach to the study of the activities of the highest representative and legislative body, the parliament.

In foreign policy matters, he is usually expected to make a principled decision on issues of war and peace, ratification of international treaties and agreements concluded by the government, approval of candidates proposed by the government in positions that play an important role in relations with other states (ambassadors, representatives in international organizations).

One of the factors contributing to the foreign policy activity of the parliament is the growing role of social forces and movements in the development of international relations. Parliament differs from other bodies of the state in that it more vividly reflects foreign policy issues that are of concern to public opinion, fulfills a diplomatic function with parliaments of other countries.

To identify the role of the legislature in foreign policy activities, we analyze specific powers of the parliament in this direction, enshrined in the constitutional legislation. Thus, the group of powers of the Azerbaijani Parliament – Milli Mejlis refers to its participation in the procedure of ratification of international treaties and agreements.

Participating in the work of interparliamentary organizations and parliamentary bodies of international organizations, the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan carries out a great work on establishing and developing relations with parliaments of various states on a bilateral basis. Bilateral meetings are an integral part of the activities conducted by inter-parliamentary organizations.

Establishing close ties with parliamentarians of different states, Azerbaijani deputies provide them with objective information about their country. And, they also contribute to the inclusion of issues that are of national importance on the agenda of inter-parliamentary meetings and the adoption of decisions, additions and amendments necessary for the Republic, thereby ensuring the support of Azerbaijan's position.

In order to maintain more stable contacts with the parliaments of individual countries, conduct joint events and fairly regularly exchange delegations, the Azerbaijani Parliament has joint interparliamentary commissions and working groups on inter-parliamentary relations of Azerbaijan with various states.

Inter-parliamentary commissions are established on the basis of concluded agreements on interparliamentary cooperation. The provisions on the Azerbaijani part of such inter-parliamentary commissions are approved by the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

As for the working groups on inter-parliamentary relations of Azerbaijan with various states, they are formed at the beginning of the work of the Parliament of the new

convocation by the decision of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

These groups are voluntary associations of parliamentarians. To enter into them, a deputy of the Milli Majlis suffices to apply for membership in this group. The normative acts do not establish the minimum number of members of the group on inter-parliamentary relations necessary for its functioning.

Consequently, in principle, it is sufficient for the work of the group that its members include two parliamentarians. After each election to Parliament, the composition of the group on interparliamentary relations is re-formed.

According to the decree of the Milli Mejlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan of December 5, 2000, 60 working groups on inter-parliamentary relations of Azerbaijan with various states function. All parliamentarians are members of working groups. It is also possible for one member to be a member of two working groups at the same time [2].

These groups are called upon to promote the development of bilateral interstate relations of the Republic of Azerbaijan, contacts, consultations and information exchange in all spheres of cooperation, as well as coordinating positions on issues of mutual interest.

With the assistance of the group on inter-parliamentary relations, working contacts are established between the single-sector commissions of the Milli Mejlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the parliament of the respective state.

The Parliament of Azerbaijan has the right to conclude agreements with parliaments of other countries on cooperation [3].

Thus, there are similar agreements with the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (1992), the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation (2001), the Assembly of the Islamic Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran (1994), the US Congress (2003), the Parliament Georgia (1996) and with a number of other parliaments.

The agreements fix the forms of parliamentary cooperation in various fields, in particular, in the field of law and lawmaking, the mutual exchange of information and work experience, and come into force from the moment they are signed by the chairmen of the parliaments of the respective states. In the event that an agreement is concluded with a bicameral parliament, the agreement must be signed by the chairmen of both chambers.

The Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan is actively exchanging parliamentary delegations. Exchanges of this kind are carried out in accordance with the annual plan of inter-parliamentary cooperation of the Milli Mejlis.

The plan is drawn up by the Department of International Relations of the Office of Parliament on the basis of an analysis of the main areas of inter-parliamentary cooperation.

Then it is preliminary considered by the Parliamentary Commission on International Relations and Inter-Parliamentary Relations and approved by the Chairman of Milli Mejlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The Chairman of the Parliament also determines the composition and scope of the powers of the Azerbaijani official parliamentary delegations, appoints their leaders.

Official delegations of the Milli Mejlis submit reports to the Commission on International Relations and Inter-Parliamentary Relations, to the International Relations Department of the Office of the Parliament, and, if necessary, to other commissions. On the initiative of the head of the delegation, the Commission on Foreign Relations and Inter-Parliamentary Relations, such a report can be heard at a meeting of the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

It should be noted that as a result of the activities of the Milli Majlis, a stable legal basis was established for the comprehensive development of the Azerbaijani state. Since 1995, the parliament has adopted more than 2,250 laws and regulations.

«Despite the fact that the main powers of the Milli Majlis are related to legislation and the adoption of laws, international relations (relations) take place in the activities of the Milli Majlis. Currently, the Milli Majlis is a full member of a number of universal and regional international parliamentary organizations – the Interparliamentary Union, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization, the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Islamic Conference Organization, the Parliamentary Assembly of GUAM, member of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, works closely with the European Parliament and other and international organizations.

Working groups on interparliamentary relations with legislative bodies of 70 countries function in the Milli Majlis.

The activity of Milli Mejlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan is based on the principles of transparency and openness» [1], is reflected on the website –<http://www.meclis.gov.az/>, rests on the norms and principles of international law and corresponds to the practice of countries with a democratic system.

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#### Функціональна роль Міллі Меджіза Азербайджанської Республіки в міжпарламентському співробітництві

*Беручи участь у роботі міжпарламентських організацій та парламентських органів міжнародних організацій, Міллі Меджіза Азербайджанської Республіки провів велику роботу щодо встановлення парламентських взаємин та подальшого співробітництва з парламентами інших країн. Діяльність Міллі Меджіза Азербайджанської Республіки заснована на принципах прозорості, відкритості та відображена на веб-сайті: <http://www.meclis.gov.az>.*

*Ключові слова: законодавчий орган, парламент, зовнішньополітичні рішення, міжпарламентські відносини, міжпарламентські організації, принцип прозорості та відкритості.*

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