# Resolution on the draft protocol amending Protocol No 36 on transitional provisions concerning the composition of the European Parliament for the rest of the 2009-2014 parliamentary term: the European Parliament's opinion

2009/0813(NLE) - 06/05/2010 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 479 votes to 122, with 15 abstentions, a resolution on the draft protocol amending Protocol No 36 on transitional provisions concerning the composition of the European Parliament for the rest of the 2009-2014 parliamentary term (revision of the treaties).

Parliament takes the view that the proposed amendment of Protocol No 36 requested by the European Council stems directly from the new provisions of the Lisbon Treaty, and is therefore a transitional solution that will enable all those Member States entitled to additional seats to designate the MEPs concerned. It agrees that an additional 18 MEPs should be elected to Parliament for the remainder of the 2009-2014 term. Members insist, however, that all 18 should take up their seats in Parliament at the same time in order not to upset the balance of nationalities in the House. Member States are urged to complete their election procedures in a pragmatic way as soon as possible.

While the Parliament regrets that the Council did not adopt the necessary measures in time to enable the additional MEPs to take up their seats as soon as the Lisbon Treaty entered into force, Members agree, however, to the convening of an intergovernmental conference provided that i) it is confined to the specific issue of the adoption of measures concerning the composition of the European Parliament for the rest of the 2009-2014 parliamentary term; ii) these transitional measures are exceptional ones connected with the specific circumstances of the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty and can in no way set a precedent for the future.

The resolution recalls that, in the interval between the approval of the amendment of Protocol No 36 and its entry into force, the additional MEPs will be able to sit in the European Parliament as observers.

Members recall that the European Council will have to take a decision establishing the composition of the European Parliament by the end of the current parliamentary term in any case, and that Parliament will initiate such a decision under Article 14(2) of the EU Treaty.

Parliament notifies the European Council that it intends shortly to draw up proposals to lay down the provisions necessary for the election of its Members by direct universal suffrage in accordance with a uniform procedure in all Member States and in accordance with principles common to all Member States, and that Parliament will initiate such electoral reform under Article 48(2) of the Treaty on European Union and Article 223 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. It insists, further, that a Convention devoted to the reform of the European Parliament will be called to prepare the revision of the Treaties. National parliaments are called upon to act to uphold the long-standing primary law of the European Union whereby Members of the European Parliament are directly elected by universal suffrage in a free and secret ballot.