Period for the eighth election of representatives to the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage

2013/0802(CNS) - 08/03/2013 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to fix the period for the eighth election of representatives to the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the Council adopts the act after consulting the European Parliament but without being obliged to follow its opinion.

BACKGROUND: in accordance with the Act concerning the election of the members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage of 20 September 1976 ("Electoral Act"), the 2014 elections to the European Parliament should take place from 5 to 8 June 2014.

Nevertheless, the Electoral Act stipulates that if it proves impossible to hold the elections during that period, the Council acting unanimously shall, after consulting the European Parliament, determine, at least one year before the end of the five-year term, another electoral period which shall not be more than two months before or one month after the period normally applicable.

At the request of one delegation, the Working Party on General Affairs has discussed during several meetings the question of the dates of the 2014 elections to the European Parliament. Following those discussions, delegations have agreed, pending the consultation of the European Parliament, to depart from the normally applicable dates and to hold the next European Parliament elections in the period from 22 to 25 May 2014.

CONTENT: the draft Council Decision fixes the period for the eighth election of representatives to the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage from **22 to 25 May 2014**.