The constitutional status of European political parties

1996/2186(INI) - 10/12/1996 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Dimitris TSATSOS (PSE, EL) Parliament called on the European Union to introduce a framework regulation on the legal status of European political parties, together with a regulation on their financial situation. It also laid down a certain number of guidelines and minimum obligations which should be included in these regulations, namely that any political party wishing to obtain the status of European party must be represented in at least one third of the Member States. Parliament took the view that European political parties should be open to individual membership. Political parties should have a set of rules and a basic political programme and should respect the basic principles of constitutional law enshrined in the Treaty on European Union (democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law). Parliament also thought that it was necessary to clarify certain rights of European political parties, such as the right to set up a political party, freedom of political action, the right to equality of treatment, the right to put forward candidates at elections and the right to enjoy legal status in all Member States. Lastly, Parliament took the view that sums paid to political parties from Community resources should be clearly shown as such in the EU budget.