Basic information

1997/2242(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Uniform electoral procedure **Subject** 8.40.01.01 Elections, direct universal suffrage	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee responsible**	**Rapporteur**	**Appointed**
	INST Institutional Affairs	ANASTASSOPOULOS Georgios (PPE)	30/09/1997
	Committee for opinion	**Rapporteur for opinion**	**Appointed**
	JURI Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights	GEBHARDT Evelyne (PSE)	04/11/1997
Council of the European Union			

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
02/10/1997	Non-legislative basic document published	AMSTERDAM	
05/11/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
25/05/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
25/05/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0212/1998	
14/07/1998	Debate in Parliament		
15/07/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
21/09/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1997/2242(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 148

Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	INST/4/09418

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	**Committee**	**Reference**	**Date**	**Summary**
Motion for a resolution		B4-0723/1996	18/07/1996	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0212/1998 OJ C 210 06.07.1998, p. 0007	25/05/1998	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0426/1998 OJ C 292 21.09.1998, p. 0053-0066	15/07/1998	Summary
Other institutions and bodies				
Institution/body	**Document type**	**Reference**	**Date**	**Summary**
EU	Non-legislative basic document	AMSTERDAM	02/10/1997	Summary

Uniform electoral procedure

1997/2242(COS) - 15/07/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Giorgios ANASTASSOPOULOS (EPP, GR) by 355 votes to 146 with 39 abstentions Parliament adopted a resolution on a draft electoral procedure incorporating common principles for the election of Members of the European Parliament. Parliament proposed the following draft act: Article 1: In each Member State, Members of the European Parliament shall be elected by a list system of proportional representation. Election shall be by direct universal suffrage through an equal, free and secret ballot. Article 2: Constituencies shall be established for this election without generally violating the proportional character of the system, in order to bring the elected representatives closer to the electorate and with due regard for the specific characteristics of each Member State. This provision shall apply with effect from the elections to the European Parliament scheduled for 2004. Member States whose population does not exceed 20 million inhabitants are not required to establish constituencies. Article 3: Where a country decides to establish several electoral constituencies on its territory, the Members of the European Parliament shall remain, in accordance with Articles 137 and 138 of the Treaty (189 and 190 of the consolidated Treaty), the representatives of the peoples of the States brought together in the Community, and not the representatives of their constituencies. Article 4: Special arrangements may be made to take account of specific regional characteristics but they may not violate the principle of proportional representation. Article 5: A minimum threshold for the distribution of seats may be set and at national level may not exceed 5% of the votes cast. Article 6: Member States may permit preferential voting in accordance with procedures that they shall lay down. Article 7: The European Parliament will consider a proposal that a certain percentage (the rapporteur proposed 10%) of the total number of seats within the European Parliament shall be filled by means of list-based proportional representation relating to a single constituency comprising the territory of the European Union Member States with effect from the European elections to be held in 2009. The implementing provisions shall be adopted by 1 January 2008 on a proposal from the European Parliament by the Council acting unanimously, and after obtaining Parliament's assent. Article 8: The office of Member of the European Parliament shall be incompatible with the office of member of a national parliament. Article 9: Each Member State may set a limit for candidates' expenditure linked to the conduct of the election campaign. Article 10: Save where otherwise stipulated, the Act of 20 September 1976 concerning the election of the representatives of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage shall remain in force. It should be noted that Parliament rejected the call for referral back to committee made by Mr Hervé FABRE-D'AUBRESPY (I-EDN, F) by 106 votes to 418 with 17 abstentions. He considered that the report by Mr ANASTASSOPOULOS was incomplete as several aspects had not been dealt with. The report is also not in line with Parliament's legislative powers. Lastly, the report is contradictory. It wishes to make the elected representatives closer to the electorate but proposes transnational lists. The report also refers to France in relation to a draft which has already been rejected by the authorities of that country.

Uniform electoral procedure

1997/2242(COS) - 02/10/1997

At its meeting of 3 and 4 September 1997, the Commission on Institutional Affairs, on the basis of its latest deliberations, drew up a list of subjects which should facilitate the implementation of the Treaty of Amsterdam after its ratification. An amended version of Article 138(3) provides that the European Parliament shall draw up proposals for elections by direct universal suffrage in accordance with a uniform procedure in all Member States or in accordance with principles common to all the Member States.