Basic information

2015/0907(APP) APP - Consent procedure	Procedure completed
Election of the members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage: reform See also 2015/2035(INL) **Subject** 8.40.01.01 Elections, direct universal suffrage	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFCO Constitutional Affairs	HÜBNER Danuta Maria (PPE) LEINEN Jo (S&D)	26/02/2015 26/02/2015
	Shadow rapporteur MESSERSCHMIDT Morten (ECR) VERHOFSTADT Guy (ALDE) SCHOLZ Helmut (GUE/NGL) TERRICABRAS Josep-Maria (Verts/ALE) CASTALDO Fabio Massimo (EFDD) ANNEMANS Gerolf (ENF)	

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	3614	2018-04-17

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Secretariat-General	TIMMERMANS Frans

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary

17/04/2018	Debate in Council		
14/06/2018	Legislative proposal published	09425/2018	Summary
02/07/2018	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
02/07/2018	Vote in committee		
02/07/2018	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A8-0248/2018	Summary
04/07/2018	Decision by Parliament	T8-0282/2018	Summary
04/07/2018	Results of vote in Parliament		
04/07/2018	End of procedure in Parliament		
13/07/2018	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
16/07/2018	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2015/0907(APP)
Procedure type	APP - Consent procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Amendments and repeals	See also 2015/2035(INL)
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 223-p1
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFCO/8/13782

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
For information		T8-0395/2015	11/11/2015	
Committee draft report		PE623.806	19/06/2018	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE623.898	26/06/2018	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A8-0248/2018	02/07/2018	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T8-0282/2018	04/07/2018	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	09425/2018	14/06/2018	Summary

National parliaments

Document type	Parliament/Chamber	Reference	Date	Summary

Reasoned opinion	FR_SENATE	PE582.228	17/05/2016	
Reasoned opinion	NL_CHAMBER	PE582.329	17/05/2016	
Reasoned opinion	UK_HOUSE-OF-LORDS	PE582.330	17/05/2016	
Reasoned opinion	UK_HOUSE-OF-COMMONS	PE582.331	17/05/2016	
Reasoned opinion	SE_PARLIAMENT	PE582.332	17/05/2016	
Reasoned opinion	NL_SENATE	PE582.333	17/05/2016	
Reasoned opinion	LU_CHAMBER	PE582.335	17/05/2016	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Decision 2018/0994
OJ L 178 16.07.2018, p. 0001 Summary

Election of the members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage: reform

2015/0907(APP) - 02/07/2018 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on Constitutional Affairs adopted the report by Danuta Maria HÜBNER (EPP, PL) and Jo LEINEN (S&D, DE) on the draft Council decision amending the Act concerning the election of the members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage, annexed to Council Decision 76/787/ECSC, EEC, Euratom of 20 September 1976.

The committee recommended that the European Parliament give its consent to the draft Council decision.

In the explanatory memorandum accompanying the draft legislative resolution, Members recalled that in November 2015, Parliament adopted a proposal for the reform of EU electoral law that aimed to encourage citizens' participation, to reinforce the European dimension of elections, to make Parliament's own functioning more efficient, and to improve the conduct of elections.

The draft Council decision - which represents the maximum that could be achieved in the current political context and in view of the constraints of the procedure - contains several positive elements that will significantly improve the character and conduct of the European elections in the future:

- full respect for the constitutional and electoral traditions of the Member States;
- new rules to make European citizens more aware of the link between national parties and candidates and their affiliation to a European political party;
- the possibility of voting more easily in European elections, through the introduction of electronic and postal voting, which should result in a higher electoral turnout;
- the right to vote granted to citizens of the Union residing in third countries;
- the establishment of a minimum deadline for the establishment of electoral lists;
- measures against double voting;
- the designation of a contact authority to exchange data on voters and candidates;
- a mandatory minimum threshold for the allocation of seats, between 2 and 5 %, for constituencies with more than 35 seats for EP elections, which will make the electoral conditions more equal for political parties in all Member States.

Election of the members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage: reform

2015/0907(APP) - 13/07/2018 - Final act

PURPOSE: to make amendments to the Act concerning the election of the Members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage (electoral act).

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Council Decision (EU, Euratom) 2018/994 amending the Act concerning the election of the members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage, annexed to Council Decision 76/787/ECSC, EEC, Euratom of 20 September 1976.

CONTENT: the Council adopted a series of amendments to the 1976 electoral act which lays down a number of common rules concerning the elections to the European Parliament.

The main changes concern:

- the introduction of a **mandatory minimum threshold, between 2 and 5%, for constituencies with more than 35 seats** for elections to the European Parliament. This rule will also apply to Member States constituting a single constituency;
- the establishment of a minimum deadline for the establishment of electoral lists (at least three weeks before the date fixed by the relevant Member State for the holding the elections to the European Parliament);
- the possibility for Member States to allow for the display, on ballot papers, of the name or logo of the European political party to which the national political party or individual candidate is affiliated;
- the possibility of voting more easily in the European elections, thanks to the introduction of **electronic voting and postal voting**;
- the introduction of measures against double voting;
- the possibility for Member States to take the necessary measures to allow those of their citizens residing in third countries to vote in elections to the European Parliament;
- the designation in each Member State of a contact authority responsible for exchanging data on voters and candidates with its counterparts in other Member States.

This Decision shall be subject to approval by the Member States in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements. Member States shall notify the General Secretariat of the Council of the completion of the procedures necessary for that purpose.

This Decision shall enter into force on the first day after the last notification has been received.

Election of the members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage: reform

2015/0907(APP) - 04/07/2018 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 397 votes to 202, with 62 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the draft Council decision amending the Act concerning the election of the members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage annexed to Decision 76/787/ECSC, EEC, Euratom of 20 September 1976.

The European Parliament has **given its consent** to the draft Council decision.

Election of the members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage: reform

2015/0907(APP) - 14/06/2018 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to make amendments to the Act concerning the election of the Members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage (electoral act).

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: Council may adopt the act only if Parliament has given its consent to the act.

CONTENT: the Council proposes to amend the 1976 Electoral Act which lays down a number of common rules concerning elections to the European Parliament (EP).

The main change concerns the introduction of an **obligatory minimum threshold of between 2% and 5% for constituencies with more than 35 seats in the EP elections**. This rule would also apply to single-constituency member states.

Member States shall:

- allow for the display, on ballot papers, of the name or logo of the European political party to which the national political party or individual candidate is affiliate;
- provide for the possibilities of advance voting, postal voting, and electronic and internet voting, in elections to the European Parliament while ensuring in particular the reliability of the result, the secrecy of the vote, and the protection of personal data;
- take the measures necessary to allow those of their citizens residing in third countries to vote in elections to the European Parliament.

Member States shall also be required to take measures necessary to ensure that double voting in elections to the European Parliament is subject to effective, proportionate and dissuasive penalties. They shall designate a contact authority responsible for exchanging data on voters and candidates with its counterparts in the other Member States.