Basic information

2023/2016(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
The European Elections 2024 **Subject** 8.40.01.01 Elections, direct universal suffrage	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFCO Constitutional Affairs	SIMON Sven (EPP) RUIZ DEVESA Domènec (S&D)	12/06/2023 12/06/2023
	Shadow rapporteur GOZI Sandro (Renew) FREUND Daniel (Greens /EFA) SARYUSZ-WOLSKI Jacek (ECR) SCHOLZ Helmut (The Left)	

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Legal Service	VON DER LEYEN Ursula

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
16/02/2023	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
25/10/2023	Vote in committee		
03/11/2023	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0332/2023	Summary
11/12/2023	Debate in Parliament		
12/12/2023	Decision by Parliament	T9-0455/2023	Summary
12/12/2023	Results of vote in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2023/2016(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFCO/9/11280

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE751.801	20/07/2023	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE752.804	12/09/2023	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0332/2023	03/11/2023	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0455/2023	12/12/2023	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2024)209	24/05/2024	

Meetings with interest representatives published in line with the Rules of Procedure

Rapporteurs, Shadow Rapporteurs and Committee Chairs

Transparency

Name	Role	Committee	Date	Interest representatives
SIMON Sven	Rapporteur	AFCO	19/09/2023	Authority for European Political Parties and Foundations

The European Elections 2024

2023/2016(INI) - 12/12/2023 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 365 votes to 178, with 71 abstentions, a resolution on the European Elections 2024.

Strengthening European democracy at the next election

While welcoming the higher turnout in the 2019 European elections (50.66 % of the electorate), Members strive to work on further increasing the turnout at the 2024 European elections and increase participation in the elections. They regretted the lack of progress by the Council towards the adoption of the new European electoral law as adopted by the European Parliament on 3 May 2022 and called for its swift approval by the Council.

Members regretted that the lead candidate system for the election of the President of the European Commission was not implemented at the 2019 European elections. They believe that a **clear and credible link between the choice of voters and the election of the Commission President is needed**. They called on the European Council to provide certainty on the lead candidate system to European citizens and to put a stop to deals behind closed doors.

Members called for the establishment of an interinstitutional agreement between Parliament and the European Council on the lead candidate system. The main candidates and the presidents of European political parties and their respective parliamentary groups should start negotiations immediately after the 2024 European elections to agree, on behalf of the European Parliament, on a **common candidate to chair the Commission** before the European Council makes its proposal.

The lead candidate of the European political party that has obtained the largest share of seats in the elections to the European Parliament must in the first instance **lead the negotiations to identify the common candidate** with the largest majority, followed, if needed, by the other lead candidates in this effort. The President of the European Parliament must, if needed, be available to steer this process.

In addition, the European political parties and their parliamentary groups should adopt a **'legislature agreement'** for the legislative period 2024-2029 as a way of securing a majority in Parliament ahead of the appointment of the Commission, as a basis for its work programme and a guarantee, to European voters, of a coherent follow-up to the elections.

Citizens' participation and enfranchisement

Members considered it essential to guarantee that all citizens of the Union who have the right to vote and stand as a candidate, including mobile Union citizens, citizens with disabilities and citizens in a situation of homelessness, are able to exercise that right. They considered that public **awareness campaigns** are essential to improve the rate of participation and call on the Member States to make every effort in this regard, also involving civil society organisations.

Parliament reiterated its call on Member States to allow all citizens of the Union living or working in a third country to be granted the right to cast their vote in elections to the European Parliament. It encouraged the introduction of postal voting to ensure that the inability to go to the polling stations on Election Day does not prevent citizens of the Union from exercising their right to vote. Complementary tools to facilitate voting should also be encouraged, such as advance **physical voting and proxy voting**, as well as **electronic and online voting**.

Member States should consider aligning and **lowering the voting age and the minimum age for standing as a candidate**, as indicated in the electoral law proposal and the conclusions of the Conference on the Future of Europe.

Institutional resilience

The resolution stressed the need for more robust safeguards and measures against disinformation and **internal and external interference** in the electoral process.

Members noted the ongoing interinstitutional negotiations on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on **European political parties and foundations**. They called on the Commission and the Council to continue the interinstitutional negotiations in a spirit of loyal cooperation. They welcomed the agreement reached by the co-legislators on the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the transparency and targeting of political advertising.

The resolution noted that the 2024 elections provide a **unique opportunity to launch a Europe-wide debate on the reform of the Union**, based on Parliament's proposals for treaty reform. The European Council is invited to adopt a position on the holding of a convention after the adoption by Parliament of its proposals.

Parliament called for a reform of the Treaties and urged the Council and, ultimately, the European Council to act on its proposal to trigger Article 48 TEU in order to establish a convention.

The European Elections 2024

2023/2016(INI) - 03/11/2023 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Constitutional Affairs jointly adopted the own-initiative report by Sven SIMON (EPP, DE) and Domènec RUIZ DEVESA (S&D, ES) on the European Elections 2024.

Strengthening European democracy at the next election

While welcoming the higher turnout in the 2019 European elections (50.66 % of the electorate), Members strive to work on further increasing the turnout at the 2024 European elections. They regretted the lack of progress by the Council towards the adoption of the new European electoral law as adopted by the European Parliament on 3 May 2022 and called for its swift approval by the Council.

Members regretted that the lead candidate system for the election of the President of the European Commission was not implemented at the 2019 European elections. They believe that a **clear and credible link between the choice of voters and the election of the Commission President is needed**. They called on the European Council to provide certainty on the lead candidate system to European citizens and to put a stop to deals behind closed doors. All European political parties should nominate their candidates for the position of President of the Commission in due time, at least 12 weeks

before election day. Members stated that the main candidates and the presidents of European political parties and their respective parliamentary groups should start negotiations immediately after the 2024 European elections to agree, on behalf of the European Parliament, on a common candidate to chair the Commission before the European Council makes its proposal.

Once again, Members recalled the **prerogative of the European Parliament to choose its own President**.

It is considered that establishing a single common European voting day would create a more coherent pan-European election.

Citizens' participation and enfranchisement

Members reiterated their call on Member States to allow all citizens of the Union living or working in a third country to be granted the right to cast their vote in elections to the European Parliament.

The report also encouraged the introduction of postal voting to ensure that the inability to go to the polling stations on Election Day does not prevent citizens of the Union from exercising their right to vote. Complementary tools to facilitate voting should also be encouraged, such as advance **physical voting and proxy voting**, as well as electronic and online voting.

Member States should consider aligning and **lowering the voting age** and the **minimum age for standing as a candidate**, as indicated in the electoral law proposal and the conclusions of the Conference on the Future of Europe.

Institutional resilience

The report pointed to the ongoing interinstitutional negotiations on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on European political parties and foundations, and on transparency and targeting of political advertising. It called on the Commission and the Council to pursue interinstitutional negotiations in the spirit of sincere cooperation, with a view to allowing its legal provisions to be in force ahead of the electoral campaign for the 2024 European elections.

Members called for a **reform of the Treaties** and, in particular, of Article 223 TFEU on the provisions necessary for the election of the Members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage to avoid unanimity and ratifications by national parliaments. They urged the Council and, ultimately, the European Council to act on its proposal to trigger Article 48 TEU in order to establish a convention with the aim of also reforming European electoral processes.