

# Procedure file

Basic information	
INL - Legislative initiative procedure	2007/2169(INL)
Procedure completed	
Proposal to amend the Treaty provisions concerning the composition of the European Parliament	
Subject 8.10 Revision of the Treaties, intergovernmental conferences 8.40.01 European Parliament	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	<b>AFCO</b> Constitutional Affairs		16/07/2007
		PPE-DE <a href="#">LAMASSOURE Alain</a>	16/07/2007
		PSE <a href="#">SEVERIN Adrian</a>	
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	<a href="#">Secretariat-General</a>	BARROSO José Manuel	

Key events			
06/09/2007	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
02/10/2007	Vote in committee		Summary
03/10/2007	Committee report tabled for plenary	<a href="#">A6-0351/2007</a>	
10/10/2007	Debate in Parliament		
11/10/2007	Results of vote in Parliament		
11/10/2007	Decision by Parliament	<a href="#">T6-0429/2007</a>	Summary
11/10/2007	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2007/2169(INL)
Procedure type	INL - Legislative initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislative initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 46

Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFCO/6/51775

Documentation gateway					
Committee draft report		<a href="#">PE392.381</a>	05/09/2007	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		<a href="#">PE394.063</a>	19/09/2007	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		<a href="#">PE394.098</a>	19/09/2007	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		<a href="#">PE394.222</a>	27/09/2007	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		<a href="#">A6-0351/2007</a>	03/10/2007	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		<a href="#">T6-0429/2007</a>	11/10/2007	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		<a href="#">SP(2007)6028</a>	21/11/2007	EC	

## Proposal to amend the Treaty provisions concerning the composition of the European Parliament

The Constitutional Affairs Committee adopted by 17 votes to 5, with 3 abstentions, a report drawn up by Alain LAMASSOURE (EPP-ED, FR) and Adrian SEVERIN (PES, RO) on the composition of the European Parliament.

The report proposes to divide the seats of the next Parliament on the basis of 750 members. The number of representatives in the European Parliament elected in each Member State will be allocated as follows, with effect from the 2009-2014 legislature :

- Germany: 96
- France : 74
- United Kingdom : 73
- Italy : 72
- Spain: 54
- Poland : 51
- Romania : 33
- Netherlands : 26
- Greece : 22
- Portugal : 22
- Belgium : 22
- Czech Republic : 22
- Hungary : 22
- Sweden : 20
- Austria : 19
- Bulgaria : 18
- Denmark : 13
- Slovakia : 13
- Finland : 13
- Ireland : 12
- Lithuania : 12
- Latvia : 9
- Slovenia : 8
- Estonia : 6
- Cyprus : 6
- Luxembourg : 6
- Malta : 6

This division conforms to the rules established by the European Council of June 2007 which had invited the European Parliament to submit a draft initiative by October 2007. The Council had specified that there would be an overall limit of 750 seats, with a maximum of 96 and a minimum of 6 per Member State, and the composition must be based on the principle of 'degressive proportionality',

The Committee considered that the principle of degressive proportionality meant that "the ratio between the population and the number of seats of each Member State must vary in relation to their respective populations in such a way that each Member from a more populous Member State represents more citizens than each Member from a less populous Member State and conversely, but also that no less populous Member State has more seats than a more populous Member State".

Members drew attention to the political link between the new composition of Parliament on the basis of the principle of degressive proportionality', and the global reforms affecting the European institutions, particularly the principle of double majority in the Council and the composition of the European Commission and underlined the importance of ensuring that the reforms were coherent.

The Committee asked that the division of seats be revised sufficiently before the legislature of 2014-2019 so as to allow the re-allocation of seats between Member States in good time and in an objective manner, based on the principle of degressive proportionality, and taking account of the future increase of its number as well as demographic changes.

Parliament considered it best at this point, not to consider the impact of any future accessions which could lead to an increase in the 750 limit, as took place at the time of the accession of Bulgaria and Romania to the EU.

## Proposal to amend the Treaty provisions concerning the composition of the European Parliament

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The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Alain LAMASSOURE (EPP-ED, FR) and Adrian SEVERIN (PES, RO) on the composition of the European Parliament. The report adopted by 378 votes in favour to 154 against, with 109 abstentions.

Parliament recalled that at its meeting of 21 and 22 June 2007, the European Council had asked the European Parliament to submit a draft initiative for a decision on the future composition of the European Parliament. This decision had to respect the criteria laid down in TEU i.e a total number of representatives of the citizens of the Union which did not exceed seven hundred and fifty members, this representation being achieved in a degressively proportional manner, with a minimum threshold of six members per Member State, while no Member State may be allocated more than ninety-six seats.

The report proposes to divide the seats of the next Parliament on the basis of 750 members. The number of representatives in the European Parliament elected in each Member State will be allocated as follows, with effect from the 2009-2014 legislature :

- Germany: 96
- France : 74
- United Kingdom : 73
- Italy : 72
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- Slovenia : 8
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- Luxembourg : 6
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The principle of degressive proportionality provided for in the Treaty on European Union will be applied as follows:

- the minimum and maximum numbers set by the Treaty must be fully utilised to ensure that the allocation of seats in the European Parliament reflects as closely as possible the range of populations of the Member States;
- the larger the population of a Member State, the greater its entitlement to a large number of seats;
- the larger the population of a Member State, the more inhabitants are represented by each of its Members of the European Parliament.

This decision must be revised sufficiently long in advance of the beginning of the 2014-2019 parliamentary term with the aim of establishing a system which in future will make it possible, before each fresh election to the European Parliament, to reallocate the seats between the Member States in an objective manner, based on the principle of degressive proportionality, taking account of any increase in their number and in demographic trends in their population as duly ascertained. Parliament felt that it was desirable not to take account at this stage of the impact of possible future enlargements, which, in the corresponding acts of accession, might result in the ceiling of 750 being temporarily exceeded. This was the procedure adopted at the time of the accession of Bulgaria and Romania to the European Union. Members also called for an examination of the technical and political feasibility of taking account, not the number of inhabitants as ascertained annually by Eurostat, but of the number of European citizens. Following the adoption of a compromise amendment, Parliament called on its representatives at the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) to forward to the Conference a draft Declaration concerning Article 2 of draft Protocol No 10 on transitional provisions, and called on the IGC to annex that Declaration to its Final Act. That Declaration states that the Conference invites the Parliament to make a proposal for the election of its members by direct universal suffrage, which more precisely defines the term 'citizens' as provided for in Article 9a(2) of the Treaty on European Union. That proposal should be drawn up in good time before the next elections in 2014.