

Procedure file

Basic information		
INL - Legislative initiative procedure	2012/2309(INL)	Procedure completed
Composition of the European Parliament with a view to the 2014 elections See also 2013/0900(NLE)		
Subject 8.40.01.01 Elections, direct universal suffrage 8.40.01.02 President, members, mandates, political groups		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	AFCO Constitutional Affairs	PPE TRZASKOWSKI Rafal	27/11/2012 27/11/2012
		S&D GUALTIERI Roberto	
		Shadow rapporteur	
		ALDE DUFF Andrew	
		Verts/ALE HÄFNER Gerald	
		ECR FOX Ashley	
		EFD MESSERSCHMIDT Morten	
European Commission	Commission DG Secretariat-General	Commissioner BARROSO José Manuel	

Key events			
22/11/2012	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
19/02/2013	Vote in committee		
25/02/2013	Committee report tabled for plenary	A7-0041/2013	
12/03/2013	Debate in Parliament		
13/03/2013	Results of vote in Parliament		
13/03/2013	Decision by Parliament	T7-0082/2013	Summary
13/03/2013	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2012/2309(INL)
Procedure type	INL - Legislative initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislative initiative
	See also 2013/0900(NLE)
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 46
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFCO/7/11303

Documentation gateway

Committee draft report	PE502.178	22/01/2013	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee	PE504.228	01/02/2013	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	A7-0041/2013	25/02/2013	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T7-0082/2013	13/03/2013	EP	Summary

Composition of the European Parliament with a view to the 2014 elections

The Committee on Constitutional Affairs adopted an own-initiative report by Roberto GUALTIERI (S&D, IT) and Rafał TRZASKOWSKI (EPP, PL) on the composition of the European Parliament with a view to the 2014 elections, and submitted to the European Council a proposal establishing the composition of the European Parliament for the 2014-2019 parliamentary term.

Members recall that when the next parliamentary term starts in 2014, the current derogation from Article 14(2) of the Treaty on European Union will expire and as a result, the total number of seats will need to be reduced by 15 in order to bring the number of seats into line with the number laid down by Treaty provision and also to take account of the accession of Croatia. Thus, the European Parliament will be composed of 751 Members (750, plus the President), i.e. there will be 15 fewer seats than the number currently in force.

Pragmatic solution: to minimise the loss of seats for Member States, the committee proposes a pragmatic solution in the application of the principle of degressive proportionality provided for in the Treaty, whereby Members from larger Member States represent more citizens than those from smaller ones. The committee's solution means that 12 Member States will each lose one seat (Romania, Greece, Belgium, Portugal, Czech Republic, Hungary, Austria, Bulgaria, Ireland, Croatia, Lithuania and Latvia) and no Member State will increase its number of seats. The remaining 3 seats in the 15-seat reduction will come from Germany, whose share of seats will be cut from 99 to 96 (the maximum allowed by the Lisbon Treaty). These 3 extra seats were part of a transitional arrangement that expires at the end of the current legislature.

The committee recommends that Parliament should undertake to submit, before the end of 2015, a new proposal for a decision of the European Council with the aim of establishing, sufficiently far in advance of the beginning of the 2019-2024 parliamentary term, a durable and transparent system which will allow seats to be apportioned amongst the Member States in an objective manner, based on the principle of degressive proportionality.

Lastly, Members note that the new system for apportioning seats in Parliament should be established in conjunction with a review of the voting system in the Council and they are determined to make proposals to this end at the next Convention revising the Treaty.

Composition of the European Parliament with a view to the 2014 elections

The European Parliament adopted by 536 votes to 111 with 44 abstentions a resolution on the composition of the European Parliament with a view to the 2014 elections, and submitted to the European Council a proposal establishing the composition of the European Parliament for the 2014-2019 parliamentary term.

Parliament recalls that when the next parliamentary term starts in 2014, the current derogation from Article 14(2) of the Treaty on European Union will expire and as a result, the total number of seats will need to be reduced by 15 in order to bring the number of seats into line with the number laid down by Treaty provision and also to take account of the accession of Croatia. Thus, the European Parliament will be composed of 751 Members (750, plus the President), i.e. there will be 15 fewer seats than the number currently in force.

To minimise the loss of seats for Member States, and in the application of the principle of degressive proportionality provided for in the Treaty, whereby Members from larger Member States represent more citizens than those from smaller ones, Parliament proposes the following:

12 Member States will each lose one seat (Romania, Greece, Belgium, Portugal, Czech Republic, Hungary, Austria, Bulgaria, Ireland, Croatia, Lithuania and Latvia) and no Member State will increase its number of seats;

- the remaining 3 seats in the 15-seat reduction will come from Germany, whose share of seats will be cut from 99 to 96 (the maximum

allowed by the Lisbon Treaty). These 3 extra seats were part of a transitional arrangement that expires at the end of the current legislature.

- Parliament adds that it undertakes to submit, before the end of 2015, a new proposal for a decision of the European Council with the aim of establishing, sufficiently far in advance of the beginning of the 2019-2024 parliamentary term, a durable and transparent system which will allow seats to be apportioned amongst the Member States in an objective manner, based on the principle of degressive proportionality.

Members note that the new system for apportioning seats in Parliament should be established in conjunction with a review of the voting system in the Council and they are determined to make proposals to this end at the next Convention revising the Treaty.

Lastly, Parliament underlines the urgent need to adopt this decision, which requires its consent, as soon as so that the Member States can enact, in good time, the necessary domestic measures for organising the elections to the European Parliament for the 2014-2019 parliamentary term.