










Procedure file

Basic information		
INL - Legislative initiative procedure	2015/2035(INL)	Procedure completed
Reform of the electoral law of the European Union		
See also 2015/0907(APP)		
Subject 8.40.01.01 Elections, direct universal suffrage		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Constitutional Affairs	 HÜBNER Danuta Maria	26/02/2015 26/02/2015
European Commission	Commission DG Secretariat-General	 LEINEN Jo	
		Shadow rapporteur	
		 UJAZDOWSKI Kazimierz Michał	
		 GOULARD Sylvie	
		 TERRICABRAS Josep-Maria	
		 ANNEMANS Gerolf	
		Commissioner	
		TIMMERMANS Frans	

Key events			
12/02/2015	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
28/09/2015	Vote in committee		
02/10/2015	Committee report tabled for plenary	A8-0286/2015	Summary
27/10/2015	Debate in Parliament		
28/10/2015	Results of vote in Parliament		
11/11/2015	Decision by Parliament	T8-0395/2015	Summary
11/11/2015	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2015/2035(INL)
Procedure type	INL - Legislative initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislative initiative
	See also 2015/0907(APP)
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 46
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFCO/8/02745

Documentation gateway

Committee draft report	PE560.824	30/06/2015	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee	PE565.204	01/09/2015	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee	PE564.992	02/09/2015	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee	PE567.650	10/09/2015	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	A8-0286/2015	02/10/2015	EP	Summary
For information	T8-0395/2015	11/11/2015	EP	Summary

Reform of the electoral law of the European Union

The Committee on Constitutional Affairs adopted a report presented by co-rapporteurs Danuta Maria HÜBNER (EPP, PL) and Jo LEINEN (S&D, DE) on the reform of the electoral law of the European Union.

Article 223 of the TFEU gives the European Parliament the right to initiate a reform of European electoral law by formulating proposals, which the Council decides upon by unanimity.

With this report, the Committee on Constitutional Affairs proposed that the European Parliament should decide to reform its electoral procedure in good time before the 2019 elections, with the aim of :

- enhancing the democratic and transnational dimension of the European elections and the democratic legitimacy of the EU decision-making process,
- reinforcing the concept of citizenship of the Union and electoral equality,
- promoting the principle of representative democracy and the direct representation of Union citizens in the European Parliament;
- improving the functioning of the European Parliament and the governance of the Union;
- making the work of the European Parliament more legitimate and efficient;
- enhancing the effectiveness of the system for conducting European elections;
- fostering common ownership among citizens from all Member States;
- enhancing the balanced composition of the European Parliament, and providing for the greatest possible degree of electoral equality and participation for citizens of the Union.

The Rapporteurs decided to propose the following changes to the Act concerning the election of the members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage ("the Electoral Act") annexed to the Council decision of 20 September 1976:

1. obligation of political parties participating in elections to the European Parliament to observe democratic procedures and transparency in selecting their candidates for those elections;
2. the list of candidates for election to the European Parliament shall ensure gender equality;
3. enhancement of the visibility of European political parties by placing their names and logos on the ballot papers, and where possible on posters used in European elections campaigns;
4. introduction of a common deadline of twelve weeks before election day for the establishment of lists at national level;
5. introduction of an obligatory threshold for the allocation of seats in single-constituency Member States and constituencies which comprise more than 26 seats ranging between 3% and 5% for Member States using the list system;
6. close of polling in all Member States by 21:00 hours CET on the Sunday of elections;
7. introduction of a common deadline of 12 weeks for the nomination of lead candidates by the European political parties;
8. introduction of a deadline for the establishment and finalisation of the electoral roll shall be eight weeks before the first election day;
9. introduction of the right to vote in the European elections for all Union citizens living outside the EU;
10. introduction of electronic and internet voting possibilities as well as voting by post mail.

As a future step, it is recommended to Member States that they should consider ways to harmonise the minimum age of voters at 16, in order to further enhance electoral equality among Union citizens.

Lastly, Parliament should have the right to fix the electoral period for elections to the European Parliament after consulting the Council.

