# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



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# REPORT

on the verification of credentials

Committee on the Rules of Procedure, the Verification of Credentials and Immunities

Rapporteur: Mr Luciano Vecchi

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- Consultation procedure simple majority
- Cooperation procedure (first reading) simple majority
- Cooperation procedure (second reading) simple majority to approve the common position absolute majority of Parliament's component Members to reject or amend the common position
- Assent procedure absolute majority of Parliament's component Members to give assent except for simple majority under Articles 8a, 105, 106, 130d and 228 EC

- Codecision procedure (first reading) simple majority
- \*\*\*II Codecision procedure (second reading) simple majority to approve the common position absolute majority of Parliament's component Members either to adopt a declaration of intent to reject the common position, or to amend or confirm the rejection of the common position
- \*\*\*III Codecision procedure (third reading) simple majority to approve the joint text absolute majority of Parliament's component Members to reject the Council text

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#### By letter of

- 23 June 1994 the President of the European Parliament received official notification of the election of the Belgian Members of the European Parliament,
- 24 June 1994 the President of the European Parliament received official notification of the election of the Danish Members of the European Parliament,
- 15 July 1994 the President of the European Parliament received official notification of the election of the German Members of the European Parliament.
- 12 July 1994 the President of the European Parliament received official notification of the election of the Greek Members of the European Parliament,
- 12 July 1994 the President of the European Parliament received official notification of the election of the Spanish Members of the European Parliament,
- 23 June 1994 the President of the European Parliament received official notification of the election of the French Members of the European Parliament,
- 21 June 1994 the President of the European Parliament received official notification of the election of the Irish Members of the European Parliament,
- 15 July 1994 the President of the European Parliament received official notification of the election of the Italian Members of the European Parliament,
- 18 July 1994 the President of the European Parliament received official notification of the election of Luxembourg's Members of the European Parliament,
- 28 June 1994 the President of the European Parliament received official notification of the election of the Netherlands Members of the European Parliament,
- 30 June 1994 the President of the European Parliament received official notification of the election of the Portuguese Members of the European Parliament,
- 1 July 1994 the President of the European Parliament received official notification of the election of the UK Members of the European Parliament.

In accordance with Rule 7 of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament, Parliament verifies, without delay, the credentials of newly elected Members, on the basis of a report drawn up by the committee responsible for the verification of credentials, and rules on the validity of the mandate of each of its newly elected Members, and on any dispute referred to it pursuant to the provisions of the Act of 20 September 1976, except those based on national electoral laws.

At its meeting of 26 and 27 July 1994 the Committee on the Rules of Procedure, the Verification of Credentials and Immunities appointed Mr Vecchi rapporteur.

At its meetings of 12 and 13 September 1994, 10 and 11 October 1994, and 25 October 1994 it considered the various documents relating to the verification of credentials and the draft report.

At the last meeting it adopted the draft report unopposed with 1 abstention.

The following were present for the vote: Fayot, chairman; Wijsenbeek, vice-chairman; Vecchi, rapporteur; Cot (for Balfe), D'Andrea, Dell'Alba, Donnelly, Florio, Gil-Robles Gil-Delgado (for Malangré), Gutierrez Diaz (for Ephremidis), Manzella, Moorhouse (for Galeote Quecedo) and Teverson (for Capucho).

The report was tabled on 27 October 1994.

The deadline for tabling amendments will appear on the draft agenda for the part-session at which the report is to be considered.

#### A

#### PROPOSAL FOR A DECISION

#### Decision on the verification of credentials

#### The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Act of 20 September 1976 concerning the election of the representatives of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage,
- having regard to Rules 7, 8 and 9 and Annex I of its Rules of Procedure,
- charged with the verification of the credentials of Members elected in the June 1994 elections,
- having regard to the official notifications by the competent authorities of the Member States of the results of the elections to the European Parliament,
- having regard to the appeals and disputes concerning the validity of the election of some Members of the European Parliament (see Annex 2),
- having regard to the report of the Committee on the Rules of Procedure, the Verification of Credentials and Immunities (A4-0044/94),
- A. whereas Article 6(1) of the Act of 20 September 1976 clearly states which offices are incompatible with the office of representative in the European Parliament,
- B. whereas, under Rule 9 and Annex I of the Rules of Procedure, Members shall be required to make a detailed declaration of their professional activities and list any other paid functions or activities,
- C. deploring the fact that, contrary to the Treaty of Rome and the resolutions adopted by the European Parliament, no uniform electoral procedure has yet been adopted for the election of representatives of the European Parliament and that it is therefore still necessary to use widely differing national electoral procedures, some of which allow:
- candidates to be fielded when they already hold offices incompatible with that of Member of the European Parliament (in particular, an office in a Member State's government);
- persons to renounce their seat in the European Parliament, even before the results of the election have been declared, thereby enabling the unelected candidates next in line to replace them;
- candidates to stand and be elected in more than one constituency, with the result that they later have to renounce their seat and consequently be replaced by the unelected candidates next in line;
- and, in short, permit the use of expedients which at times do not appear entirely consistent with the will of the people as expressed through their votes,
- D. whereas the disputes referred to the European Parliament concerning the election of some Members stem solely from national electoral laws,

- E. whereas in certain disputes there is talk of possible tampering with or manipulation of the results,
- F. whereas some disputes relate to the failure to allow party names to be recognized in law,
- G. whereas all Members of the European Parliament should be elected by means of procedures that are above criticism and reflect the genuine will of the people,
- 1. Declares valid the mandate of those members of the European Parliament, subject to the legal decisions reached by the competent authorities in Member States where an electoral result has been challenged, whose election results have been notified by the competent national authorities, who have declared that they hold no offices incompatible with that of representative in the European Parliament (pursuant to Article 6(1) of the Act of 20 September 1976) and who have made the declaration referred to in Annex I of the European Parliament's Rules of Procedure (see Annex I to this report);
- 2. Reiterates its request that the Member State authorities responsible for notifying the European Parliament of the names of the candidates elected should forward at the same time the names of any substitutes together with their ranking in accordance with the results of the vote, as stipulated in Rule 7(2) of the European Parliament's Rules of Procedure;
- 3. Calls on the competent authorities of the Member States to complete without delay their examination of the appeals lodged with them concerning the validity of the election of some Members;
- 4. Hopes that, pending the entry into force of a uniform electoral procedure, the national electoral laws relating to the election of representatives of the European Parliament will enable the wishes of the electorate to be clearly reflected in the composition of the European Parliament;
- 5. Instructs its President to forward this decision to the relevant national authorities and the parliaments of the Member States.

#### ANNEX 1

List of Members whose election has been officially notified to the European Parliament by the national authorities and who satisfy the obligations set out in Article 6 of the Act of 20 September 1976 concerning the election of representatives of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage and in Rule 9 of the European Parliament's Rules of Procedure

as at 25 October 1994

#### B E L G I U M

# Verification completed

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\* Resigned with effect from 16 October 1994

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\* Resigned on 27 September 1994

# UNITED KINGDOM

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#### SUMMARY OF DISPUTES REFERRED TO PARLIAMENT

#### 1. GERMANY

In his letters dated 12 June, 27 June, 20 July, 12 August and 18 August 1994, Mr Weber challenges the election of the German Members of the European Parliament for the following reasons:

- basic electoral principles, democratic principles and general principles of law have been violated,
- as the result of a postal strike, the ballot papers did not reach the election committees in time,
- in the Federal Republic of Germany freedom of information is restricted,
- the Federal authorities amended the electoral law and regulations relating to the parties after the date of the election was announced,
- he believes, 'public opinion has, quite simply, been manipulated'.

#### 2. UNITED KINGDOM

#### Devon and East Plymouth

In a letter dated 23 June 1994 to the President of Parliament, Mr A.J.I. Young says that, in the Devon and East Plymouth constituency, a 'Literal Democrat' candidate was placed above the Liberal Democrat candidate on the ballot paper and he believes that many voters voted for the 'Literal Democrat' by mistake.

In a letter of 18 July 1994 to the President of Parliament, Mr de Vries, Mr Teverson and Mr Watson say Mr Giles Chichester's entitlement to a seat in the European Parliament for the Devon and East Plymouth constituency has been questioned, the case is pending before the courts, and verification of Mr Chichester's credentials should be postponed.

In a letter of 19 September 1994 to the President of Parliament, Mr Hugo Barton challenges the Devon and East Plymouth election on the grounds that the electors who wished to vote for the 'Liberal Democrat' would have been confused by the reference to a 'Literal Democrat' on the ballot-paper.

In a letter dated 19 September 1994 to the President of Parliament, Mr F. Davis challenges the Devon and East Plymouth election on account of the confusion to voters arising from the spellings 'Literal Democrat' and 'Liberal Democrat', identical except for one letter.

#### Essex North and Suffolk South

In his letters of 14 and 27 June 1994 to the President of Parliament, Mr A.C.D. Mitchell questions whether the elections in England, Scotland, and Wales - and specifically the election of Miss Anne McIntosh as the Member for Essex North and Suffolk South - can be considered valid, as they were not carried out on the basis of proportional representation.

#### 4. DENMARK

In a letter of 2 July 1994 to the chairman of the Committee on the Rules of Procedure, the Verification of Credentials and Immunities, Mr Andersen questions the eligibility of the Danish Members representing the Social-Democratic Party, the Conservative Party, and the Radical Liberal Party on the grounds that these parties supported the introduction of a tax which the Court of Justice of the European Communities has declared incompatible with Community law (Case C-200/90).

#### 5. GREECE

In a letter of 12 July 1994 to the Committee on the Rules of Procedure, the Verification of Credentials and Immunities, Mr Tsourkas challenges the election of Mrs Lambraki and Mr Hatzidakis. He asks for confirmation that the principle of freedom to exercise the right to vote is violated in his country where voting is compulsory, and calls for the results of the elections held on 12 June 1994 to appoint Greece's representatives to the European Parliament to be declared invalid.

#### 6. ITALY

In a letter of 3 June 1994, Mr Ripa Di Meana lodged a petition with Parliament concerning certain rules governing the European elections in Italy.

By letter of 1 August 1994 from Mrs Rosy Bindi, this petition was forwarded to the Committee on the Rules of Procedure, the Verification of Credentials and Immunities.

In his petition Mr Ripa Di Meana states that:

- respect for pluralism and access to information is not fully guaranteed in Italy;
- Community and international legislation and principles in this field are violated;
- the candidacy in the European elections of Italy's current prime minister is an infringement of Community law.

# He calls for :

- a committee of inquiry to be set up to examine infringements of Community law,
- action to be taken to clarify the rules governing incompatibility.

#### 7. FRANCE

In a letter dated 14 October 1994 to the President of Parliament, Mr Fabre-Aubrespy disputes Mr Bernardini's right to sit in Parliament on the grounds that he, Mr Bernardini, held a non-elective public office - Director of the Fos-sur-Mer/Istres/Miramas New Urban District Authority (département of Bouches-du-Rhône) - at the time of his election.

DA DE EL **EN** ES FR IT NL PT