

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1983 - 1984

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29 April 1983

DOCUMENT 1-247/83

REPORT

drawn up on behalf of the Political Affairs Committee

on the proposal for a Council Decision on the fixing of  
the period in 1984 for the elections to the European  
Parliament (Doc. 1-1355/82)

Rapporteur: Mr E. KLEPSCH

PE 84.105/fin.



By letter of 28 February 1983 the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament to deliver an opinion on the proposal for a Council Decision on the fixing of the period in 1984 for the elections to the European Parliament.

On 8 March 1983 the President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Political Affairs Committee as the committee responsible.

At its meeting of 14 to 16 March 1983 the Political Affairs Committee appointed Mr E. KLEPSCH rapporteur.

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The Political Affairs Committee considered the Council's proposal and the draft report at its meeting of 20 to 22 April 1983.

On that occasion it decided by 13 votes to 1 to recommend to Parliament that it approve the Council's proposal with amendments.

The following took part in the vote: Mr Haagerup, first vice-chairman and acting chairman; Mr Fergusson, third vice-chairman; Mr Klepsch, rapporteur; Mr Barbi, Mr Berkhouwer, Mr Deschamps, Mr Estgen (deputizing for Mr von Hassel), Mr Habsburg, Mrs van den Heuvel, Mr Lalor, Mrs Lenz, Mr Newton Dunn, Lord O'Hagan and Mr Plaskovitis.

The explanatory statement will be submitted orally by the rapporteur at the plenary sitting.

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This report was submitted on 26 April 1983.

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The Political Affairs Committee hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the proposal for a Council Decision on the fixing of the period in 1984 for the elections to the European Parliament.

The European Parliament,

- having been consulted by the Council (Doc. 1-1355/82),
- having regard to the report of the Political Affairs Committee (Doc. 1-247/83),
- (A) deploring the inaction of the Council, which has adopted neither the Draft Act on a uniform electoral procedure for the election of Members of the European Parliament, which was adopted by the European Parliament on 10 March 1982<sup>1</sup>, nor any provisions on the right of European citizens to vote,
- (B) whereas the period during which the 1984 elections are to be held should hence be fixed in accordance with the provisions of Articles 9 and 10 of the Council Act of 20 September 1976<sup>2</sup>,
- (C) whereas on the basis of Article 10(1) of this Act the Council, acting unanimously, determined the date of the first direct elections after consulting the European Parliament,
- (D) whereas, pursuant to Article 10(2) of the Act, the next elections should take place in the corresponding period in the last year of the five-year period referred to in Article 3, that is, from 7 to 10 June 1984,
- (E) whereas, however, it is impossible under the terms of the second subparagraph of Article 10(2) to hold the elections during this period, since it coincides with the Whitsun holiday,
- (F) having been consulted by the Council, pursuant to the abovementioned Article, on the proposal that the second election of the representatives of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage be held during the period from 17 to 20 May 1984,

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<sup>1</sup> OJ No. C 87, 5 April 1982, p. 61

<sup>2</sup> OJ No. L 278, 8 October 1976 - 5 -

(G) having regard to its resolution of 9 March 1983 on a uniform electoral procedure<sup>1</sup>,

1. Notes that it has fulfilled, within the required period, the obligation laid down in Article 138(3) of the EEC Treaty to draw up proposals for elections by direct universal suffrage in accordance with a uniform procedure in all Member States;
2. Considers that the second elections to the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage should be held during the period from 14 to 17 June 1984;
3. Welcomes the fact that the formal fixing of the date by the Council, following this consultation, will enable the peoples of the States constituting the Community to elect their representatives to the European Parliament for the second time;
4. Regrets, however, that through lack of political will the Council has failed to adopt the Draft Act adopted by the European Parliament on 10 March 1982;
5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the parliaments and governments of the Member States.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ No. C 96 of 11.4.1983, p. 27

PROPOSAL (DOCUMENT 1-1355/82)

for a Council Decision on the fixing of the period in 1984 for the elections to the European Parliament

Brussels, 28 February 1983

Mr Pieter DANKERT  
President of the  
European Parliament

Case Postale 1601

LUXEMBOURG

(Grand Duchy of Luxembourg)

Sir,

At its meeting on 21 and 22 February 1983, the Council examined the question of the period during which the 1984 elections of the Members of the European Parliament should be held.

In accordance with the first subparagraph of Article 10(2) of the Act of 20 September 1976, these elections should be held during the period from 7 to 10 June 1984.

However, because this period clashes with Whitsun it is not possible to hold the elections in the Community at that time. For that reason the Council, in accordance with the second subparagraph of the said Article 10(2), has been trying to find another period during which the elections could be held, and has agreed to consult the European Parliament on the possibility of setting the period for these elections as 17 to 20 May 1984.

Please accept, Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

D. SCHLECHT

