

REPORT

Europe goes to the polls

Late in the evening on Sunday, June 10, the early results from the first European Parliament elections will start to come up on television screens all across Europe. Even though four member countries will have completed polling three days earlier, it was agreed that no counting would begin before polling ends in the last country, namely 9 p.m. British time, on June 10.

candidate to another; nonetheless, in the Republic they hope to have some idea of which way the votes are going by midnight on Sunday. On the other hand, the Dutch have decided to postpone the count until Monday morning.

In the United Kingdom, the votes will be verified on the Thursday evening (i.e., the number of votes cast will be checked against the number of ballot papers issued), then collected together for the count in 79 counting centres in the Euro-constituencies. In mid-May the returning officers were making widely different estimates of when they expected to have completed the count. Devon and the South of Scotland hope to have finished by midnight on Sunday while, at the other extreme, the Highlands & Islands and Hereford & Worcester were not expecting to declare until Monday afternoon. But not all constituencies will start to count on Sunday night.

And the speed of the count depends on how high the turnout is.

How many votes?

So how many of the 180 million Europeans on the electoral registers will turn out to vote and how many Britons in particular?

The United Kingdom has the lowest turnout at general elections of any of the Nine and by far the lowest in local elections. Even though the May 3 General Election saw the turnout rise from 72.5% to 76.1%, that was still lower than elsewhere in recent elections. Belgium, Luxembourg and Italy have, at least in theory, compulsory voting, but the last Bundestag election in Germany saw a staggering 91% turnout of the electorate.

Of course, the General Election itself has not helped in Britain: there is a risk of "ballot fatigue". This year has seen Welsh and Scottish referendums, the General Election (coupled with district council elections in England and Wales), the community or parish elections in some parts of the country on May 24. All that before June 7. So the parties and the public risk being wearied by ballots. But pity the Italians who are having a General Election on June 3-4 and European elections on June 10.

So what the turnout will be is difficult to forecast, but there can be no doubt that a turnout of less than 50 per cent would be taken by other Community countries as yet more evidence that the British are not "good Europeans".

For their part, the European Parliament and Commission have been conducting a public information programme to raise public awareness in all member countries. In the United Kingdom it reached its peak in mid-May with widespread press advertising together with the distribution of posters and leaflets running into millions.

So to all our readers: Have *your* say on June 7. Use your Eurovote!



So, from about ten o'clock onwards the first real indications of the composition of the new European Parliament and the degree of turnout by the electors will emerge. It may be, however, that in the four countries which vote on Thursday, June 7 — the United Kingdom, Ireland, Denmark and the Netherlands — straw polls on polling day itself will show fairly clearly how the citizens of those countries have voted.

Because nine different electoral systems are in use — ranging from the British "first-past-the-post" to a single national list in France — the speed with which results come in will vary. With the aid of computers the Germans expect to have the first trends of voting within 35 minutes of the start of the count. The Irish (North and South) will use the single transferable vote system with its complicated transfer of preferences from one

United Kingdom Candidates for

ENGLAND

1 NORTHUMBRIA

J Weait (C); G J Adam (Lab);
G Scott (Lib)

2 SOUTH TYNE AND WEAR

J Landau (C); Miss J G Quin (Lab);
P Freitag (Lib)

3 CUMBRIA

Mrs M E Kellett-Bowman (C);
H Little (Lab); Miss E Graham (Lib);
E Burrows (Ind)

4 DURHAM

R Sheaf (C); R Boyes (Lab);
C Foote-Wood (Lib)

5 CLEVELAND

Sir Peter Vanneck (C); E Wistrich
(Lab); M Pitts (Lib); S Hill (ACM)

6 YORKSHIRE NORTH

N R Balfour (C); F B Singleton
(Lab); Mrs K C Brooks (Lib)

7 HUMBERSIDE

R Battersby (C); M A Wheaton
(Lab); R Walker (Lib)

8 LANCASHIRE CENTRAL

M J Welsh (C); I J Taylor (Lab)
Rev. D Sanders (Lib)

9 LANCASHIRE EAST

T E Kellett-Bowman (C); M Walsh
(Lab); P Easton (Lib); F Tyrrall
(Dem)

10 YORKSHIRE WEST

Lord St Oswald (C); B H Seal
(Lab); J M S Cherry (Lib)

11 LEEDS

P C Price (C); D A Enright (Lab);
D Austick (Lib)

12 LIVERPOOL

Miss G Hooper (C); T G
Harrison (Lab); P Clark (Lib)

13 LANCASHIRE WEST

P N Price (C); B S Jeuda (Lab)
J Gibb (Lib); B Farrell (Ind)

14 GREATER MANCHESTER WEST

W Hopper (C); P Nurse (Lab);
A E O G Weddell (Lib)

15 GREATER MANCHESTER SOUTH

Lord Harmar-Nicholls (C); J A Mills
(Lab); J B Doherty (Lib)

16 GREATER MANCHESTER NORTH

G C Grantham (C); Mrs B A Castle
(Lab); M Steed (Lib)

17 YORKSHIRE SOUTH WEST

Miss J F Chambers (C); T Megahy
(Lab); Mrs P Waudby (Lib)

18 YORKSHIRE SOUTH

M N F Robinson (C); B M Key (Lab);
W Capstick (Lib)

19 CHESHIRE WEST

A Pearce (C); A E Bailey (Lab);
R M Green (Lib)

20 CHESHIRE EAST

T Normanton (C); D W Davies (Lab);
V N Bingham (Lib)

21 DERBYSHIRE

T Spencer (C); Miss M J Denby (Lab);
D Blackburn (Lib)

22 SHEFFIELD

S Batiste (C); R G Caborn (Lab);
K Salt (Lib)

23 NOTTINGHAM

J D Taylor (C); M Gallagher (Lab);
D J Chambers (Lib)

24 LINCOLNSHIRE

W F Newton Dunn (C); C A James
(Lab); C Phillips (Lib)

25 SALOP AND STAFFORD

C J Prout (C); J S Hopkins (Lab);
T G Robson (Lib); Mrs P J E Larney
(Ind C)

26 STAFFORDSHIRE EAST

R J Moreland (C); M P Tracy (Lab);
B Hargreaves (Lib)

27 MIDLANDS WEST

R J Simmonds (C); S G Randall
(Lab); A W G Court (Lib)

28 BIRMINGHAM NORTH

M E Forth (C); P M Jackson (Lib);
E C A Hooper (Lib)

29 BIRMINGHAM SOUTH

Miss N F Forster (C); A Bore (Lab);
A J Batchelor (Lib)

30 MIDLANDS EAST

J M Taylor (C); T O Sullivan (Lab);
G A Gopsill (Lib)

31 LEICESTER

F A Tuckman (C); Rev. K F Middle-
ton (Lab); G G Watson (Lib)

32 CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Sir Frederick Catherwood (C);
M L Mackie (Lab); M W B
O'Loughlin (Lib)

33 NORFOLK

P Howell (C); H Gray (Lab);
B Baxter (Lib)

34 SUFFOLK

A E Turner (C); R Manley (Lab);
Lord Gladwyn (Lib)

35 HEREFORD AND WORCESTER

J S R Scott-Hopkins (C); R H Jones
(Lab); R G Otter (Lib)

36 THE COTSWOLDS

Sir Henry Plumb (C); J A Honeybone
(Lab); Miss M Burton (Lib); D C T
Bennett (UACM)

37 MIDLANDS CENTRAL

J de Courcy Ling (C); D V Hunt
(Lab); Miss V M Davis (Lib); K M
Benfield (Ecol)

38 NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

A M H Simpson (C); A Gordon
(Lab); S B Crooks (Lib)

39 BEDFORDSHIRE

P Beazley (C); M N Elliott (Lab);
P Roberts (Lib); T H Shrive (Cen Rt)

40 HERTFORDSHIRE

D Prag (C); J Dore (Lab);
D L Cobbold (Lib)

41 ESSEX SOUTH WEST

A Sherlock (C); J P Coughan (Lab);
D Kitching (Lib)

42 ESSEX NORTH EAST

D Curry (C); C O'Brien (Lab);
A Phillips (Lib); W O Smedley
(UACM)

43 BRISTOL

R Cottrell (C); J D Naysmith (Lab);
J Heppell (Lib)

44 UPPER THAMES

R Jackson (C); P H Gray (Lab);
J Ainslie (Lib)

45 THAMES VALLEY

Baroness Elles (C); J A F Ennals
(Lab); M Fogarty (Lib)

46 CORNWALL AND PLYMOUTH

D A Harris (C); D Leather (Lab);
G Spring (Lib); E R Goldsmith
(Ecol); R Jenkin (Meb Kernow);
Dr A E Ash (UACM)

47 DEVON

Lord O'Hagan (C); R C J Scott
(Lab); A Pinney (Lib)

48 SOMERSET

Sir Frederick Warner (C); D R Lov-
lace (Lab); A A S Butt Philip (Lib)

49 WESSEX

J W Spicer (C); W M Duncan (Lab);
J M Goss (Lib); A Thynn (WREF)

The European Elections on June 7

HAMPSHIRE WEST

B de Ferranti (C); P S Jariwala (Lab); J W Matthew (Lib)

51 WIGHT AND HAMPSHIRE EAST

S P Johnson (C); L F Bennett (Lab); Baroness Seear (Lib)

52 SURREY

Marquess of Douro (C); J Cox (Lab); C P Mayhew (Lib); P A Heims (Ind ACM)

53 SUSSEX WEST

M Seligman (C); B J Whipp (Lab); Dr J M M Walsh (Lib); L N Vince (UACM)

54 SUSSEX EAST

Sir John Stewart-Clark (C); A J S Stevens (Lab); R G Moore (Lib)

55 KENT WEST

B Patterson (C); A J Humphris (Lab); S Blow (Lib)

56 KENT EAST

C M Jackson (C); J C M S Holmes (Lab); A F C Morris (Lib); D J Conlon (NCMR)

LONDON WEST

B Hord (C); J Daly (Lab); R Cohen (Lib); T. Ali (IM)

58 LONDON NORTH WEST

Lord Bethell (C); Mrs M Gordon (Lab); G J Bridge (Lib)

59 LONDON CENTRAL

Sir David Nicolson (C); P J Gresham (Lab); R Browne (Lib); J Porritt (Ecol)

60 LONDON NORTH

J Marshall (C); K W Little (Lab); L S Brass (Lib)

61 LONDON NORTH EAST

C Stanbrook (C); A Lomas (Lab); R Bancroft (Lib)

62 LONDON EAST

A R Tyrrell (C); P D O Neill (Lab); D Blackburn (Lib)

63 LONDON SOUTH WEST

Miss S Roberts (C); A Hart (Lab); B Fogarty (Lib); S S Eustace (EFP); Rev. C Varah (Ind)

LONDON SOUTH

Moorhouse (C); G A Duncan (Lab); W Pitt (Lib)

65 LONDON SOUTH INNER

J Butterfill (C); R Balfe (Lab); R Insole (Lib)

66 LONDON SOUTH EAST

Sir Brandon Rhys Williams (C); S Bundred (Lab); J Fryer (Lib); W E Turner (AWE)

SCOTLAND

1 HIGHLAND AND ISLANDS

M Jouhin (C); J G Watson (Lab); D R G Johnston (Lib); Mrs W M Ewing (SNP)

2 NORTH EAST SCOTLAND

J Provan (C); D E Clyne (Lab); Lord Mackie of Benshie (Lib); C Bell (SNP)

3 MID-SCOTLAND AND FIFE

J Purvis (C); Mrs M Panko (Lab); J M Calder (Lib); Dr R D McIntyre (SNP)

4 LOTHIANS

I Dalziel (C); A A Mackie (Lab); R L Smith (Lib); D Stevenson (SNP)

5 GLASGOW

Mrs B Vaughan (C); Mrs J O Buchan (Lab); Miss E Attwooll (Lib); G. Leslie (SNP)

6 STRATHCLYDE WEST

A Ferguson (C); Ms V Friel (Lab); T R L Fraser (Lib); C G M Slessor (SNP)

7 STRATHCLYDE EAST

Miss M Carse (C); K D Collins (Lab); Dr D Watts (Lib); G Murray (SNP)

8 SOUTH OF SCOTLAND

A Hutton (C); P N Foy (Lab); J Wallace (Lib); I MacGibbon (SNP)

WALES

1 NORTH WALES

Miss B Brooks (C); T A Dillon (Lab); Miss N Wyn-Ellis (Lib); I W Jones (Plaid Cymru)

2 MID AND WEST WALES

D G Lloyd (C); Miss A Clywd (Lab); C Thomas (Lib); H D Windsor Williams (Ind); H Moseley (Plaid Cymru)

3 SOUTH EAST WALES

Mrs A Robinson (C); A R Rogers (Lab); A Pope (Lib); B Kelly (Ind); M D Jones (Plaid Cymru)

4 SOUTH WALES

S Terlezki (C); W J Griffiths (Lab); J Greaves (Lib); D J Williams (Plaid Cymru)

NORTHERN IRELAND

(3 seats)

O Napier (Alliance); Mrs B Devlin-McAliskey (Ind.); Rev. I R K Paisley (DUP); J Murray (Lib); H West (OUP); J Taylor (OUP); B Brennan (Rep C); F Donnelly (Rep C); J Hume (SDLP); D Bleakely (UCC); P Devlin (U Lab); E Cummings (UPNI); J Kilfedder (UU)

Key to Party Abbreviations

ACM	Anti-Common Market
AWE	Against Wealth Extremes
C	Conservative
C Dem	Community Democrat
Cen Rt	Centre Right
Comm	Communist
Dem	Democrat
DUP	Democratic Unionist Party
Ecol	Ecology
EFP	European Federal Party
IM	International Marxist
Ind	Independent
Lab	Labour
Lib	Liberal
Meb Kernow	Mebyon Kernow
NCMR	New Common Market Referendum
OUP	Official Unionist Party
Rep C	Republican Clubs
SDLP	Social Democratic and Labour Party
SNP	Scottish National Party
UACM	United Anti-Common Market
UCC	United Community Campaign
U Lab	United Labour
UPNI	Unionist Party of Northern Ireland
UU	Ulster Unionist
WREF	Wessex Region and European Federation

Big Brother? No! say school winners

Europe in 1984 will have witnessed major technological and social changes but in no way will it constitute the bureaucratic nightmare which George Orwell feared. Except

for a handful of doomsters this was the verdict of most of the 1,500 entrants in a Schools Essay Competition arranged jointly by Parliament and Commission. The 36



prize-winners aged between 11 and 19 from all over the United Kingdom duly assembled in London on Saturday, May 5, before starting a four-day visit to Brussels, Luxembourg and Bruges. Northern Europe arranged its most halcyon weather to help the group get the most out of their visit which included sight-seeing trips as well as opportunities to put questions (and tough ones



too) to MEPs and Community officials. Visiting British journalists from local radio stations covering Parliament's last session lost no time in tailing the peripatetic group in search of interviews with their local boys or girls.

Che congruo numero di Candidati!

By mid-day nominations throughout the Community indicated that as many as 2500 candidates could be contesting the 410 seats in the European elections. Italian voters are to be offered the greatest choice with 970 candidates on 61 lists. The Italian government has also arranged for Italians living abroad to be able to vote in special polling booths.

Polling Days

Voting in Europe takes place as follows: Denmark, Ireland, Netherlands, UK: Thursday, June 7; Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Sunday, June 10.

How multinational?

Despite the departing Members' commendable efforts to clear their desks by the last day of the May session the directly elected Members will find one item in their in-tray which the House failed to vote on because of the absence of the quorum of 100 Members required where changes in the Parliament's rule-book are involved. A report by Rudolf Luster (CD/Ger) proposes allowing minority parties to con-

stitute a political group in the enlarged Parliament if they consist of 21 Members — i.e., over 5% — from at least two countries, not three as at present. When the House debated this on Thursday, May 10, George Cunningham (Soc/UK) made a plea for minorities. It was unfair, he said, to force 20 like-minded Members to sit as independents. Lord Reay (Con/UK) thought there should be a limit to the total number of groups.

New site revealed in Working Document

Avid readers of Parliament's Working Documents might have noticed illustrations appearing for the first time in a report on wind, wave and tidal power thanks to the initiative of the author, Ron Brown (Soc/UK).

Alas, when the document was printed in Luxembourg only the words 'European Parliament' appeared as a caption for the photographs, which were taken in the remote Rance coastal estuary region in Northern Brittany. Another contender for Parliament's permanent home?

No room at the Inn

A warning has gone out from the Strasbourg authorities about the likely shortage of hotel rooms during

the new Parliament's first meeting during the week July 16-20, and especially the nights preceding the day of the Presidential election (17th) and opening speeches (18th).

As well as some 1500 Members and staff, around 1000 journalists are expected to attend. To cope with this demand the local tourist office has provisionally block booked about 3200 rooms — including even small inns many miles out of town.

End of term

As Luxembourg relaxed in its first heatwave of the summer the House applied itself stoically to the task of completing current business during its final session on May 7-11, getting through 29 items on Thursday and 20 on Friday May 11.

In the midst of comparing their "end of term" stories, journalists learnt with some dismay, during a press conference given by the President on Wednesday evening, of the possibility of a further "old Parliament" session in June. This would have been necessary if the Council of Ministers had failed to sign their agreement to a supplementary budget by Friday morning, May 11. All was well, however, as hurried Commission and Council telexes allowed Parliament to declare the budget adopted in time for the final gavel to fall in May.

K.P.G.