



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



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PRESSE 254

## **Next European elections will take place from 22 to 25 May 2014**

The Council today<sup>1</sup> decided to bring forward the period of the next European Parliament's elections from 5-8 June to 22-25 May 2014 ([10101/13](#) + [10396/13](#) + [ADD 1](#)).

This follows the positive opinion of the European Parliament given on 21 May. The main objective of advancing the electoral period is to ensure optimal conditions for the elections and hereby to strengthen the European Parliament's legitimacy. It also responds to a request by the European Parliament from 2005. At this time, the Parliament asked to bring forward the date of the election to May so that it can better organise itself to expedite the election of the new Commission President and avoid the beginning of the summer vacation in several member states.

### **Background**

The election period provided for by the 1976 Electoral Act (5-8 June 2014) coincides with the week-end of Pentecost, a period which in many member states is part of school holidays. The Electoral Act enables the Council, after consulting the European Parliament, to unanimously determine another electoral period if it proves impossible to hold the European Parliament elections during the "default" period. However, the new electoral period may not be more than two months before or one month after the period foreseen by the Electoral Act. In the past, the Council decided on two occasions to change the electoral period of the European Parliament (for the 1984 and 1989 elections).

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<sup>1</sup> The decision was taken by the Foreign Affairs Council.

# **P R E S S**