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COVER NOTE

from: Secretary-General of the European Commission,
signed by Mr Jordi AYET PUIGARNAU, Director

date of receipt: 27 March 2014

to: Mr Uwe CORSEPIUS, Secretary-General of the Council of the European
Union

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Subject: Replies by the Member States on the implementation of the Commission's
recommendations regarding the European Parliament elections *to the* REPORT
FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE
COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE
AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS
Towards more democratic European Parliament elections - Report on the
implementation of the Commission's recommendations of 12 March 2013 on
enhancing the democratic and efficient conduct of the elections to the
European Parliament
ANNEX

Delegations will find attached Commission document COM(2014) 196 ANNEX 1.

Encl.: COM(2014) 196 ANNEX 1



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 27.3.2014
COM(2014) 196

ANNEX 1

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**Replies by the Member States on the implementation of the Commission's
recommendations regarding the European Parliament elections**

to the

**REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE
COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE
COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS**

**Towards more democratic European Parliament elections
Report on the implementation of the Commission's recommendations of 12 March 2013
on enhancing the democratic and efficient conduct of the elections to the European
Parliament**

ANNEX: Replies by Member States on the implementation of the Commission's recommendations on the European Parliament elections¹

COUNTRY	RECOMMENDATION			
	DEMOCRATIC CONDUCT OF THE ELECTIONS			
	<i>Member States should encourage and facilitate the provision of information on affiliation between EU parties and national parties (1st recommendation)</i>	<i>Political parties should provide information on their affiliation with EU parties (2nd recommendation)</i>	<i>Political parties (EU and national) should make known their candidates for President of the European Commission (3rd recommendation)</i>	<i>Member States should agree on a common voting day (4th recommendation)</i>
AUSTRIA	National law allows for the names of the European parties to be displayed on the voting ballots*.	No Reply.	No Reply.	No Reply.
BELGIUM	National law allows for the logo of the European political group/party to be added to the logo of the national political party.	National law allows parties to show their European affiliation during campaigns. Providing this information is at the discretion of national parties.	At the discretion of national parties.	
BULGARIA	National law does not allow names and/or logos of European parties to be displayed on the voting ballots*.	No Reply.	No Reply.	No Reply.
CROATIA	National law does not allow names and/or logos of European parties to be displayed on the voting ballots. The relevant authorities are considering changes to the current rules on displaying names and logos on the voting			In line with current national rules, EP elections are held on Sunday.

¹ Eighteen Member States have submitted information in reply to the letter of the Commission of 13 September 2013: Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Greece, Spain, Finland, Croatia, Hungary, Luxembourg, Latvia, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia and the United Kingdom. The information which is directly related to the implementation of the Commission's Recommendation 2013/142/EU can be found in this table. The Commission has also requested information from national experts on elections; it is indicated with an asterisk (*) when the information was collected through these experts.

	ballots*.			
CYPRUS	No Reply.	No Reply.	No Reply.	No Reply.
CZECH REPUBLIC	National law does not allow names and/or logos of European parties to be displayed on the voting ballots.	Under national law there is no legal obligation to provide information on affiliation. The State should not interfere with political parties. Providing this information is at the discretion of national parties.		The Czech Republic disagrees with coordinating a common day at European level. Elections are traditionally held on Friday and Saturday. It considers that organising elections on Sunday may have a negative impact on voter turnout.
DENMARK	National law does not allow names and/or logos of European parties to be displayed on the voting ballots.	National law allows parties to inform electorate about their European affiliation during campaigns. Providing this information is at the discretion of national parties.		
ESTONIA	National law does not allow names and/or logos of European parties to be displayed on the voting ballots.	National law allows parties to show their European affiliation during campaigns. Providing this information is at the discretion of national parties.		
FINLAND	National law does not allow names and/or logos of European parties to be displayed on the voting ballots.	The national authorities have informed political parties about the recommendation to indicate their affiliation with European parties.		
FRANCE	National law allows for the logos of the European political parties to be displayed on the voting ballots. *.	Providing information about the affiliation with European parties is at the discretion of national parties*.	At the discretion of national parties*.	In line with current national rules, EP elections are held on Sunday*.
GERMANY	National law does not allow names and/or logos of European parties to be displayed on the voting ballots*.	National law allows political parties to indicate the affiliation to the European parties on their candidates' lists*.	No Reply.	No Reply.
GREECE	Current national law does not allow names and/or logos of European parties to be displayed on the ballots. However, a new provision will be enacted	The national authorities have informed the Greek Parliament and national parties about the recommendation to indicate their affiliation	The national authorities have informed the Greek Parliament and national parties about the recommendation to indicate the candidate	

	to allow national parties to specifically indicate their affiliations to European parties on the voting ballots.	with European parties.	they will support for President of the European Commission.	
HUNGARY	Current national law does not allow names and/or logos of European parties to be displayed on the voting ballots. It is up to the parties to share information on European affiliation during the campaign.			In line with current national rules, EP elections are held on Sunday.
IRELAND	National law allows for the names of European parties to be displayed on the voting ballots*.	No Reply.	No Reply.	No Reply.
ITALY	The national authorities called on national political parties to inform about their affiliation to European parties, by displaying this affiliation in their logos to be used on the voting ballots*.	The national authorities have informed political parties about the recommendation to indicate their affiliation with European parties*.	No Reply.	No Reply.
LATVIA	National law does not allow names and/or logos of European parties to be displayed on the voting ballots.			Latvia is cautious about the possibility of having a common voting day at European level, and accordingly has chosen Saturday as the day to run the election. This responds to a long-standing tradition in Latvia for elections days.
LITHUANIA	National law does not allow for the names or the logos of the European parties to be displayed on the voting ballots*.	Providing information about the affiliation with European parties is at the discretion of national parties*.	At the discretion of national parties*.	In line with current national rules, EP elections are held on Sunday*.
LUXEMBOURG	National law does not allow names and/or logos of European parties to be displayed on the voting ballots*.	The national authorities will inform national parties about the recommendation to indicate their affiliation with European parties.	The national authorities will inform national parties about the recommendation of the Commission.	

MALTA	National law does not allow names and/or logos of European parties to be displayed on the voting ballots. Issue being discussed with the main national parties.	The national authorities have informed political parties about the recommendation to indicate their affiliation with European parties.	The national authorities have informed political parties and encouraged them to indicate the candidate they will support for President of the European Commission.	Malta disagrees with coordinating a common day at European level, and accordingly has chosen Saturday as the day to run the elections. Saturday is considered to be a more suitable day.
NETHERLANDS	National law allows for the name (not the logo) of the European party to be displayed on the voting ballots. However, this at the discretion of national parties and only made available if the national party registers their European affiliation with their Dutch party name.	The national authorities have informed political parties about the recommendation to indicate their affiliation with European parties. Providing this information is at the discretion of national parties.	The national authorities have informed political parties about the recommendation to indicate the candidate they will support for President of the European Commission. Making their candidate known is at the discretion of national parties.	
POLAND				
PORTUGAL				
ROMANIA	National law does not allow names and/or logos of European parties to be displayed on the voting ballots. Measures are being taken to allow the information to be provided on the voting ballots*.	No Reply.	No Reply.	No Reply.
SLOVAKIA	National law does not allow names and/or logos of European parties to be displayed on the voting ballots. Slovakia disagrees with the recommendation, as it believes the disclosure of this information would discriminate against national parties who are not affiliated with European parties.			Slovakia disagrees with coordinating a common day at European level, and accordingly has chosen Saturday 24 May as the day to run the elections. Saturday is considered to be a more suitable day for voters.
SLOVENIA	Following a recent amendment to the national legislation, it is allowed to display names and logos of European Parties on the voting ballots (Slovenia notified the Commission of the legislation adopted for this purpose on 20			

	February 2014).			
SPAIN	National law allows for the logos of the European parties to be displayed on the voting ballots.	The national authorities will inform national parties about the recommendation of the Commission.	The national authorities will inform national parties about the recommendation of the Commission.	
SWEDEN	National law does not allow names and/or logos of European parties to be displayed on the voting ballots*.	No Reply.	No Reply.	No Reply.
UNITED KINGDOM	National law allows names and logos of European parties to be displayed on the voting ballots.	Providing this information is at the discretion of national parties.	Making their candidate known is at the discretion of national parties	The United Kingdom disagrees with coordinating a common day and accordingly has chosen Thursday to hold the elections. It considers that a single EU-wide date would not increase turnout.