



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 4 December 2015  
(OR. en)

14999/15

PE 187  
INST 436  
JUR 766  
FREMP 293

**"I" ITEM NOTE**

---

From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)  
Subject: Reform of the electoral law of the European Union  
– Approval of a letter

---

1. On 11 November 2015, the EP plenary adopted a resolution and proposed amendments to the Act concerning the election of the members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage (1976 European Electoral Act). The EP text was issued as document 14743/15.
2. Following informal contacts with the co-rapporteurs, Ms HÜBNER and Mr LEINEN, and discussions within the General Affairs Working Party, it is suggested to reply to the European Parliament in order to clarify the way the Council intends to proceed in relation to this file.
3. It is therefore suggested that the Permanent Representatives Committee approve the letter as set out in the Annex to this note, in accordance with the Council's rules of procedure (Article 19(7)(k)).

Dear Mr Schulz,

Thank you for your letter of 24 November 2015, transmitting to the Council the Parliament's text on the European Electoral Act, adopted by the plenary on 11 November 2015.

The Council and the European Parliament share the ambition to enhance citizens' interest in the European elections. However, initial informal contacts have made it clear that there may be differing views on how best to achieve this and that reaching agreement on a number of your suggestions will be challenging. As you are aware, the procedural constraints on this file, including in particular national ratification procedures, give the Council a very limited margin of manoeuvre.

As a way forward, the Presidency has decided to entrust this file to the relevant Council preparatory body for an initial examination. We intend to use your text as a basis for our internal discussions, which we expect will begin in January 2016.

We take note of your request to stay in close contact throughout discussions. We will keep you informed of progress within the Council once the results of such discussions are available.

I look forward to our fruitful cooperation on this file.

Yours sincerely,

Christian Braun

Chairman

of the Committee of Permanent Representatives