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European Union

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**NOTE**

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
No. prev. doc.:	11551/23
No. Cion doc.:	10567/23 +ADD 1-2
Subject:	Proposal for a EUROPEAN COUNCIL DECISION establishing the composition of the European Parliament - Presidency compromise proposal

Delegations will find in the Annex a Presidency compromise proposal for the draft European Council Decision establishing the composition of the European Parliament.

Changes to the EP proposal set out in document 10567/23 are marked as follows:

- Deletion by ~~striketrough~~; and
- Addition in **bold**.

Proposal for a

**EUROPEAN COUNCIL DECISION**

**establishing the composition of the European Parliament**

THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Article 14(2) thereof,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community, and in particular Article 106a(1) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal of the European Parliament<sup>1</sup>,

Having regard to the consent of the European Parliament<sup>2</sup>,

Whereas:

- (1) Article 14(2), first subparagraph, of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) lays down the criteria for the composition of the European Parliament, namely that representatives of the Union's citizens are not to exceed seven hundred and fifty in number, plus the President, that representation is to be degressively proportional, with a minimum threshold of six members per Member State, and that no Member State is to be allocated more than ninety-six seats.
- (2) Article 10 TEU provides, inter alia, that the functioning of the Union is to be founded on representative democracy, with citizens being directly represented at Union level in the European Parliament and Member States being represented by their governments, themselves being democratically accountable to their national Parliaments or citizens, in the Council.

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<sup>1</sup> Proposal adopted on ... (not yet published in the Official Journal).

<sup>2</sup> Consent of ... (not yet published in the Official Journal).

- (3) Article 14(2) TEU therefore applies within the context of the wider institutional arrangements set out in the Treaties, which also include the provisions on decision making in the Council.
- (4) **By end of 2026 and in advance of the proposal on the composition, the European Parliament should propose an objective, fair, durable and transparent seat distribution method implementing the principle of degressive proportionality, without prejudice to the institutions' prerogatives under the Treaties. Taking into account the impact of possible future developments, such a method should safeguard a sustainable maximum number of MEPs. ~~An appropriate number of representatives in the European Parliament to be elected in a Union-wide constituency should be laid down subject to the adoption of the legal basis for that constituency,~~**
- (5) **The budgetary authority and the Commission, in the exercise of their prerogatives under the annual budgetary procedure, should ensure that the increase of the number of seats foreseen by this Decision is budgetary neutral within Section 1 of the general budget of the Union.**

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

*Article 1*

In the application of Article 14(2) TEU, the following principles shall be respected:

- the total number of seats in the European Parliament shall not exceed 750 in number, plus the President,
- the allocation of seats to Member States shall be degressively proportional with a minimum threshold of 6 seats and a maximum threshold of 96 seats per Member State while reflecting as closely as possible the sizes of the respective populations of the Member States,

- degressive proportionality is defined as follows: the ratio between the population and the number of seats of each Member State before rounding up or down to the nearest whole number shall vary in relation to their respective populations in such a way that each Member of the European Parliament from a more populous Member State represents more citizens than each Member of the European Parliament from a less populous Member State and, conversely, that the larger the population of a Member State, the greater its entitlement to a large number of seats in the European Parliament;
- **the allocation of seats in the European Parliament is to reflect demographic developments in the Member States.**

### *Article 2*

The total population of the Member States is calculated by the Commission (Eurostat) on the basis of data provided by the Member States, in accordance with a method established by means of Regulation (EU) No 1260/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>3</sup>.

### *Article 3*

1. The number of representatives in the European Parliament elected in each Member State for the 2024-2029 parliamentary term is set as follows:

Belgium	<del>21</del> <b>22</b>
Bulgaria	17
Czech Republic	21
Denmark	15
Germany	96
Estonia	7
Ireland	14
Greece	21

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<sup>3</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1260/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 November 2013 on European demographic statistics (OJ L 330, 10.12.2013, p. 39).

Spain	61
France	<del>79</del> <b>81</b>
Croatia	12
Italy	76
Cyprus	6
Latvia	9
Lithuania	11
Luxembourg	6
Hungary	21
Malta	6
Netherlands	31
Austria	20
Poland	<del>52</del> <b>53</b>
Portugal	21
Romania	33
Slovenia	9
Slovakia	15
Finland	15
Sweden	21

~~2. — In addition to the number of Members of the European Parliament elected in each Member State as set out in paragraph 1, and subject to the entry into force of a Council Regulation on the election of the Members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage, repealing Council Decision 76/787/ECSC, EEC, Euratom and the Act concerning the election of the members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage annexed to that Decision, providing for the establishment of a Union-wide constituency, 28 representatives in the European Parliament are elected in a Union-wide constituency in the first elections following that event, as provided for in that Regulation.~~

#### *Article 4*

Sufficiently far in advance of the beginning of the 2029–2034 parliamentary term, **and if possible by the end of 2027**, the European Parliament shall submit to the European Council, in accordance with Article 14(2) TEU, a proposal for an updated allocation of seats in the European Parliament.

#### *Article 5*

This Decision shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Done at ...

*For the European Council*

*The President*

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