



European Council

Brussels, 22 September 2023

CM 9/23

CO EUR
INST
POL GEN
PROCED

COMMUNICATION

WRITTEN PROCEDURE

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Subject: EUROPEAN COUNCIL DECISION establishing the composition of the
European Parliament
- Adoption
- End of the written procedure initiated by CM 8/23

Please be informed that the written procedure initiated by CM 8/23 of 18 September 2023 was completed on 22 September 2023 at 12:15. All delegations agreed to the use of the written procedure and voted in favour of the adoption of the above Decision, as set out in EUCO 13/23. The required unanimity has been reached, therefore, the above Decision of the European Council is adopted.

The statement by Portugal is set out in the Annex to this CM.

Statement by Portugal on the composition of the European Parliament

Regarding the composition of the European Parliament for the 2024-2029 parliamentary term, Portugal considers that there are essentially three factors to be observed:

- No Member State should lose seats.*
- The criteria set out in Article 14(2) of the Treaty on European Union must be strictly complied with, in particular the minimum and maximum number of seats per Member State and the principle of degressive proportionality.*
- As many seats as possible should remain vacant, leaving them available for future enlargements.*

Therefore, and in application of these guidelines, Portugal believes that the increase in seats allocated to some Member States for the 2024-2029 parliamentary term should be strictly necessary to correct deviations from the principle of degressive proportionality, in the light of Eurostat's 2022 demographic data, leaving room for future enlargements.

Consequently, the European Parliament's initial proposal for a redistribution of eleven seats would be the most appropriate, ensuring full respect for Article 14(2) of the Treaty on European Union, while safeguarding the reservation of the maximum possible number of seats for future enlargements. Any further distribution of seats, going beyond what would be strictly necessary to comply with the principle of degressive proportionality, lacks objective justification – and can only be accepted in a spirit of compromise and given the urgency imposed by the internal legal deadlines of several Member States.

In these terms, it is in the use of great flexibility and goodwill in negotiations, with a view to finding a unanimous solution for the composition of the European Parliament in due time, that Portugal agrees to the Presidency's proposal.