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REPORT

on the draft Council decision fixing the period for the eighth election of representatives to the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage (07279/2013 – C7-0068/2013 – 2013/0802(CNS))

Committee on Constitutional Affairs

Rapporteur: Carlo Casini

(Simplified procedure – Rule 46(1) of the Rules of Procedure)

Symbols for procedures

- * Consultation procedure
- *** Consent procedure
- ***I Ordinary legislative procedure (first reading)
- ***II Ordinary legislative procedure (second reading)
- ***III Ordinary legislative procedure (third reading)

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the draft act.)

Amendments to a draft act

In amendments by Parliament, amendments to draft acts are highlighted in ***bold italics***. Highlighting in *normal italics* is an indication for the relevant departments showing parts of the draft act which may require correction when the final text is prepared – for instance, obvious errors or omissions in a language version. Suggested corrections of this kind are subject to the agreement of the departments concerned.

The heading for any amendment to an existing act that the draft act seeks to amend includes a third line identifying the existing act and a fourth line identifying the provision in that act that Parliament wishes to amend. Passages in an existing act that Parliament wishes to amend, but that the draft act has left unchanged, are highlighted in **bold**. Any deletions that Parliament wishes to make in such passages are indicated thus: [...].

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DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

**on the draft Council decision fixing the period for the eighth election of representatives to the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage
(07279/2013 – C7-0068/2013 – 2013/0802(CNS))**

(Consultation)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Council draft (07279/2013),
 - having regard to Article 11(2), second subparagraph, of the Act concerning the election of the members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage¹ (hereinafter referred to as the ‘Electoral Act’), pursuant to which the Council consulted Parliament (C7-0068/2013),
 - having regard to its resolution of 22 November 2012 on the elections to the European Parliament in 2014²,
 - having regard to Rules 55 and 46(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (A7-0138/2013),
1. Approves the Council draft;
 2. Calls on the Council to notify Parliament if it intends to depart from the text approved by Parliament;
 3. Asks the Council to consult Parliament again if it intends to substantially amend the text approved by Parliament;
 4. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, and, for information, to the governments and parliaments of the Member States and of the Republic of Croatia.

¹ Annexed to Council Decision 76/787/ECSC, EEC, of 20 September 1976 (OJ L 278, 8.10.1976, p. 1), as amended by Council Decision 93/81/ECSC, EEC, Euratom (OJ L 33, 9.2.1993, p. 15), and Council Decision 2002/772/EC, Euratom (OJ L 283, 21.10.2002, p. 1).

² Texts adopted, P7_TA(2012)0462.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This report was drawn up in response to a request for consultation from the Council on a draft decision seeking to modify the period during which the forthcoming European elections would ordinarily have been held. Under Article 11(2) of the Act concerning the election of the members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage (the ‘Electoral Act’), this period would have been Thursday 5 to Sunday 8 June 2014, by analogy with the dates on which the first elections by direct universal suffrage were held (Thursday 9 to Sunday 12 June 1979).

In paragraph 5 of its resolution of 22 November 2012¹, the European Parliament asked the Council to ‘*consult Parliament on holding the elections on either 15-18 May or 22-25 May 2014*’.

This request echoed a wish that had already been expressed on several occasions in the past, including in a report on a proposal to amend the Electoral Act adopted by the Committee on Constitutional Affairs on 1 February 2012².

Given that, in most Member States, the dates on which the elections would ordinarily have been held would have coincided with the Whitsun bank holiday weekend, the Council took the view that it would be preferable to bring them forward, and proposed that the electoral period should run between Thursday 22 and Sunday 25 May 2014.

The decision on these new dates needs to be taken as soon as possible in order to give the Member States time to organise the elections.

This situation warrants the use of the simplified procedure provided for in Rule 46(1) of the Rules of Procedure, especially given the fact that the Council’s proposal echoes the request made by Parliament in the aforementioned resolution.

The rapporteur therefore recommends that the Committee on Constitutional Affairs approve the Council’s draft decision as it stands.

¹ P7_TA-PROV(2012)0462

² A7-0027/2012

PROCEDURE

Title	Period for the eighth election of representatives to the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage
References	07279/2013 – C7-0068/2013 – 2013/0802(CNS)
Date of consulting Parliament	15.3.2013
Committee responsible Date announced in plenary	AFCO 15.4.2013
Rapporteur(s) Date appointed	Carlo Casini 19.3.2013
Simplified procedure - date of decision	19.3.2013
Discussed in committee	15.4.2013
Date adopted	15.4.2013
Date tabled	17.4.2013