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*Committee on Constitutional Affairs*

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## **DRAFT REPORT**

on improving the organisation of the elections to the European Parliament in  
2014  
(0000/2013(INI))

Committee on Constitutional Affairs

Rapporteur: Andrew Duff

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## MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION

### on improving the organisation of the elections to the European Parliament in 2014 (0000/2013(INI))

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Articles 10 and 17(7) of the Treaty on European Union,
  - having regard to Article 22(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
  - having regard to Articles 11 and 39 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights,
  - having regard to Article 10(2) of the Act concerning the election of the members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage annexed to the Council decision of 20 September 1976, as amended<sup>1</sup>,
  - having regard to Directive 2013/1/EU amending Directive 93/109/EC,
  - having regard to the Commission Communication to the European Parliament and the Council of 12 March 2013 entitled ‘Preparing for the 2014 European elections: further enhancing their democratic and efficient conduct’ (COM(2013)0126),
  - having regard to the Commission Recommendation of 12 March 2013 on enhancing the democratic and efficient conduct of the elections to the European Parliament, addressed to the Member States and the European and national political parties (C(2013)1303),
  - having regard to its resolution of 22 November 2012 on the elections to the European Parliament in 2014<sup>2</sup>,
  - having regard to its resolution of 13 March 2013 on the composition of the Parliament with regard to the elections in 2014<sup>3</sup>,
  - having regard to Rule 48 of its Rules of Procedure,
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (A7-0000/2013),
- A. whereas it has been agreed that the polling days of the election are to be brought forward to 22-25 May 2014;
- B. whereas citizens are directly represented at Union level in the European Parliament;
- C. whereas every citizen has the right to participate in the democratic life of the Union;
- D. whereas political parties at European level contribute to forming European political

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<sup>1</sup> Council Decision 76/787/ECSC, EEC, Euratom (OJ L 278, 8.10.1976, p. 1) as amended by Council Decision 93/81/Euratom, ECSC, EEC (OJ L 33, 9.2.1993, p. 15) and by Council Decision 2002/772/EC, Euratom (OJ L 283, 21.10.2002, p. 1).

<sup>2</sup> Texts adopted, P7\_TA(2012)0462.

<sup>3</sup> Texts adopted, P7\_TA(2013)0082.

awareness and to expressing the will of the citizens of the Union;

- E. whereas the major European political parties appear ready to nominate their own candidates for the Presidency of the Commission, in the expectation that those candidates will play a leading role in the parliamentary electoral campaign, in particular by personally presenting their political programme;
  - F. whereas internal party democracy and high standards of openness and integrity on behalf of political parties are an essential basis for increasing public trust in the political system;
  - G. whereas the resolution of the current crisis of governance in the EU requires a fuller democratic legitimization of the integration process;
  - H. whereas citizens have the right to stand and vote in the European Parliamentary elections when residing in a Member State other than their own;
  - I. whereas turnout at the election is likely to be enhanced by a lively political campaign in which political parties and their candidates compete for votes and seats on the basis of alternative programmes which address the European dimension of politics,;
  - J. whereas repeated opinion polls suggest that a large majority would be inclined to vote if they were better informed about the European Parliament, the political parties, their programmes and candidates;
  - K. whereas the President of the European Commission is elected by Parliament on the proposal of the European Council, which must take into account the results of the elections and must have consulted the new Parliament before making its nomination(s);
1. Calls on the Member States and the political parties to ensure that the names of the candidates selected to stand for election to the European Parliament are made public at least six weeks before the start of polling, that is to say at the start of April 2014;
  2. Urges Member States to see that the names and emblems of the European political parties appear on the ballot paper alongside their respective lists of candidates;
  3. Requests the European political parties to nominate their candidates for the Commission presidency sufficiently well in advance of the election for them to be able to mount a significant campaign;
  4. Encourages the Member States to permit political broadcasts by the European political parties;
  5. Insists that the Member States take all steps needed to give effective implementation to the measures agreed on to assist citizens who wish to vote or stand as a candidate in states other than their own;
  6. Insists that no result be published in any Member State until 20h00 CET on Sunday 25 May 2014;
  7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the European Council, the Council, the Commission and the parliaments of the Member States, and to the European political

parties.