

**Question for written answer E-001757/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Jørn Dohrmann (ECR)

Subject: Electoral procedures for the next European Parliament elections

In 2015 the Commission expressed great concern about the Swedish electoral procedure for European Parliament elections and stressed to Sweden that Members of the European Parliament must be elected by direct suffrage in a free and secret ballot. This was prompted by Sweden's electoral procedure, under which voters can take ballot papers at polling stations from the party they intend voting for. Although, for example, voters may take ballot papers from all parties or take a blank ballot paper that they fill in themselves, a Danish professor, Jørgen Elklit, among others, considers that such a procedure would never be endorsed by election observers in a country conducting its first democratic poll. In 2015 the Commission also stated at the time that ensuring secrecy of the ballot was the responsibility of the authorities and not of voters.

Can the Commission say whether Sweden has amended the electoral procedure for European Parliament elections?

If Sweden has not amended the procedure, will the Commission approach the authorities there in order to have that done?

Does the Commission consider that the electoral procedure can have an influence on voters' general behaviour or in relation to any parties that may be less well regarded?