

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0694/09
by Zdzisław Zbigniew Podkański (UEN)
to the Council

Subject: Democratic deficit in the European Union

The way in which the most important decisions are taken in the European Union, such as the amendment of basic legislation, is undemocratic and non-uniform. In order to amend the Treaties, there must be unanimous agreement among all the Member States. Furthermore, the most widely used method of adopting important legal acts is parliamentary ratification rather than referendums.

The referendum is the most democratic way for the sovereign people to exercise power and control. The most effective and swiftest way of involving all citizens in the decision-making process would be to hold referendums simultaneously in all the Member States.

Given that the European Union recognises the right to freedom and the democratic principles of governance, it should not overlook the value of this instrument.

Will the Council consider the use of referendums as the standard method of adopting the most important legal acts of vital importance to the Community's future?