
MEPs propose lead candidate system rules ahead of European elections

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- Parliament asks for a binding deal with the Council on how to elect the Commission President
 - Safeguarding the right to vote: measures for mobile citizens, people with disabilities
 - Proposals to further increase turnout across the member states
 - Call for progress on latest electoral law reform and new rules for European parties
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Parliament has proposed ways to maximise the impact of people's choice and voter turnout © European Union 2019 - Source: EP

On Tuesday, Parliament adopted its proposals to strengthen the democratic dimension of the 2024 elections, and for the lead candidate system.

The day after the elections

MEPs demand a clear and credible link between the choice made by voters and the election of the Commission President. The process should depend on securing a majority in Parliament in line with the Lisbon Treaty, they say, and that backroom deals at the European Council should stop. MEPs want a binding agreement between Parliament and the European Council to ensure that European political parties and parliamentary groups begin negotiations on a common candidate immediately after the elections and before the European Council makes a proposal.

The lead candidate of the party with the most seats in Parliament should lead the process in the first round of negotiations, with Parliament's President steering the process if needed. MEPs also expect that a 'legislature agreement' should be made between the political parties and groups, as a way of securing a majority in Parliament, as a basis for the Commission's work programme, and as a guarantee, to European voters, of a coherent follow-up to the elections.

Increasing participation and safeguarding the right to vote

Parliament is also urging the Council to swiftly adopt the new European [electoral law](#) and new [rules for European political parties and foundations](#), so that at least the latter are applicable for

the 2024 campaign. National and European political parties should carry out their campaigns in line with EU values and with enhanced visibility for the European dimension of the election.

To ensure all EU citizens can exercise their right to vote, member states should introduce measures for easier access to information and voting centres for people with disabilities. MEPs also want to encourage the engagement of European citizens from specific categories, such as those living in another EU member state or a third country, and the homeless. Other recommendations seek to shield the elections from foreign and internal interference via more robust safeguards and measures against disinformation. MEPs welcome the [deal reached by the co-legislators](#) on rules on the transparency and on targeting of political advertising, and acknowledge the important role that Parliament's institutional information campaign has, in liaison with civil society organisations, in contributing to the debate on European policy issues and complementing the parties' campaigns.

Quotes

Co-rapporteur [Sven Simon](#) (EPP, DE) commented: "Voters need clarity on how their vote will affect the choice of the people and policies of the EU. Unlike in 2019, we must not make promises we cannot keep. The lead candidate process needs to become credible again. Whoever is elected President of the newly formed Commission requires a clear mandate from the voters and a majority in Parliament."

Co-rapporteur [Domènec Ruiz Devesa](#) (S&D, ES) said: "We have paved the way for recommendations to the European political parties to strengthen the European dimension of electoral campaigns ahead of the 2024 elections. We need to make the European political parties' logos and their public messages more visible. We would also like to see concrete post-electoral procedures to increase the visibility of the role played by the European political parties in electing the Commission President and strengthen the electoral rights of all European citizens."

In adopting this report, Parliament is responding to citizens' expectations expressed in the proposals of the [Conference on the Future of Europe](#) - namely, proposals 38(3), 38(4), 27(3), and 37(4) on enhancing the link between citizens and their elected representatives, , and tackling disinformation and foreign interference.

Weitere Informationen

[The adopted text will be available here \(12/12/2023\)](#)

[Recording of the plenary debate \(11/12/2023\)](#)

[Press conference with the co-rapporteurs after the vote \(12/12/2023\)](#)

[Draft report on the European Elections 2024](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Profile of the co-rapporteur Sven Simon \(EPP, DE\)](#)

[Profile of the co -rapporteur Domènec Ruiz Devesa \(S&D, ES\)](#)

[Committee on Constitutional Affairs](#)

[Press release after the committee vote \(25.10.2023\)](#)

[EP Research Service Study - “Spitzenkandidaten or the lead candidate process: Ways to Europeanise elections to the European Parliament” \(09.06.2023\)](#)


Report: Conference on the Future of Europe


Free photos, video and audio material (European elections 2024)


Contacts

Kyriakos KLOSIDIS

Press Officer

 (+32) 2 28 32357 (BXL)

 (+33) 3 881 74651 (STR)

 (+32) 470 96 47 35

 kyriakos.klosidis@europarl.europa.eu

 constit-press@europarl.europa.eu

 [@EPInstitutional](https://twitter.com/EPInstitutional)
