

Electoral Law - consideration of amendments (AM)

Rapporteur Ruiz Devesa considered that the work was well oriented for negotiating compromises. He believed that there could be the sufficient majority in AFCO, and hopefully in plenary, for a paneuropean constituency. There were not many disruptive AM against this idea as a whole, only from some MEP in minority in their groups. On the number of seats elected by transnational lists and under which system, some AM proposed to change them from 46 to 27 (i.e. one per MS) and within the 705. The rapporteur's preference, irrespective of the final number, was that they were additional seats to the actual 705 and not within as some MEPs proposed; and elected in a proportional system, a strong principle in the Electoral Act, rather than in a majority system. And no MS should be disadvantaged as a bottom line. Regarding the idea of allowing other entities than political parties (e.g. movements, coalitions etc.) to compete for the joint constituency, the EPP had suggested to delete it. Some AM touched upon electoral coalitions, in connection with the Regulation on European Political Parties, and should not be problematic in terms of finding an agreement. On the creation or not of a European Electoral Authority, the rapporteur sustained it was necessary but powers and design could be discussed., Other AM dealt with gender parity in the lists, minimum voting age at 16, a single voting day, voting rights for people with disabilities and other general questions not touching upon the EU wide constituency. For the AM calling for minimum thresholds, he recalled that it had been a problem during the last exercise. Generally, the proposal was a good opportunity to have a strong message from the EP to fully Europeanise elections for 2024.

Shadows informed the committee about the AM tabled and the different positions across the groups. They all agreed on the need for a strong EP position, with the largest majority possible in plenary. There was general consensus among the speakers on not penalizing the smaller MS, and on the lead candidate system. Many were concerned on the tight deadline for studying and voting in committee that large number of AM. In particular, there were significant divergences on the number of seats elected by transnational list and modalities of voting.

The amendments will be uploaded here.

Next steps: 9 December – vote in AFCO. January or February – plenary vote.