



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 19 July 2023  
(OR. en)

11872/23

LIMITE

INST 276  
POLGEN 103  
CO EUR-PREP 25

---

---

Interinstitutional File:  
2023/0900(NLE)

---

---

**NOTE**

---

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee
No. prev. doc.:	10567/23 + ADD 1-2, 11551/23 + COR 1
Subject:	Proposal for a EUROPEAN COUNCIL DECISION establishing the composition of the European Parliament - Agreement in principle

---

1. According to Article 14(2) TEU:

*"The European Parliament shall be composed of representatives of the Union's citizens. They shall not exceed seven hundred and fifty in number, plus the President. Representation of citizens shall be degressively proportional, with a minimum threshold of six members per Member State. No Member State shall be allocated more than ninety-six seats.*

*The European Council shall adopt by unanimity, on the initiative of the European Parliament and with its consent, a decision establishing the composition of the European Parliament, respecting the principles referred to in the first subparagraph."*

2. At its sitting of 15 June 2023, the European Parliament adopted on the basis of Article 14(2) TEU a proposal for a decision of the European Council establishing the composition of the European Parliament (EP)<sup>1</sup>.
3. In light of the exchanges held on the proposal, the Presidency put forward a compromise text (11103/23) that was discussed at the meeting of the Permanent Representatives Committee on 14 July. A vast majority of delegations could support this text in a spirit of compromise. Some delegations, however, still expressed difficulties to support the overall compromise or specific elements of it.
4. Further to that discussion and subsequent consultations, the Presidency has put forward an adjusted text (12011/23) built on the following elements:
  - a) a revised new recital (4) on a seat distribution method, clarifying that it would be informative and would need to preserve the European Council's political margin of discretion over the final seat distribution, as provided for in Article 14(2) TEU;
  - b) a new recital (5) to indicate that the increase of the number of seats foreseen by this Decision should be budgetary neutral within Section 1 of the general budget of the Union;
  - c) to implement the criteria set out in Article 14(2), the addition of a fourth indent in Article 1 based upon the definition of the principle of degressive proportionality set out in Article 1 of the 2018 European Council Decision on establishing the composition of the EP<sup>2</sup>;

---

<sup>1</sup> 10567/23 + ADD1 + ADD2.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 165I, 2.7.2018, p. 1–3

- d) a distribution of seats (Article 3(1)) based on the EP proposal, with minimal adjustments to reflect more closely demographic changes and the comparative population weights of the Member States: two more seats for France, one more seat for Belgium and one more seat for Poland; and
- e) a clearer indication of timing for the EP to submit the proposal on its composition for the following term 2029-2034 (i.e. by the end of 2027 if possible).
5. Several delegations have underlined, in the course of discussions, that the adoption of the European Council's decision establishing the composition of the European Parliament for the 2024-2029 parliamentary terms is urgent, given their internal procedures for the preparation of the elections to the European Parliament which are to take place in June 2024.
6. Under Article 7 of the Rules of Procedure of the European Council, decisions of the European Council on an urgent matter may be adopted by a written vote at the initiative of the President of the European Council. Written votes may be used where all members of the European Council having the right to vote agree to that procedure.
7. The Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to:
- reach an agreement in principle on the text of the draft European Council decision, as it appears in document 12011/23, subject to legal-linguistic revision;
  - invite the Chair of COREPER to inform the President of the European Council of this agreement in principle and transmit to him the text of the draft European Council decision, as revised by the legal-linguistic experts (which will be contained in document EUCO 13/23).
-