

European Parliament Elections Bill

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TO

Make provision for an open list system for elections to the European Parliament.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Voting system in Great Britain and Gibraltar

- (1) The system of election of members of the European Parliament in an electoral region other than Northern Ireland is to be an open regional list system.
- (2) The Secretary of State must by regulations—
 - (a) make provision for the nomination of registered parties in relation to an election in such a region, and 5
 - (b) require a nomination under paragraph (a) to be accompanied by a list of candidates numbering no more than the MEPs to be elected for the region.
- (3) The system of the region must comply with the conditions set out in subsections (4) to (8). 10
- (4) A vote may be cast for an individual candidate of a registered party named on the ballot paper or for an individual candidate named on the ballot paper who is not on a registered party list.
- (5) The first seat is to be allocated to the individual candidate with the greatest number of votes from the party with the greatest number of votes, unless there is an individual candidate not on a party list who receives a higher number of votes in which event the seat is to be allocated to that candidate. 15
- (6) The second and subsequent seats are to be allocated in the same way except that the number of votes given to a party to which one or more seats have already been allocated are to be divided by the number of seats allocated plus one. 20
- (7) In allocating the second or any subsequent seat there are to be disregarded any votes given to—

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- (a) a party to which there has already been allocated a number of seats equal to the number of names on the parties list of candidates, and
- (b) an individual candidate to whom a seat has already been allocated.
- (8) Seats allocated to a party are to be filled by the persons named on the party's list of candidates on the basis of the number of votes cast for each individual candidate on that list, so that the first seat shall be allocated to the person with the highest number of votes on the list to whom a seat has not already been allocated. 5
- (9) In this section, "registered party" means a party registered under Part 2 of the Political Parties Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (c.41). 10

2 Repeals

- (1) Section 2 of the Parliamentary Elections Act 2002 is hereby repealed.

3 Short title and commencement

- (1) This Act may be cited as the European Parliament Elections Act 2016.
- (2) This Act comes into force at the end of the period of three months beginning with the day on which it is passed. 15

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To make provision for an open list system for elections to the European Parliament.

*Presented by Mr Christopher Chope,
supported by Mr Peter Bone,
Philip Davies,
Sir Edward Leigh,
Mr David Nuttall and
Mr Philip Hollobone.*

*Ordered, by The House of Commons,
to be Printed, 6 July 2015.*

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