



Statement of the Grand Committee - extract from the minutes 11 March 2016

**5 §** Government report on the European Parliament's resolution on the EU election statute

*Government report U 4/2016*

*Report of the Constitution Committee PeVL 7/2016*

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The Grand Committee adopted the following Position of Parliament:

Concurring with the report of the Constitution Committee, the Grand Committee agrees with the Government's view that the objectives of the proposal – enhancing the legitimacy of EU decisions, broadening participation rights, making the election process more efficient and increasing voter turnout – deserve support. Like the Constitution Committee, the Grand Committee is not convinced that all of the proposals will lead to the objective.

In particular, the Grand Committee believes that the effect of the practice of nominating so-called *Spitzenkandidaten* on the EU's democratic legitimacy warrants further study. On the basis of current information, the practice may equally well be deemed to increase as to lessen democratic legitimacy.

The Grand Committee observes that the proposal's article 14, on implementing measures related to the election statute, is incompatible with the treaty. Art. 291, paras 1 and 2 make it clear that the European Parliament has no role in implementing measures. To make an exception for the election statute is neither possible nor justified.

The Grand Committee agrees with the Government that it is essential to amend the articles mentioned in the Government's report. In concurrence with the Constitution Committee, the Grand Committee considers that the election statute should refrain from regulating in detail issues that are unrelated to the statute's objective; recommendations should be considered instead of legal norms.

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The Position of Parliament was adopted by 19 votes to 4, 1 abstention. The minority would have deleted the second paragraph on *Spitzenkandidaten*.

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In fidem,

Peter Saramo  
Clerk