

PROPOSAL FOR A RESOLUTION [1.3] OF THE UEF FEDERAL COMMITTEE ON CONFIRMING AND STRENGTHENING THE “SPITZENKANDIDAT” PROCESS

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- 1 The UEF Federal Committee, meeting in Berlin on 22 April 2018,
- 2 Considering
- 3 • the need to still increase the European Parliament’s role within the EU institutional order to
4 assert its democratic authority, and provide the European citizens a greater democratic
5 control over the decision-making process;
- 6 • the first breakthrough during the European elections of 2014 of a long expected process by
7 which, before the parliamentary electoral campaign, each political party chooses a
8 candidate to lead the campaign (lead candidate, or *Spitzenkandidat*, a German term now
9 widely used as the term of art), so that, after the election, the European Council shall
10 nominate the lead candidate of the first past the post party, or alternatively of the party
11 that commands the largest coalition, as the President of the new European Commission;
- 12 • that on the basis of a contradictory interpretation of Art. 17(7) TEU “*Taking into account*
13 *the elections to the European Parliament and after having held the appropriate*
14 *consultations, the European Council, acting by a qualified majority, shall propose to the*
15 *European Parliament a candidate for President of the Commission. This candidate shall be*
16 *elected by the European Parliament by a majority of its component members...*”, that first
17 breakthrough is now more bitterly than before challenged by the European Council
18 members in order to keep the balance of powers in favour of the member States and their
19 governments instead of the European Parliament;
- 20 • that the move initiated in 2014 would be even more consistent if those lead candidates were
21 actually candidates in the European Parliament’s election as list leaders of a pan-European
22 joint electoral constituency, or at least jointly of all those lists presented in Member States
23 by political parties affiliated to the same European political party, before being possibly
24 candidates to the Commission’s presidency;
- 25 • additionally that, in order to provide a more clear-cut political image of the Commission,
26 thereby triggering and encouraging a strong public political debate both during the
27 elections, and during the legislature, on the basis of Art. 17(7) TEU “*The Council, by*
28 *common accord with the President-elect, shall adopt the list of the other persons whom it*
29 *proposes for appointment as members of the Commission...*”, and in an attempt to
30 overcome the current political fuzziness resulting from the current process of choice of the
31 other members of the Commission (“*They shall be selected, on the basis of the suggestions*
32 *made by Member States, in accordance with the criteria set out in paragraph 3, second*
33 *subparagraph – The members of the Commission shall be chosen on the ground of their*
34 *general competence and European commitment from persons whose independence is*
35 *beyond doubt. –, and paragraph 5, second subparagraph – reflecting the demographic and*
36 *geographical range of all the Member States –”), they should be proposed to the European
37 Council by the Commission’s President-elect according to his and their political persuasion;*
- 38 Urges the European Parliament to confirm and extend the above described “*Spitzenkandidat*”
39 process in the coming European elections, to oppose any manoeuvre by the Member States to
40 keep it under guardianship, so refusing the expression of the European citizens in the pace of
41 business;

- 42 Asks all political parties in Member States to include their respective European political party
43 logo in the European campaign and ballots, as well as to advertise in their electoral propaganda
44 and merchandising (leaflets, billboards, online media, etc.) their respective top candidate
45 (*Spitzenkandidat*);
- 46 Asks the European political parties to make their top candidate for the Presidency of the
47 European Commission an actual candidate as list leader to the European Parliament;
- 48 Suggests that the Commission's President-elect plays an active role in the choice of the
49 members of the Commission, so as to give it a political consistency, and facilitate the public
50 political debate with regard to European policies;
- 51 Commends the Party of the European Socialists, the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for
52 Europe Party, and the Greens, those parties and MEPs that have expressed their support to the
53 transnational lists for the European Parliament and asks them to reinstate their support for a
54 pan-European joint electoral constituency.

AMENDMENTS TO PROPOSAL FOR A RESOLUTION 1.3.

No amendments were tabled for this resolution.