

RESOLUTION OF THE UEF FEDERAL COMMITTEE ON TRANSNATIONAL LISTS FOR THE 2024 EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

Adopted by the UEF Federal Committee, 23-24th November, Rome

The Federal Committee of the Union of European Federalists,

- Recalling that the establishment of a Europe-wide constituency is a core and long standing UEF policy objective; and referring to the resolution on a “Europe-wide constituency for the 2019 European Parliament elections” adopted by the UEF Federal Committee on 22nd October 2017 in Paris;
- Recalling that Art. 223 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU stipulates the right of the European Parliament to draw up a proposal to lay down the provisions necessary for the election of its members by direct universal suffrage with a uniform procedure in all Member States.
- Taking into account the need to foster the development of a genuine European political space with transnational election campaigns;
- Considering that transnational lists headed by Spitzenkandidaten of the transnational political parties would further enhance European democracy by strengthening the link between the elections to the European Parliament and the election of the President of the European Commission;
- Considering the resolution of the European Parliament of 11th November 2015 on the reform of the electoral law of the European Union, in which it states that the Council decides by unanimity on a joint constituency in which lists are headed by each political parties candidate for the post of President of the Commission;
- Recalling that, within the current legal framework, a Spitzenkandidat needs to find a majority both in the European Parliament and the European Council to become President of the Commission;
- Referring to the promise of Ursula von der Leyen, the then candidate for President of the European Commission, in her opening statement in the European Parliament Plenary Session 16th July 2019 to work together to improve the Spitzenkandidaten system in order to make it more visible to the electorate and her reference to the need to address the issue of transnational lists at the European elections as a complementary tool of European democracy;
- Having in mind that those kind of reforms would support the constituency of real European Parties opened to citizen activists and “a new push for a European democracy”, as requested by political guidelines of the new European Commission;
- Having in mind that according to article 14.2 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) members of the European Parliament are **representatives of EU citizens and neither of individual member States, nor of their constituencies**, and that European citizens under article 10.2 TEU are directly represented in the European Parliament;
- Noting that such a proposal does not require Treaty change but unanimous Council decision:
 1. Calls on the European Parliament to act on the request of Art. 223 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU to develop a proposal of a European electoral law; this should be done prior to mid-2021 in order to allow the 2024 elections to the European Parliament to be held according to these new rules.

2. Demands that the Spitzenkandidaten system be reformed, before the 2024 European elections, so that a Spitzenkandidat needs only a majority in the European Parliament to be elected President of the Commission.
3. Calls on the European Institutions to reform Regulation 1141/2014 to enable citizens to found European parties directly and register at European level in line with the requirements of Art 10 Para 4 of the Treaty and Art. 12 Para 2 of the Charter on fundamental rights,
4. Requests the introduction of a Europe-wide constituency as soon as the 2024 European elections with transnational lists led by Spitzenkandidaten to the presidency of the European Commission, nominated by transnational political parties;
5. Proposes that a significant part of the members of the European Parliament should be elected on transnational lists, open to increase that percentage in future European elections;
6. Points out that EP members elected on national lists and transnational lists have the same rights and status;
7. Urges that the visibility of European political parties has to be enhanced by placing their names and logos on the ballot papers and be displayed as well as in television and radio campaign broadcasts, posters and other material used in European election campaigns, especially the manifestos of those acquainted national parties;
8. Proposes that each list must consist of candidates from at least one-third of the member states, that the share of citizens from one member state does not exceed 25%, that the first seven candidates on the list be citizens from different member states and that lists shall alternate between candidates of different member states, as well as alternate between candidates of different gender;
9. Encourages member states to facilitate the participation of European political parties, as well as their Spitzenkandidaten, in electoral campaigns, particularly on television and in other media.

Rome, 23rd-24th November 2019