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ANNEX IV

European Parliament: Current Electoral Practice

	Degressive proportionality	Constituencies	Preferential voting	Distribution of seats	Threshold	Franchise	Candidature	Nomination of candidates	Polling days
AUSTRIA	19 MEPs Yes	Single national constituency	Yes	D'Hondt	4%	Age: 16 - Registered EU citizens	Age: 18 - Registered EU citizens	Fee of € 3600 per list; candidate must be supported by 3 MPs, one MEP or 2600 registered voters	Sunday
BELGIUM	22 MEPs Yes	Three linguistic electoral colleges (Dutch, French, German); and four regional constituencies: 1. Flanders (Dutch electoral college), 2. Wallonia (French electoral college), 3. Brussels-Hal-Vilvorde (BHV) (either Dutch or French electoral college), 4. 2 cantons (German electoral college)	Yes	D'Hondt	No	Age: 18 - Registered EU citizens - BE nationals resident in other member states (BE nationals residing outside the EU cannot vote in EP elections); - voting compulsory: failure to vote carries a penalty	Age: 21 - Registered EU citizens - Must speak the relevant language of electoral college	Endorsement of candidates: - by 5 BE MPs belonging to relevant linguistic group; - by 5000 registered voters in Wallonia, Flanders & BHV; - by 200 voters registered in the German speaking constituency	Sunday

BULGARIA	18 MEPs Yes	Single national constituency	Yes	Hare-Niemeyer	No	Age: 18 - EU citizens resident for 3 months or in another member state	Age: 21 - EU citizens resident for 2 years or in another EU member state -	- Individuals need 10,000 signatures and pay 10,000 leva (€ 5100); - Political parties need 15,000 signatures and pay 15,000 leva (€ 7700); - Coalitions need 20,000 signatures and pay 20,000 leva (€ 10250)	Sunday
CYPRUS	6 MEPs Yes	Single national constituency	No	D'Hondt / Droop	No	Age: 18 - CY and EU citizens resident 6 months before the elections; - Special electoral roll; - Voting is compulsory (but no penalty)	Age: 25 - EU citizens resident for ? years	?	Sunday
CZECH REPUBLIC	22 MEPs Yes	Single national constituency	Yes: each voter has 2 votes. To be elected need 5% of votes delivered for his/her political party	D'Hondt	5%	Age: 18 - EU citizens resident for 45 days;	Age: 21 - EU citizens resident for 45 days;	- Only political parties or coalitions may nominate candidates; - Fee of 15.000 crowns (€ 585)	Friday & Saturday

DENMARK	13 MEPs Yes	Single national constituency	No	D'Hondt	No	Age: 18 - DK citizens with permanent residency in EU; - EU citizens resident for ? years	Age: 18 - Any person with right to vote in EP elections;	- Parties represented in the <i>Folketing</i> may submit lists of candidates; - Other parties must have got 2% of votes in the previous EP ?? election;	Sunday
ESTONIA	6 MEPs Yes	Single national constituency	No	D'Hondt		Age: 18 - EU citizens resident for ? years	Age: 21 - EU citizens resident for ? years	- Registered political parties submit lists; - A deposit of 5 times the minimum monthly wage	Sunday
FINLAND	13 MEPs Yes	Single national constituency	Yes	D'Hondt	No	Age: 18 - EU citizens resident for ? years	Age: 18 - EU citizens resident for ? years	- Political parties or voters' association (formed of at least 2000 persons) nominate candidates	Sunday
FRANCE	74 MEPs Yes	Eight regional constituencies	No	D'Hondt	5%	Age: 18 - Registered EU citizens	Age: 23 - Registered EU citizens	- Gender equality	Sunday

GERMANY	96 MEPs Yes	Single national constituency - but members elected from either Land or Federal lists	No	Hare-Niemeyer	5%	Age: 18 - Registered EU citizens	Age: 18 - Registered EU citizens	- Lists submitted by political parties established in EU; - For Federal list: parties with less than 5 representatives in EP, Bundestag or Land parliaments need 4000 signatures; For Land list: 2000 signatures needed	Sunday
GREECE	22 MEPs Yes	Single national constituency	No	?	3%	Age: 18 - EU citizens resident for ? years	Age: 21 - EU citizens resident for ? years	- Lists submitted by political parties or coalitions; - € ? deposit required (reimbursed with 3% of vote)	Sunday
HUNGARY	22 MEPs Yes	Single national constituency	No	D'Hondt	5%	Age: 18 - Registered EU citizens	Age: 18 - All voters have right to stand for election as candidates on party lists	- Lists submitted by registered party <i>and it has to collect at least 20.000 endorsements</i> (a voter can only endorse one list)	Sunday
IRELAND	12 MEPs Yes	Four regional constituencies	Yes	Single Transferable Vote (STV)	No	Age: 18 - Any EU citizen resident for ? years	Age: 21 - Any EU citizen resident for ? years	- Lists submitted by registered political parties; - Independent candidates need 60 signatures of persons on the electoral register and from the same constituency	Friday
ITALY	73 MEPs No	Five regional constituencies	Yes - and votes can be transferred from one constituency	Hare	No	Age: 18 - Registered EU citizens; - IT citizens residing anywhere in world if	Age: 25 - Registered EU citizens	- Individual nominations need 30,000 signatures, 10% of which must come from each sub-region of the constituency;	Saturday / Sunday

			to another			they return to vote in IT; IT citizens in other EU states may vote at Italian consulates or by post; - Voting not compulsory but a 'civic duty'		- Political parties and groups with at least one seat in EP or in IT parliament can submit lists without signatures	
LATVIA	9 MEPs Yes	Single national constituency	No	Sainte-Laguë	No	Age: 18 - EU citizens resident for ? years;	Age: 21 - EU citizens resident for ? years	- Lists submitted by registered political parties; - Deposit of LVL 1,000 (€ 1450)	Saturday
LITHUANIA	12 MEPs Yes	Single national constituency	Yes	?	5%	Age: 18 - EU citizens resident for ? years	Age: 21 - EU citizens resident for ? years	- Only political parties can nominate candidates; - Deposit of 20 times the average monthly wage (?)	Sunday
LUXEMBOURG	6 MEPs Yes	Single national constituency	Yes - electors have 6 votes	D'Hondt / Hagenbach-Bischoff	No	Age: 18 - EU citizens resident for 5 years; - Voting is compulsory	Age: 18 - EU citizens resident for 5 years	- Lists need 250 signatories of registered voters or of one MEP or ? members of the Chamber of Deputies; ? - Lists must be composed of a majority of LUX nationals	Sunday
MALTA	6 MEPs Yes	Single national constituency	Yes	STV	No	Age: 18 - EU citizens resident for ? years	Age: 18 - EU citizens resident for ? years	- Deposit of 40 Maltese pounds (€ 95) (reimbursed if 10% of vote)	Saturday
NETHER-LANDS	26 MEPs Yes	Single national constituency	Yes	D'Hondt	No	Age: 18 - EU citizens resident	Age: 18 - EU citizens resident	- Parties not represented in the EP pay deposit of	Thursday

						for ? years	for ? years	€ 11259; - Lists must be accompanied by at least 30 signatures of voters	
POLAND	51 MEPs Yes	Thirteen regional constituencies	No	D'Hondt / Hare-Niemeyer	5%	Age: 18 - EU citizens resident for ? years	Age: 21 - EU citizens resident for 5 years	- Lists need at least 5 names and 10,000 signatures of voters of the relevant constituency	Sunday
PORTUGAL	22 MEPs Yes	Single national constituency	No	D'Hondt	No	Age: 18 - EU citizens resident for ? years	Age: 18 - EU citizens resident for ? years	- Lists must contain candidates equal to the number of MEPs to be elected, plus 3-8 substitutes	Sunday
ROMANIA	33 MEPs Yes	Single national constituency	No	D'Hondt	5%	Age: 18 - EU citizens resident for ? years	Age: 23 - EU citizens resident for ? years	?	Sunday
SLOVAKIA	12 MEPs Yes	Single national constituency	Yes	Droop	5%	Age: 18 - Registered EU citizens resident and present on election day	Age: 21 - Registered EU citizens	- Political party deposit of 50.000 SKK (€ 1510)	Saturday
SLOVENIA	8 MEPs Yes	Single national constituency	Yes	D'Hondt	4%	Age: 18 - EU citizens resident for ? years	Age: 18 - EU citizens resident for ? years	- Political parties submit lists supported by four members of the National Assembly or at least 1000 voters; - Independent candidates endorsed by 3000 signatures	Sunday
SPAIN	54 MEPs Yes	Single national constituency	No	D'Hondt	No	Age: 18 - Registered EU citizens	Age: 18 - Registered EU citizens	- Parties or coalitions submit lists with 15,000 signatures of voters or	Sunday

								50 elected representatives ?	
SWEDEN	20 MEPs Yes	Single national constituency	Yes	Sainte-Lagüe	- Parties must obtain 4%; candidates must obtain 5% of the total number of votes cast for his/her party	Age: 18 - Registered EU citizens	Age: 18 - Anyone entitled to vote may stand for election	- No conditions	Sunday
UNITED KINGDOM	73 MEPs Yes	Twelve regional constituencies	Great Britain: No Northern Ireland: Yes	Great Britain: D'Hondt; Northern Ireland: STV	No	Age: 18 - Registered EU citizens resident for 1 year	Age: 21 - Registered EU citizens resident for 1 year	- Deposit of £ 5000 (€ 6750); - Nominations in constituencies must be endorsed by 30 voters	Thursday

Exchange rates as February 2008