

Read more about the demands and why they are necessary:

True European elections, contested by real, pan-European parties, running common campaigns across the EU.

The current framework in which national parties run campaigns for European elections based on national agendas defies the whole idea of European election and a European Parliament. Groups like the Party of European Socialists or the European People's Party do not have a common political platform or consciousness. Candidates in European elections should debate EU issues, such as reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, illegal immigration, climate change or security of energy supplies. Instead they are consumed, in most cases, by contests that become referenda to measure national government popularity. This results in low understanding of the purpose of European elections and the European Parliament, and, of course, in the indifference of the electorate and in low participation rates. Establishing common European parties (rather than umbrella organisation like the current groupings in the European Parliament) which will run common campaigns across the EU and debate EU issues in a direct and informative way, will help increase the political value of European elections.

Each EU party nominating its candidates for Commission President and Commission members ahead of European elections. The Commission will then be composed of members of the winning party (or coalition of parties) in the directly elected European Parliament.

A strong and representative European Parliament must, like national parliaments do, be able to determine the policies and government of the Union. The most effective way to achieve that is by giving the European Parliament the power to choose the president and members of the institution responsible for initiating EU legislation; the European Commission. Such a move will make European elections relevant because it will give EU citizens the ability to determine, through their elected representatives, the people that are responsible for the drawing up of EU legislation. EU citizens will feel that their vote counts for something and will be inclined to participate in European elections in greater numbers, increasing the legitimacy of the electoral process itself and the institution that it produces.

The European executive must be accountable to the European legislature. The European Parliament needs to have greater scrutiny of Commission and Council decision-making powers and be given the right to initiate legislation.

In every democracy the executive is accountable to the legislature. In the same way, the Commission and the Council of the EU must be more accountable to the European Parliament. Extending co-decision - the process through which the Council and the European Parliament approve legislation - to more areas under the Lisbon Treaty is a very important development and so is the proposed European Parliament scrutiny of comitology - the system of committees, comprised of Member State civil servants and Commission officials, that draw up the fine details of technical legislation). The directly elected European Parliament must be granted greater powers of scrutiny to ensure that the policies initiated by technocrats in the Commission and adopted by diplomats and national civil servants in the Council have the approval of the people. Similarly, the European Parliament must also be given the power to initiate legislation as is common place in democracies.

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**EUROPE MAINTENANT!
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Decisions on Commission legislative proposals to be taken on equal footing by the Council representing EU governments and the directly elected European Parliament representing the people.

To have a truly representative EU, the Members States of the EU (represented in the Council) and the directly elected representatives of the people in the European Parliament must have an equal say in the process of EU decision making. So we propose a simplified system according to which decisions on all EU legislation will be made through an enhanced co-decision procedure, with EU laws adopted by the Council voting by qualified majority and the European Parliament voting by simple majority.

We ask for greater consultation of civil society and stakeholders when EU legislation is drafted and greater communication and constant open dialogue between EU citizens and EU institutions.

The Commission already engages in discussion with stakeholders when drafting EU legislation. We would like to see this process institutionalised as much as possible, ensuring that all elements of civic society can have an input in a clearly established and inclusive consultation process before EU legislation is drafted. All those affected by draft legislation should have the opportunity to make an input and have a say in the drawing up of that piece of legislation. This will involve people directly to the making of EU law that is to affect their lives and make them shareholders to the EU legislation process.

Please join your voice with ours and let decision-makers know that we, the citizens, call for a fully democratic Europe.

www.fivedemands.eu

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