



Romanian Parliament
Senate

Courtesy translation

Bucharest, September 30, 2013

OPINION

**of the Romanian Senate regarding the Preparation for European Elections of 2014:
Ongoing Consolidation of the Efficiency and Democracy of Elections
COM (2013) 126 final**

Based on the provisions of art. 67, art. 148 al. (2) și al. (3) of the Romanian Constitution, republished, and the Protocol (no.1) attached to the Lisbon Treaty, concerning the changing of the Treaty regarding European Union and the Treaty of Establishment of European Union, approved by Law no. 13/2008

Based on the Point of View of the Committee for European Affairs, no.LXII/485/18.09.2013

Art. 1. Romanian Senate adopts the following Point of View:

The Committee for European Affairs has been notified in order to communicate a point of view regarding the COMMUNICATION OF THE COMMISSION TO EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, COUNCIL, EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF REGIONS – *Preparation for European Elections of 2014: ongoing consolidation of the efficiency and democracy of elections – COM(2013) 126 final*, concerning the parliamentary control based on Lisbon Treaty art. 5 and 12 of TUE and protocols no. 1 and 2 annexed to the Treaty

The debate took place in the sessions of 2013, September 11 and September 18, in the presence of majority of the senators.

Representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Permanent Electoral Authority were present in the debates.

The point of view sent by Permanent Electoral Authority has been analyzed.

The Committee of European Affairs adopted the following point of view regarding this proposals, based on:

- The electoral procedure of the European Parliament has to be durable and intelligible, has to promote democracy within parties and has to maintain free, equitable and secret elections, which ensure the general proportionality of the representation;
- Changing of the electoral procedure has to respect both principles of subsidiarity and proportionality and should not pursue the imposing of uniformity as an objective *per se*;

- Communication between national and european political processes should improve;
- A clear presentation for the affiliation to the paneuropean parties of the national political parties and their candidates for euro-parliamentary elections is necessary, in order to highlight the link between the paneuropean parties and national parties; this presentation has to be public, prior to the elections;
- Each european political party should appoint its candidate for the position of president of the European Commission, who should present the electoral program to citizens – this would be beneficial for the electors;
- As regarding the recommendation that SM decides a common day for European Parliamentary Elections, with simultaneous closing of the voting sections, debates have been initiated between the involved political factors for an optimal coverage of the subject;
- Supports all the actions taken in order to eliminate any obstacle of the voting rights of the EU citizens, ensuring to respect the common principles of EU (the right to elect and to be elected for the European Parliament);
- The Directive 93/109/CE has to be modified in order to consolidate the participation of the unresortisant EU citizens as candidates for EU elections, since the EU citizens who want to candidate for the EU elections in the member state that they had moved in face difficult and costly administrative procedures.

The Committee for European Affairs mentions that in Romania:

- Permanent Electoral Authority (PEA) is the only contact authority, the only institution that is responsible with the transposing of the provisions for the elections for European Parliament in the Romanian legislation. This institution is established as an administrative structure of managing the electoral process, pursuing the affirmation of a political culture of participation, having only technical and electoral education attributes, aiming at lucid and informed awareness of the citizens;
- The national regulatory framework allows the information delivery to the electors regarding the affiliations between national and european political parties;
- PEA elaborated a bill for the modification and addition to the Law no.33/2007 regarding the organization and operation of the elections for European Parliament, that targets the transposition of the Directive 2013/1/EU of the Council from 2012, November 20, concerning the modification of the Directive 93/109/CE in regard for certain norms of the rights of being elected for the European Parliament for the unresortisant citizens that live in a member state;
- Concerning the decision for a common day of elections for the European Parliament – if the involved political factors will agree this recommendation – according to the evaluation done by PEA, the day of Sunday is considered to be optimal. Moreover, the final results of the elections for EP should be officially published the same day.

p. President of the Senate
Cristian Sorin DUMITRESCU

