



1 EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT? 27 NATIONAL PROCEDURES!

Since elections to the European parliament are in fact national elections, we have to be aware that we can not have candidates nominated by the transeuropean level. Democratically relevant are only nominations by citizens that are entitled to cast their votes afterwards in the election. Which means that we have to have, at least officially 27 national candidate selection processes.

	Nr. of seats	Nr. of Constituencies	National Election authority	Delays for presenting the lists (before the election day) / others obligations	Legal age to vote / to be candidate	Legal prerequisites for presenting a list			2009 elections day	Launch of the official campaign	Threshold rate to get 1 candidate elected	
						Registered party	Number of requested candidates	Required number of supporters				
Austria	17	1	Ministry of Interior	37 days	16/18	probably independent list possible		2600 citizens signatures or 3 national deputies or 1 Austrian European deputy	3600€	7th June	4%	
Belgium	22	41	Ministry of Interior ²	58 days ³	18/21	a simple candidate list suffices		5 deputies from the same linguistic area than the candidate 5000 French speaking, 5000 Dutch speaking and 200 German speaking; supporters have to present an excerpt of the voters' register	No	7th June	3 months before the election	No threshold Preference system and set number of candidates elected by constituency (based on linguistic areas)
Bulgaria	17	?	Central Election committee with a standing secretariat	35 days	18/21	Probably not, "initiative committees" are allowed to present candidates		Probably 2000	15000 BGN (7650€) for political parties 20 000 BGN (10200€) for Coalitions – paid back if more than 2% votes 10 000 BGN (5100€) for Initiative committees – paid back if more than 1% votes	Not decided	30 days before the election day	No threshold Hare-nimeyer proportional and preferential system Seats attributed at proportional rates of voters
Czech Republic	22	1	Central Election Board - Appointed by Government; staff provided by Ministry of Interior	66-60 days ⁴	18/21	Political parties and movements		No	200.000 Czech Crowns (10.000 € ?) for ballot printing; 10 000 CZK (600€) deposit Cost of Campaign compensated if 1% of votes plus 30 Czech Crowns (1€) per vote	Not decided	16 days before the election	5%
Cyprus	6	?	Ministry of Interior	30 days	18/25	?		No	250 CYP (427€) Political parties get compensated at proportion of votes to the last elections	7th June	Anytime but officially 30 days before the election	No threshold Direct representation
Denmark	13	1	Ministry of Interior	4 weeks before	18/18	Political parties		No signatures required for parties with candidates already elected at previous elections 2% of the last election voters for new parties	No	7th June	No such official campaign Possibility to campaign at anytime	No threshold Proportionnal representation (Hondt method)
Estonia	6	1	National Electoral Committee ⁵	45 days	18/21	registration as non-profit organization	= number of mandates available plus two Contact person and substitute must not be candidates	1000 members within the national organization	security deposit of 5 x monthly minimum salary per candidate = 21 750 EEK (1 390€ / candidate) - will be compensated if 5% of votes in election	7th June	The active campaign period starts 45 days before the election	No threshold Proportionnal representation (Hondt method)
Finland	13	1	a) Ministry of Justice - for registration of political parties and "constituency associations" b) Electoral committee of Helsinki as national election authority	48 days	18/18	political party or constituency association	maximum of 20 candidates	Constituency associations must count 2000 members to present at least one candidate 100 voters have to support; declaration on honor that voting rights in Finland	No	7th June		No threshold Proportionnal representation and preferential votes (Hondt method)
France	72	8	Ministry of Interior	3rd Friday before voting Sunday	18/23	simple list seems to be enough	Maximum twice as many candidates as seats available (candidate and substitute), men and women have to alternate.	No	candidates have to pay for their ballots = 1,2 millions € in total (for 8 constituencies) Paid back if 3% voters	7th June	25th May (2 weeks before the elections) Restrictions:	5% Proportional election per constituency

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Germany	99	1 or 16 if choose by lander	Der Bundeswahlleiter	90 days for registration of party or association, name of the party or association 72 days before voting day decision about participation 66 days before voting day candidates list and supporters' declarations have to be submitted	18/18	Party or political association registered in another member states is admitted		4000	no	7th June	5%	
Greece	22	1	Court of Justice	17 days	18/25	Party or coalitions of parties admitted	22 candidates maximum	No	Deposit 2 934,70€ Political parties having elected having already elected candidates and having reached 1,5% voters at last elections get subsidies	7th June	30 days before the elections	3%
Hungary	22	1	National Election Office6	30 days	18/18	Party or coalitions of parties admitted	?	20 000	Probably not	Not decided	72 days before the election	5% (Hondt Method)
Italy	72	5	Ministry of Interior	49 and 48. days before election, between 8 a.m and 4 p.m declaration of intention to participate 41 til 39 day before election lists of candidates to be presented	18/25	?		Between 30 000 min. and 35 000 max. per constituency = 150 - 175 000 for Italy	No	6-7th June	30 days	No threshold but threshold of 4% currently in debate Proportional election per constituency
Luxembourg	6	1	Tribunal of Luxembourg	60 days	18/18	Grouping of candidates	6 candidates maximum	250 or 1 member or ex-member of national or European parliament	No Costs of 1 mailing / voter stamp paid back if > 5% voters Then scale ranging from 12 500€ from 5% to 74 500€ from 25% voters Then 12 500€ per candidate elected	7th June	5 weeks before the election	No threshold Proportional and preferential representation (6 votes per voter allowed)
Ireland	12	4	Returning officer, appointed by ministry (of Justice?); issues nomination papers	30 days over 1 week	18/21	Party or candidate	?	For individual candidates must be supported by 60 voters from the same constituency	No state subvention approximately proportionate to the number of votes they received in the last election.... Cost of campaign can be paid back if candidate is elected (max 38 000€) Possibility to send one free mailing per voter in the candidates' constituency	7th June	No official period	No threshold Preferential vote similar to proportional vote as vote is given to the another chosen candidate as soon as a candidate has reached or failed to reach the required rate.
Latvia	8	1	Central Election Committee	80 to 65 days	18/21	Registered parties only (also for European elections?)	18 candidates maximum	?	1000 (1300€) lats deposit paid back if one candidate is elected	6th June	No official period but electoral expenses accounted from the 270th day before the election	5%
Lithuania	12	1	Central Election committee (standing authority), candidates from diverse backgrounds (Ministry of justice, lawyers' bar association, political parties) - Vyriausioji rinkim komisija (Superior Electoral Commission) and local electoral commissions (savivaldybi / apylinki rinkim komisijos)	65 for registering party and for presenting list; 34 days for submitting all candidates' data and documents	18/21	only a political party can present candidates	no less than 5 and not more than 26 candidates7	No	20 monthly average salaries per list as election deposit Parties having obtained at least 3% of seats, can have up to 25% of their total expenditures The State pay for political parties programme releases and ads on national TV and radios	7th June	30 days at late for the official campaign Campaigning is allowed before the official date (but expenses are accounted)	5% Proportional and preferential vote
Malta	5	1	?	Max. 35 days	18/18	?	No list of candidates simple vote based election	No	90€ deposit paid back if more than 10% votes	9th June	No official campaign	No threshold Preferential simple vote

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Netherlands	25	1	Kiesraad (national election office)	Registration of political parties until 17th of March 2009 Registration of candidates' lists until 29th of April 2009	18/18	political parties or voters' lists; registration of political parties requires statutes certified by a notary and a 450€ fee; has to be registered in register of commerce		30 voters, have to certify support before the (local) election authority	11 250 € paid back if the party gets 75% of required rate to have one candidate elected	4th June	No official campaign	No threshold Preferential vote
Poland	50	13	National election office	50 days for declaration about intention to participate 40 for presentation of lists (til 12.00 am)	18/21	15 voters who form an "election committee" can present a list Election commission of each constituency to which the lists are to be presented (mostly at level of Voivode) by the electoral representative of the election committees	minimum of 5 and maximum of 10 candidates per constituency	10.000 signatures per constituency from voters from the same constituency = 130 000 for Poland	No Political parties having candidates already elected at the European parliament get public subsidies	Not decided	90 days before	No threshold Use successively Hondt method and Hare-Niemeyer
Portugal	22	1	a) independent authority at Parliament as referee for elections (for ex. media quota) b) judicial court (?) for registration of list	41 days	18/18	registered parties only, proof of which has to be presented with list (also for European elections? registration in other member state sufficient?)	As much candidates as seats available + between 3 and 8 substitutes 33% women minimum	No	Political parties having already candidates elected at EU parliament get public subsidies	7th June	14 days	No threshold
Romania	33	?	Central Election Committee = seven judges of Supreme Court plus representatives of political parties	60 days	18/23	registered political parties only (also for elections to European Parliament?)	Number of seats + 10 = 43 candidates max.per list	Min. of 200 000 signatures for political parties Min. 100 000 signatures for independent candidates	No	Not decided	1 month before	No threshold
Slovenia	7	1	National Election Commission	30 days	18/18	Political party or citizen movement	At least 40% of both genders must be represented on the list At least 1 candidate of both gender must be present in the first half of the list	1000 voters or 4 national deputies for political parties 3000 voters for citizen movements	No Campaign costs paid back at 0,33€ / voter if at least one candidate elected and 0,17€ / voter if more than 2% national votes	7th June	30 days	No threshold Proportional method with preferential vote
Slovakia	13	1	Central election Commission at Ministry of Interior/Statistical office as standing authority	65 days	18/21	political parties registered with the ministry of the interior	lists of 14 candidates only	10 000	1700€ election deposit, compensated if 2% of votes obtained	6th June	21 days	5% Proportional and preferential vote (Drrap method)
Spain	50	1	Junta electoral central	15 days after 'call for elections'	18/18	voters' lists admitted		15.000 signatures plus ID-Number, no certification necessary /or 50 elected officials	No	7th June	38 days after call for elections Last 15 days	No threshold (Hondt method)
Sweden	18	1	Central Election Authority	February of Election year	18/18	registered party, but possibly also voters' lists		1500; simple "declaration of support" if the political party has not elected candidates at European parliament	Parties or lists have to bear costs for ballot printing, and deliver them to the voters' offices. Paid back if more than 1% votes	7th June	No official period	4% Proportional and preferential vote (if candidate reach 5% of his list votes)
UK	72	12 9 areas + Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland	?	?	18/21	?	?	No	5000 GBP (5500€) per constituency paid back if votes > 2,5% in each constituency donations forbidden after the 4th of february	4th June	No official period	No Threshold (Hondt method) exceeded for Northern Ireland (simple vote with proportional aspects)

(Footnotes)

- 4 (Flanders without Hal-Vilvorde, Wallonie without German speaking community, Bruxelles-Capital plus Hal-Vilvorde, German-speaking community) But Belgium distinguishes between constituency and electoral colleges of which 3 exist according to the three language communities. Each electoral college has its own "bureau principal de college" at the Tribunal de 1ere instance
- Ministry of the interior as national election authority; it provides for standard forms for the list of candidates, the financial report etc. The three "bureau principal de college" are at Namur (French speaking electoral college), Malines (Dutch speaking electoral college) and Eupen (German speaking electoral college)
58. day before the election day (Friday) at the bureau principal de college between 14 and 16 o'clock or Saturday between 9 and 12 o'clock. Where lists have to be submitted is made known 3 days before that day (61 days before the elections) -- cette "chasse au trésor" n'est pas une histoire belge -- List has to be presented by one of three supporters designated by candidates which can not be candidates themselves. List may not contain more candidates than seats available in constituency, and the same number of Ersatz candidates (suppléants). Candidates have to declare their language (f, n, de) There is a quota system, 50% men, 50% women, gender of candidates has to alternate on the list, if head candidate is a man, his Ersatz has to be a woman or vice versa.
- list to be presented by contact persons plus two deputies who can not be candidates.
- consists of persons seconded by certain authorities and Judicial Courts. Mandate of 4 years; issues standard forms
- elected by government on proposal or Ministry of Interior at least 51 days before voting day - Ministry of Interior is supervising authority; it issues official standard forms
- each candidate must present a number of documents, including CV and an income statement, confirmed by the Lithuanian taxed authority. Citizens of other EU member states are explicitly allowed to be candidates. Such candidates must give some additional information specified in the law.
- they become financially fully responsible for the campaign expenses of the election committee. In order to register at the State Electoral Committee, they have to be supported by 1000 voters (not necessarily residing in the constituency).
- there exist even subsidies for the campaign, but they have to be compensated if the list does not obtain 5% of the votes