



fyeg



Brussels, 13 June 2011

RE: Your support for the creation of an EU-wide constituency?

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

The **Duff Report on electoral reform** is a unique chance to raise the popular legitimacy of the European Parliament. Creating an EU-wide constituency will finally increase voter turnout, enhance the European dimension of the elections, personalise the election campaign and galvanise the development of the European political parties. According to this ground-breaking proposal, an **additional 25 MEPs will be elected from transnational lists** during the elections to the European Parliament. Each EU Citizen will thus have two ballots, one for national lists and the other one for EU-wide lists.

The AFCO Committee approved the Report on 19 April with an overwhelming majority of 20 votes against 4 (with no abstentions). It will now feature on the agenda of the EP plenary in July.

The 1976 Act on elections to the European Parliament would need to be amended while some of the proposals would require changes in the EU Treaty, which would require an intergovernmental conference and subsequent ratification by all 27 EU Member States. If these steps are successfully voted through, **these proposals will be in place before the next European elections in 2014!**

The introduction of transnational lists will turn the existing EU parties into real campaigning organisations and encourage the candidates for the European Commission to seek support beyond their own member state. Voters will choose for European politicians who presented their programme in several EU member states and thus become accountable towards all Citizens and not only those of their own nationality.

We are confident that many policy-makers, in particular MEPs, share our concern that the historically **low turnout at the European Parliament elections on 13 June 2009**, exactly 2 years ago (!), was a painful sign that should represent a wake-up call for designing innovative ways of bringing Europe and its Citizens closer to one another.

This is why we, the undersigned youth organisations, strongly invite you to **support the creation of an EU-wide constituency** which can provoke fresh debates within and across societies in Europe.

We remain at your disposal to continue discussing and promoting this extremely important cause.

Yours sincerely,

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