

**REPORT ON EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
CONSTITUENCIES 2013**

**TUARASCÁIL AR THOGHLAIGH
PHARLAIMINT NA hEORPA, 2013**

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BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH
ARNA FHOILSIÚ AG OIFIG AN tSOLÁTHAIR
Le ceannach díreach ó
FOILSEACHÁIN RIALTAIS,
52 FAICHE STIABHNA, BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 2
(Teil: 01 – 6476834 nó 1890 213434; Fax 01 – 6476843)
nó trí aon díoltóir leabhar.

DUBLIN
PUBLISHED BY THE STATIONERY OFFICE
To be purchased from
GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS,
52 ST. STEPHEN'S GREEN, DUBLIN 2.
(Tel: 01 – 6476834 or 1890 213434; Fax: 01 – 6476843)
or through any bookseller.

ISBN 978-1-4064-2792-9

€10.00

September 2013

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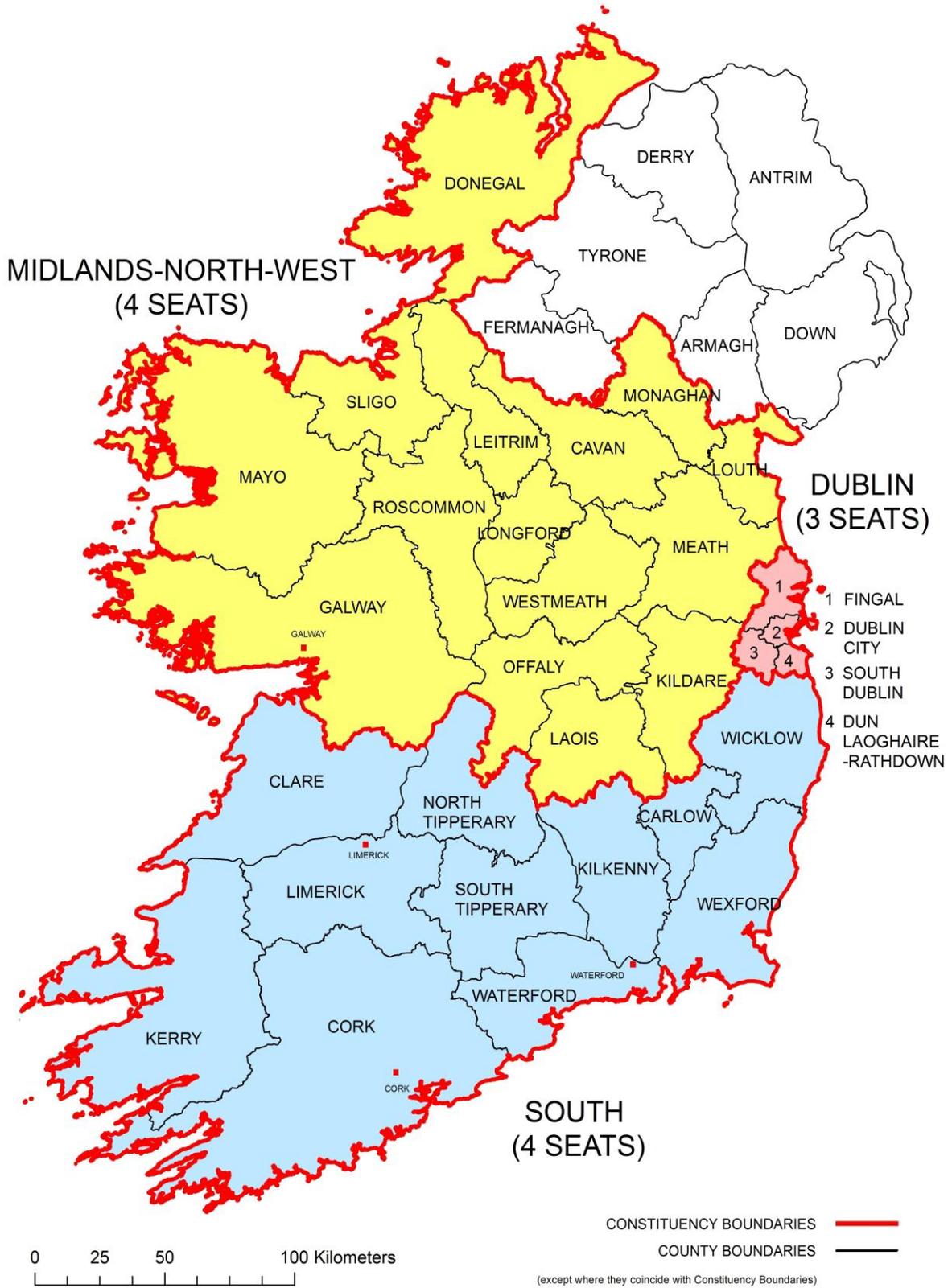
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RECOMMENDED CONSTITUENCIES



1. RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends that the State be divided into the following three constituencies for the election in Ireland of 11 members of the European Parliament.

A 3-seat 'Dublin' constituency comprising the counties of: Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin; and the city of Dublin.

A 4-seat 'Midlands-North-West' constituency comprising the counties of: Cavan, Donegal, Galway, Kildare, Laois, Leitrim, Longford, Louth, Mayo, Meath, Monaghan, Offaly, Roscommon, Sligo and Westmeath; and the city of Galway.

A 4-seat 'South' constituency comprising the counties of: Carlow, Clare, Cork, Kerry, Kilkenny, Limerick, North Tipperary, South Tipperary, Waterford, Wexford and Wicklow; and the cities of Cork, Limerick and Waterford.

2. ESTABLISHMENT AND PROCEDURE OF COMMITTEE

2.1 Establishment

The Committee was established on 25 July 2013 under Part II of the Electoral Act, 1997 (as amended) to make a report to the Ceann Comhairle of the Dáil in relation to the constituencies for the election of members of the European Parliament.

2.2 Committee Membership and meetings

The Hon. Mr. Justice Cooke, of the High Court, was nominated by the Chief Justice as Chairperson of the Committee. The other members are: Mr. Kieran Coughlan, Clerk of the Dáil; Ms. Deirdre Lane, Clerk of the Seanad; Ms. Geraldine Tallon, Secretary General of the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government; and Ms. Bernie McNally, Director General, Office of the Ombudsman. (Mr. Coughlan retired as Clerk of the Dáil during the course of the Committee's work but continued as a member of the Committee.)

2.3 Terms of Reference

The Committee's terms of reference, set out in the Act, are as follows:

- the total number of representatives to be elected in the State to the European Parliament shall be such number as may be specified for the time being pursuant to the treaties governing the European Communities
- there shall be reasonable equality of representation as between constituencies
- each constituency shall return 3, 4 or 5 members
- the breaching of county boundaries shall be avoided as far as practicable
- each constituency shall be composed of contiguous areas
- there shall be regard to geographic considerations including significant physical features and the extent of and the density of population in each constituency
- subject to the above provisions, the Committee shall endeavour to maintain continuity in relation to the arrangement of constituencies.

The reference above to county boundaries is deemed not to include a reference to the boundary of a city or any boundary between any two of the counties of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin.

The total number of representatives to be elected in the State to the European Parliament specified pursuant to the Treaty on European Union is 11 in accordance with the decision of the European Council of 28 June 2013, a copy of which is in Appendix 4.

2.4 Status of the Committee's recommendation

The Committee's role is advisory. The final configuration of the constituencies for the European Parliament is determined by law enacted by the Oireachtas.

2.5 Submissions

The Committee invited written submissions by way of notice in newspapers on 29 July 2013 and 4 August 2013. The notice was also published in English and in Irish on the website www.constituency-commission.ie. Copies of these notices are set out in Appendix 2. An invitation to make a submission was sent directly to each member of the Dáil and the Seanad, to the Irish MEPs, to political parties registered under section 25 of the Electoral Act 1992 and to returning officers.

The submissions received were considered at meetings of the Committee and were published on www.constituency-commission.ie as they were received. They were also available for public inspection at the Custom House, Dublin 1 until the conclusion of the Committee's work.

A list of the persons and organisations who made submissions is given in Appendix 3. The Committee wishes to record its appreciation of the time taken by them and the consideration given to those submissions.

2.6 Support services and expenses of the Committee

The Franchise Section of the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government provided the necessary support services to the Committee. The Committee wishes to record its appreciation of the work of the staff of the Section.

The members of the Committee discharged their functions without remuneration and no travel or other expenses or fees were claimed by them. The Committee has sought to minimise the publication costs involved in the preparation and in the printing of its Report. These have been defrayed by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government.

3. IRISH LEGISLATION AND PREVIOUS REVIEWS OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT CONSTITUENCIES

3.1 Irish Legislation

Elections in Ireland to the European Parliament are governed by the European Parliament Elections Acts 1992 to 2013 which provide for elections on the single transferable vote system in multi-member constituencies. The provision concerning the revision of constituencies is in section 15(2) of the European Parliament Elections Act 1997, as follows:

“(2) The Minister shall, having considered any report presented on statutory authority to each House of the Oireachtas recommending any alteration in the constituencies for which candidates shall be elected under this Act to be representatives in the Parliament, and not later than the first day of December 2003 and at least once in every ten years thereafter, submit to the Oireachtas proposals for a review of the said constituencies.”

The existing European constituencies are specified in the Third Schedule to the European Parliament Elections Act 1997 (as amended).

3.2 Reviews 1977 to 2012

European Parliament constituencies have been reviewed on six previous occasions. The outcomes of reviews from 1977 to 2007 are summarised in Appendix 5.

The most recent review was reported in the *Constituency Commission Report 2012 Dáil and European Parliament Constituencies* (Prn. A12/0834).

In that report the Commission recommended that the arrangement most in keeping with its terms of reference would be that of maintenance of the existing arrangement of constituencies for the election of members of the European Parliament. That recommendation was accepted and no legislative change was made arising from this review.

The existing European Parliament constituencies are detailed in the table below.

EXISTING EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT CONSTITUENCIES				
Constituency and number of members	Area	2011 Population	Population per MEP	Variance ¹
Dublin (3)	The counties of: Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin; and the city of Dublin.	1,273,069	424,356	+10.99%
East (3)	The counties of: Carlow, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laois, Louth, Meath, Offaly, Wexford and Wicklow.	1,106,581	368,860	-3.53%
North-West (3)	The counties of: Cavan, Clare, Donegal, Galway, Leitrim, Longford, Mayo, Monaghan, Roscommon, Sligo and Westmeath; and the city of Galway.	1,079,710	359,903	-5.87%
South (3)	The counties of: Cork, Kerry, Limerick, North Tipperary, South Tipperary and Waterford; and the cities of Cork, Limerick and Waterford.	1,128,892	376,297	-1.58%
Total		4,588,252	382,354	

¹ = % variance from national average population per MEP

4. NEW CONSTITUENCY ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 General considerations

This review of the European Parliament constituencies has been brought about by the Council Decision referred to above and, because the number of seats is reduced from 12 to 11, the existing configuration of four 3-seat constituencies must be discontinued. As by law each constituency must elect either 5, 4 or 3 members only two configurations of three constituencies are possible namely, one 5-seat with two 3-seat constituencies; or one 3-seat with two 4-seat constituencies.

The Committee also noted that the existing constituencies are evenly configured as four 3-seat constituencies. The Committee considered that, other criteria being satisfied, it would be reasonable to continue a balance in the allocation of seats to constituencies and therefore to incline towards the configuration of 4/4/3 as opposed to that of 5/3/3.

Equality of representation

The Committee's terms of reference require that there should be reasonable equality of representation as between constituencies. The degree of equality which can reasonably be achieved is influenced by practical considerations and particularly by the number of seats allocated to Ireland (now 11) and the desirability of taking account of the comparatively large units (mainly the counties) upon which the three constituencies will be based. The Committee noted that in previous reviews the recommended constituencies have involved variations from the national average population per member ranging as follows:

Population variances in European constituencies 1977 to 2012			
Year of Review	Variance from National Average		Difference in the variances in percentage points
	Highest	Lowest	
1977	+ 8.44%	-11.16%	19.60
1993	+9.05%	-11.12%	20.17
1998	+9.44%	-10.39%	19.83
2003	+ 10.33%	- 9.92%	20.25
2007	+12.00%	-6.20%	18.20
2012	+10.99%	-5.87%	16.86

Population

The terms of reference provide that regard be had to the extent and density of population in each constituency. The Committee agreed that it would have regard, when making its recommendations, to the results of the 2011 population census. The 2011 population of each county and city is listed in the table in Appendix 1.

Accordingly, based on numerical equality of representation, each of the 11 MEPs elected in 2014 should represent an average 2011 population of 417,114.

County boundaries

The terms of reference require the Committee to avoid the breaching of county boundaries as far as is practicable. Counties and cities have been used for boundary adjustment since the European constituencies were first drawn up in 1977. This approach has allowed for this particular term of reference to be fully complied with on the occasion of each review.

Continuity

The terms of reference require that subject to other considerations, the Committee should endeavour to maintain continuity in relation to the arrangement of constituencies. This presents a particular challenge when new constituency arrangements are to be recommended and there is one less seat to be allocated among constituencies.

4.2 Arrangements for constituencies

As mentioned, the existing arrangement of four constituencies for the election of 12 members of the European Parliament in Ireland is no longer possible given the reduction to 11 seats. The Committee considered a number of variations on the two three constituency configurations mentioned above for the distribution of the 11 seats. The configurations of one 5-seat with two 3-seat constituencies and of one 3-seat with two 4-seat constituencies were also presented in a number of the submissions made to the Committee. In the submissions these configurations were presented with several different county combinations, some in common. Having examined these options and having regard to the practical limitations mentioned above, the Committee decided that an arrangement with one 4-seat and two 3-seat constituencies would conform best to the terms of reference.

The Committee noted that the existing Dublin constituency had three seats and if so continued would have a variance of only +1.74% based on the new average population per MEP. Accordingly, having regard to the desirability of maintaining continuity in the arrangement of constituencies (subject to the other criteria) and to the acceptable variance in the existing Dublin constituency from the new national average population per MEP, the Committee recommends that there should be no change in the 3-seat Dublin constituency.

For the remaining eight seats the Committee recommends that the rest of the country be divided between two 4-seat constituencies as follows. One 4-seat constituency should comprise the existing North-West constituency, without the county of Clare, but joined with the counties of Kildare, Laois, Louth, Meath and Offaly. One 4-seat constituency should comprise the existing South constituency joined with the counties of Carlow, Clare, Kilkenny, Wexford and Wicklow.

Having regard to the Committee's terms of reference this arrangement provides for optimal equality of representation; it meets the requirement for constituency size (number of members), and involves no breach of county boundaries. This configuration also reflects several of the proposals made in submissions and it achieves very low variances in each constituency from national average population per MEP.

The details of the three constituencies are set out in the table below.

Recommended constituencies for the election of members of the European Parliament				
Constituency and number of members	Area²	2011 Population		Variance³
		Total	per MEP	
Dublin (3)	The counties of: Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin; and the city of Dublin.	1,273,069	424,356	+1.74%
Midlands-North-West (4)	The counties of: Cavan, Donegal, Galway, Kildare, Laois, Leitrim, Longford, Louth, Mayo, Meath, Monaghan, Offaly, Roscommon, Sligo and Westmeath; and the city of Galway.	1,637,104	409,276	-1.88%
South (4)	The counties of: Carlow, Clare, Cork, Kerry, Kilkenny, Limerick, North Tipperary, South Tipperary, Waterford, Wexford and Wicklow; and the cities of Cork, Limerick and Waterford.	1,678,079	419,520	+ 0.58%
Total		4,588,252	417,114	

4.3 Recommendation

The Committee recommends that the State be divided into the following three constituencies for the election in Ireland of 11 members of the European Parliament.

A 3-seat 'Dublin' constituency comprising the counties of: Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin; and the City of Dublin.

² Counties and cities construed in accordance with section 10 of, and schedule 5 to, the Local Government Act 2001

³ = % variance from national average population per MEP

A 4-seat 'Midlands-North-West' constituency comprising the counties of: Cavan, Donegal, Galway, Kildare, Laois, Leitrim, Longford, Louth, Mayo, Meath, Monaghan, Offaly, Roscommon, Sligo and Westmeath; and the city of Galway.

A 4-seat 'South' constituency comprising the counties of: Carlow, Clare, Cork, Kerry, Kilkenny, Limerick, North Tipperary, South Tipperary, Waterford, Wexford and Wicklow; and the cities of Cork, Limerick and Waterford.

JOHN D. COOKE, Chairman

KIERAN COUGHLAN

DEIRDRE LANE

GERALDINE TALLON

BERNIE MCNALLY

Ríona Ní Fhlanghaile, Secretary to the
Committee

24 September 2013

Appendix 1 - 2011 Population for each County and City

Local Government Area	2011 Population
Counties	
Carlow	54,612
Cavan	73,183
Clare	117,196
Cork	399,802
Donegal	161,137
Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown	206,261
Fingal	273,991
Galway	175,124
Kerry	145,502
Kildare	210,312
Kilkenny	95,419
Laois	80,559
Leitrim	31,798
Limerick	134,703
Longford	39,000
Louth	122,897
Mayo	130,638
Meath	184,135
Monaghan	60,483
North Tipperary	70,322
Offaly	76,687
Roscommon	64,065
Sligo	65,393
South Dublin	265,205
South Tipperary	88,432
Waterford	67,063
Westmeath	86,164
Wexford	145,320
Wicklow	136,640
Cities	
Cork	119,230
Dublin	527,612
Galway	75,529
Limerick	57,106
Waterford	46,732
Total	4,588,252

Appendix 2 - Public notice given by the committee

REVIEW OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT CONSTITUENCIES

A statutory committee was established on 25th July 2013 under section 5(1A) of the Electoral Act 1997 (inserted by the Electoral, Local Government and Planning and Development Act 2013) to make a report to the Ceann Comhairle of the Dáil in relation to the constituencies for the election of members of the European Parliament.

The committee is required to have regard to the following in making its report:

- The number of members of the European Parliament to be elected in the State as may be specified for the time being pursuant to the Treaties governing the European Communities – that number is now 11 following the decision of the European Council on 28 June 2013;
- there shall be reasonable equality of representation as between constituencies;
- each constituency shall return 3, 4 or 5 members;
- the breaching of county boundaries shall be avoided as far as practicable – this is deemed not to include a reference to the boundary of a city or any boundary between any two of the counties of Dun-Laoghaire Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin;
- each constituency shall be composed of contiguous areas;
- there shall be regard to geographic considerations including significant physical features and the extent of and the density of population in each constituency; and
- subject to the above provisions the committee shall endeavour to maintain continuity in relation to the arrangement of constituencies.

The committee will also have regard in making its report to the results of the 2011 population census.

The committee invites written submissions in relation to matters which should be considered in reporting on European Parliament constituencies. Submissions should be addressed to The Secretary, European Parliament constituencies committee, Room 1.65, Custom House, Dublin 1, or by email to europarlconstituencies@environ.ie

The period for submissions closes at 5:00pm on Friday 30th August 2013.

Submissions received by the committee will be published on www.constituency-commission.ie, and may be inspected by prior arrangement with the committee in the Custom House, Dublin 1 (telephone 01-8882339) during the hours of 10.00am to 4.30pm (Monday to Friday), until the conclusion of the work of the committee. The committee is required to present a report to the Ceann Comhairle of the Dáil within two months of its establishment.

Constituencies for the European Parliament are specified in the Third Schedule to the European Parliament Elections Act 1997 which can be viewed on the Irish Statute Book website. The most recent review of European Parliament constituencies was reported in the Constituency Commission Report 2012 which can be viewed at www.constituency-commission.ie

ATHBHREITHNÍÚ AR THOGLAIGH PHARLAIMINT NA HEORPA

Bunaíodh coiste reachtúil an 25ú Iúil 2013 faoi alt 5(1A) den Acht Toghcháin 1997 (arna chur isteach leis an Acht um Thoghchán, Rialtas Áitiúil agus Pleanáil agus Forbairt 2013) chun tuarascáil a thabhairt do Cheann Comhairle na Dála i ndáil leis na toghlaigh chun comhaltáí a thoghadh chuig Parlaimint na hEorpa.

Tá ceanglas ar an gcoiste féachaint don mhéid seo a leanas agus a thuarascáil á tabhairt:

- An líon comhaltáí chuig Parlaimint na hEorpa a bheidh le toghadh sa Stát a bheidh sonraithe de thuras na huairde bhun na gconarthaí a rialaíonn na Comhphobail Eorpacha - 11 an líon sin anois i ndiaidh chinneadh ó Chomhairle na hEorpa an 28 Meitheamh 2013;
- beidh comhionannas réasúnach ionadaíochta amhail idir toghlaigh;
- toghfaidh gach dailcheantar 3, 4 nó 5 chomhaltá;
- a mhéid is indéanta, seachnófar sárú teorainneacha contae - measfar nach bhfoláitear leis sin tagairt do theorainn cathrach ná d'aon teorainn idir aon 2 cheann de chontaetha Dhún Laoghaire-Ráth an Dúin, Fhine Gall agus Bhaile Átha Cliath Theas;
- beidh gach dailcheantar comhdhéanta de limistéir thadhlaigh;
- tabharfar aird ar chúinsí geografacha lena n-áirítear sainghnéithe fisiceacha suntasacha agus méid agus dlús an daonra i ngach dailcheantar; agus
- faoi réir na bhforálacha thuas, féachfaidh an Coimisiún le leanúnachas a chothabháil i ndáil le cóiríú dailcheantar.

Tabharfaidh an coiste aird freisin, nuair a bheidh sé i mbun na tuarascála, ar thorthaí Dhaonáireamh 2011.

Fáilteoidh an coiste anois roimh aighneachtaí i scríbhinn i ndáil le nithe is cóir a mheas agus tuarascáil ar thoghlaigh Parlaimint na hEorpa á tabhairt. Ba chóir aighneachtaí a sheoladh chuig An Rúnaí, An Coiste um Thoghlaigh Parlaimint na hEorpa, Seomra 1.65, Teach an Chustaim, Baile Átha Cliath 1, nó ar ríomhphost chuig constituency.commission@environ.ie.

Dé hAoine an 30ú Lúnasa 2013 ag 5.00 pm an dáta deiridh a nglacfar le haighneachtaí.

Foilseofar na haighneachtaí a gheobhaidh an coiste ar láithreán gréasáin an Choimisiúin um Thoghlaigh ar www.constituency-commission.ie, agus beidh siad ar fáil lena bhfeiceáil, ach socrú a dhéanamh leis an gcoiste roimh ré, i dTeach an Chustaim, Baile Átha Cliath 1 (teileafón 01-888 2339) le linn uaireanta oscailte ón 10.00 am go 4.30 pm (Luan go hAoine), go dtí go mbeidh obair an Choimisiúin tugtha chun críche. Tá ceanglas ar an gcoiste tuarascáil a chur faoi bhráid Cheann Comhairle na Dála laistigh de dhá mhí ón dáta ar bunaíodh é.

Sonraítear toghlaigh do Parlaimint na hEorpa sa Tríú Sceideal den Acht um Thoghchán do Parlaimint na hEorpa 1997. Is féidir an tAcht a fheiceáil ar láithreán gréasáin Chlár Reachтана na hÉireann. Foilsíodh an t-athbhreithniú is déanaí ar thoghlaigh Parlaimint na hEorpa i dTuarascáil an Choimisiúin um Thoghlaigh 2012 atá le fáil ag www.constituency-commission.ie.

Appendix 3 - Persons and organisations from whom submissions were received⁴

Dr Adrian Kavanagh
Mark Khan
Sean Gallagher
Jim Higgins MEP
Senator Tony Mulcahy
Declan Harmon
Marian Harkin MEP
Kevin Brady
Cllr. Neale Redmond
Eugenia Thompson
Hugh Lynn
Gerry Bridgett
Michael J. Deane
Aiden Kelly
Sean Kelly MEP
Brendan Heneghan
Colm Moore
Sinn Féin
Green Party
Labour MEPs
Fine Gael
Phil Prendergast MEP
Mairead McGuinness MEP
Lucinda Creighton TD

⁴ Listed in the order received

Appendix 4 - European Council decision of 28 June 2013

29.6.2013

EN

Official Journal of the European Union

L 181/57

II

(Non-legislative acts)

DECISIONS

EUROPEAN COUNCIL DECISION

of 28 June 2013

establishing the composition of the European Parliament

(2013/312/EU)

THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL,

organising the elections to the European Parliament for the 2014-2019 parliamentary term.

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Article 14(2) thereof,

- (4) The first subparagraph of Article 14(2) of the Treaty on European Union lays down the criteria for the composition of the European Parliament, namely that representatives of the Union's citizens are not to exceed 750 in number, plus the President, that representation is to be degressively proportional, with a minimum threshold of six members per Member State, and that no Member State is to be allocated more than 96 seats.

Having regard to Article 2(3) of Protocol 36 on transitional provisions,

Having regard to the initiative of the European Parliament ⁽¹⁾,Having regard to the consent of the European Parliament ⁽²⁾,

- (5) Article 10 of the Treaty on European Union provides, inter alia, that the functioning of the Union shall be founded on representative democracy with citizens being directly represented at Union level in the European Parliament and Member States being represented by their governments, themselves being democratically accountable to their national Parliaments or citizens, in the Council. Article 14(2) of the Treaty on European Union on the composition of the European Parliament therefore applies within the context of the wider institutional arrangements set out in the Treaties, which also include the provisions on decision making in the Council,

Whereas:

- (1) Article 2(1) and (2) of Protocol 36 on transitional provisions will expire at the end of the 2009-2014 parliamentary term.
- (2) Article 19(1) of the Act concerning the conditions of accession of the Republic of Croatia and the adjustments to the Treaty on European Union, the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community will expire at the end of the 2009-2014 parliamentary term.
- (3) It is necessary to comply without delay with the provisions of Article 2(3) of Protocol 36 and therefore to adopt the decision provided for in the second subparagraph of Article 14(2) of the Treaty on European Union, in order to enable Member States to enact in good time the necessary domestic measures for

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

In the application of the principle of degressive proportionality provided for in the first subparagraph of Article 14(2) of the Treaty on European Union, the following principles shall apply:

- the allocation of seats in the European Parliament shall fully utilise the minimum and maximum numbers set by the Treaty on European Union in order to reflect as closely as possible the sizes of the respective populations of Member States,

⁽¹⁾ Initiative adopted on 13 March 2013 (not yet published in the Official Journal).

⁽²⁾ Consent of 12 June 2013 (not yet published in the Official Journal).

— the ratio between the population and the number of seats of each Member State before rounding to whole numbers shall vary in relation to their respective populations in such a way that each Member of the European Parliament from a more populous Member State represents more citizens than each Member from a less populous Member State and, conversely, that the larger the population of a Member State, the greater its entitlement to a large number of seats.

Article 2

The total population of the Member States shall be calculated by the Commission (Eurostat) on the basis of data provided by the Member States, in accordance with a method established by means of a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council.

Article 3

Pursuant to Article 1, the number of representatives in the European Parliament elected in each Member State is hereby set as follows for the 2014-2019 parliamentary term:

Belgium	21
Bulgaria	17
Czech Republic	21
Denmark	13
Germany	96
Estonia	6
Ireland	11
Greece	21
Spain	54
France	74
Croatia	11
Italy	73
Cyprus	6
Latvia	8
Lithuania	11
Luxembourg	6
Hungary	21

Malta	6
Netherlands	26
Austria	18
Poland	51
Portugal	21
Romania	32
Slovenia	8
Slovakia	13
Finland	13
Sweden	20
United Kingdom	73

Article 4

This Decision shall be revised sufficiently far in advance of the beginning of the 2019-2024 parliamentary term on the basis of an initiative of the European Parliament presented before the end of 2016 with the aim of establishing a system which in future will make it possible, before each fresh election to the European Parliament, to allocate the seats between Member States in an objective, fair, durable and transparent way, translating the principle of degressive proportionality as laid down in Article 1, taking account of any change in their number and demographic trends in their population, as duly ascertained thus respecting the overall balance of the institutional system as laid down in the Treaties.

Article 5

This Decision shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Done at Brussels, 28 June 2013.

For the European Council
The President
 H. VAN ROMPUY

Appendix 5 - European Parliament constituency reviews 1977 to 2007

1977

Constituency recommendations were first made in the *European Assembly Constituency Commission Report 1977* (Pr. 6626). That Commission recommended 4 constituencies for the election of 15 MEPs -

- Connacht-Ulster: 3 seats (counties Cavan, Donegal, Galway, Leitrim, Mayo, Monaghan, Roscommon and Sligo);
- Dublin: 4 seats (Dublin City and Dublin County);
- Leinster: 3 seats (counties Carlow, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laoighis, Longford, Louth, Meath, Offaly, Westmeath, Wexford and Wicklow);
- Munster: 5 seats (counties Clare, Cork, Kerry, Limerick, Tipperary North Riding, Tipperary South Riding, Waterford and the cities of Cork, Limerick and Waterford).

The recommendations of the Commission were accepted in full and the new constituencies were specified in the [European Assembly Elections Act, 1977](#).

1993

Recommendations in the *European Parliament Constituency Commission Report 1993* (Pl. 9901) were for the transfer of a seat from the Munster to the Leinster constituency while retaining 4 constituencies for 15 MEPs -

- Connacht-Ulster: 3 seats; Dublin: 4 seats; Leinster: 4 seats; Munster: 4 seats.

The recommendations of the Commission were accepted in full and the new constituencies were specified in the [European Parliament Elections Act, 1993](#).

1998

In the *Constituency Commission Report 1998* (Pn. 5074) no change was recommended in the formation of the 4 existing European constituencies or in the number of members to be elected in each. That recommendation was accepted and no legislative change was made arising from this review.

The next two reviews

Transitional arrangements in the Accession Treaty signed on 16 April 2003 provided for Ireland to elect 13 MEPs in the 2004 European Parliament elections and 12 in the 2009 elections. The next two Constituency Commissions made recommendations based on these numbers.

2003

In the *Constituency Commission Report on European Parliament Constituencies, 2003* (Prn. 1002) the Commission recommended, for the 13 seats, that the existing constituencies be

altered by the reduction of a seat in each of the Leinster and Munster constituencies and the transfer of the population of County Clare from the Munster constituency to the Connacht-Ulster constituency. The Commission also recommended that the constituencies be renamed.

- North-West: 3 seats (counties Cavan, Clare, Donegal, Galway, Leitrim, Mayo, Monaghan, Roscommon, Sligo and the city of Galway);
- Dublin: 4 seats (counties Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal, South Dublin and the city of Dublin);
- East: 3 seats (counties Carlow, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laois, Longford, Louth, Meath, Offaly, Westmeath, Wexford and Wicklow);
- South: 3 seats (Cork, Kerry, Limerick, North Tipperary, South Tipperary, Waterford and the cities of Cork, Limerick and Waterford).

The recommendations of the commission were accepted in full and the new constituencies for the election of 13 members of the European Parliament were specified in the [European Parliament Elections \(Amendment\) Act 2004](#).

2007

In the *Constituency Commission Report on Dáil and European Parliament Constituencies 2007* (Prn. A7/1347) the Commission recommended, for the 12 seats, that there be a reduction of one seat in the Dublin constituency and that the population of the counties of Longford and Westmeath be transferred from the East to the North-West constituency.

- North-West: 3 seats (counties Cavan, Clare, Donegal, Galway, Leitrim, Longford, Mayo, Monaghan, Roscommon, Sligo, Westmeath and the city of Galway);
- Dublin: 3 seats (counties Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal, South Dublin and the city of Dublin);
- East: 3 seats (counties Carlow, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laois, Louth, Meath, Offaly, Wexford and Wicklow);
- South: 3 seats (Cork, Kerry, Limerick, North Tipperary, South Tipperary, Waterford and the cities of Cork, Limerick and Waterford).

The recommendations of the Commission were accepted in full and the new constituencies were specified in the [Electoral \(Amendment\) Act 2009](#).

Notes

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ISBN 978-1-4064-2792-9



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