

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-001380/24
to the Council
Manuela Ripa (PPE)
(18 July 2024)**

Subject: Council Decision of 13 July 2018 amending the Act concerning the election of the members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage

1. Which Member States have so far not ratified the Council Decision of 13 July 2018 amending the Act concerning the election of the members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage?
2. Are the Member States obliged to ratify the decision or are they free to refuse ratification?
3. What is the current status of the Council's position on the European Parliament legislative resolution of 3 May 2022 on the proposal for a Council regulation on the election of the Members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage?

Submitted: 18.7.2024

**Reply
(16 December 2024)**

With the exception of Spain, all Member States have ratified Council Decision (EU, Euratom) 2018/994 of 13 July 2018 amending the Act concerning the election of the members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage.

Council Decision (EU, Euratom) 2018/994 is based on Article 223(1) TFEU, which states that the European Parliament shall draw up a proposal to lay down the provisions necessary for the election of its Members by direct universal suffrage.

The Council, acting unanimously in accordance with a special legislative procedure and after obtaining the consent of the European Parliament, shall lay down the necessary provisions, which shall enter into force following their approval by the Member States in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements. Article 223(1) TFEU does not set a time limit for the approval by Member States.

The Council has examined the main elements of the European Parliament's proposals contained in the legislative resolution of 3 May 2022, discussing them on several occasions at both technical and political level.

The political discussions in the Council are public. As expressed by the Presidency of the Council at a European Parliament Plenary debate on the matter held in June 2023, the European Parliament proposal implies a complete overhaul of the European electoral law and aims at greater harmonisation in a field that touches upon Member States' electoral traditions.

It is therefore a complex matter that requires a thorough assessment, which has been carried out within the Council since 2022, with some Member States presenting alternative proposals. Due to the need for an unanimous position of all Member States, compromises remain difficult to reach in this field.
