

Report on the 2012 ECPR Executive Committee Election Results

From 1 November 2011 to 15 March 2012, the European Consortium for Political Research conducted a three-stage process to elect new members to the organization's Executive Committee.

The elections were carried out on the basis of the document "Rules for Electing Members of the ECPR Executive Committee", approved by the Executive Committee on 31 August 2010. For the first time, the elections were carried out electronically using a special platform created on the ECPR website.

The election was initially to fill 7 seats on the 12-member Committee (instead of the customary 6), since one member of the Committee, Joaquim Molins, had stepped down in September 2009, meaning an extra member (Manuel Sanchez de Dios) needed to be co-opted. Under Point 14f of the Constitution, individuals appointed in such a manner may hold the seat only until the next Executive Committee election.

To ensure proper oversight of the election, ECPR Chair Luciano Bardi asked Prof. David Farrell (University College Dublin) to serve as Senior Returning Officer. Prof. Farrell assumed this role on 7 November 2011.

In accordance with the "Rules", the first phase of the election – candidate nominations – took place from 1 November to 31 December 2011. At the conclusion of this period, 15 individuals were duly nominated:

Lawrence	SAEZ	School of Oriental and African Studies
Richard	KATZ	Johns Hopkins University
Luis	DE SOUSA	Universidade de Lisboa Instituto de Ciencias Sociais
Pippa	NORRIS	Harvard University
Olafur	HARDARSON	University of Iceland
Manuel	SANCHEZ DE DIOS	Universidad Complutense de Madrid
Rudy	ANDEWEG	Universiteit Leiden
Johannes	POLLAK	Institute for Advanced Studies, Vienna
Knud	JORGENSEN	Aarhus Universitet
Klaus	GOETZ	Universität Potsdam
Luca	VERZICHELLI	Università Degli Studi di Siena
Mary	FARRELL	University of Greenwich
Nicolas	SAUGER	Foundation Nationale Des Sciences Politiques
Birgit	SAUER	University of Vienna
Fiona	MACKAY	University of Edinburgh

On 1 January, the endorsement period began, during which ECPR Official Representatives were asked to endorse nominees for the final electoral ballot. This period, originally scheduled to conclude on 30 January, was extended (with due consent from the Senior Returning Officer) to 3 February (and announced to ORs) in order to resolve a discrepancy between the timeframe laid out in the "Rules" and the dates of an electoral calendar that had been announced to the membership.¹

¹ The timeframe laid out in the "Rules" states that the endorsement period shall last "30 days", whereas the calendar announced to the membership listed a period of "1 January – 1 February", meaning a total of 32 days. To err on the side of caution, it was agreed to extend the period even more fully to 3 February.

On 11 January 2012 at an Executive Committee meeting, EC member Danica Fink-Hafner announced her decision to step down from the Committee at the conclusion of her first three-year term. In consultation with the Senior Returning Officer, it was decided that because final voting had not yet begun, this seat would be added to the number available for election. Hence, the new number of seats to be filled was 8. This information was also announced to ORs.

At the conclusion of the endorsement period, 14 candidates had received the requisite number of endorsements to be carried onto the ballot. These were:

Richard	KATZ	Johns Hopkins University
Luis	DE SOUSA	Universidade de Lisboa Instituto de Ciencias Sociais
Pippa	NORRIS	Harvard University
Olafur	HARDARSON	University of Iceland
Manuel	SANCHEZ DE DIOS	Universidad Complutense de Madrid
Rudy	ANDEWEG	Universiteit Leiden
Johannes	POLLAK	Institute for Advanced Studies, Vienna
Knud	JORGENSEN	Aarhus Universitet
Klaus	GOETZ	Universität Potsdam
Luca	VERZICHELLI	Università Degli Studi di Siena
Mary	FARRELL	University of Greenwich
Nicolas	SAUGER	Foundation Nationale Des Sciences Politiques
Birgit	SAUER	University of Vienna
Fiona	MACKAY	University of Edinburgh

The final voting period was opened on 15 February. Under the “Rules”, ECPR Official Representatives were asked to rank-order no less than three, but no more than eight of the candidates on the ballot. Subsequently, these votes would be processed using the Single Transferable Vote (Scottish variant).

On 29 February, staff at ECPR Central Services began a routine review of member institutions’ payment of their yearly subscription dues. (Under the ECPR’s Subscription Payment Policy, member institutions lose access to ECPR benefits if their institutions have not paid their subscription fee by 1 March.) During this review, Central Services staff determined that the home institution of one of the candidates standing for the election had not as yet paid its 2011-2012 fee. On 6 March, the staff alerted the ECPR Senior Management Team (SMT, Chair Luciano Bardi, Vice-Chair Vello Pettai and Academic Director Martin Bull) of this situation. The SMT decided to refer the matter to the Senior Returning Officer for a decision as to whether this situation had any bearing on the particular individual’s status as a candidate.

Having reviewed both the “Rules” and the ECPR Constitution, the Senior Returning Officer found that neither document regulates the specific issue of an institution’s outstanding membership fee, except in Point 8 of the Constitution, where it is stated,

8. Each full member is entitled to designate one person to serve as its representative on the Council and an alternate to represent it in the absence of the designated representative, except that any member which is more than one year in arrears with its subscription ceases to be eligible to be represented on the Council.

The Senior Returning Officer determined that by extension this principle must apply also for electoral candidates to the Executive Committee. He therefore ruled that there was no issue affecting the given individual's status as a candidate, recommending however that the next Executive Committee take steps to avoid such ambiguities in the future.

Having clarified this question, the SMT proceeded to count the ballots as cast during the voting period.

A total of 178 ballots (out of a total number of 340 eligible ORs) were cast. All of the votes were declared valid.²

To ensure an accurate processing of the votes, the Executive Committee decided to rely on a well-known computer program, OpenSTV (see www.openstv.org). The votes (as recorded by the ECPR website) were uploaded into the programme and processed according to the Scottish variant of STV. No ties occurred.

Those elected to the Executive Committee (in alphabetical order) were:

- | | | |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Rudy | ANDEWEG | Universiteit Leiden |
| 2. Klaus | GOETZ | Universität Potsdam |
| 3. Olafur | HARDARSON | University of Iceland |
| 4. Knud | JORGENSEN | Aarhus Universitet |
| 5. Richard | KATZ | Johns Hopkins University |
| 6. Pippa | NORRIS | Harvard University |
| 7. Manuel | SANCHEZ DE DIOS | Universidad Complutense de Madrid |
| 8. Luca | VERZICHELLI | Università Degli Studi di Siena |

Not elected (in alphabetical order) were:

- | | | |
|--------------|----------|--|
| 9. Luis | DE SOUSA | Universidade de Lisboa Instituto de Ciencias Sociais |
| 10. Mary | FARRELL | University of Greenwich |
| 11. Fiona | MACKAY | University of Edinburgh |
| 12. Johannes | POLLAK | Institute for Advanced Studies |
| 13. Birgit | SAUER | University of Vienna |
| 14. Nicolas | SAUGER | Foundation Nationale Des Sciences Politiques |

The full calculation of results follows on the next page. Alternates for any vacancies that may arise shall be filled using the countback method within STV or where this is not possible via co-optation (as per Point 14f of the Constitution).

The results were certified by the Senior Returning Officer as correct.

At its upcoming meeting in Antwerp, the ECPR Council shall vote to confirm these results.

ECPR Executive Committee

29 March 2012

² This was in part because in accordance with the "Rules" the special voting webpage was programmed in such a way that the system would only accept a ballot if it listed at least three, but no more than eight preference votes.

Title

OpenSTV version 2.0.0 (<http://www.OpenSTV.org/>)

Loading ballots from file EC_election_votes.txt.
Ballot file contains 14 candidates and 178 ballots.
No candidates have withdrawn.
Ballot file contains 178 non-empty ballots.

Blue box indicates candidate elected.

Red box indicates candidate eliminated.

Method Options:

- Title -- Title
- Seats -- 8

Counting votes using Scottish STV.

Round	ANDEWEG	DE_SOUSA	FARRELL	GOETZ	HARDARSON	JORGENSEN	KATZ	MACKAY	NORRIS	POLLAK	SANCHEZ_DE_DIOS	SAUER	SAUGER	VERZICHELLI	Exhausted	Surplus	Threshold
1	30.00000	8.00000	2.00000	13.00000	19.00000	16.00000	13.00000	10.00000	17.00000	8.00000	11.00000	2.00000	4.00000	25.00000	0.00000	15.00000	20.00000
Count of first choices. Candidates ANDEWEG and VERZICHELLI have reached the threshold and are elected. Candidates have surplus votes so surplus votes will be transferred for the next round.																	
2	20.00000	8.33333	2.66666	14.99998	19.33333	17.33332	16.33330	10.33333	17.33333	8.00000	11.66666	2.00000	4.66666	25.00000	0.00010	5.00000	20.00000
Count after transferring surplus votes from ANDEWEG with a transfer value of 10.00000/30.00000. Candidates have surplus votes so surplus votes will be transferred for the next round.																	
3	20.00000	8.53333	2.86666	15.39998	19.33333	17.33332	18.73330	10.53333	18.13333	8.40000	12.06666	2.00000	4.66666	20.00000	0.00010	0.00000	20.00000
Count after transferring surplus votes from VERZICHELLI with a transfer value of 5.00000/25.00000. No candidates have surplus votes so candidates will be eliminated and their votes transferred for the next round.																	
4	20.00000	8.53333	2.86666	17.39998	19.33333	17.33332	18.73330	10.53333	18.13333	8.40000	12.06666	4.66666	20.00000	0.00010	0.00000	20.00000	20.00000
Count after eliminating SAUER and transferring votes. No candidates have surplus votes so candidates will be eliminated and their votes transferred for the next round.																	
5	20.00000	8.53333		18.06664	20.33333	17.53332	18.73330	11.53333	18.13333	8.40000	12.06666	4.66666	20.00000	0.00010	0.33333	20.00000	20.00000
Count after eliminating FARRELL and transferring votes. Candidate HARDARSON has reached the threshold and is elected. Candidates have surplus votes so surplus votes will be transferred for the next round.																	
6	20.00000	8.53333		18.08303	20.00000	17.61527	18.76608	11.57157	18.23167	8.40000	12.11583	4.68305	20.00000	0.00017	0.00000	20.00000	20.00000
Count after transferring surplus votes from HARDARSON with a transfer value of 0.33333/20.33333. No candidates have surplus votes so candidates will be eliminated and their votes transferred for the next round.																	
7	20.00000	8.53333		19.08303	20.00000	17.61527	18.76608	13.57157	18.24806	8.40000	13.11583		20.00000	0.66683	0.00000	20.00000	20.00000
Count after eliminating SAUGER and transferring votes. No candidates have surplus votes so candidates will be eliminated and their votes transferred for the next round.																	
8	20.00000	9.53333		20.08303	20.00000	18.61527	19.76608	14.57157	21.44806		13.11583		20.00000	0.86683	1.53109	20.00000	20.00000
Count after eliminating POLLAK and transferring votes. Candidates GOETZ and NORRIS have reached the threshold and are elected. Candidates have surplus votes so surplus votes will be transferred for the next round.																	
9	20.00000	9.62784		20.08303	20.00000	18.61747	20.29035	15.31528	20.00000		13.18334		20.00000	0.88269	0.37338	20.00000	20.00000
Count after transferring surplus votes from NORRIS with a transfer value of 1.44806/21.44806. Candidate KATZ has reached the threshold and is elected. Candidates have surplus votes so surplus votes will be transferred for the next round.																	
10	20.00000	9.67106		20.08303	20.00000	18.65198	20.00000	15.38602	20.00000		13.24626		20.00000	0.96165	0.08303	20.00000	20.00000
Count after transferring surplus votes from KATZ with a transfer value of 0.29035/20.29035. Candidates have surplus votes so surplus votes will be transferred for the next round.																	
11	20.00000	9.67738		20.00000	20.00000	18.67406	20.00000	15.41217	20.00000		13.25450		20.00000	0.98189	0.00000	20.00000	20.00000
Count after transferring surplus votes from GOETZ with a transfer value of 0.08303/20.08303. No candidates have surplus votes so candidates will be eliminated and their votes transferred for the next round.																	
12	20.00000			20.00000	20.00000	19.67882	20.00000	17.76076	20.00000		18.46880		20.00000	2.09162	0.00000	20.00000	20.00000
Count after eliminating DE_SOUSA and transferring votes. No candidates have surplus votes so candidates will be eliminated and their votes transferred for the next round.																	
13	20.00000			20.00000	20.00000	22.91223	20.00000		20.00000		18.75474		20.00000	16.33303	2.91223	20.00000	20.00000
Count after eliminating MACKAY and transferring votes. Candidate JORGENSEN has reached the threshold and is elected. Candidate SANCHEZ_DE_DIOS is elected.																	

Winners are ANDEWEG, GOETZ, HARDARSON, JORGENSEN, KATZ, NORRIS, SANCHEZ_DE_DIOS, and VERZICHELLI.