



Enhance the European Focus of Elections to European Parliament

A Proposal by Klaus Feldmann and Moritz Wille

MeetEU partners with the European Parliament's together.eu campaign. This follow-up to the successful #thistimeimvoting campaign aims to raise democratic participation across Europe



The Problem

Elections for European Parliament lack focus on Europe and issues of European importance. They are run nationally, by national politicians on national campaign platforms focusing on national issues.

The Fix – Provide national Parties with an incentive to think European

Granting Political Group status in the EP, which brings with it critical advantages for parliamentary work, only to parties **having run the election campaign on a Joint European Transnational Campaign Platform.**



MeetEU partners with the European Parliament's together.eu campaign. This follow-up to the successful #thistimeimvoting campaign aims to raise democratic participation across Europe



Key Components of the Proposal

1. The parties intending to obtain the status of a **Political Group of the European Parliament**, and thus partake in its benefits, need to
 - a. have a **Joint European Transnational Campaign Platform** specific for that election cycle. The common campaign platform needs to be approved by democratic process by the membership of each applying member party!
 - b. publish the common campaign platform and run their campaign based on it!
2. The European Parliament must establish a committee to **exert judgement on applications for joined EPPG membership**. This requires a change to Rule 33 of the Rules of Procedure of EP, which currently assumes affinity if so declared.

MeetEU partners with the European Parliament's together.eu campaign. This follow-up to the successful #thistimeimvoting campaign aims to raise democratic participation across Europe



CURRENT PROCESS

National parties, partially connected under the umbrella of European Political Parties

- compete on mostly national platforms
- pick candidates to send to the European Parliament.

Parliamentary rules allow them to form Political groups at any point w/o conditions

Parliament need not evaluate the political affinity of members of a group. In forming a group together under this Rule, the Members concerned accept that they have political affinity.

This text is from Rule 33 of Rules of Procedure of EP



European Parliament

FUTURE PROCESS

(To obtain the benefits of Political Group Status...)

National Parties build coalitions of likeminded parties from other member states before EP Election Campaign

The members assembled in such a coalition agree on a Common Campaign Platform

The members assembled in such a coalition campaign exclusively on that platform

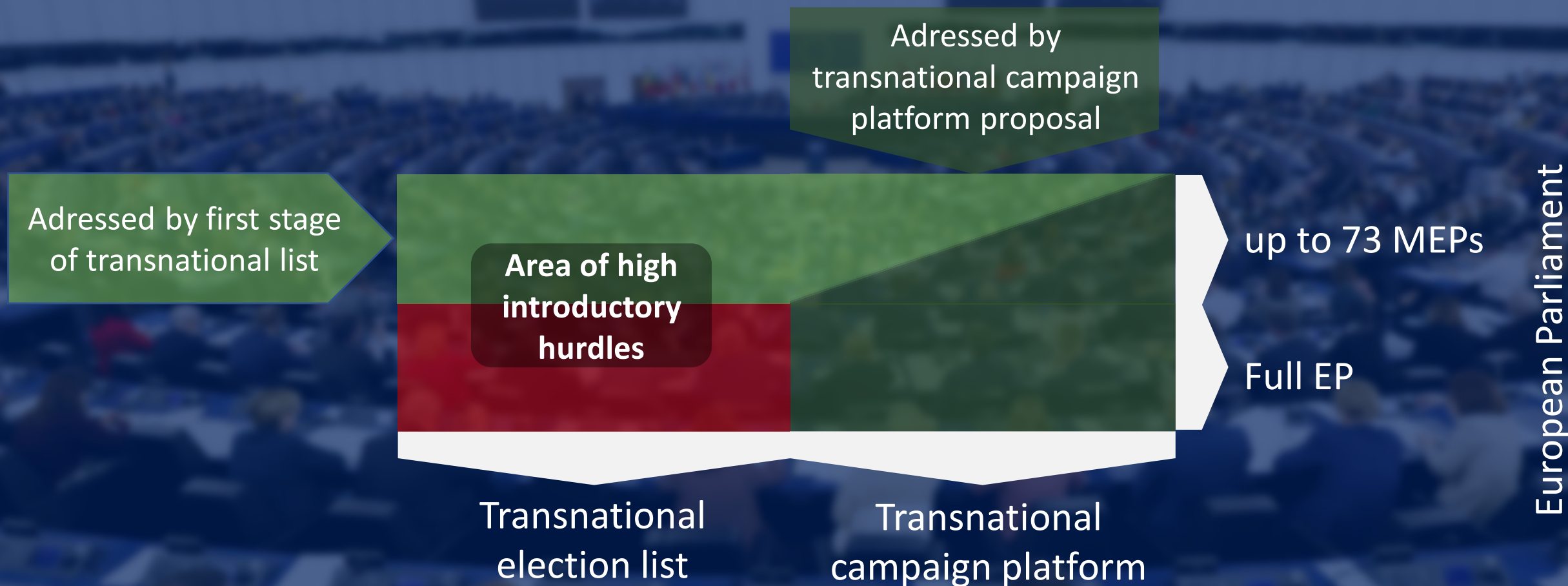
Only parties meeting above stated conditions can obtain the Status of a Political Group in the European Parliament along with the benefits that come with it:
Financial, Speaking time, committee assignments

Proposal for new affinity condition in Rule 33

MeetEU partners with the European Parliament's together.eu campaign. This follow-up to the successful #thistimeimvoting campaign aims to raise democratic participation across Europe



The introduction of transnational campaign platforms as a first step towards a full implementation of transnational lists avoids introductory hurdles:



MeetEU partners with the European Parliament's together.eu campaign. This follow-up to the successful #thistimeimvoting campaign aims to raise democratic participation across Europe



KEY BENEFITS - THE PROPOSAL

1. Puts issues of European importance at the center of each campaign
2. Enables the Lead Candidate concept
3. Forces a European (vs. National) campaign
4. Introduces European aspects into national party discussions
5. Facilitates a European political communication sphere
 - a. In the Media
 - b. In the political parties
6. Strengthens Parliament vs. Other EU institutions
7. Strengthens bond between Parliament and citizen
8. Is easy to implement because it does not face significant introductory hurdles like
 - Changes to electoral laws or processes in member states
 - Variable changes to number of EPs per member state
 - Changes to rules for campaign financing

MeetEU partners with the European Parliament's together.eu campaign. This follow-up to the successful #thistimeimvoting campaign aims to raise democratic participation across Europe



How does this proposal compare to the Introduction of Transnational Lists?

This proposal steers around the introductory hurdles of Transnational Lists, preempts and even partially expands on their benefits. Accepting this proposal now will greatly facilitate the introduction of transnational lists later.

Key differences

This proposal...

- Impacts electoral campaign focus on Europe **for all seats** of the EP
- **Facilitates lead candidate concept** for all EPPGs
- Requires **no changes to electoral laws** or even constitutions
- Fosters European public sphere of political debate
- MEP contestants can **stay close to his/her constituency**
- Requires only changes to the Rules of Procedure of EP, i.e. the **EP can decide**

MeetEU partners with the European Parliament's together.eu campaign. This follow-up to the successful #thistimeimvoting campaign aims to raise democratic participation across Europe



For detailed description of our proposal consult the latest release of our working document, available on <https://meeteu.eu/> or by clicking on download



Download

Table of content

- 1) Abbreviations
- 2) Status Quo
- 3) The proposal – Introduction of Transnational Campaign Platforms as a requirement to form an EP Political Group
- 4) Analogies in the existing political landscape
- 5) Sizing up the proposed concept against Transnational Electoral Lists
- 6) Possible problem points
- 7) Who would oppose the change?
- 8) What can be done to acquiesce the opponents?

MeetEU partners with the European Parliament's together.eu campaign. This follow-up to the successful #thistimeimvoting campaign aims to raise democratic participation across Europe



MeetEU is not financially supported by any political party or institution. It is a project that is completely realized by volunteers.

If you have any questions, please contact niceto@meeteu.eu

More information on <https://meeteu.eu/>

June 2021

All pictures are (if not marked) from MeetEU and/or free to use.

Slide Background "General view on the plenary chamber in Strasbourg after the departure of the UK MEPs":

© European Union 2020 - Source : EP from https://multimedia.europarl.europa.eu/en/general-view-on-plenary-chamber-in-strasbourg-after-departure-of-uk-meps_20200212_EP-099944A_MCU_022_p

last accessed on 17.06.2021

MeetEU partners with the European Parliament's together.eu campaign. This follow-up to the successful #thistimeimvoting campaign aims to raise democratic participation across Europe

