



# European Parliamentary Elections Act 2002

## 2002 CHAPTER 24

### *General elections*

#### **2 Voting system in Great Britain**

- (1) The system of election of MEPs in an electoral region in Great Britain is to be a regional list system.
- (2) The Secretary of State must by regulations—
  - (a) make provision for the nomination of registered parties in relation to an election in such a region, and
  - (b) require a nomination under paragraph (a) to be accompanied by a list of candidates numbering no more than the MEPs to be elected for the region.
- (3) The system of election must comply with the following conditions.
- (4) A vote may be cast for a registered party or an individual candidate named on the ballot paper.
- (5) The first seat is to be allocated to the party or individual candidate with the greatest number of votes.
- (6) The second and subsequent seats are to be allocated in the same way, except that the number of votes given to a party to which one or more seats have already been allocated are to be divided by the number of seats allocated plus one.
- (7) In allocating the second or any subsequent seat there are to be disregarded any votes given to—
  - (a) a party to which there has already been allocated a number of seats equal to the number of names on the party's list of candidates, and
  - (b) an individual candidate to whom a seat has already been allocated.
- (8) Seats allocated to a party are to be filled by the persons named on the party's list of candidates in the order in which they appear on that list.

- (9) For the purposes of subsection (6) fractions are to be taken into account.
- (10) In this section “registered party” means a party registered under Part 2 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (c. 41).

### **3 Voting system in Northern Ireland**

The system of election of MEPs in Northern Ireland is to be a single transferable vote system under which—

- (a) a vote is capable of being given so as to indicate the voter’s order of preference for the candidates, and
- (b) a vote is capable of being transferred to the next choice—
  - (i) when the vote is not required to give a prior choice the necessary quota of votes, or
  - (ii) when, owing to the deficiency in the number of votes given for a prior choice, that choice is eliminated from the list of candidates.

### **4 Date of elections**

The poll at each general election of MEPs is to be held on a day appointed by order of the Secretary of State.