



**Council of the European Union**

General Secretariat

Directorate-General F Communication and Document Management

Directorate 2 Document Management

Transparency and Access to Documents Unit

Carla Santos Moore

*Administrator*

# **Training Seminar European Documentation Centres 2-3 June 2016**

## **Information Sources of the Council of the European Union**

# Transparency in the Treaties

## **THE AIM (article 10(3) TEU)**

Every citizen shall have the right to participate in the democratic life of the Union.

Decisions shall be taken as openly and as closely as possible to the citizen.

## **HOW TO ACHIEVE IT (article 15(3) TFEU)**

When deliberating and voting on legislative acts the Council meets in public.

The public has a right of access to documents of the Union's Institutions.

## **A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT (article 42 EU CHARTER)**

Any citizen of the Union has a right of access to documents.



# Transparency in the Council's Rules of procedure

## Article 7 CRP

### Legislative deliberations

When deliberating and voting on legislative acts the Council meets in public

Voting results, explanation of votes and statements on legislative acts are public

## Article 8 CRP

### Other public deliberations and debates

Council's first deliberation and adoption of important non-legislative proposals [8(1)]

Debates on important issues affecting the EU and its citizens [8(2)]

Debates on GAC's 18 month programme, priorities of the other Council's configurations, Commission's programmes and policy strategies [8(3)]

## Article 10 CRP

### Access to documents

The public has a right of access to documents of the Council and of the European Council

Annex II of the CRP sets specific provisions for the implementation of this right by the Council

Regulation 1049/2001 establishes the general principles and limits governing this right




# Council's website

- ❖ Full meeting calendar
- ❖ Dedicated page for each Council meeting:
  - Preview of agenda and topics of discussion
  - List of participants
  - Summary of main results
  - Detailed outcome of Council meeting
  - Consult documents related to Council meeting: provisional agenda, list of A items, press releases, etc.

Council of the EU

FisheriesAgriculture

## Agriculture and Fisheries Council, 16/06/2015

Council of the European Union | Meeting n°3397 | Luxembourg | 16/06/2015 | List of participants 

### Main results


#### Council position on organic farming

The Council reached agreement on a general approach for a regulation on organic farming.

**"**After hard work during our Presidency and lengthy discussions today, the Council reached a political agreement that will enable us to begin negotiations with the European Parliament on the future legal framework of




The proposal aims at revising the existing legislation on organic production and labelling of organic products so as to **remove obstacles to the development of organic production in the EU**, guarantee fair competition for farmers and operators, and improve consumer confidence in organic products.

Minister Jānis Dūklavs noted that: "After hard work during our Presidency and



Ministers discussed agriculture and fisheries issues. The main topic on the agenda was organic farming.

### Agenda of the meeting

- Indicative programme, Agriculture and Fisheries Council, 16 June 2015
- Provisional agenda, Agriculture and Fisheries Council, 16 June 2015 
- List of A items, non legislative activities, Agriculture and Fisheries Council, 16 June 2015 
- Background brief 

# Open sessions: Webcast

- Watch public sessions *LIVE*
- See votes on legislative acts
- Consult documents submitted to Council for public sessions



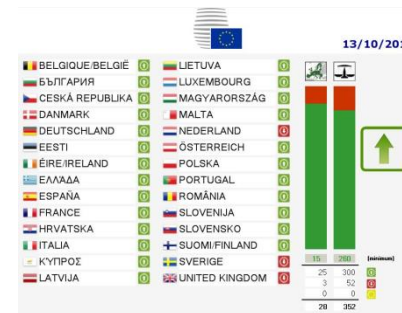
## Current subject

### Adoption - A item

Directive of the Council, amending Directive 2011/96/EU on the common system of taxation applicable in the case of parent companies and subsidiaries of different Member States.



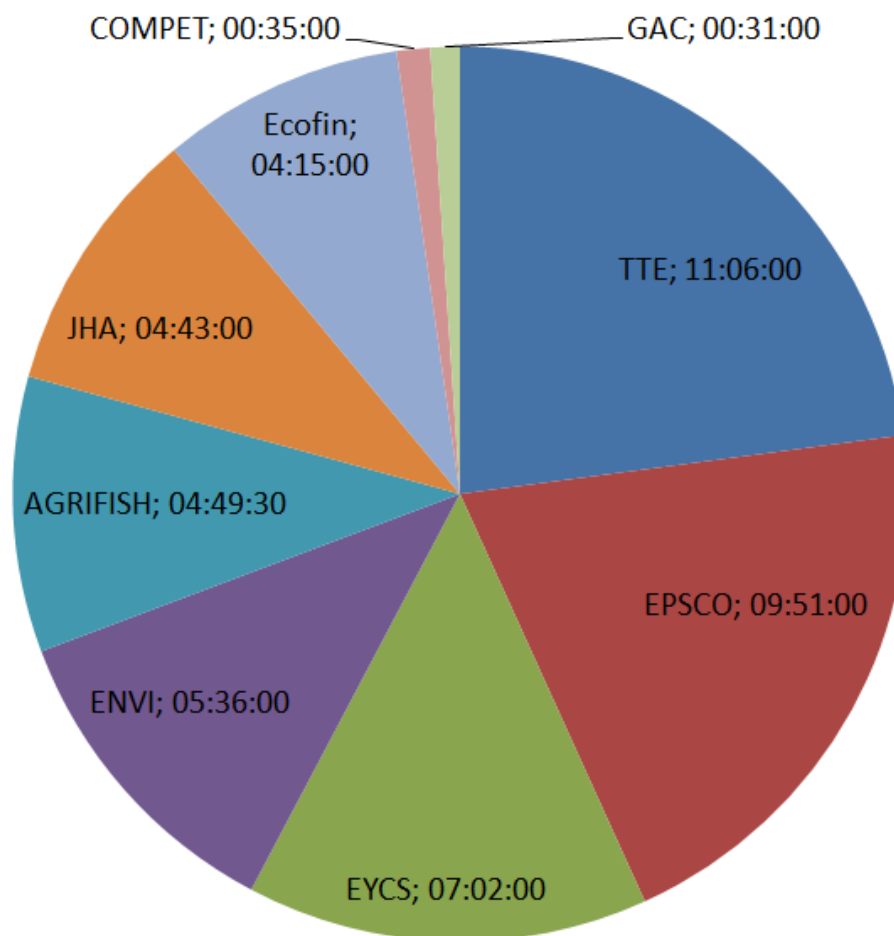
Presidency



# Open sessions during the Luxembourg Presidency (JULY-DEC 2015)

## Duration of open sessions per Council configuration

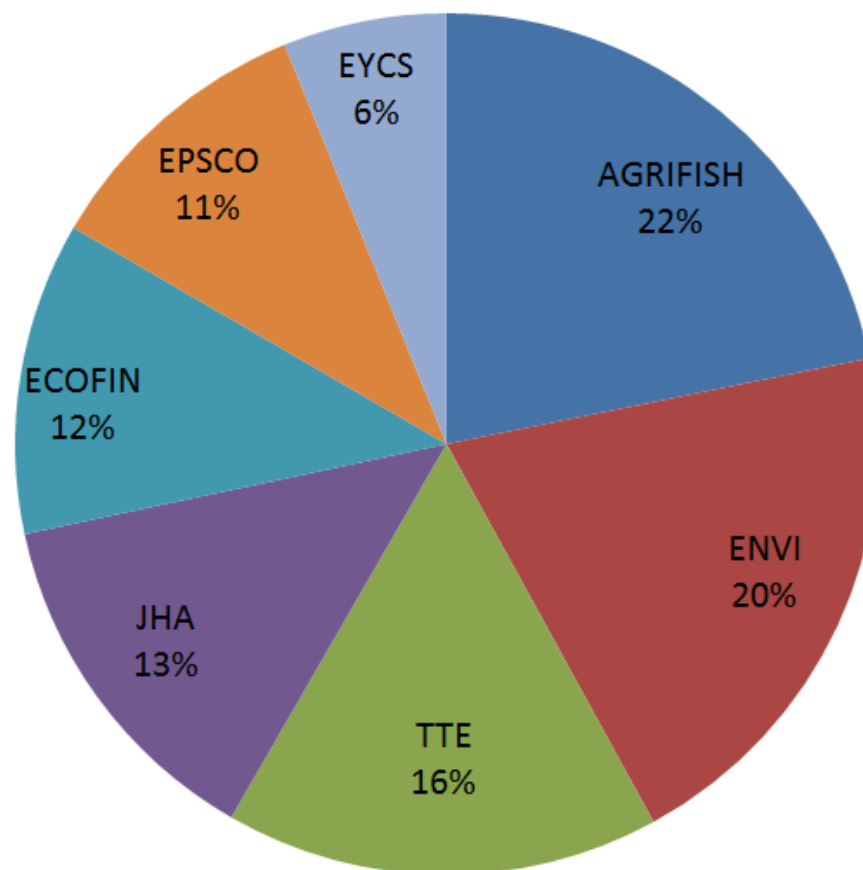
Council configuration	Duration
TTE	11:06:00
EPSCO	09:51:00
EYCS	07:02:00
ENVI	05:36:00
AGRIFISH	04:49:30
JHA	04:43:00
Ecofin	04:15:00
COMPET	00:35:00
GAC	00:31:00
Total	48:28:30













# Open sessions during the Luxembourg Presidency (JULY-DEC 2015)

## Online viewers of Council open sessions

Council configuration	Online viewers	View by	
		Live	Recorded
AGRIFISH	2880	1630	1250
ENVI	2670	1157	1513
TTE	2150	1000	1150
JHA	1761	592	1169
ECOFIN	1549	752	797
EPSCO	1387	856	531
EYCS	808	401	407
GAC	444	112	332
COMPET	288	64	224
Council configuration	Online viewers	Live	Recorded
Total	13937	6564	7373



# Open sessions during the Luxembourg Presidency (JULY-DEC 2015)

3441st Environment 16 December 2015			
Location of the 751 viewers watching the broadcast <i>LIVE</i>			
 Belgium	243	 Finland	21
 United Kingdom	120	 Netherlands	19
 Germany	84	 Poland	18
 Luxembourg	50	 Italy	16
 USA	25	 Switzerland	15
Items:	Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants (2013/0443 (COD)) – General approach		

# Access to documents

## ❖ Access to documents (art. 10 + Annex II)

- The public has a right of access to documents of the Council and of the European Council.
- Regulation 1049/2001 establishes the general principles and limits governing the right of access to documents of the EU Institutions
- Annex II of the CRP sets specific provisions for the implementation of this right by the Council.

# Access to documents: Public register



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Language selection



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## Documents and publications

### Public register of Council documents

The Public register contains the contents of or references to official documents produced by the Council or submitted to it **from 1999**.

> [Search for documents](#)

> [Latest documents added to the Public register](#)

### Request a document

If the document you are looking for is not available in the Public register, you can request it.

> [Request a Council document](#)

## Search in the register

☐ Public Documents only

Document Number

8330/99, 12586/2/99

Interinstitutional File

2000/0183(COD), 2001/0011(CNS)

Words in Title

Words in Text

search only possible in public documents

Subject Matter

List

Document Date



Date of Meeting



# Access to documents: Public register

## ST 1 2011 INIT

European Council meeting on 4 February 2011

02-02-2011



accessible

## ST 17887 2010 INIT

3060th meeting of the Council of the European Union (GENERAL AFFAIRS), held in Brussels on 14 December 2010

11-04-2011



partially  
accessible

## ST 9 2011 REV 1

EUROPEAN COUNCIL DECISION appointing a member of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank

24-03-2011



not accessible

# Access to documents in numbers

## Professional profiles of the applicants



Academic world: 31,7%



Civil society: 28,5%



Legal profession: 10,3%



Journalists: 4,5%

Undeclared: 14,8 %

# Access to documents in numbers

## ❖ Main fields covered by requests

- 23,4% - Area of freedom, security and justice
- 13,1% - Environment
- 10,6% - CFSP
- 6,7% - Internal market
- 6,1% - Health and consumer policy
- 5,2% - Social policy

# Introducing a request for access

- A request for access to documents has to be made in written form in one of the EU languages
- The request does not have to be motivated
- Requests can be made by:
  - Submitting the electronic form available on the Council's website,
  - Email to: [access@consilium.europa.eu](mailto:access@consilium.europa.eu)



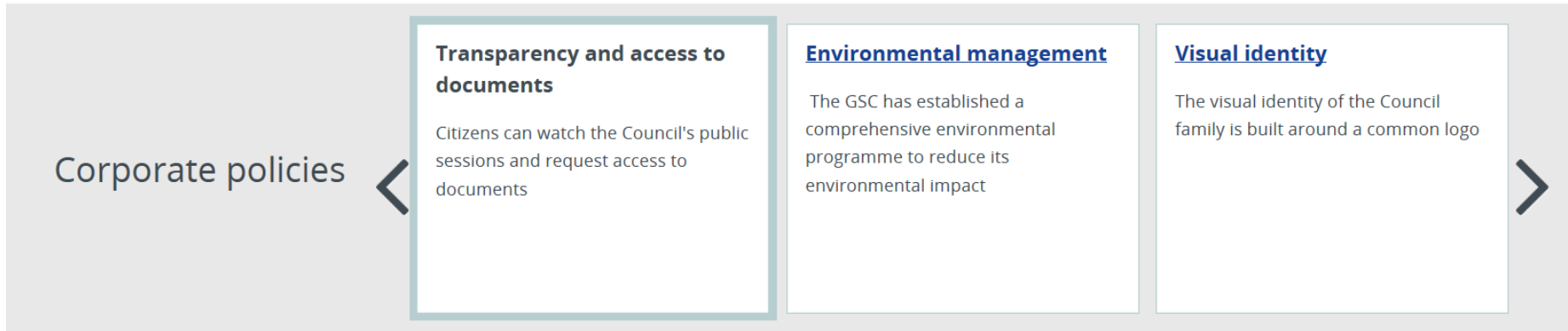
# Council's open data

The Council has published three open datasets on its website:

- Metadata of the Council's Public Register,
- Metadata on requests for access to documents,
- Voting results of the Council on legislative acts.



# Council's open datasets: Access – Council's website



General Secretariat

> Open data

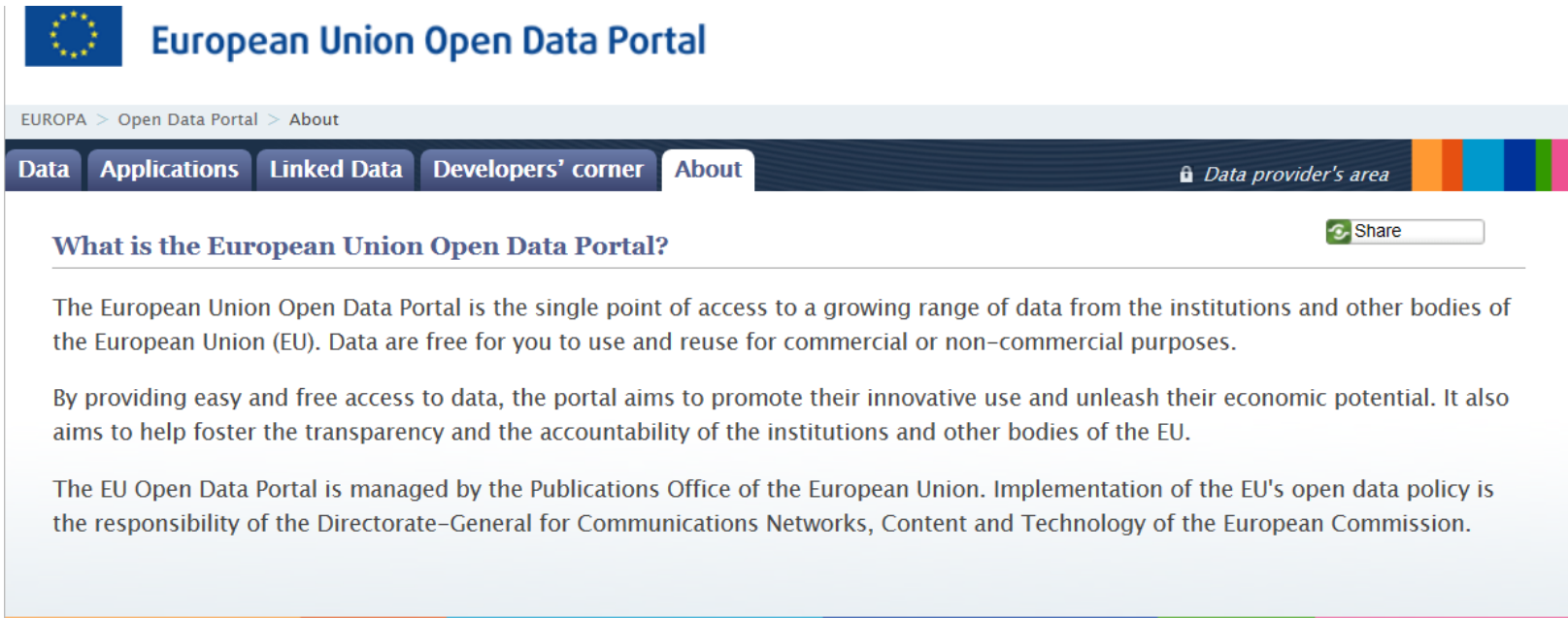
## Transparency and access to documents

Following transparency rules, EU institutions work as openly and as closely as possible to citizens. Ministers at the Council legislate in public and citizens have a right to request access to Council documents.

Open sessions

[www.consilium.europa.eu/en/general-secretariat/corporate-policies/transparency/open-data](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/general-secretariat/corporate-policies/transparency/open-data)

# Council's open datasets: Access –EU Open Data Portal



The screenshot shows the top section of the European Union Open Data Portal. At the top left is the European Union flag. To its right is the text "European Union Open Data Portal". Below this is a breadcrumb trail: "EUROPA > Open Data Portal > About". A navigation bar contains five tabs: "Data", "Applications", "Linked Data", "Developers' corner", and "About", with "About" currently selected. To the right of the tabs is a link for "Data provider's area" with a lock icon. A colorful bar (orange, blue, green, pink) is positioned below the navigation bar. Below the bar is a "Share" button with a social media icon. The main content area has the heading "What is the European Union Open Data Portal?" followed by three paragraphs of text.

**European Union Open Data Portal**

EUROPA > Open Data Portal > About

Data Applications Linked Data Developers' corner About

🔒 Data provider's area

🔗 Share

### What is the European Union Open Data Portal?

The European Union Open Data Portal is the single point of access to a growing range of data from the institutions and other bodies of the European Union (EU). Data are free for you to use and reuse for commercial or non-commercial purposes.

By providing easy and free access to data, the portal aims to promote their innovative use and unleash their economic potential. It also aims to help foster the transparency and the accountability of the institutions and other bodies of the EU.

The EU Open Data Portal is managed by the Publications Office of the European Union. Implementation of the EU's open data policy is the responsibility of the Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology of the European Commission.

## EU Open Data Portal

<https://open-data.europa.eu>

# Council's open datasets: Content

## Information contained in the register dataset:

- publication status
- document category
- document number
- suffix
- title
- interinstitutional code
- subject matter
- originator (author)
- addressee(s)
- issue date
- meeting related to document
- document languages

# Council's open datasets: Content

## Information contained in the requests for access to documents dataset:

- Anonymous information on the applicant (professional activity, geographic origin)
- General Information on the request (number, type, date, deadline to reply, extended deadline to reply, date of reply, effort spent, follow-up and policy areas)
- Information on the requested documents (number, publication status, document category, type of reply)

# Council's open datasets:

## Content

### Information contained in the voting records dataset:

- act type (regulation, directive, decision or position)
- act title (as published in the EU's Official Journal)
- act number (as published in the EU's Official Journal)
- document number (submitted to the Council for adoption)
- interinstitutional number
- date of adoption
- form of adoption (in a Council meeting or by written procedure)
- Council configuration
- Council session
- action by the Council (according to the steps of the legislative procedure)
- policy area
- voting procedure (ordinary or special legislative procedure)
- voting rule (qualified majority or unanimity)
- Voting results (in favour, against, abstentions)



# Council's voting calculator



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Voting system

## Qualified majority

A qualified majority needs 55% of member states, representing at least 65% of the EU population

## Unanimity

Unanimity requires everyone to agree or abstain from voting

## Voting calculator

Use the voting calculator to simulate the Council voting system and results

### Set the votes for each country

Countries participating	Votes	Reset all to Yes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All countries participating <input type="checkbox"/> Only Eurozone countries participating		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Austria 1.69 % of population	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Abstain	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Belgium 2.21 % of population	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Abstain	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bulgaria 1.42 % of population	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Abstain	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Croatia 0.83 % of population	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Abstain	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cyprus 0.17 % of population	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Abstain	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Czech Republic 2.05 % of population	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Abstain	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Denmark 1.11 % of population	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Abstain	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Estonia 0.26 % of population	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Abstain	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Finland 1.08 % of population	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Abstain	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> France 13.04 % of population	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Abstain	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Germany 15.93 % of population	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Abstain	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greece 2.13 % of population	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Abstain	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hungary 1.94 % of population	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Abstain	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ireland 0.91 % of population	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Abstain	

### Choose the voting rule

Voting rule ☒ Qualified majority

### Voting result



**Final result**  
Approved

Download results as pdf

**28 member states**  
Minimum "Yes" required for adoption: (55%) 16

28	0	0
Yes	No	Abstain

**% Population**  
Minimum "Yes" required for adoption: 65%

100.00	0.00	0.00
Yes	No	Abstain

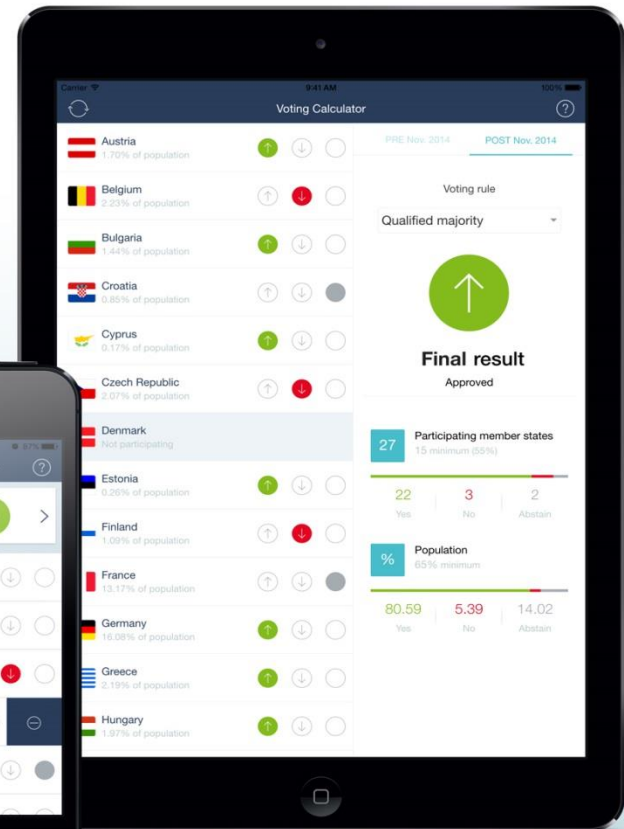
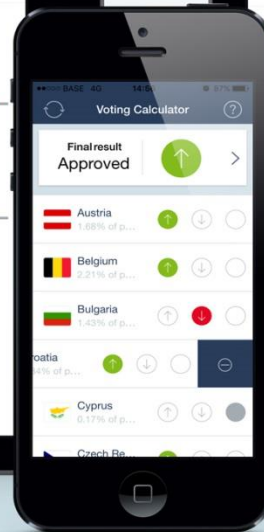
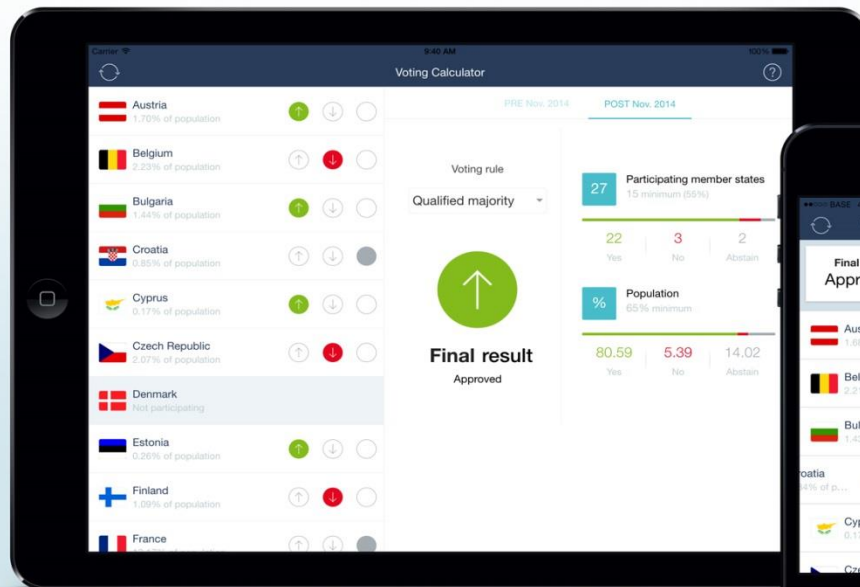
See also results pre-Nov 2014

Council of the EU

## Voting calculator



# Council's Voting Calculator App



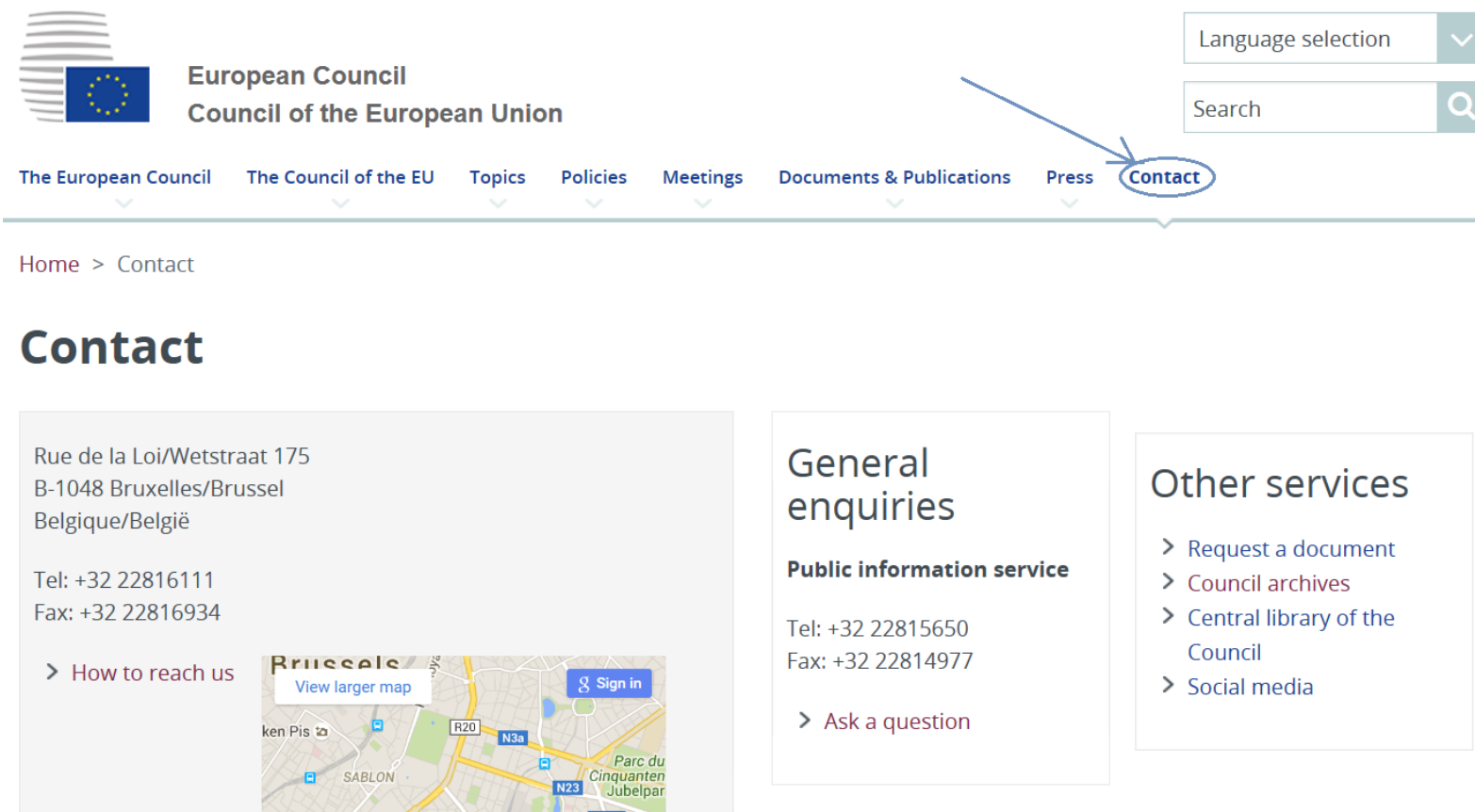
# Council's Voting Calculator App




<https://publications.europa.eu/en/applications>



# Questions?



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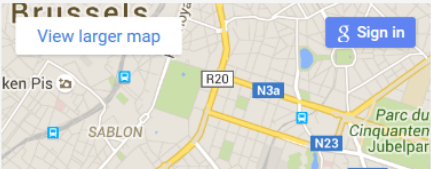
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## Contact

Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175  
B-1048 Bruxelles/Brussel  
Belgique/België

Tel: +32 22816111  
Fax: +32 22816934

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**Public information service**

Tel: +32 22815650  
Fax: +32 22814977

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End of presentation