



Council of the European Union

General Secretariat

Directorate-General F Communication and Document Management

Directorate 2 Document Management

Transparency and Access to Documents Unit

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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

Fisheries Agriculture

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.

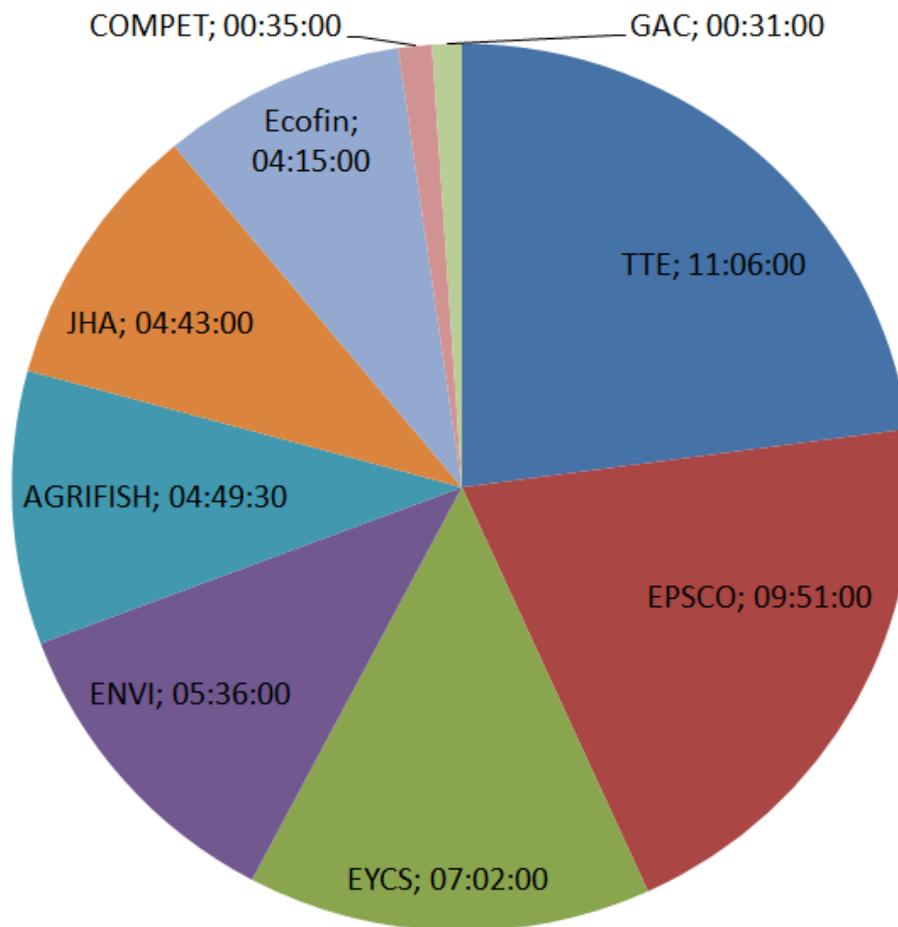
 Presidency



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

Duration of open sessions per Council configuration

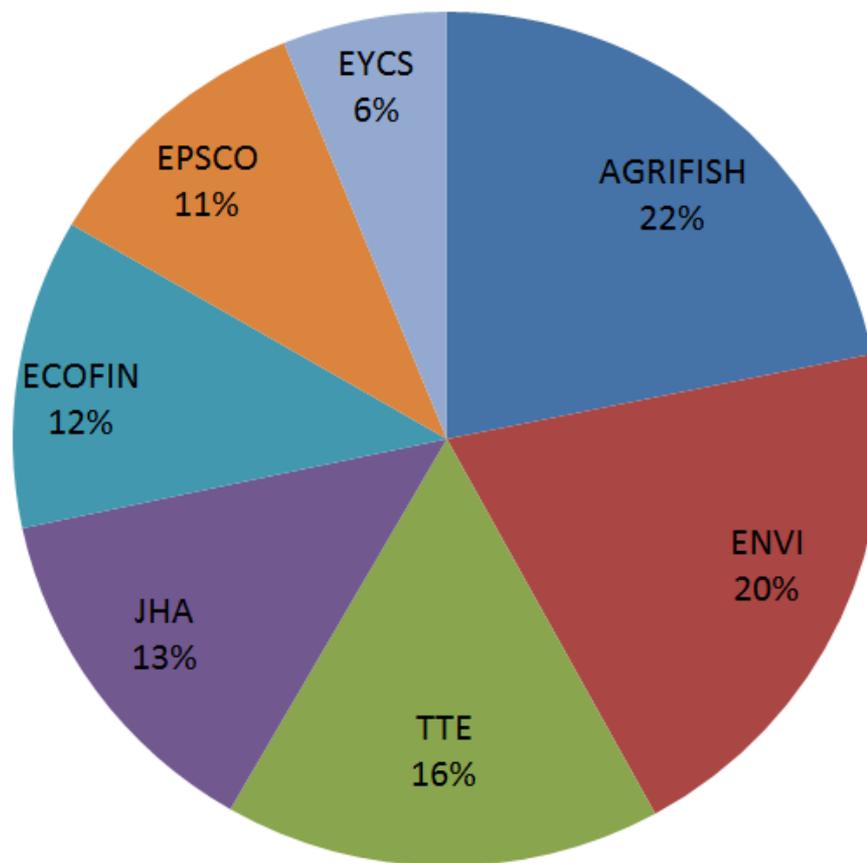
Council configuration	Duration
TTE	11:06:00
EPSCO	09:51:00
EYCS	07:02:00
ENVI	05:36:00
AGRIFISH	04:49:30
JHA	04:43:00
Ecofin	04:15:00
COMPET	00:35:00
GAC	00:31:00
Total	48:28:30



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
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



European Council
Council of the European Union

Language selection



The European Council

The Council of the EU

Topics

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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



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

Corporate policies

Transparency and access to documents

Citizens can watch the Council's public sessions and request access to documents

Environmental management

The GSC has established a comprehensive environmental programme to reduce its environmental impact

Visual identity

The visual identity of the Council family is built around a common logo

General Secretariat

> Open data

Transparency and access to documents

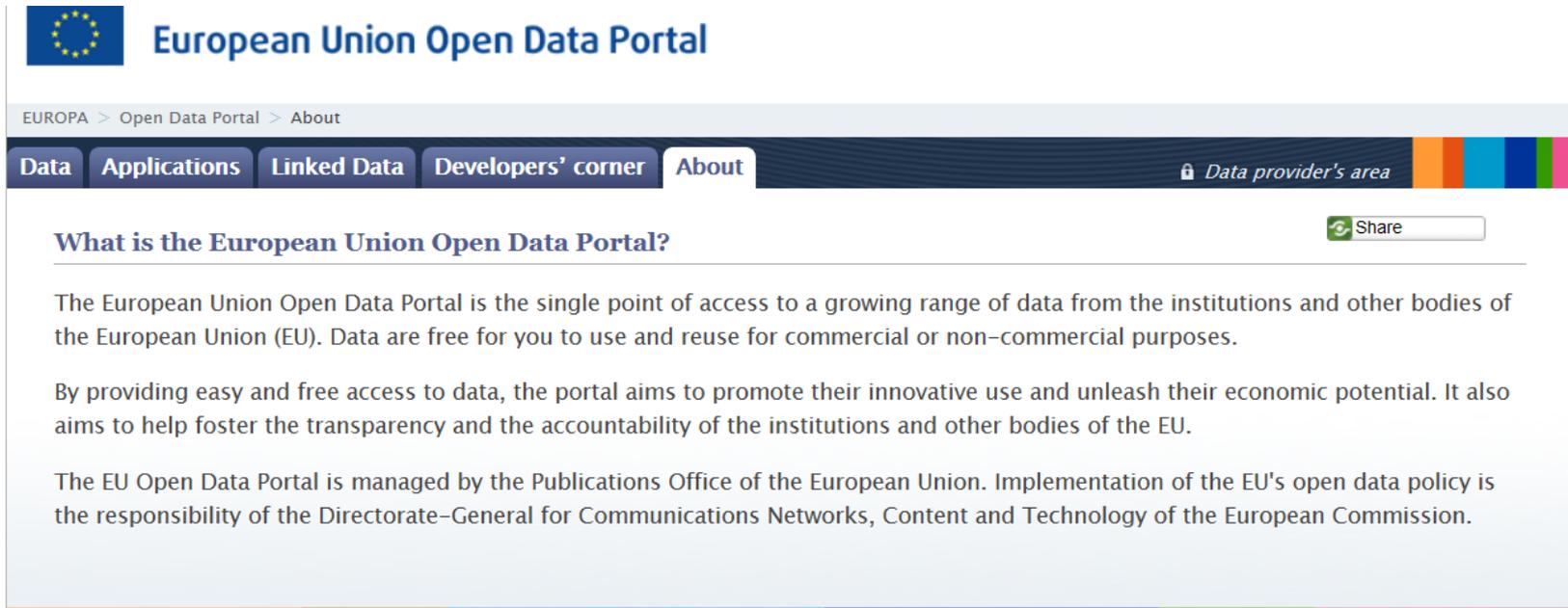
Following transparency rules, EU institutions work as openly and as closely as possible to citizens. Ministers at the Council legislate in public and citizens have a right to request access to Council documents.

Open sessions

www.consilium.europa.eu/en/general-secretariat/corporate-policies/transparency/open-data



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



The screenshot shows the top section of the European Union Open Data Portal. It features the European Union flag logo on the left, followed by the text "European Union Open Data Portal". Below this is a breadcrumb trail: "EUROPA > Open Data Portal > About". A navigation bar contains several tabs: "Data", "Applications", "Linked Data", "Developers' corner", and "About", with "About" currently selected. To the right of the navigation bar is a "Data provider's area" link with a lock icon. A "Share" button is visible on the right side of the page. The main content area is titled "What is the European Union Open Data Portal?" and contains 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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Language selection

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Home > Council of the EU > Voting system > Voting calculator

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

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

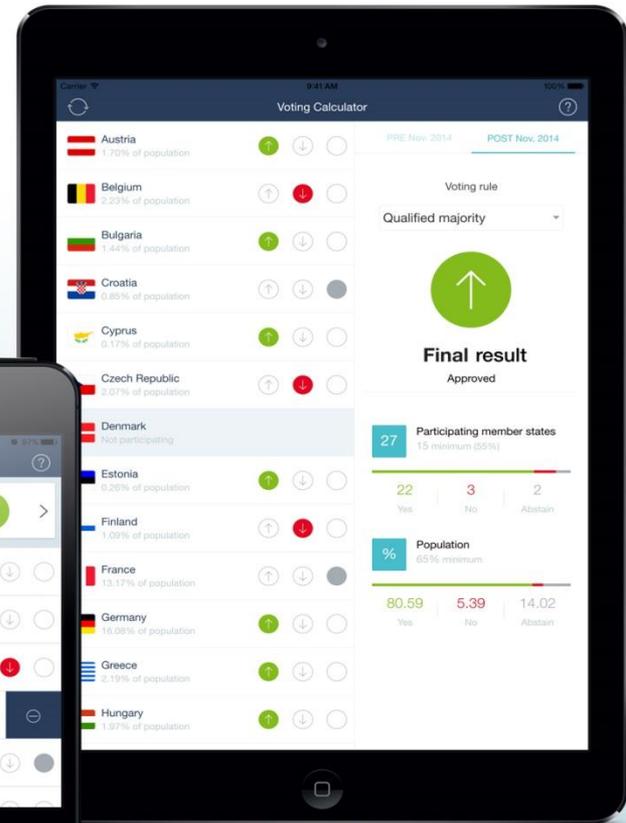
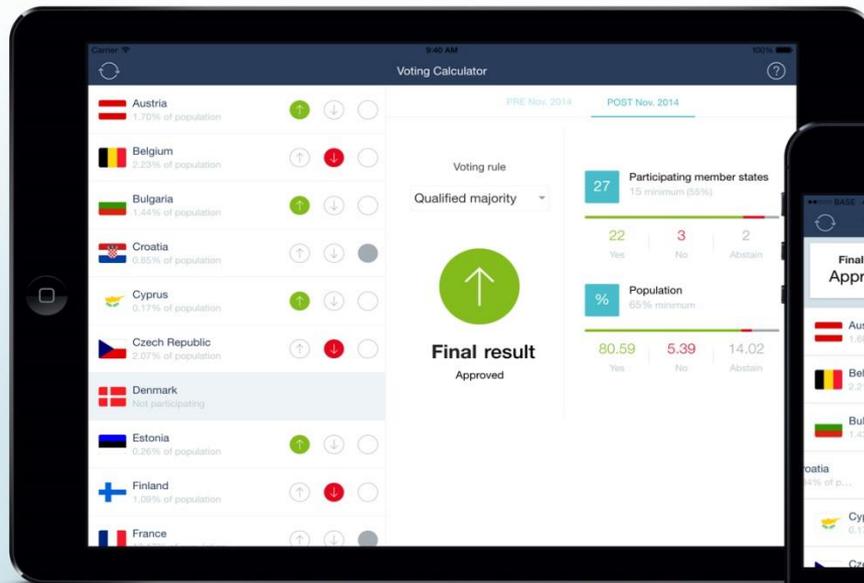
See also results pre-Nov 2014

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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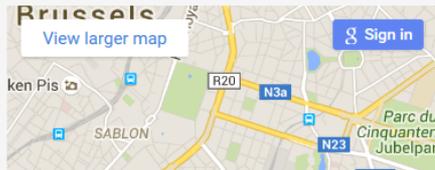
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End of presentation

