European Parliament
2024-2029

TEXTS ADOPTED

P10_TA(2026)0370

Amendments to the Statute for Members of the European Parliament, as regards proxy voting

European Parliament legislative resolution of 12 November 2026 on a draft regulation of the European Parliament amending Decision 2005/684/EC, Euratom adopting the Statute for Members of the European Parliament, as regards proxy voting (2026/2052(INL) – 2026/0900(APP))

The European Parliament,

– having regard to Article 223(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

– having regard to Article 106a(1) of the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community,

– having regard to Rules 46 and 55 of its Rules of Procedure,

– having regard to the report of the Committee on Legal Affairs (A10-0270/2026),

A. whereas the European Parliament initiated the procedure to allow for proxy voting during late pregnancy and early motherhood by adopting a legislative proposal[1] in November 2025 on the amendment of the Act concerning the election of the members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage, annexed to Council Decision 76/787/ECSC, EEC, Euratom[2] (the ‘European Electoral Act’);

B. whereas the Council adopted corresponding changes to the

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1 European Parliament legislative resolution of 13 November 2025 on the amendment of the European Electoral act, allowing Members to vote in plenary by proxy voting during pregnancy and after giving birth (OJ C, C/2026/1667, 22.4.2026, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2026/1667/oj).

2 Council Decision 76/787/ECSC, EEC, Euratom of 20 September 1976 (OJ L 278, 8.10.1976, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/1976/787(1)/oj).

European Electoral Act in May 2026[3], after the European Parliament had given its consent to the draft changes in April 2026[4];

C. whereas the European Parliament commits to ensure that the changes to the Decision of the European Parliament 2005/684/EC, Euratom adopting the Statute for Members of the European Parliament[5] (the 'Statute for Members') fully comply with the principles set out in the European Electoral Act, namely transparency, accountability, traceability, legal certainty and integrity of the vote;

D. whereas this reform, while limited in scope, nevertheless constitutes an alignment with Parliament's broader commitment to gender equality, inclusivity and equal participation, ensuring that parental responsibilities do not hinder political representation and the exercise of the mandate;

E. whereas women make up 38,53% of Members elected at the 2024 European Elections, up from 16% in the first European Elections of 1979, yet until now no modalities have been put in place to ensure representation of Members who cannot be physically present in the Chamber due to childbirth;

F. whereas multiple cross-party initiatives have been taken over the past decades to push for solutions to allow pregnant Members and Members who have recently given birth to combine their parental responsibilities with the exercise of their mandate;

G. whereas in 2023 Members of the European Parliament from across political groups addressed a petition to the President calling for the official recognition of parental leave and options for remote and proxy voting;

1. Takes the view that introducing proxy voting for Members three months before the estimated date of birth of the child and six months after giving birth strengthens democratic representation and ensures

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3 Council Decision (EU, Euratom) 2026/1296 of 26 May 2026 amending the Act concerning the election of the members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage, annexed to Council Decision 76/787/ECSC, EEC, Euratom of 20 September 1976 (OJ L, 2026/1296, 10.6.2026, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2026/1296/oj).

4 European Parliament legislative resolution of 29 April 2026 on the draft Council decision amending the Act concerning the election of the members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage, annexed to Council Decision 76/787/ECSC, EEC, Euratom of 20 September 1976 (P10_TA(2026)0124, not yet published in the Official Journal).

5 Decision of the European Parliament 2005/684/EC, Euratom of 28 September 2005 adopting the Statute for Members of the European Parliament (OJ L 262, 7.10.2005, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2005/684/oj).

that Members can fully exercise their mandates;

2. Believes that this reform will enhance gender equality and inclusion in the European Parliament, facilitating more women to stand in the European elections and improving gender balance in the European Parliament;

3. Proposes a targeted revision of the Statute for Members enabling Members to delegate their plenary vote to another Member of their choice three months before the estimated date of birth of the child and six months after giving birth;

4. Calls on Member States to approve the amendment of the European Electoral Act in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements and complete all other necessary procedures to allow the establishment of proxy voting in the European Parliament as soon as possible;

5. Adopts the draft regulation annexed hereto;

6. Instructs its President to forward the draft regulation annexed hereto to the Council and the Commission, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 223(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and to the parliaments and governments of the Member States.

ANNEX TO THE LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

Draft

REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

amending Decision 2005/684/EC, Euratom adopting the Statute for Members of the European Parliament, as regards proxy voting

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 223(2) thereof,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community, and in particular Article 106a(1) thereof,

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,

Having regard to the consent of the Council,

Having regard to the opinion of the Commission,

Acting in accordance with a special legislative procedure,

Whereas:

(1) Ensuring that Members of the European Parliament can take maternity leave while continuing to effectively exercise their mandate should facilitate the participation of mothers in politics, contributing both to gender equality in the European Parliament and effective democratic representation.

(2) The introduction of a system of proxy voting in plenary sessions of the European Parliament will allow Members to fully exercise their mandates in the periods before and after they give birth, if they so wish.

(3) Article 6(1) of the Act concerning the election of the members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage, annexed to Council Decision 76/787/ECSC, EEC, Euratom[1] (the 'European Electoral Act'), provides that Members vote on an individual and

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[1] Council Decision 76/787/ECSC, EEC, Euratom of 20 September 1976 (OJ L 278, 8.10.1976, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/1976/787(1)/oj).

personal basis. A Decision amending the European Electoral Act[2] was adopted in May 2026 to provide for a derogation from the vote on an individual and personal basis, that allows certain Members to have their vote cast by another Member, acting as proxy, under certain strict circumstances.

(4) Since Article 3(1) of Decision 2005/684/EC, Euratom of the European Parliament[3] (the 'Statute for Members') reproduces in full Article 6(1) of the European Electoral Act, Article 3 of the Statute for Members should be amended to reproduce the same derogation as in Article 6 of the European Electoral Act (delegation of vote). It should also lay down general conditions under which that derogation should be implemented through detailed arrangements in the Rules of Procedure and ensure compliance with the principles of transparency, accountability, traceability, legal certainty and integrity of the vote.

(5) In the interest of legal certainty, it should be clarified that proxy voting should be used exclusively in plenary sessions, and that votes cast by proxy should count towards quorums, thresholds and majorities required for the votes in Parliament.

(6) To guarantee legal certainty and integrity of the vote, the delegation of the vote should be made on a voluntary and revocable basis. Revoking the delegation of the vote should be possible within a reasonable time before the voting session starts, including in order to change the designated proxy.

(7) In order to guarantee traceability and accountability of the vote, Members should be prohibited from holding more than one delegation of vote simultaneously.

(8) In order to fulfil the requirements for transparency, the names of both the absent Member and the Member acting as a proxy should be clearly recorded in the minutes, and those minutes should clearly indicate votes cast by proxy.

(9) In order to deliver on accountability, integrity, traceability and legal certainty, all votes cast by proxy should be verifiable and

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2 Council Decision (EU, Euratom) 2026/1296 of 26 May 2026 amending the Act concerning the election of the members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage, annexed to Council Decision 76/787/ECSC, EEC, Euratom of 20 September 1976 (OJ L, 2026/1296, 10.6.2026, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2026/1296/oj).

3 Decision of the European Parliament 2005/684/EC, Euratom of 28 September 2005 adopting the Statute for Members of the European Parliament (OJ L 262, 7.10.2005, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2005/684/oj).

correctable, as is already the case with other votes. Any dispute regarding a vote cast by proxy should not affect the validity of the vote nor should it affect the voting results.

(10) The Statute for Members should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

In Article 3 of the Statute for Members of the European Parliament, the following paragraph is added:

“3. By way of derogation from paragraph 1, a Member who is pregnant or has given birth may have her vote cast by another Member acting as proxy, for a maximum period of three months before the estimated date of birth of the child and for a maximum period of six months after giving birth.

The detailed arrangements for the derogation shall be laid down in the Rules of Procedure and shall be subject to the following general conditions:

(a) the delegation of vote shall apply exclusively to plenary sessions;

(b) the delegation of vote shall be entirely voluntary and may always be revoked within a reasonable time before the voting session;

(c) no Member shall hold more than one delegation of vote at any given time;

(d) both the name of the Member delegating her vote and the name of the Member exercising the vote by delegation shall be recorded in the minutes of the sitting and the published voting results shall clearly indicate votes cast by proxy;

(e) the Member delegating her vote shall be counted for the purpose of establishing any quorums, thresholds and majorities required for the votes in Parliament;

(f) disagreements of the delegating Member over a vote cast by delegation shall not affect the validity of the vote nor shall they affect the voting result;

(g) corrections to votes cast by delegation shall be possible under the same conditions and in the same manner as votes cast without delegation, but they shall not affect the validity of the vote nor shall they affect the voting result.”.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the first day after the date on which the last notification referred to in Article 2 of Council Decision (EU, Euratom) 2026/1296 of 26 May 2026 amending the Act concerning the election of the members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage, annexed to Council Decision 76/787/ECSC, EEC, Euratom of 20

September 1976, has been received.

Done at ...

For the European Parliament
The President