

SUBJECT: Make European elections really European

Dear Members of the European Parliament,

The last European Elections were a milestone in the history of the European Parliament since for the first time turnout was sensibly higher than in the previous ones. As a firm believer in European integration and the potential of the Erasmus generation, garagErasmus ran the #ErasmusVotePower project to encourage Erasmus students and international workers to go voting. This awareness-raising campaign was a great success, reaching expats in 29 physical events in 22 EU countries.

We were fully aware that one of the biggest challenges for Europeans living in other EU countries is to **know how to vote**. Especially for international students, bureaucratic hurdles can be very confusing and sometimes discourage people from voting. We believe that freedom of movement in Europe should be real and concrete, not just an intangible concept. There shouldn't be obstacles to the exercise of Europeans' **democratic rights**, especially when it comes to voting and choosing you, honourable Members of the European Parliament, to represent them. Erasmus exchanges and international mobility in general shouldn't come with bureaucratic obstacles to basic democratic rights.

One of our actions to help young people to understand **how to vote** was distributing a voting guide including the rules for each country (available here: bit.ly/EVP_Handout). However, this kind of solutions can only be considered as a palliative measure against the fragmentation of EU voting rules that could be solved by **harmonising national electoral laws** for the European elections. Therefore, we invite you to consider using the new EP legislative term to finally endow the European democracy with harmonised voting rules, which would:

- 1) greatly help all Europeans to cast their votes regardless where they are,
- 2) contribute to make European elections really European, moving away from the current patchwork of national elections they currently are,
- 3) contribute to create a European public space for truly European electoral campaigns.

Thank you for taking your time to read through the concerns of the Erasmus Generation and the other Europeans living abroad. We rely on your support to make the next elections more European.

Best regards,

garagErasmus Foundation

Disclaimer:

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