



Strasbourg, 18 February 2014

GEC(2014)5

GENDER EQUALITY COMMISSION (GEC)

**MONITORING OF COUNCIL OF EUROPE
RECOMMENDATION REC (2003)3 ON BALANCED PARTICIPATION OF
WOMEN AND MEN IN POLITICAL AND PUBLIC DECISION-MAKING**

**2008 QUESTIONNAIRE
FOR DISCUSSION AND REVISION
(IN LIGHT OF THE LAUNCH OF THE THIRD ROUND OF MONITORING
IN THE SECOND HALF OF 2014)**

I. RESPONDENT DETAILS

Completed by

Ms

Mr

First name

Family name

Title

Organisation

E-mail

.....



II. REFERENCE DATA

MEMBER STATE

Year 2008 *Data should refer to the situation on 1 September of the current year – NOT to election day results*

III. LEGISLATIVE POWER

1. National Parliaments

1. a. **Single/Lower House** - to be completed by all member States
- Unicameral parliamentary States should refer to their Single House
 - Bicameral parliamentary States should refer to their Chamber of Representatives
 - Federal States should refer to their National Chamber
- **Date of last elections** _____/_____/_____
- **Periodicity of elections** Every _____ years
- **Total number of seats** _____
- **Number of women and men sitting on 1 September** Women _____ Men _____
- **Specify the electoral system¹**
- Plurality-majority system: simple majority or first past the post
 - Plurality-majority system: absolute majority (two round system)
 - Proportional representation system
 - Open Lists Open
 - Closed Lists Closed
 - Other, please specify _____ Other
 - Semi-proportional representation system
 - Open Lists Open
 - Closed Lists Closed
 - Other, please specify _____ Other
- **Do any quotas exist by operation of law?** Yes No
- If yes, specify the quota percentage/range: _____%
 - If yes, are there any sanctions for non-compliance? Yes No
 - If yes, please specify the sanction for non-compliance
 - financial penalty for parties or political groupings
 - electoral authorities do not accept lists that do not comply with the quota requirements
 - other, please specify _____
 - If yes, are there any rules about the rank order of the candidates in the quota law? Yes No
 - If yes, please specify
 - the zipping system, ie alternating women and men on the electoral list
 - other, please specify _____
- **Are there any quota rules/regulations created by political parties for electoral lists?** Yes No
- If yes, specify the quota percentage/range: _____%
 - If yes, are the quotas created by All parties Some Parties
- **Is the President of the Single/Lower House a woman or a man?** Woman Man

¹ Electoral systems:

- **Plurality-majority system: simple majority or first past the post:** This system occurs when a candidate who wins the largest number of vote is elected. This means that even if a candidate only obtains a fairly low level of the overall vote she/he is elected as long as she/he receives the largest number of votes. Example: United Kingdom
- **Plurality-majority system: absolute majority (two-round system):** To be elected in the first round a candidate needs to win the absolute majority of the votes. If no candidate receives an absolute majority in the first round, then a second round of voting is conducted between the highest-polling candidates from the first round and the candidate who wins the simple majority of the votes is elected. Example: France
- **Proportional representation system :** Under typical proportional system a party/list shall receive the number of representative offices proportional to the number of votes cast. The seats allocated to a party/list correspond to the proportion of votes gained by it. This system can operate with **open or closed lists** (**open:** voters can specify their favoured candidate(s) within a given party/list, **closed lists:** voters can only vote for a party/list without influencing which candidates are elected). Example: Sweden.
- **Semi-proportional representation system:** This system attempts to combine the positive attributes of both majoritarian and proportional electoral systems: a proportion of the parliament is elected by plurality-majority system while the remainder is elected by proportional representation system. This system can operate with **open or closed lists** (**open:** voters can specify their favoured candidate(s) within a given party/list, **closed:** voters can only vote for a party/list without influencing which candidates are elected). Example: Germany

1. b. **Upper House - to be completed only by bicameral parliamentary States**

Federal States should refer to the House which represents the interests of the component States of the Federation (ie German Bundesrat)

- **Date of last elections** _____/_____/_____
- **Periodicity of elections** Every _____ years
- **Total number of seats** _____
- **Number of women and men sitting on 1 September** Women _____ Men _____
- **Specify the electoral system** (see footnote 1, page 1)
- Plurality-majority system: simple majority or first past the post
 - Plurality-majority system: absolute majority (two round system)
 - Proportional representation system
 - Open Lists Open
 - Closed Lists Closed
 - Other, please specify _____ Other
-
- Semi-proportional representation system
- Open Lists Open
 - Closed Lists Closed
 - Other, please specify _____ Other
-
- **Can seats be inherited?** Yes No
- If yes, can women inherit seats? Yes No
- **Are some of the members appointed?** Yes No
- If yes, specify by whom:
 - Head of State
 - Head of Government
 - Other, please specify _____
-
- **Number of women and men appointed** Women _____ Men _____
- **Do any quotas exist by operation of law?** Yes No
- If yes, specify the quota percentage _____%
 - If yes, are there any sanctions for non-compliance? Yes No
 - If yes, please specify the sanction for non-compliance
 - financial penalty for parties or political groupings
 - electoral authorities do not accept lists that do not comply with the quota requirements
 - other, please specify _____
-
- If yes, are there any rules about the rank order of the candidates in the quota law? Yes No
 - If yes, please specify
 - the zipping system, ie alternating women and men on the electoral list
 - other, please specify _____
-
- **Are there any quota rules/regulations created by political parties for electoral lists?** Yes No
- If yes, specify the quota percentage/range: _____%
- If yes, are the quotas created by All parties Some parties
- **Is the President of the Upper House a woman or a man?** Woman Man

2. Regional Parliaments² - only to be completed by States whose regions have a real legislative power

- **Total number of Regional Parliaments** _____
- **Total number of seats in all the Regional Parliaments** _____
- **Number of women and men sitting on 1 September** Women _____ Men _____
- **Do any quotas exist by operation of law?** Yes No
- If yes, specify the quota percentage: _____%
 - If yes, are there any sanctions for non-compliance? Yes No
 - If yes, please specify,
 - financial penalty for parties or political groupings
 - electoral authorities do not accept lists that do not comply with the quota requirements
 - other, please specify _____
 - If yes, are there any rules about the rank order of the candidates in the quota law? Yes No
 - If yes, please specify
 - the zipping system, ie alternating women and men on the electoral list
 - other, please specify _____
-
- **Are there any quota rules/regulations created by political parties for electoral lists?** Yes No
- If yes, specify the quota percentage/range: _____%
 - If yes, are the quotas created by All parties Some parties

² The term "region" refers to an autonomous territory with special powers of self rule. For example, Austria: Bundesländer; Germany: Länder; Russian Federation: autonomous republics and territories; Spain: autonomous communities; Switzerland: cantons; UK: devolved parliamentary assemblies. A Regional Parliament is the legislative assembly of a regional political unit. It has the highest legislative powers at regional level.

IV. EXECUTIVE POWER

1. National Governments

1. a. Head of State – to be completed by all member States

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ➤ Is the Head of State a woman or a man? | Woman <input type="checkbox"/> | Man <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ➤ Is she/he directly elected by the citizens? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ➤ Is she/he appointed by the Parliament? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ➤ <i>Monarchies only</i> : Can women inherit the crown? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |

1. b. Head of Government To be completed only by States where the Head of State is not also the Head of Government

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ➤ Is the Head of the Government a woman or a man? | Woman <input type="checkbox"/> | Man <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ➤ Is the Head of the Government directly elected by the citizens? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • If no, specify if the Head of Government is: | | |
| - elected by the Parliament | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| - appointed by the Head of State | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| - Other, please specify _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
-

1. c. Ministers and Deputy/Junior Ministers

- | | | |
|---|-------------|-----------|
| ➤ Number of women and men Ministers | Women _____ | Men _____ |
| ➤ Number of women and men Deputy/Junior Ministers | Women _____ | Men _____ |

2. Regional Governments³ - to be completed only by States whose regions have a real executive power

2. a. Heads of Regional Governments

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ➤ Number of women and men Heads of Regional Government | Women _____ | Men _____ |
| ➤ Is the Head of a Regional Government elected by the citizens? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ➤ Is the Head of the Regional Government elected by the Regional Parliament? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • If no, specify who appoints the Head of the Regional Government: | | |
| - Head of State | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| - Other, please specify _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
-

2. b. Regional Governments' members

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ➤ Number of women and men members of regional governments | Women _____ | Men _____ |
| ➤ Are the members directly elected by the citizens? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ➤ Are the members appointed? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • If yes, specify who appoints them: | | |
| - Head of Regional Government | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| - Other, please specify _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
-
- | | | |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ➤ Do any quotas exist by operation of law? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • If yes, specify the quota percentage: | _____% | |
| • If yes, are there any sanctions for non-compliance? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |

³ The term "region" refers to an autonomous territory with special powers of self rule. The "Regional Government" is the organisation that is the governing authority of a regional political unit. It has the highest executive powers of the regional level.

- *If yes, please specify,*
 - *financial penalty for parties or political groupings*
 - *electoral authorities do not accept lists that do not comply with the quota requirements*
 - *other, please specify* _____

- If yes, are there any rules about the rank order of the candidates in the quota law? Yes No
 - *If yes, please specify*
 - *the zipping system, ie alternating women and men on the electoral list*
 - *other, please specify* _____

- **Are there any quota rules/regulations created by political parties for electoral lists?** Yes No
 - If yes, specify the quota percentage/range: _____%
 - If yes, are the quotas created by All parties Some parties

3. Local Governments

3. a. **Mayors**
- **Number of women and men mayors** Women _____ Men _____
 - **Are the mayors directly elected by the citizens?** Yes No
 - If no, specify who appoints them:
 - Municipality Councillors
 - Other, please specify _____

3. b. **Municipality Councillors - *The municipality is an administrative unit with an elected Council and a Mayor***

 - **Number of women and men municipality councillors** Women _____ Men _____
 - **Are the municipality Councillors directly elected by the citizens?** Yes No
 - If no, specify who appoints them:
 - Mayor
 - Other, please specify _____

 - **Do any quotas exist by operation of law?** Yes No
 - If yes, specify the quota percentage/range: _____%
 - If yes, are there any sanctions for non-compliance? Yes No
 - *If yes, please specify,*
 - *financial penalty for parties or political groupings*
 - *electoral authorities do not accept lists that do not comply with the quota requirements*
 - *other, please specify* _____

 - If yes, are there any rules about the rank order of the candidates in the quota law? Yes No
 - *If yes, please specify*
 - *the zipping system, ie alternating women and men on the electoral list*
 - *other, please specific* _____

 - **Are there any quota rules/regulations created by political parties for electoral lists?** Yes No
 - If yes, specify the quota percentage/range: _____%
 - If yes, are the quotas created by All parties Some parties

V. JUDICIAL POWER

- The High/Supreme Court in some countries is the highest court in that jurisdiction and functions as a court of last resort whose rulings cannot be appealed. Its rules are binding on all other courts.

- The Constitutional Court is a high court found in many countries which deals primarily with constitutional law. Its main authority is to rule on whether or not challenged laws are in fact unconstitutional, and conflicting with constitutionally established rights and freedoms.

- Member States whose High/Supreme Courts also have jurisdiction on questions of a constitutional nature should provide information only on the High/Supreme Court.

1. High/Supreme Courts – to be completed by all member States

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ➤ Number of women and men judges in the High/Supreme Court | Women _____ | Men _____ |
| ➤ Can judges access the High/Supreme Court purely by seniority ? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ➤ Are judges appointed? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If yes, specify who appoints them: - Head of State <input type="checkbox"/> - Head of Government <input type="checkbox"/> - Superior Council of the Magistracy⁴ <input type="checkbox"/> - Other, please specify _____ <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| ➤ Is the President of the High/Supreme Court a woman or a man? | Woman <input type="checkbox"/> | Man <input type="checkbox"/> |

2. Constitutional Courts - Member States whose High/Supreme Courts also have jurisdiction on questions of a constitutional nature should not complete this section.

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ➤ Number of women and men judges in the Constitutional Court | Women _____ | Men _____ |
| ➤ Can judges access the Constitutional Court purely by seniority? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ➤ Are judges appointed to the Constitutional Court? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If yes, specify who appoints them: - Head of State <input type="checkbox"/> - Head of Government <input type="checkbox"/> - Superior Council of the Magistracy⁴ <input type="checkbox"/> - Other, please specify _____ <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| ➤ Is the President of the Constitutional Court a woman or a man? | Woman <input type="checkbox"/> | Man <input type="checkbox"/> |

VI. DIPLOMATIC SERVICE

Number of women and men –officially recognised categories

- | | | |
|---|-------------|-----------|
| ➤ Ambassadors Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary | Women _____ | Men _____ |
| ➤ Envoys Extraordinary and Ministers Plenipotentiary | Women _____ | Men _____ |
| ➤ Minister Counsellors | Women _____ | Men _____ |
| ➤ General Consuls | Women _____ | Men _____ |

⁴ **Superior Council of the Magistracy** is a self-governing body of the magistracy. It issues orders for the appointment, assignment, transfer and promotion of magistrates (judges and public prosecutors) together with having responsibility for disciplinary judgements.

VII. COMMENTS