



Recommendation 1898 (2010)¹

Final version

Thresholds and other features of electoral systems which have an impact on representativity of parliaments in Council of Europe member states

Parliamentary Assembly

1. The Parliamentary Assembly refers to its [Resolution 1705 \(2010\)](#) on thresholds and other features of electoral systems which have an impact on representativity of parliaments in Council of Europe member states. It also recalls its previous resolutions and recommendations addressing different aspects of the electoral process.
2. The Assembly recommends that the Committee of Ministers call on the governments of member states to give appropriate follow-up to the issues raised in [Resolution 1705 \(2010\)](#).
3. It recommends that the Committee of Ministers, taking advantage of its unique position as a forum for pan-European co-operation, contribute to the establishment of a common understanding of principles which qualify elections as “free and fair” in compliance with democratic standards, irrespective of the type of electoral system, and to ensuring their implementation in all elections throughout the Council of Europe area, thus establishing the world’s largest “free and fair election zone”.
4. Furthermore, the Assembly invites the Committee of Ministers to:
 - 4.1. initiate further reflection and work on the regulatory framework and specific regulations governing the electoral process in Council of Europe member states, in particular in respect to:
 - 4.1.1. electoral commissions;
 - 4.1.2. thresholds and any matters that could disadvantage minor parties and independent candidates from access to elected bodies;
 - 4.1.3. the impact of electoral systems on women’s access to elected bodies;
 - 4.1.4. equal access to elected bodies for persons belonging to minorities and vulnerable groups;
 - 4.1.5. the financing of electoral campaigns;
 - 4.1.6. voting procedures;
 - 4.1.7. election observation;
 - 4.2. consider the elaboration of a consolidated version of the principles governing electoral process.

1. *Assembly debate* on 27 January 2010 (6th Sitting) (see [Doc. 12107](#), report of the Political Affairs Committee, rapporteur: Mr Daems). *Text adopted by the Assembly* on 27 January 2010 (6th Sitting).

