



Doc. 13981

05 February 2016

Promoting diversity and equality in politics

Motion for a resolution

tabled by Ms Kate OSAMOR and other members of the Assembly

This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only those who have signed it

In Europe, politics are often perceived as being reserved for a particular sector of the population and as failing to represent its diversity. In addition to the under-representation of women in most European countries – a situation which is studied in Ms Centemero's report (Doc. 13571) – there is also a very low representation of young people, of persons with an immigrant background, of persons with disabilities and of LGBT people.

This failure to represent all sectors of the population may result in voters' lack of confidence in political leaders. It may also lead to voters losing interest and discourage those who would like to become involved in politics. Under-represented categories which are already involved in politics sometimes encounter difficulties in gaining access to the decision-making bodies of traditional political systems that open the way to political responsibilities at local, national and European level. They sometimes also become the target of attacks and hate speech during election campaigns or once they have been elected.

Opening up politics to diversity and the emergence of leaders from under-represented groups not only strengthen Europe but are also an effective way of countering discrimination and stereotypes and of fostering equality. Political parties and parliaments should take steps to encourage their participation and allow them to accede to the highest responsibilities.

The Parliamentary Assembly should study the mechanisms that exist within political parties and national parliaments so as to ensure that all sectors of the population are represented. It should identify good practices in this field and raise awareness on the need to improve representativeness of the political world in order to combat this democratic deficit.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

OSAMOR Kate, United Kingdom, SOC
ÅBERG Boriána, Sweden, EPP/CD
BİLGEHAN Gülsün, Turkey, SOC
BRUYN Piet, De, Belgium, NR
CILEVIČS Boriss, Latvia, SOC
FABRITIUS Bernd, Germany, EPP/CD
FRESKO-ROLFO Béatrice, Monaco, EPP/CD
GUNNARSSON Jonas, Sweden, SOC
HANŽEK Matjaž, Slovenia, UEL
HARANGOZÓ Gábor, Hungary, SOC
HEINRICH Gabriela, Germany, SOC
KUODYTĖ Dalia, Lithuania, ALDE
KYRIAKIDOU Athina, Cyprus, SOC
MAGRADZE Guguli, Georgia, SOC
MAIJ Marit, Netherlands, SOC
MICHELOTTI Augusto, San Marino, UEL
SANTERINI Milena, Italy, SOC
SPADONI Maria Edera, Italy, NR
THIÉRY Damien, Belgium, ALDE
TORNARE Manuel, Switzerland, SOC
USTA Leyla Şahin, Turkey, EC
YAŞAR Serap, Turkey, EC

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EC: European Conservatives Group
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialist Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group