

UK Independence Party

Rules for Candidate Selection: Euro-elections June 2009

Summary of Proposed Procedure

As with the General election, there will be a national list of approved candidates. This list will be compiled from winter 2007 onwards and finalised by 30 May 2008. Where necessary a shortlist will be drawn up, to be approved by the Political Committee. Regions will then hold a series of hustings meetings in summer 2008 to give members an opportunity to assess the candidates before voting. The members in each region then vote in a postal ballot to determine the final list rankings using the same system as for the 2004 election.. The process should be completed by the end of August 2008, giving successful candidates nine months to establish themselves with regional and national media.

A four-stage process will be used to produce the final lists of candidates. The NEC has ultimate responsibility for this process:

STAGE 1: Nomination

Applicants invited at Conference, also via later issues of *Independence News* etc.

All candidates will participate in aptitude tests for the media, such as composure in the face of questions from journalists and performance in front of a camera.

Nominations to include:

Completed application form which will contain names of proposer, seconder and eight assentors. All must be members in good standing; proposer and seconder must have been members for at least a year. A member may not propose or second more than one candidate in the same region.

£250 non-returnable deposit (£100 in 2004)

standardised personal details including 200 word personal statement and recent photograph to be sent to Head Office.

All applicants will be required to undergo an enhanced CRB check. The cost for this will be covered by the £250 deposit.

Head Office may demand confirmation in March 2009 that all information given by listed candidates on their application forms remains accurate.

STAGE 2: Interview

All applicants will be interviewed by a 3-member regional interview panel, which will be approved by the elections committee and normally made up of the Regional Organiser and two members of the Regional Committee. The panel will produce a standardised brief report. Regional Organisers and others are not eligible for interview panels if they are standing as MEP candidates themselves. Candidates who fail to qualify may appeal to the head of candidate selection.

STAGE 3: Shortlisting

Christopher Gill has been appointed Head of Candidate Selection. His task is to ensure fair play in the approval and short-listing of candidates. Regional short-listing will be done by the

head of candidate selection and two representatives from the region concerned. A unanimous decision is required. If this is not possible the case will be referred to the Political Committee. Candidates may apply to two regions, but this must be disclosed to both regional panels (*and to members in the regions if any candidates make it to more than one shortlist*). Candidates may also opt to join a “pool” who may be invited to make up the numbers if there is a shortage of candidates in a particular region.

The length of shortlists will be set in advance. The lists must be sufficient to give members a reasonable choice when voting and to allow for withdrawals, but not too long to make hustings meetings unmanageable. Regions are free to decide the length of their own shortlist but the following is strongly suggested as a guide.

	number of seats	Shortlist
South East	10	12
North West	8	10
London	8	10
Eastern	7	9
South West	6	8
West Midlands	6	8
Yorks and Humber	6	8
East Midlands	5	7
North East	3	5
Scotland	6	8
Wales	4	6
N Ireland	3	5
total	72	96

N.B. The UK currently has 78 MEPs. This has been reduced to 72 because of EU enlargement but may still be raised to 73 following negotiations in connection with the Lisbon treaty.

STAGE 4: Hustings and Postal Ballot

Each region to arrange several hustings meetings, with plenty of notice for members and good geographical spread of locations.

Elections to be by regional postal ballot but organised centrally as per NEC elections. There will be a national Returning Officer for this process. The voting process will be as in 2004: each voter ranks the short-listed candidates in order of preference by means of a number (e.g. 1 to 5 for East Midlands). The analysis then weights these preferences in order to produce a ranked list for each region.

Miscellaneous

Campaigning

Neither candidates nor their supporters shall be permitted to run campaigns promoting any candidate or denigrating opponents, by means of issuing unsolicited promotional material by post or email. Failure to comply may lead to disqualification. Promotional literature will not be permitted at hustings but the candidate profiles (with photographs) prepared for regional ballots should be available to members attending the hustings.

Candidates and their supporters are reminded that the selection process should be conducted in a friendly and constructive manner, that they remain bound by the Party Constitution and

rules, and that the use of Party membership information is subject to data protection legislation.

Election deposits

As in 2004, candidates who are elected on to a list will be asked for a deposit. However, due to the reduction of numbers of Euro seats in 2009, a figure of £800 per candidate is required (2004: £500) in order to approximately cover the £60,000 (12 x £5,000) election deposits in all regions. Deposits are returnable on a pro-rata basis dependent upon saving deposits at the election (e.g. if 10 out of 12 regional deposits saved, all candidates receive 10/12 x £800 back.)

Late candidates

Regional lists may be altered after selection at short notice to accommodate high profile public figures with the agreement of other candidates on the list and subject to approval by the Political Committee.

Publicity

Regions should prepare press releases, public meetings and press interview opportunities with leading candidates, to begin immediately following the announcements of our lists.

Timetable of selection process

2007	
6 October	Invitation at Annual Conference for MEP applicants to register an interest
Nov/Dec	<i>Independence</i> magazine invites prospective MEP candidates to apply.
2008	
Feb/March	<i>Independence</i> magazine invites prospective MEP candidates to apply. (second reminder)
9 April	Head Office issues application forms.
1 May	(local elections, London elections)
3 May	Planning for hustings meetings begins
16 May	Nominations close
3 May to 26 May	Candidate interviews
12 May to 30 May	Media tests
2 June to 30 June	Shortlisting
11 July	Political committee approves shortlists
14 July	Regional hustings commence. Ballot papers printed with names of shortlisted candidates.
4 August	Regional hustings completed; ballot papers posted to members
29 August	Votes counted
2 September	Final lists announced
5-6 September	(UKIP national conference)
2009	
June	European elections

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