**The Single Non-Transferable Vote (SNTV): ‘One Vote to Rule Them All’**

During the first 40 years of its existence, the EPO had a staff representation defined by Articles 33-36 of the ServRegs. The elections of the staff representatives were organised by staff for the staff without interference from the management. The supervision of the elections was made by a panel of independent staff members designated in a general assembly. Voters had the same number of votes as the number of seats to be filled.

**Now, it’s over.** The reform, called “Social Democracy” (but bearing little resemblance to either), has entered into force. The elections are organised by the Office and supervised by a committee chaired by someone designated by the President. **Voters have one vote only.**

The new voting system is called **single non-transferable vote** (abbr. **SNTV**).

**Where is it used?** SNTV is only used in Afghanistan, Jordan, Puerto Rico and Pakistan, and partially in a few Asian states¹.

**Why is it not used in the 38 member states of the EPO?** Voters need to resort to tactical voting in order to achieve a fair proportional representation. Political studies comment that it provides an advantage for authoritarian regimes to weaken opposition:

> “Even if the opposition were able to assemble substantial vote totals, if they fail to efficiently coordinate their votes, electoral success may elude them […] Under an authoritarian regime, of course, coordination for opposition groups is extremely difficult. The government is less constrained and can use harassment, intimidation, surveillance, and other forms of interference – both official and unofficial – to further exacerbate the already difficult coordination problems facing the opposition.” (Nathan F. Batto and Henry A. Kim, p. 358 & 361)²

Ironically, Mr. Battistelli is introducing SNTV after having established an investigation unit, limited the communication means of the unions, reprimanded staff representatives and banned a referendum on “Social Democracy”.

SUEPO Central

---


² Coordinative Advantages of State Resources under SNTV: The Case of Taiwan Nathan by F. Batto and Henry A. Kim: [http://www.u.arizona.edu/~h27kim/Published%20Papers/coordinate%20jpps.pdf](http://www.u.arizona.edu/~h27kim/Published%20Papers/coordinate%20jpps.pdf)