



Zentraler Vorstand . Central Executive Committee . Bureau Central

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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

¹ Wikipedia - Single non-transferable vote : http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Single_non-transferable_vote

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%20ijps.pdf>