

General Assembly 2018
12-14 April, Landshut

Legitimate representation of the Åland Islands in the European Parliament

When the Lisbon Treaty was about to be ratified by Finland and the Åland Islands, a political agreement between the Åland and the Finnish government was met the 12th of September 2008, followed by an official decision by the Finnish Government the 23rd of April 2009, stating:

"The autonomous Åland Islands must be compensated for the legislative powers which have been transferred to the competence of the EU as a consequence of entering the union. The Finnish government will: -contribute to develop the possibilities for the Åland Islands to influence the process in the European Parliament;

- will when future negotiations in the EU regarding distribution of seats in the European Parliament will be held, keep this in account;
- -furthermore, will keep referring to the special international and autonomous status of the Åland Islands."

The decision, which is still valid, has furthermore been confirmed by several following Finnish governments, for instance in an official letter to the Åland Government the 26th of March 2013.

A question to be solved as a part of the Brexit process is how the UK seats shall be redistributed and it seems likely that Finland gets an extra seat and thereby increases its number of seats from 13 to 14. That would be the consequence of the decision in the European Parliament on the 7th of February 2018.

The Finnish government is, despite the promises to strive for an extra seat for Åland, opposing any redistribution of seats in the European Parliament.

The European Free Alliance:

1. endorses the legitimate claim for representation of the Åland Islands in the European Parliament,
2. requests the Bureau and the EFA MEPs to take actions towards the State of Finland demanding it to recall, respect and fulfil the official principal decision from the 23rd of April 2009,
3. requests the EFA Bureau and the EFA MEPs to inform the European Council about the principal of the Finnish Government from the 23rd of April 2009.