



European network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination

FLASH REPORT

Country:	Greece
Title:	Election quotas
Date:	25 June 2019
Expert:	Panagiota (Deta) Petroglou
<u>Context</u>	
Issue at stake:	Positive action; Adoption of a quota of 40 % in favour of the underrepresented sex for candidates at the European Elections and the Parliamentary, Regional and Municipal Elections in Greece
Grounds of discrimination:	Sex
Field of application:	Employment
Source:	National legislation
Applicable law:	<i>Article 15 Act 4604/2019 'on the promotion of substantive gender equality, prevention and fight against gender-based violence- Provisions on the award of nationality – Provisions on the elections for the local authorities', OJ A 50/26.3.2019</i>

Content

Law development: Article 15(paragraph.1,2) of the recent Act 4604/2019 OJ A 50/26.3.2019 raised the quota in favour of the underrepresented sex from 1/3 to 40 % for candidates at the parliamentary, regional and municipal elections and the European elections.

More specifically, Article 15(1) of Act 4604/2019 amended the provision of Article 34(6)(b) of the Presidential Decree 26/2012 regarding 'Codification in a single document of the provisions of the legislation for parliamentary elections' (OJ A 57/15.03.2012), providing that the number of candidates of each sex presented in the parliamentary elections by each party must correspond to 40 % (instead of the previously provided quota of 1/3) of the total number of its candidates in the voting region (and not in the whole country, as it was previously provided). This new provision was applied in the regional and municipal elections of 26 May 2019 (first round) and of the 2nd of June 2019 (second round) for the 13 Regions and the 331 Municipalities; it will be applied also in the forthcoming parliamentary elections of 7 July 2019.

Article 15(2) of Act 4604/2019 amended the provision of Article 3(3)(c) Act 4255/2014 OJ A 11/04.2014, providing that the number of candidates of each sex presented in the European elections by each party must correspond to 40 % (instead of the previously provided quota of 1/3) of the total number of its candidates. This new provision was applied in the regional and municipal elections of 26 May 2019 for the 21 seats for Greece at the European Parliament.

Key points of analysis: According to the data presented by the General Secretariat for Gender Equality, in the European Elections of 26 May 2019, forty (40) political parties and coalitions of parties were entitled to participate in the European Elections;¹ among the total of 1 195 candidates, 685 (57.3 %) were male and 510 (42.7 %) were female. More specifically, in 17 parties the percentage of female candidates was 40 %, in 13 parties the percentage of female candidates was 41 %-45 %, in 6 parties the percentage of female candidates was 46 %-49 %, in 2 parties the percentage of female candidates was 50 % and in 2 parties the percentage of female candidates was above 50 %. The results showed that:

- 1) EP Elections 2019: five female MEPs (percentage 23.8 %) were elected. It should be noted that in the 2014 European Elections in Greece, to which the quota of 1/3 still applied, five female MEPs had been elected as well.
- 2) Regional Elections 2019: one female Governor was elected of the Region of Ionian Islands (Ms Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou served as Vice-President of the European Parliament in the period 2007-2012). It should be noted that in the 2014 Regional Elections in Greece, to which the quota of 1/3 still applied, two female Regional Governors had been elected.
- 3) Municipal Elections 2019: 16 female Mayors were elected out of 128 female candidates for Mayorship.

Internet link source:

Act 4604/2019 available at: <http://www.isotita.gr/en/new-legislation-greek-government-substantive-gender-equality-sgbv-athens-march-2019/>.

On the implementation of the 40 % quota for the election candidates see:

<https://eurogender.eige.europa.eu/posts/gender-aspect-greek-candidates-european-elections-2019>.

For the results of the European elections 2019 in Greece and of the regional and municipal elections 2019 in Greece see:

<https://eurogender.eige.europa.eu/posts/female-identity-results-european-and-local-administration-elections-greece-265-and-262019>.

¹ See Decision 65/2019 of the Supreme Civil and Criminal Court of Greece (Areios Pagos), available at: <http://www.areiospagos.gr/>.