



DIRECT DEMOCRATIC EURO-VISION NEWSLETTER

Vol. 15 (No.4)
November 2013



WORLDWIDE DIRECT DEMOCRACY NEWSLETTER **DIRECTRACY**

The Transition - How Exactly? (by Jiri Polak)

Many theorists have presented their ideas about a truly democratic system that should (and is likely) to replace the current mock-democratic ones. In the USA, the basic document is the Constitution, in force for more than two centuries and generally considered as irreplaceable, only susceptible to amendments. The most important recent amendment proposal is probably the *N14D*, aimed at the establishment of I&R. on the federal level, but also the proposals put forward by **Prof. Ph.D. Ted Becker**, one of the most prominent political scientists globally, expert on DD as well as on American history. His amendment proposals are the following:

- Citizen Initiative – Citizen Veto – Referendum
- Repeal Corporate Personhood
- End the FED
- Repeal Electoral College
- Limit US Supreme Court Appointments to 6 years
- One House of Congress
- Congress selected Randomly
- Recall of Congresspersons
- United States Broadcasting Company
- Participatory Budgeting at National Level
- (See www.last-lost-empire.com)

You can only dream of the tremendous change for the better, in the USA, but even globally, should these amendments be adopted!

In Europe, for historical reasons, Constitutions are not so venerated as in the USA and therefore, efforts to simply replace them by more democratic and modern ones have much greater chance of success. We could imagine the following scenario:

A medium-size country, culturally belonging to the highest developed ones. A party-based parliamentary regime. Wide-spread corruption, political scandals. the political aristocracy deeply discredited. The current Constitution, giving all power to a few big political parties, has been written and adopted in Parliament without having been authorized by referendum. However, activist individuals and groups emerge who want to enforce a referendum about another, truly democratic Constitution, a draft of which already exists. The most important reform proposed is election

La Bastille 1789



Which Country Will Be Next?



of MPs in single-mandate election districts, i.e. election of persons instead of parties; after having been elected, the MPs are subject to recall if a majority of citizens in the respective district demand it, and to the results of I&R processes.

After a period of pressure from below, including demonstrations, perhaps even strikes and manifestations of civil disobedience, the Parliament is forced to organize a referendum about the draft. The democratic Constitution is adopted by a vast majority. The Parliament is dissolved and the Government is

transformed into an expedition Government the sole task of which is to hold a parliamentary election according to the new Constitution. Once elected, the new Parliament starts adopting laws putting in place the new, truly democratizing system.

This development inspires immediately activists in other countries. Democratic changes elsewhere follow in rapid succession. This is the beginning of a new era of world history, the era of genuine democracy

INTERNATIONAL

Czech Republic

It is like a novel: The Prime Minister had a secretary who was also his mistress. His wife was jealous and ordered the Republic's secret service(!) to spy upon her man's mistress. It became known to the public – a scandal. The wife was arrested. The Prime Minister and the whole Government resigned. The Parliament was dissolved. Executive power passed temporarily to the hands of the newly elected President Zeman, some years ago chairman of the Social Democratic Party. Zeman decided that new extraordinary election was to be held after two months. The political scene is in complete chaos. The whole system is discredited. *Quo usque tandem?*



Prof. **M. Zelený**, professor of Human Systems Management

Prof. Ph.D. **Milan Zelený**, Fordham University, New York, has written in Czech two papers to be put at the disposal of the Czech general public.

The Parties have ceased to be a motive force of Democracy...
(*excerpts*)

"The disintegration of party democracy in Czech Republic is

not fortuitous; it is a reflection of a broader global trend of a *mesalliance* between the ancient system and the new context of human needs and aspirations. Political institutions (such as parties) are unable to adapt themselves to rapidly changing expectations, level of information and the network of citizen contacts. They are lagging behind, and in Czech Republic, they are even "giving up" the basic socio-economic transformation. There is a similar contradiction in old democracies (USA), as well as new, nascent ones (Egypt); but especially in Czech Republic where partizanship has been inscribed in the Constitution, like in the twenties of the latest century."

"Political party is an organized group of people who want to increase their chances to obtain political power, influence and control of the State. For this purpose they present themselves as sharing the same opinions, nominate their candidates and put forward election programs addressing the general public. Basically, it is a sort of political enterprise, a political 'limited liability', or 'very limited liability'. Such a group do not need any broad political platform, only a reliable mass of voters. The party motivates and maintains its members by promises of a durable subsistence, dividing and sharing power surpluses and the reliance on an endless repetition of sinecures (everybody will get his/her share)."

"A Parliament consisting of thinking individuals, not of the parties' ideological robots, is always able to find a majority; it is never dissolved, individuals cannot block one another, their responsibility is always personal, no permanent coalitions and supporting networks can emerge, except transient purposive agreements of individuals (especially in cases of limited periods of service); the decisions are not narrowly ideological, but made in the interest of a locality, region and ultimately the whole society."

How to advance Czech democracy? All politics is local....

...."In Czech Republic, infiltration of party thinking and ideologies from the centre down to local,

district, and regional self-government is a direct attack upon authentic democracy. The resulting loss of autonomy and independence gives the respective self-governing authorities the role of pendants of party ideologies, it exposes them to direct corruption, embezzlement and political re-distribution liquidating any promising initiative and innovation. Obviously, democracy cannot be bought for money and it cannot be a stake in the field of enterprise; democracy is a direct self-realization of individuals in a local community."

.... "A regional outlook is perfectly natural, efficient since centuries, and especially today, owing to the internet, global communications and growing self-confidence and consciousness of the citizens, enterprises, universities and the media – on the local, district and regional level even in an outstanding way promising and competitive. The voters' behavior and values on regional levels are essential for a renewal of an efficient bottom-up democracy."

".... a corner-stone of regional development is the so called *Triad* (i.e. Enterprise-University-Self-government) where all the three components co-operate to promote economic, political, social and cultural development of the region, with an active

support (especially by means of criticism and investigation) of local and regional media."....

...."Only a healthy local democracy ensures a healthy state democracy, not vice versa. Each self-governing area has its own expeditionary constitution, derived from the global national Constitution. In such a structure, the Parliament reflects the interests of self-governing units, not the interests of imported or absent candidates of political parties."

Recently published:



Texts about Direct Democracy

A Practical Handbook for Adherents of Genuine Democracy

Contents

Preface

What is democracy? History in a nut-shell, from old until today

Prelude: 594 b.C. - 476 A.D.

Greece, Rome

Interlude: 476 - 1789

Origins of the USA

First Act: 1790 - 1918

Second Act: 1918 - 1989. Totalitarianism and Bipolarity

Third Act: 1990 - ? The Way to Semi-direct Democracy

Models of Future Democracy

Philosophical Explanation of the Unavoidability of a Transition to Direct Democracy:

Since the nineteenth century, in all branches of culture, from mathematics and physics, over the social sciences to modern art and literature, the same phenomenon can be observed: Disintegration of the illusion of objective reality, transition from objectivism and collectivism to subjectivism and individualism.

USA

11 September, Mr. **David Frank** sent an email to several dozens of activists on LAWS BY REFERENDUM: "Best Plan for Direct Democracy, from the Ground-up that you ever heard... Guaranteed!

WHATEVER YOUR ISSUE?

Chemtrails, War, Environment, Education, Taxes, the Judicial System, the Penal System, the Corrupt Political Machine, etc.

... These issues can all be dealt with by giving the People A Real Voice on the Issues Effecting Their Lives...

We have the Technology and the Plan... We just need Patriots to Help Share the Plan With Others ... Please take 15 minutes to give the Plan a Listen and Share, share, share ... "

11 September, Prof. **Ted Becker** replied: "That's exactly the plan I worked out as the consultant for The Union of Concerned Scientists in Cambridge, Mass in the mid-1980s on the "Nuclear Freeze" issue at the time. Glad to see you catching up."

UK

27 august, **I&Rgb** wrote (extracts):

"Referendum on a range of issues, with elements of direct democracy could play a greater role in an independent Scotland

The independence ballot timed for September 2014 – a powerful example of direct democracy – can lead us to re-consider state constitutions and the quality of the democracy which we have.

Direct democracy can bring practical rights to all voters such as referendum on important public matters, ways to "sack" MSPs or MPs who have lost their voters' confidence, decision on constitutional change by plebiscite, ballots to help revive local government.

Experts, campaigners and politicians have recently expressed their support for various sorts of direct democracy with which citizens can take a lead and participate effectively. These include (see below) Gordon Wilson, Dr. Irene Maver. Dennis Canavan, Peter Jones, Lesley Riddoch and Elliot Bulmer."

"Dr. Irene Maver of Glasgow University reviewed the history of local and direct democracy in Scotland. An extract from her essay: 'The free libraries controversy reflected the changing political climate of the times. Local referendums would not only be far more representative, but could accommodate a new force in burgh government'"

"Growing numbers of independence supporters are backing a call from the chairman of the Yes campaign (*ed: advisory board*) for a referendum on the future of the monarchy after independence."

"There is still time for a commitment to an open Iceland-style constitutional process. A pledge that a successful yes vote will not just lead to Scottish Ministers haggling with UK Ministers, it'll lead to the Scottish people being asked what kind of new and, dare I say it, better nation they want to live in. A promise that they'll get to ratify their work in another referendum..."

"Eliot Bulmer pleads... for 'deliberative political' spaces' where the practice of freedom as self government can become a reality. ... local democracy, direct democracy, and consultation with social interests"

"In Bulmer's model, The Constitution can be amended only if a proposal for its amendment is adopted by a two-thirds majority of Parliament and if the amendment is then **ratified by the people in a binding nationwide referendum.**"

SUBJECT: Start-up of new working group and alliance on "fixing the political system" to include direct democracy

The **Falu Commune** deserves to be called Sweden's democratic metropolis. From 25 to 29 September, they organized the *Falu Week of Democracy*. The purpose was to give voice to various initiatives aimed at a strengthening of grassroots citizens in the political system. Each day, they published a magazine containing information about current issues, articles and program of the sessions. Unquestionably, one of the most prominent personalities there is Dr. **Bruno Kaufmann**, editor of the Democracy Passport (see below):



☐ FALUN	☐
☐ DALARNA	☐
☐ RIKET	☐
☐ EUROPEISKA UNIONEN	☐
☐ SAMMENINGEET	☐

"The democracy passport matters. Because what makes you a citizen should not be where you were born, but how to want to participate in shaping the society you live in. Because being undocumented should never be a crime. Because in a democracy, there should be a place for everyone willing to play a role in the community."

Spain

9 September, Mr. **Pablo Segundo Garcia** wrote (excerpts): "Hello democrats of the world! We have hot news from Spain!! At the end I copy some new sources in Spanish.

Will be very glad to answer and redirect questions and also if you spread the news.

(any typos or minor editing, please go directly to <http://titanpad.com/Wpji4HoZSU>)

Direct Democracy in Spain

For the first time in history, a Spanish congressman has decided to transfer his vote directly to the citizens through an online voting platform.

Joan Baldovi, congressman of the Spanish green party Compromís-EQUO, will vote in Congress the "Transparency Act" according to what the public will vote using the web <https://congresotransparente.com>. The citizen voting process started on Sunday and will finish this Thursday 12 September 2013.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LS678iueqM>

Your voice will be my voice, your vote will be my vote. Do you want to enter Congress with me? If you want to participate in the first direct democracy experience in Congress, go to <https://congresotransparente.com>, a free space that allows your voice to be heard in parliament, don't wait four years to speak up. Do it now.

Hacking the Parliament

Agoravoting is a free software project started to allow direct and liquid democracy online. This summer the developers of Agoravoting proposed to congressman Baldovi to use his vote in a first attempt of direct democracy in Spain. To their surprise and joy he took the challenge.

<http://i.imgur.com/f6z71Bh.jpg>

Since then the Agoravoting team has been working hard to improve the software, adding cryptography and authentication.

Email: pablo2garcia@gmail.com

skype: pablo2all ; twitter: @pablo2garcia

Some September discussions (excerpts):

9/11: **Pablo Segundo Garcia**: "We've had 1400 voters in 2 days so far. With ID validation...I would not discard some other types of grassroots INTERNET or mobile phone organizing that would force direct democracy in the next decade, but for the next five years, I hold to my point that we will be influencers. Of course with more kicking ass from our side."

9/11: **Sven Mason**: "I think 1400 voters actually voting, especially with id verification, is a very good result"

9/11 : **Eszter Morelli** : "This is all very exciting.Are proxy voters transitive; or does the "ID validation" work; Is someone manually checking ID's against some Government API; We can follow whom and on what; Etc."

9/11 : **Paul Nollen**: "I can't reply to all your questions but the use of the eID is very common here in some European states. For instance here in Belgium where I live we all have an eID card.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electronic_identity_card . . It enables any internet website to identify any holder of an eID card. It solves one problem with internet voting: authentication. Voting itself is done by means of the end to end auditable voting

system, Helios (encrypted system).

In countries where no eID exists authentication can be done by other systems like the one investigated by Senator On Line (SOL Australia). <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PassWindow> "

9/12 **Digital 2** to Ted Becker: Amne: First real application of digital democracy in Spain

http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/sep/11/joan-baldovi-spain-transparency-bill?CMP=twl_gu

"Digital 2" es miembro de El movimiento ciudadano que acabará con la dictadura de los partidos

<http://www.d-3.info> (Digital 2 is a member of the Citizen movement which will put an end to the dictatorship of the parties)

Democracia Directa Digital (D3) "Si no es directa, no es Democracia." (If it is not direct, it is not democracy.)

The World

28 August, Mr. **Sven Mason** wrote (excerpts): "On the forum I have an area for signatory parties, and groups/parties that are not signatories:

E2D Signatory Parties (Political parties committed to implementing a direct democracy who have accepted the E2D International statutes) <http://e2d-international.org/forum/viewforum.php?f=100>

Direct Democracy Political Movements by Country: (Political direct democracy movements that are not signatory members of E2D) <http://e2d-international.org/forum/viewforum.php?f=120>

Once I have confirmed the site is moved across to the new server I will update the forum accordingly with the new list, will leave the wiki up to others."

16 August, Mr. **Edwin M. John** wrote (excerpts): "Happy to read Danilo D' Antonio's message calling for a situation where 'we citizens/workers will access the roles, powers and resources of our Res Publica.'

We in Neighbourhood Community Network have been advocating for a global multi-tier federation of neighbourhood parliaments of about thirty families each guided by the principles of (1) **smallness of size** of the parliaments at every level, (2) **numerical uniformity** of the various units at the various levels of the federation of neighbourhood parliaments, (3) **subsidiarity**, (4) **recall scope** to call back anytime representatives elected to the levels immediately above in the global federation of these neighbourhood parliaments, (5) **convergence**, (6) **sociocratic** elections and sociocratic decision-making. It is aimed at the same.

I feel Danilo would be happy to read a passage written by me which was published in the UN booklet: 'Empowerment: What it means to you?'

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/ngo/outreachmaterials/empowerment-booklet.pdf> "

"I have also written a few articles about it which appear in

<http://www.neighborhoodparliament.org/papers.html>"

22 September, Info@Direct Democracy wrote:

UN Advisor stresses the need to develop direct democracy globally to protect human rights

"In an 11th September report to the United Nations Council on Human Rights by independent expert Alfred de Zaya stresses that there is an urgent need for people to be directly involved in self government if we are to protect human rights. Particularly it is necessary to implement globally the tenets of direct democracy. Those same ideas that we at DDI are trying to develop here in Ireland.

De Zaya says it thus:

"Recent popular movements in different parts of the world show direct participation in domestic and global decision-making is necessary, and why the instruments of direct democracy including popular initiative and referenda are becoming increasingly attractive."

He also made direct reference to some of the unsavory trends of government that make such a pressing issue:

"I am dismayed that notwithstanding lip service to democracy, too many governments seem to forget that in a democracy, it is the people who are sovereign," he said, adding that many

governments appear to be more responsive to special interests such as the military-industrial complex, financial banking and transnational corporations, than to the wishes of their own populations, which creates massive social and economic inequalities. The disconnect between power and the people must be remedied."

"The people are Sovereign" he states, just as it states in our Constitution. This is something that people should remember because it is very empowering and as such it is an idea that we have been steered away from by successive governments for the benefit of those vested interests."

Merry Christmas and Let's carry on in 2014!



YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION 20,- euro

ACCOUNT NR.: JIRI POLAK, 002022-0168677293/0800

IBAN CZ74 0800 0020 2201 6867 7293

BIC - SWIFT: GIBACZPX

BANK ADDRESS: CESKA SPORITELNA, JUGOSLAVSKA 19, PRAHA 2, CZECH REPUBLIC



DIRECT DEMOCRATIC EURO-VISION NEWSLETTER

Vol. 15 (No.4)

November 2013

**WORLDWIDE DIRECT DEMOCRACY
NEWSLETTER**

Published by MDD - Movement for Direct Democracy

Responsible editor: Jiri Polak, Design: Bohuslav Binka, Picture: Katka Svehlova

MDD - MOVEMENT FOR DIRECT DEMOCRACY

JIRI POLAK, ASSARHUSAVÄGEN 64, S-24736, S. SANDBY, SWEDEN

PHONE: 046/58891, E-MAIL: JIRI.POLAK@SWIPNET.SE

