

## Agreement on alternation between regional and local representation (9 March 1994)

**Caption:** On 9 March 1994, at the inaugural session of the Committee of the Regions, the Members of the Committee elect their Chairman and First Vice-Chairman. On an initiative by Pasqual Maragall, Mayor of Barcelona, the candidates decide that, for the first two-year period of the first four-year term of office, one representative of the regions will hold the Chairmanship and one representative of the local authorities will hold the Vice-Chairmanship, and that these roles will be rotated for the second two-year period. Accordingly, Jacques Blanc, President of the Languedoc-Roussillon Region, is elected Chairman of the Committee of the Regions and Pasqual Maragall is elected First Vice-Chairman. The following day, Jacques Blanc (Chairman of the Committee of the Regions), Jordi Pujol (President of the AER), Pasqual Maragall (President of the CEMR), Wilfried Martens (President of the PPE) and Willy Claes (President of the PES) sign an agreement on this policy of alternation.

**Source:** Minutes of the inaugural session of the Committee of the Regions on 9 March 1994 (first four-year term of office) 1994-1998, DI/CdR 25/94, Brussels: Committee of the Regions of the European Communities, 09.03.1994.

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## Minutes of the inaugural session of the Committee of the Regions on 9 March 1994

[...]

14. **The INTERIM CHAIRMAN** said that four members had presented their candidature for the post of Chairman, namely Mr Jacques BLANC, Mr Charles GRAY, Mr Pasqual MARAGALL and Mr Luc van den BRANDE.

Mr Charles GRAY withdrew his candidature after stating that he wished the other candidates to play the democratic game up to the final ballot, which would end in the election of a Chairman. The INTERIM CHAIRMAN put the three candidatures in turn to a vote, with the following result:

- Mr Jacques BLANC            56 votes in favour
- Mr MARAGALL    55 votes in favour
- Mr van den BRANDE        50 votes in favour

**The CHAIRMAN** recorded that none of the candidates had secured three-quarters of the valid votes.

After the sitting was interrupted several times, **the INTERIM CHAIRMAN** prepared to proceed to the second ballot.

Mr van den BRANDE withdrew his candidature. Mr MARAGALL pointed to the need for rotation between two Chairmen over the first four-year period in office so that a representative of the regions and a representative of the local authorities took it in turns to head the Committee of the Regions. He urged members to vote for Mr Jacques BLANC in keeping with this principle and withdrew his candidature for the Chairmanship. Mr van den BRANDE supported Mr MARAGALL's proposal and called on the Assembly to follow suit. In the same spirit, Mr van den BRANDE also withdrew his candidature for the Vice-Chairmanship.

15. **The INTERIM CHAIRMAN** asked the Assembly to hold a second ballot with Mr Jacques BLANC as sole candidate for the Chairmanship.

16. Mr Jacques BLANC secured 97 out of the 170 votes cast, viz. the majority required under the Rules of Procedure. He was elected Chairman of the Committee of the Regions for the first two-year period of the first four-year term of office.

17. **The INTERIM CHAIRMAN** asked the Assembly to proceed to a vote on the election of Vice-Chairman. Mr Charles GRAY and Mr Pasqual MARAGALL were candidates. Mr NUNGESSER and Mr RODRIGUEZ IBARRA had withdrawn their candidatures.

18. The first ballot gave the following result: 65 votes in favour of Mr Charles GRAY; 91 votes in favour of Mr MARAGALL. Mr MARAGALL was elected Vice-Chairman of the Committee of the Regions.

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