**PRESS RELEASE**

**Immediate 30.9.2021**

**GERMAN ELECTIONS:**

**BELFAST INVENTION TO FACILITATE THE NEXT GERMAN GOVERNMENT?**

*“… [so that] the whole country can recognize itself in the future government.”*

Olaf Scholz

For a country of millions to choose a new Parliament, the best way is an election. For a Bundestag of hundreds to choose a new Government, again, an election is the obvious way. The MPs vote, in order of preference, both for those whom they want to be in Cabinet *and* for the Ministry in which they wish each nominee to serve. As in PR-STV, a Party should best nominate only as many candidates as it thinks it can get elected. As in a Modified Borda Count MBC, the MP should best submit a full ballot. So the MPs are incentivised to cross the party divide – an essential feature of any good power-sharing structure. A completed matrix ballot has one *A* in each column, and one in each row.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **THE CABINET**  Names of candidates in  order of preference: | | **MINISTRIES** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chancellor | Finance | Interior | Foreign Affair | Economy | Justice | Labour | Defence | Food | Health | Transport | Environment | Education | Development | Special Tasks |
| **1st** | Jill |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ***A*** |  |  |  |
| **2nd** | Jane |  |  |  |  | ***A*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **3rd** | Joan | ***A*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **4th** | Jean |  |  | ***A*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **5th** | Fred |  |  |  |  |  | ***A*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **6th** | Ed |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ***A*** |  |  |
| **7th** | Ted |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ***A*** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **8th** | Ned |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ***A*** |  |  |  |  |
| **9th** | Sara |  |  |  | ***A*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **10th** | Lara |  | ***A*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **11th** | Tara |  |  |  |  |  |  | ***A*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **12th** | Cara |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ***A*** |  |
| **13th** | Jim |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ***A*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **14th** | Joe |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ***A*** |
| **15th** | Jo |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ***A*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |

This colour-blind methodology – which could be so useful in Stormont! – will be role-played, care of IFAMD {*Institut für Angewandtes (Applied) Mechanism Design*} [www.ifamd.org](http://www.ifamd.org) in Munich, as part of this season’s Adam Smith lectures in the Centre for Conflict Resolution [ccr-munich.de](http://ccr-munich.de/)

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