**“A NEW STYLE OF POLITICS” – MULTI-OPTION DECISION-MAKING**

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**BREXIT: BOTCHED AND NOW BUTCHERED BY BINARY VOTING**

Majoritarianism was part of the problem in Northern Ireland, Ukraine, Yemen, and Yugoslavia, where “all the wars… started with a referendum,” (*Oslobodjenje*, 7.2.1999). This is partly because majority voting is the crudest measure of collective opinion ever invented. Political leaders like it; they choose the question… and in many referendums and most ‘normal’ (i.e., unhung) parliamentary votes, this question is then the answer. Some people think this is democracy.

**WE DISSENT**

**WE DO *NOT* RESPECT THE OUTCOME OF THE 2016 REFERENDUM**

**IT WAS THE WRONG QUESTION, NOT LEAST BECAUSE IT WAS BINARY**

***June 2016 did* NOT *identify the will of the people.*** OK, 52% don’t like *‘remain’*. But nobody knows what *‘leave’* means. Hence all the arguments. There should have been, say, three options\* – “in the EU, EEA or WTO?” – like the multi-option poll Westminster gave to Newfoundland in 1949.

**IN A PLURALIST SOCIETY, DEMOCRACY ITSELF SHOULD BE PLURALIST**

A “will of the people” can be identified if voters say what they want; (not what they ***don’t*** want). Everyone should vote ‘for’ something. So, with a contentious problem, the ballot should be multi-optional. In preferential voting – one of the “best interpretations of majority rule,” (*Oxford Concise Dictionary of Politics*, 2003, p 139) – we can identify the option with the highest average preference.

Binary voting is one of the worst. *Inter alia*, it allows ERG to try to control the Tories, then to whip these MPs to opt for ‘no deal’: but 51% of 51% = 26%; ‘binary *majority* rule’ is an oxymoron!

On Brexit, if the Westminster vote is binary, the outcome should not be regarded as the will of parliament. Some will try to do so. **We will dissent.**

So this Institute calls for: **A MULTI-OPTION PEOPLE’S VOTE and political reform:**

**a) preferential PR elections, and thus a truly multi-party democracy,**

**b) preferential voting in decision-making, and**

**c) all-party power-sharing.**

Peter Emerson

Director, the de Borda Institute,

36 Ballysillan Road, Belfast BT14 7QQ

[www.deborda.org](http://www.deborda.org/) [pemerson@deborda.org](mailto:pemerson@deborda.org)

07837717979 and 02890711795

* As in our de Borda Institute press release of February 2016

**IF THE PROBLEM AIN’T BINARY, DON’T USE BINARY VOTING**