**PRESS RELEASE**

**IMMEDIATE – 19.4.2020**

**FORMING A GOVERNMENT**

**MAJORITARIAN MASOCHISM**

A veto is like a pistol on the mantelpiece in a Chekov play: if it’s there in Act I, someone will use it in Act II. Bang!

Many party activists want to vote on whether or not their Party joins whatever coalition is currently ‘on the table’. But then, if ‘a majority’ says ‘no’, it’s back to impasse. It’s ‘a majority’ of what? Does every ‘majority’ have a veto – in FF, FG, GP, SF etc*.*?

Even a majority of a majority is often a minority – (after all, 51% of 51% is only 26%) – but with every party a minority, each is a majority of only a minority? Does every minor majority have a veto? Bang, bang, bang? Must the impasse continue, possibly *ad infinitum*?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Covid-19 and climate change tell us we must change. Brexit told us a binary vote on a multi-option question is inadequate if not also inaccurate. It is (yet again) time to adopt multi-option preferential voting in decision-making.

Democracy? By definition, elections should be multi-candidate; none of that North Korean “Candidate ***X***, yes-or-no?” (or “Candidate ***X***, yes-or-yes?”) nonsense. In like manner, decisions should be multi-optional, with none of that “Option ***X***, yes-or-no?” (Ulster says ‘NO!’) stuff.

Peter Emerson

Director, the de Borda Institute

[www.deborda.org](http://www.deborda.org)

36 Ballysillan Road

Belfast BT14 7QQ

+44-(0)7837717979

(Currently in voluntary self-isolation on a farm in Co. Wicklow.)