**PRESS RELEASE**

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**LEBANON**

**POWER-SHARING: AN ETHNO-COLOUR BLIND METHODOLOGY**

The Taif Accord, (the Belfast Agreement and Dayton), all perpetuate the very sectarianism these peace agreements were meant to overcome. Appointing a coalition, a team of persons from all parties to a mix of very different ministries, could be based not on religious belief but on talent!

To choose ***who*** should serve and in ***which*** Ministry requires a matrix of information… and therefore a matrix vote. To elect a cabinet of just six members, for example, a Premier and five Ministers, a newly elected Parliament could use the following ballot paper.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| The Cabinet |  Prime Minister | Ministers of…. |
| ***A*** | ***B*** | ***C*** | ***D*** | ***E*** |
| Preference | Name |
| 1st |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2nd |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3rd |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4th |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5th |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6th |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

In order of preference, each MP chooses, ***who*** they want to be in the Cabinet, and enters these names in the shaded part of the ballot. Then, in the matrix, they indicate ***who*** of these nominees should serve in ***which*** Ministry: so one tick in each column, and one in each row.

The analysis is in two phases. Firstly, on the basis of data in the shaded section, a PR analysis identifies the six most popular MPs. Secondly, the preferences having been translated into points in the matrix, successful candidates are appointed to those ministries for which they got the most points. A full description is attached.

*The Irish Times* and this Institute demonstrated this procedure, electronically, at a public meeting in Dublin in 2006. Its relevance to Lebanon (Northern Ireland, and Bosnia) needs no emphasis.

http://www.deborda.org/home/2016/4/25/2016-5-ireland-let-the-dail-elect-a-govt.html

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