**PRESS RELEASE**

**IMMEDIATE – 7.9.2020**

**BEYOND THE BIND OF BINARY BALLOTS**

We would not want elections based on “Candidate ***X***, yes-or-no?” questions.

Why then do we rely on “Option ***X***, yes-or-no?” questions in decision-making?

**In Referendums or in Parliament, the ‘Will of a Majority’ may be sought in:**

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| **(i) BINARY BALLOTS** |
| **A MAJORITY OPINION** may perhaps be *ratified* (but cannot best be *identified*) in: | Application |
| i | **a majority vote** | Everywhere, from USA to China |

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| **(ii – iv) MULTI-OPTIONAL and (v – vii) PREFERENTIAL BALLOTS** |
| **A MAJORITY OPINION** may perhaps be *identified* in: | Application |
| ii | **a plurality vote**  | Danish Parliament (often) |
| iii | **a two-round system** | Norwegian Parliament (once)Some New Zealand referendums |
| iv | **serial voting,** a knock-out series of majority votes which can identify a Condorcet winner (if there is one) | Finnish and Swedish Parliaments (sometimes) |
| v | an **alternative vote** AV {also known asthe (non-PR) **single transferable vote** STV} | The SNP wanted AV for Scotland’s referendums of 1997 and 2014 |
| vi | a **modified Borda count** MBC, a preferential points system | A Borda Count is used in Slovenian elections |
| vii | a **Condorcet** count: the winner is the option which wins the most pairings | Nowhere |

Most parliamentary votes and referendums are binary. As shown above, some of both are multi-optional or even preferential. Majority voting is exclusive, divisive and often inaccurate. The MBC/Condorcet count is inclusive, cohesive and far more accurate It is therefore more democratic.

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| ***DEMOCRATIC DECISION-MAKING******Consensus Voting for Civic Society and Parliaments****,*2020, (Springer, Heidelberg)will be presented to the President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins, at 2.30 pm on Friday 2nd October in Áras an Uachtaráin. |

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