

## 2014 EUROPEAN ELECTIONS : EP SEEN AS "RUBBISH BIN OF NATIONAL POLITICS" - GOULARD

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Sylvie Goulard (ALDE, France) sounds the alarm with her book *Europe: amour ou chambre à part*. Her "angry but not bitter" denunciation targets the European Council and the attitude of politicians to the European Parliament.

As a result of rules of unanimity and the obligation to appoint one commissioner per member state, "a few petty kings have the right to block what is in the interest of the greater number".

Goulard blasts the political parties that see the EP as the "rubbish bin of national politics or a doormat". This scornful attitude is all the more striking in France, where the lists for the May 2014 European elections will be drawn up after the local elections, as a way out for the losers in the first election. The MEP hopes to see the multilingual Erasmus generation enter Parliament: "Will the leadership of the different parties give them a chance in 2014 or once again send a few lame ducks from national politics to Strasbourg," she asks.

The French MEP fears that the connection between the election of Parliament and the designation of the Commission president may create frustration for citizens since the European Council will remain free in its policy stance, free from any control. "Simplifying a little, this amounts to campaigning by telling voters: choose whomever you like, but in the end it's always Mrs Merkel who will decide, along with the other national leaders."

According to Goulard, the solution is to build checks and democracy into the system. There is great frustration among citizens who cannot even be sure who takes decisions: Herman Van Rompuy? The Troika? The Eurogroup?