**PRESS RELEASE**

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**FORMING A NEW EXECUTIVE**

“Consensus,” “All work together,” etc., lots of words are being spoken. OK, so just as the people all voted to get an Assembly, let all 90 MLAs vote to form the Executive.

The matrix vote. Each MLA chooses, in order of preference, both those whom he/she wants to be on the Executive, and the particular ministry in which he/she wishes each of these nominees to serve. *The Irish Times*, DCU and this Institute demonstrated the matrix vote in Dublin last year:

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

and

<http://www.deborda.org/home/2016/12/10/2016-16-let-the-dail-elect-the-government.html>

The count is electronic. So the whole exercise of forming an Executive could be done, not in three weeks, but in a day. Furthermore, the outcome is bound to be proportional and all-party, a sound basis for any power-sharing administration.

To comply with existing rules, we suggest a non-binding matrix vote, with the parties then going through the usual d’Hondt procedure in compliance with the matrix vote outcome.

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**A BORDER POLL**

“We need a number of options,” said Daithí McKay on the BBC’s *Election Special*, (Sat 4th). In which case, we need a fair decision-making procedure. The Modified Borda Count, MBC, “is the soundest method of identifying the [option which] is the most acceptable,” the late Professor Sir Michael Dummett; or, Professor Don Saari, it alone “offers an accurate accounting of the voters’ preferences.”

The MBC is non-majoritarian. It allows all concerned (and/or their representatives) to participate both in debate and in the ballot, encouraging all to state, not only their 1st preference, but also their 2nd and subsequent preferences. It can identify the option which is everyone’s highest average preference; and an average, of course, involves *every* voter, not just a majority of them.

In effect, it lets “all work together.” The MBC is the very catalyst of “consensus” and should be the methodology, not only of any future border poll, but also of decision-making in the Assembly.

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