**PRESS RELEASE**

**2016 Trump, Brexit the world needs better decision-making.**

**2020 Covid, Climate Change we must co-operate…**

**…and work *with* each other;**

**That can’t be best done if we’re voting (for and) *against* each other.**

**But it can be done with preference voting.**

**POLITICS AS IS**

The Government proposes a piece of legislation.

Amendments and then the substantive are resolved by majority vote.

So the majority wins, always, almost.

In effect, the Executive is the Legislature; Parliament is just a rubber stamp.

**POLITICS AS IT SHOULD BE**

The MLAs/MPs identify the options (like the MPs in the ‘Brexit’ indicative votes).

The Speaker draws up a list of options.

The MLAs/MPs cast their preferences (electronically), so to identify the will of that parliament, the option which gains their highest average preference.

In effect, the Legislature legislates, and the Executive executes.

Binary voting, first used some 2,500 ago, is crude, often divisive, sometimes inaccurate, and at worst a provocation to violence. 250-year-old preferential points voting is more accurate, and therefore more democratic: it identifies the option with the highest *average* preference, and an average involves every voting MLA/MP, not just a majority of them. If, then, this voting procedure were the norm, democracies everywhere could be based on all-party, power-sharing coalitions… as in Switzerland.

A zoom on decision-making will take place ‘in’ Trinity College Dublin on Monday 30th, at 7 pm:

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/book-launch-democratic-decision-making-consensus-voting-for-civic-society-tickets-128665605289>

Peter Emerson 27.11.2020

Director, the de Borda Institute

36 Ballysillan Road

Belfast BT14 7QQ

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

07837717979