**PRESS RELEASE**

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**DECISION-MAKING: LET’S FOLLOW THE SCIENCE**

***If there’s no majority ‘for’ any one option, there’s a majority ‘against’ every option.***

In 1996, Slovenia had a multi-option debate, and (therefore) a multi-option referendum: three majority votes. Nothing got a majority; the winner was the option with the largest minority, 49%.

In the UK’s multi-option debate on its relationship with the EU, there was only one majority vote, on only one option. ‘Remain’ lost with a large minority, 48%. If majority votes had been held on the other options, maybe they too would have lost, on less than 48%; maybe ‘remain’ won.

**At the very least, we should debate decision-making.**

**Most scientific instruments are precise, calibrated in metres, hertz, degrees, etc.**

**Only in politics do we use a divisive, blunt, Orwellian, binary tool.**

Several multi-option voting procedures can be used to identify a majority opinion; they include:

* a **two-round system TRS** as used by the British Government in a three-option referendum for Newfoundland in 1948, or in New Zealand’s five-option referendum of 1992, etc,;
* an **alternative vote AV** (or single transferable vote STV in its non-PR format), as advocated by Plaid Cymru and the SNP for all three of their 1997 and 2014 referendums;
* the **modified Borda count** MBC, a form of which is used in Slovenian elections; and
* the **Condorcet rule**.

Uniquely, the last two methodologies take *all* preferences cast by *all* voters into account, and without any special weightings; little wonder then, they are the most scientific, the most accurate… and therefore the most democratic. Democracy should embrace pluralism, both in parliamentary votes and not just referendums. Taking the former scenario, let the:

* MPs choose the options (as in the indicative votes);
* Speaker form the multi-option ballot;
* (unwhipped) MPs cast their preferences;
* Speaker identify the will of parliament, the option with the highest average preference;
* Executive execute.

**Scientifically speaking,**

**votes in parliament should be subject to a joint MBC/Condorcet count;**

**referendums on 4 – 6 options are best conducted by MBC.**

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