

CANDIDATE LIST MAKING PROCESS IN THE PARTY ALLIANCE “UNION OF GREENS AND FARMERS” FOR 12TH PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

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Keywords: intra-party democracy, candidate selection, parliamentary elections, party alliance

Introduction: Political Party Law in the Republic of Latvia says that “Political parties carry out political activities and create their own internal organization, in accordance with democracy, openness and the principle of equality”(1st paragraph, 3rd point).If this law is unable to act, then it means that a party operation is directed contrary to legislative provisions and procedures.

Aim: to analyse how democratic is a candidate list making process of the Union of Greens and Farmers (Latvian: Zaļo un Zemnieku savienība, ZZS).

Tasks of the work wereto provide a theoretical framework for the presentation of political parties, particularly in political party internal democracy characterizing elements. Then provide party alliance characteristics explaining its structure and metamorphosis in 12-year period. Author also explored party statutes within the union to indicate the order in which intra-party associates have opportunities to influence the selection of candidates and then created a list of candidate statistics and assessed the electoral list of the first four leaders' performance, analyzing alliance’s candidate list building process, as well as the results of the election.

Research hypothesis: The party alliance Union of Greens and Farmers has a democratic candidate list building for 12th parliamentary elections, in particular that party members vote candidates into the party list.

Results: All parties in the Union of Greens and Farmers has a principle that party members have a right impact with respect to the nomination of candidates at parliamentary elections.

Division by age group and gender refers to inequality in the party alliance Union of Greens and Farmers statistics, which can be interpreted as undemocratic electoral list building process.

Several party alliance leaders previous actions reflect the changing party affiliation, hence the support for various political forces at different time periods.

Individual candidate prior experience pointed to the personal interest promotion in policy, which implies that the reasons for these candidates standing for election are more personal, rather than party operation directed.

Conclusions: Consequently, the hypothesis that the party alliance Union of Greens and Farmers has a democratic candidate list building for 12th parliamentary elections, in particular that party members vote candidates into the party list, partly confirms.