

Options for reform

Ken Ritchie



The Alternative Vote

- **Avoids problems of ‘Two round’ elections and of the Supplementary Vote;**
- **Favoured by many politicians opposed to PR**
- **But not a proportional system**

Electoral Systems

- **Plurality / majoritarian**
- **List systems**
- **Additional member / mixed / hybrid**
- **Single transferable vote**

SINGLE-MEMBER CONSTITUENCY SYSTEMS

A map of Europe with a light purple background and white outlines of countries and constituencies. The text 'SINGLE-MEMBER CONSTITUENCY SYSTEMS' is centered at the top. 'FPTP' is written in purple over the British Isles, and 'Two Round' is written in purple over France and Spain.

FPTP

**Two
Round**

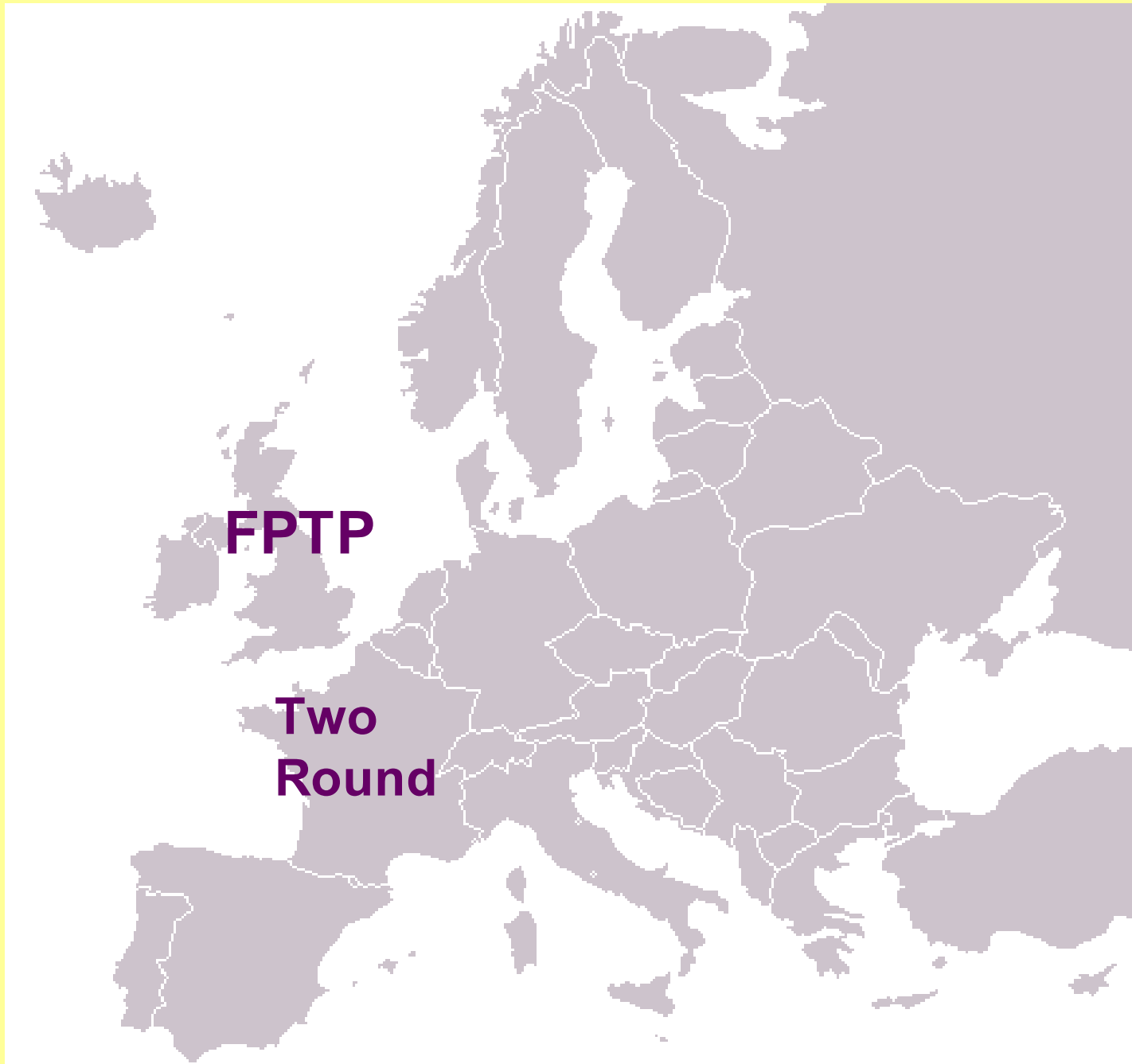
French Presidential Election

Round 1

Chirac	19.8%
Le Pen	16.9%
Jospin	16.1%
Others	52.8%

List systems

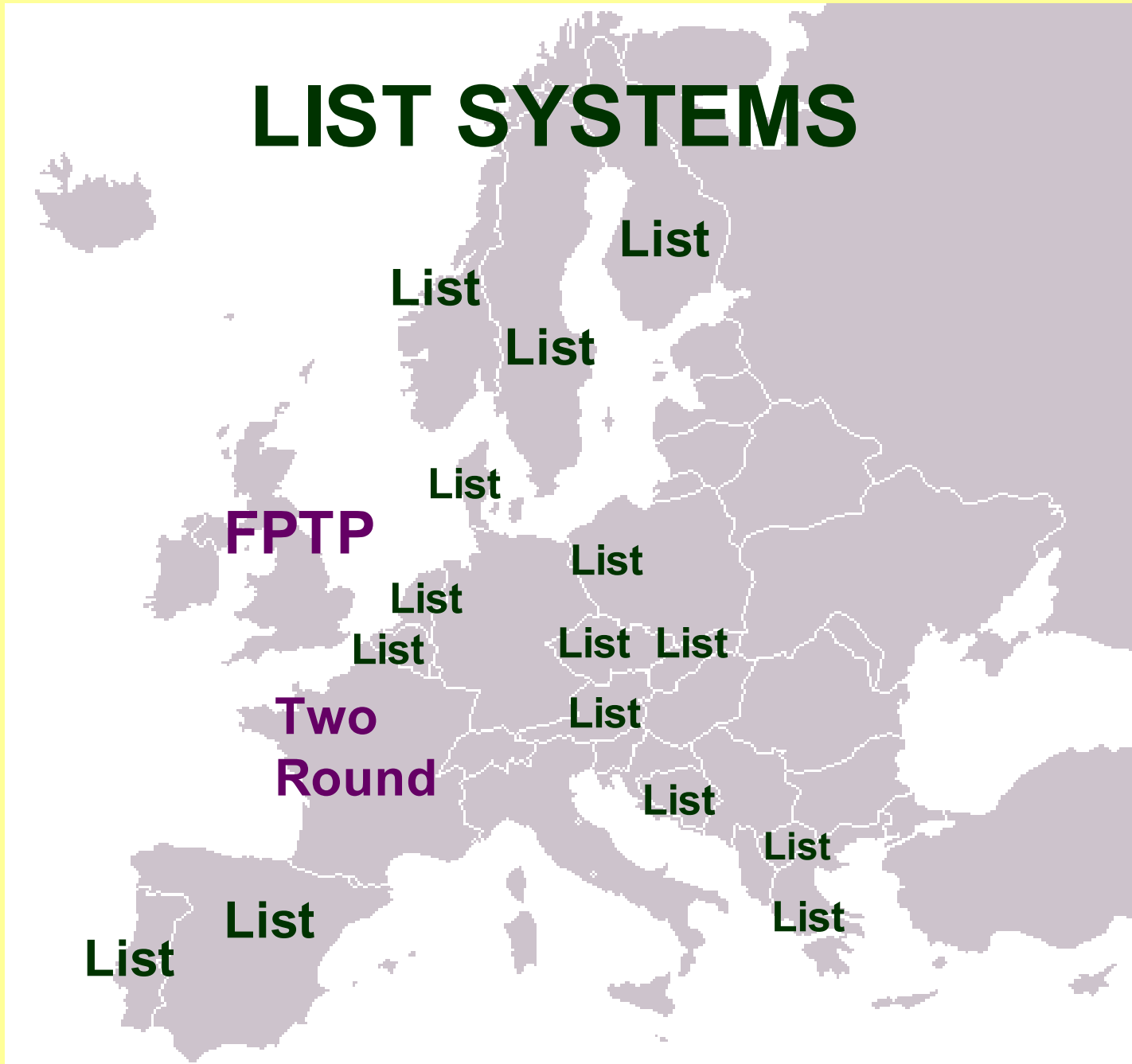
The norm in Europe



FPTP

**Two
Round**

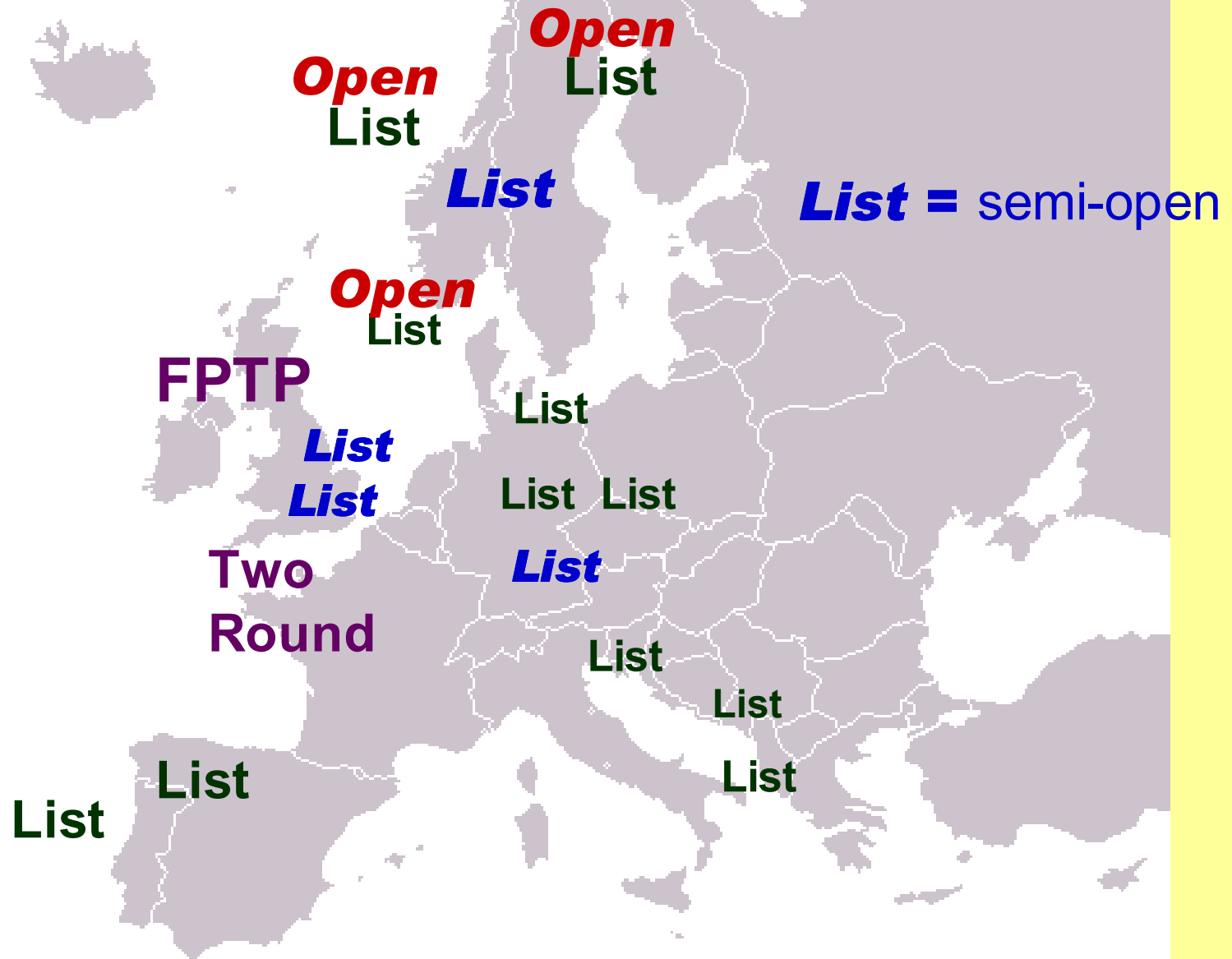
LIST SYSTEMS



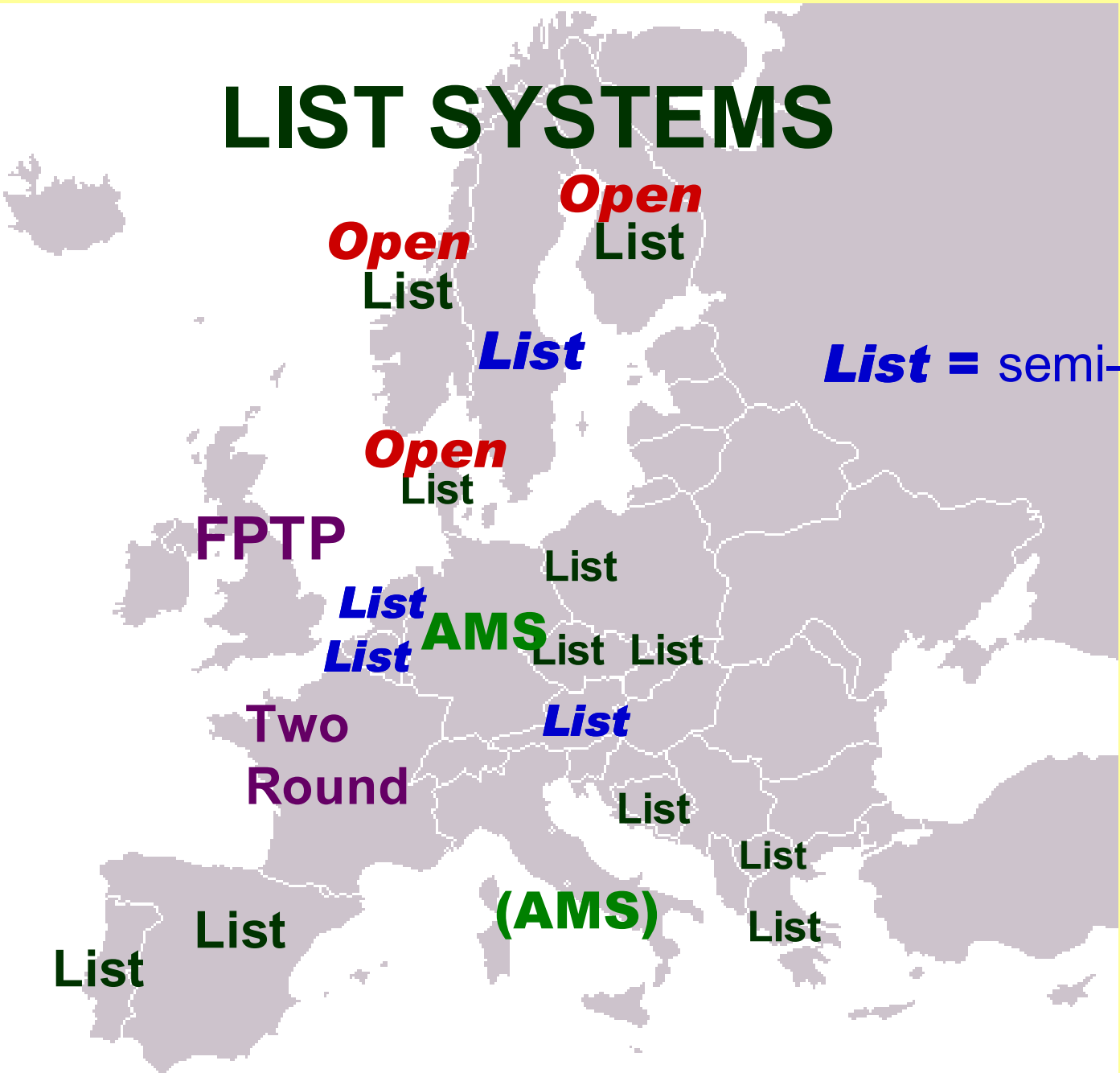
LIST SYSTEMS



LIST SYSTEMS



LIST SYSTEMS



Open List

Open List

List

List = semi-open

Open List

FPTP

List

List

AMS

List List

List

Two Round

List

List

List

List

List

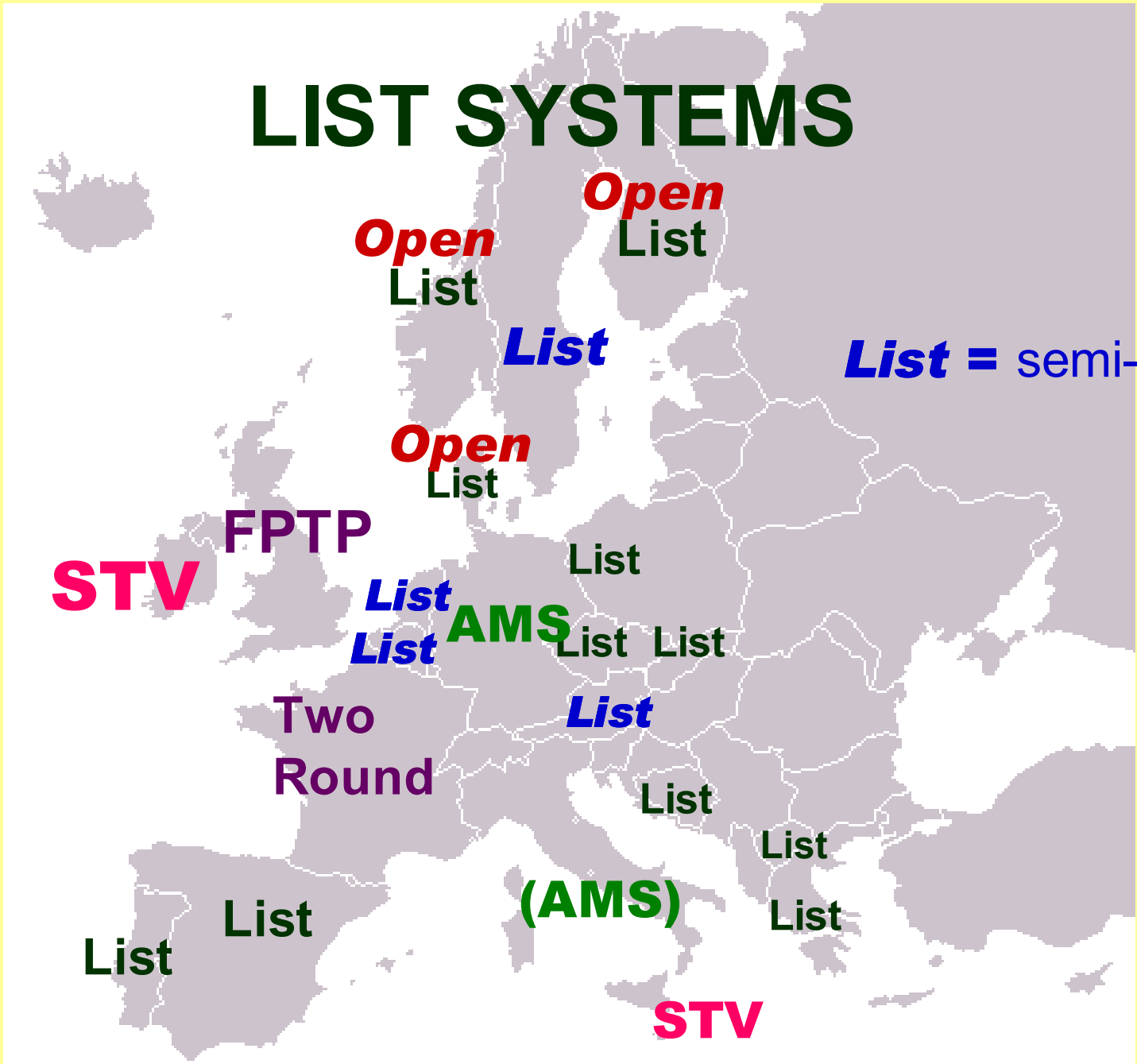
(AMS)

List

Additional Member System

- A front runner as favoured by pro-reform Labour MPs
- Problems in that it creates two categories of elected members
- Argument over dual candidacies
- Not well understood by voter

LIST SYSTEMS



List = semi-open

STV

FPTP

List

List

Two Round

List

List

(AMS)

STV

List

List List

List

List

List

List

Open List

Open List

List

Open List

List

AMS

List

List List

List

List

List

List

A well-tryed system

STV is/has been used in:

- **Scottish School Board elections, 1919 - 1929**
- **Multi-member university seats in UK elections, to 1950**
- **Republic of Ireland: all elections since 1922**
- **N Ireland: local, Assembly and Euro elections since 1973**
- **Many elections in trade unions, professional bodies, voluntary organisations, etc.**

STV recommended by:

- **Kerley Commission**
- **Sunderland Commission**
- **Richard Commission**
- **Arbuthnott Commission**

And internationally ...

- **For the Australian senate**
- **In Tasmania**
- **In Malta**
- **In many cities of the US and Canada**
- **Some New Zealand local elections**

Electoral reform

- **A serious review of electoral systems?**
- **A referendum?**
- **A change to STV?**