

**ELECTIONS NIGHT**

# 2014 EUROPEAN ELECTIONS: GENDER PERSPECTIVES

25 May 2014, Brussels

## BACKGROUND

Voters in the EU will elect the 751 Members of the European Parliament during the European elections of 22-25 May 2014. The new European Parliament, representing the interests of over 500 million citizens, will shape European legislation over the next five years. The election results from all 28 Member States will be announced on the evening of Sunday 25 May - Election Night.

This leaflet provides extracts from documents prepared by the European Parliament's Policy Department on Citizen's Rights and Constitutional Affairs regarding the European elections from a gender perspective. Scan the QR code or click on the title of the publication to access it directly.

## FACT SHEETS ON THE EU

The Fact Sheets provide an overview of European integration and of the European Parliament's contribution to that process. They cover six main themes:

- how the European Union works;
- citizens' Europe;
- the internal market;
- the economic and monetary union;
- sectoral policies; and
- the EU's external relation

The online version is reviewed and updated regularly throughout the year.



All Fact Sheets  
[www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets)

## PUBLICATIONS

### Electoral lists ahead of the elections to the European Parliament from a gender perspective – May 2014



This study, prepared upon request of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality, provides a detailed gender perspective analysis of the existing electoral systems of the 28 EU Member States for the European elections 2014. It also describes and scrutinises the electoral lists of the Member States from a gender perspective and presents the synthesis of the main findings from the lists. Some main conclusions are made on the basis of the mapping. They concern the relation between the adoption of legislated gender quotas and the implementation of quota provisions by national parties.

The main study is accompanied by 4 annexes which include country reports in the following order: (1) Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Germany, Denmark and Estonia (2) Greece, Spain, Finland, France, Croatia, Hungary and Ireland, (3) Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Latvia, Malta, Netherlands and Poland, (4) Portugal, Romania, Sweden, Slovenia, Slovakia and the United Kingdom.



Study



Annex 1



Annex 2



Annex 3



Annex 4

## Electoral gender quota systems and their implementation in Europe (2013 study updating 2011 study) - June 2013



The note is an update to the 2011 report which maps the diffusion of electoral gender quotas in the 30 EU/EEA countries and evaluates the effectiveness of different quota types in different electoral systems. It shows that legislated quotas are implemented in eight countries and that party quotas are implemented in 14 (additional) countries. Furthermore, some gender quotas have resulted in major leaps in women's representation, while others have led to almost no change. In general, the note reveals a mixed picture in Europe when it comes to women's representation. Women's parliamentary representation only increased from 23.6 per cent in 2008 to 24.7 per cent in 2011 and to 25.6 per cent in 2013. Their representation increased in



the most recent parliamentary elections of 19 countries as well as in the elections of the European Parliament. Four countries experienced stagnation, whereas the share of women MPs dropped in seven countries. One conclusion of the 2011 report is that in order to change women's historical underrepresentation effectively, electoral gender quotas have to fit the electoral system and should include regulations about the rank order of women and men on the electoral lists as well as sanctions for non-compliance.

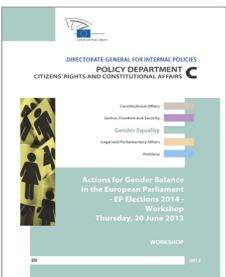
## Women in decision-making: the role of the new media for increased political participation - June 2013



This study reviews the barriers to women's involvement in politics and how new media may help increase this involvement at different levels of political participation. The research made with MEPs and end-users of new media platforms, together with the case studies on eight new media projects show that women's political interests are qualitatively different to men's. Women tend to participate in non-party actions more than men, who tend to be more involved with formal politics. Social, structural and situational barriers to women in formal politics are considerable. New media can be used in diverse ways to either directly or indirectly engage women in the political discourse.



## Actions for gender balance in the European Parliament - the elections 2014 - June 2013



This note presents an overview of the legislative initiatives and measures undertaken by the European Parliament, women's associations and organisations working in the field of gender equality. It also includes research output regarding gender equality. An analysis is made on the way legislative measures actually work in practice and on their implementation by the Member States. The note also describes some of the findings of the European Institute for Gender Equality on women in media industries and gives recommendations on increasing the involvement of mainstream media in the participation of women in political decision-making, in view of the European Elections 2014.



## POLICY DEPARTMENTS

Policy departments consist of five units responsible for providing - both in-house and external - high-level independent expertise, analysis and policy advice at the request of committees and other parliamentary bodies (delegations, President, Bureau, Secretary-General). Their expertise covers all areas of activity of the European Parliament. They are closely involved in the work of committees which they support in shaping legislation on and exercising democratic scrutiny over EU policies.

Policy departments deliver policy analysis in a wide variety of formats, ranging from studies and in-depth analyses to briefings and the Fact Sheets on the EU. This written output serves a variety of purposes by feeding directly into the legislative work of a specific committee or serving as a briefing for delegations of members.

Apart from a few confidential documents, all texts produced by policy departments are available on the Parliament's website for the benefit of all members and the wider public. Policy departments also organise events, including workshops and expert panels, that enhance Parliament's analytical capacity and develop common approaches to current political issues.

All studies  
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