On 23-26 May, over 200 million Europeans in 28 EU member states voted in the European elections, resulting in turnout increasing from 42.61% in 2014 to 51% in 2019. The record number of people voted to boost European democracy and give a strong mandate to incoming MEPs to weigh in on the future of the EU.

The current online press tool kit offers media quick access to the detailed outcome of the European elections and helps them to understand the process of composition of the new Parliament and the new Commission.

It further includes useful contacts, an overview of European Parliament’s recent legislative work and achievements, an election app, links to background notes, graphics and public opinion data, all designed to help journalists quickly find relevant, up-to-date information.

European elections days - photos and videos free for download:

European elections results

A new, dynamic website contains all results from past and present European elections and is now available in all official EU languages.

www.election-results.eu offers overall European election results, including national breakdowns, once details are transmitted by national authorities.

European elections 1979-2014

The website contains the composition of all outgoing European Parliaments since 1984, breakdowns by national parties and political groups since 1979 and all results at national level since 2009. The site also offers information on trends in European elections, for example on gender balance.

A dynamic and interactive website

- The comparative tool can compare data between different elections.
- Users can also explore possible parliamentary coalitions with the majority calculator once the first official projections are made available on 26 May.
- A widget can tailor the website to your needs. It will publish historical results of European elections on your website and provide live results.
- Download datasheets in open data formats (json, xml and csv) and graphic image formats (jpg and png).
Parliament's new term

European Parliament’s eighth term ends on 1 July 2019. On 2 July, the new Parliament will hold its constituent session.

The incoming Parliament

The new MEPs-elected started negotiations to form political groups. 25 Members are needed to form a political group, and at least one-quarter of the member states must be represented within the group.

On 2 July, Parliament’s 9th term starts and MEPs meet for its constituent session in Strasbourg. MEPs elect the President, the 14 Vice-Presidents and the five Quaestors of the House and decide on the number and composition of Parliament’s standing committees.

All you need to know about the transition from the 8th to the 9th European Parliament

- What’s on the agenda of Parliament’s constituent sitting of the 9th term?
- Why will the first session start on a Tuesday?
- Who will chair the first sitting?
- How is the President elected?
- How are the Vice-Presidents and Quaestors elected?
- When will we know which MEPs go to which committee?
- How many members will be in each committee?
- Who chairs the committees?
- Are there other committees?
- Who coordinates the committees’ work?
- What are political groups and how are they formed?
- What are the requirements to form a political group?
- How are political groups funded?
- Who are the political group chairs and how are they elected?
- Who are the political group coordinators in committees and how are they elected?
- How are the credentials of new MEPs verified?

The next Commission
Member states will nominate a candidate for the post of Commission President, but in doing so they must take account of the European election results. Moreover, Parliament needs to approve the new Commission President by an absolute majority (half of the component members plus one). If the candidate does not obtain the required majority, the member states need to propose another candidate within a month (European Council acting by qualified majority).

The Commissioners-designate, who are proposed by the member states, and the Commission President-elect have to win the approval of Parliament before the Commission can enter into office, at the beginning of November.

Read more here.

**UK withdrawal from the EU**

Following the agreement reached at the 10 April European Special Summit, the UK’s departure date is set to be 31 October or before.

To enter into force, any withdrawal agreement between the European Union and the United Kingdom would need the approval of the European Parliament by a simple majority of votes cast (Article 50 (2) of the Treaty). Read more about Parliament’s debates and resolutions on Brexit.

The number of MEPs after Brexit will be reduced to 705. Additional seats in the new composition and 9th legislature of the EP for Ireland, France, Italy, Spain, Poland, Romania, Netherlands, Sweden, Austria, Denmark, Slovakia, Finland, Croatia, Estonia would only become available after the UK’s departure. Read more.
Further information

Multimedia Center: Photos of incoming MEPs per country
EP Research briefing: Issues to watch in 2019
EP Research briefing: Economic outlook 2019
EP Research briefing: Political groups in the European Parliament
Lead candidates

The electoral debate of the candidates to the Commission presidency was held in the Brussels Chamber on 15 May and broadcast via Eurovision.

Click on the names to be redirected to the lead candidates’ page or click on the party in the titles to find out about the programmes of respective political families and lead candidates for the future of Europe.

European People’s Party (EPP) - EPP group

The European People’s Party (EPP) elected Manfred Weber (CSU, Germany) as its lead candidate for the European elections on 8 November 2018, at the Helsinki party congress.
**Party of European Socialists (PES) - S&D group**

The lead candidate of the Party of European Socialists (PES), **Frans Timmermans**, 57, was nominated by the members’ congress in Lisbon on 7-8 December 2018.

**Frans TIMMERMANS**

Frans Timmermans (PvdA, Netherlands) currently serves as First Vice-President of the European Commission. He was first elected to the second chamber of the Dutch Parliament in 1998. From 2007 to 2010 he served as Secretary of State for European Affairs, and from 2012 to 2014 as Minister of Foreign Affairs in Mark Rutte’s cabinet. Mr Timmermans holds a degree in French language and literature from Radboud University. [@timmermansEU](https://twitter.com/timmermansEU)

Press contact: Tim McPhie

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**Alliance of Conservatives and Reformists in Europe (ACRE) - ECR group**

**Jan Zahradil** (ODS, Czech Republic) was designated as the lead candidate for his party on 14 November.
Jan ZAHRADIL

Jan Zahradil, 55, is member of the European Parliament (ECR group) since 2004 and serves as the President of Conservatives and Reformists Alliance of Europe (ACRE). Before 2004, he was a member of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic. Mr Zahradil is a researcher by profession, holding an engineering degree from the University of Chemistry and Technology in Prague. @zahradiJan

Press contact: Eva Bouchalová

Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) - ALDE group

At its party meeting on 21 March in Brussels, the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) party nominated its team of seven lead candidates (Team Europe) for the European elections.
European Green Party - Greens/EFA group

European Green Party (EGP) nominated Ska Keller and Bas Eickhout as their two lead candidates for the European elections at its 23-25 November congress in Berlin.

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Margrethe VESTAGER

**Margrethe Vestager**, 51 (*Radikale Venstre*, Denmark), since 2014 serves as the European Commissioner for Competition. Previously, she was the Minister for Economic and Interior Affairs (2011) and the Minister for Education (1998) in Denmark. The candidate obtained her degree in Economics at the University of Copenhagen (1993). @vestager.

**Nicola Beer**, 49, (FDP, Germany), member of the German Parliament since 2017 @nicolabeerfdp

**Emma Bonino**, 71 (*Più Europa*, Italy), Senator of Rome @emmabonino

**Violeta Bulc**, 55 (SMC, Slovenia), European Commissioner for Transport since 2014 @Bulc_EU

**Katalin Cseh**, 30 (*Momentum Mozgalom*, Hungary), doctor in obstetrics and gynecology, founder and former leader of *Momentum Mozgalom* party @momentumhu

**Luis Garicano**, 52 (*Ciudadanos*, Spain), Vice-President of ALDE party @lugaricano

**Guy Verhofstadt**, 66 (Open VLD, Belgium), chair of ALDE group in the European Parliament since 2009 @guyverhofstadt

Press contact: Didrik de Schaeutzen
European Free Alliance (EFA) - Greens/EFA group

The EFA has appointed Oriol Junqueras (ERC, Spain) as its lead candidate for the European elections in the EFA General Assembly in Brussels on 7 March 2019.

Orio Junqueras, 49, served as Vice-president of Generalitat of Catalonia from January 2016 to October 2017. @junqueras

Press contact: Raquel Correa

The Party of the European Left - GUE/NGL group

The Party of the European Left has elected Nico Cué, 62, and Violeta Tomič, as its lead candidates.
How the lead candidate process works

The *Spitzenkandidat* (lead candidate) process, first used in the 2014 European elections, gives European citizens a say on candidates for EU Commission President.

European elections: the Lead candidate process

Based on the results of the European elections, one of the lead candidates will be elected President of the Commission by the European Parliament, after being formally proposed by heads of state or government, who will take account of the outcome of the European elections.
This was the case for the first time in 2014, when the European People’s Party’s lead candidate Jean-Claude Juncker was appointed Commission President. Ahead of the 2014 elections, five European political parties had named their “lead candidates”.

**European political parties**

A European political party is one that operates at European level and comprises national parties with elected parliamentarians in at least a quarter of the member states. New funding rules for European political parties and foundations were approved in April 2018.

To watch the televised Eurovision debate (15.05.2019), click here

**More information on the lead candidates process**

- EP Research briefing: Understanding the Spitzenkandidaten process
- EU elections: Support for EU and the lead candidates process continues to rise (Press Release 10-12-2018)
- Commission recommendations for the 2019 European elections
- EP resolution confirming the lead candidate process
- EP Research briefing: The role of the President of the European Commission
- Procedure file: Reform of the electoral law of the European Union (work in progress)
European Parliament achievements 2014-2018

Parliament is at the heart of European democracy. Directly elected representatives of European citizens debate and decide on laws together with Council.

But lawmaking is only one of Parliament’s roles. MEPs discuss and set the political agenda in key debates with national and international leaders, investigate areas of concern, assess the need for action and initiate revisions of laws and new rules.

MEPs assess the work of the EU Commission, keep track of how EU laws are implemented in member states and hold powerful institutions and organisations to account, in particular where fundamental rights come under threat. Close to citizens’ concerns, they use their right – and duty - of scrutiny to check the results of EU policies on the spot, monitor (and vote on) negotiations for international agreements and veto Commission acts when necessary. Read FAQ on the work of MEPs.

Parliament also changed its internal rules to enable more efficient and ever more transparent EU lawmaking over the past four years. Urgent matters, especially measures to help member states recover from the financial crisis, were dealt with in fast-track procedures. Learn more about the “Better Lawmaking agreement”.
End of term assessment of the Work of the Juncker Commission (May 2019)

Legislative work to date

Almost 1000 legislative proposals by the Juncker Commission have been discussed, improved and most have been concluded successfully after negotiations with the Council since the 2014 elections. Major legislative decisions during Parliament’s 8th term:

- Flight security: Parliament backs use of Passenger Name Records (PNR)
- MEPs clamp down on wasteful use of plastic carrier bags
- Opening up the online payments market, to reduce fees and fraud risks
- MEPs’ green light for Paris climate agreement to trigger its entry into force
- MEPs put an end to opaque card payment fees
- End of roaming: final hurdle cleared
- WiFi4EU: New EU scheme for free internet access
- Data protection reform - Parliament approves new rules fit for the digital era
- Online shopping: "geo-blocking" to end in December 2018
- Corporate governance: MEPs vote to enforce tax transparency
- Japan: MEPs back EU-Japan free trade agreement
- Audiovisual media directive update
- Copyright reform
- Work-life balance for parents and carers
- Limits on CO2 emissions of cars
- Single-use plastics reduction
- Energy efficiency

Read more about the power of the European Parliament: Examples of EP impact during the 2014-2019 legislative term

Get the full picture: step-by-step lawmaking in all policy areas since 2014

Free multimedia packages are available to download for AV and online media on many legislative topics (click on name to access a wealth of videos and photos) such as:

- PNR, Whistle blowers, Network and information security /Cybersecurity, Fight against terrorism, Plastics bags, Single use plastics, Climate change, Car emissions and others.

Investigating and initiating new rules

To prepare the way for legislative changes, Parliament voted on resolutions that channel the concerns and expectations of the citizens they represent into new Commission proposals and trigger revisions of existing laws.

Examples: EP calls for whistle-blower protection, longer lifetime for products, fairer prices for farmers. All Parliament’s resolutions and initiatives

When scandals or abuses of potentially large-scale impact emerged (such as Luxleaks, Panama Papers, carmakers’ cheating on emissions, pesticide authorisations), Parliament set up special committees to conduct in-depth investigations, inquiries and hearings by MEPs to hold
those in charge to account. Their findings and detailed recommendations feed into new Commission proposals.

Examples: TAX3, EMIS, PEST, TERR, PANA

EU budget vote and control

Parliament and Council share the budgetary authority for the European Union’s annual budget. Parliament also has a say in the EU’s long-term budget, the **multiannual financial framework**, which needs its approval to take effect. It also acts as the “discharge” authority. This means it must check how the annual budget is spent and then grant, postpone or withhold approval for each EU institution’s budget management.

**Scrutiny**

MEPs in all of Parliament’s committees also kept a close eye on how EU laws are implemented and how they affect citizens’ lives. They held the EU Commission to account for its executive work and how EU money is spent. Fact-finding missions and ad-hoc delegations gathered evidence on the spot to assess thoroughly before deciding on further steps to be taken.

Examples: Visits to refugee camps in Turkey; delegations to investigate on rule of law in Malta and Slovakia

MEPs also question the Commission in writing on urgent matters, sometimes followed by a resolution tabled in plenary session by political groups.

Where needed, Parliament vetoed Commission decisions (in delegated and implementing acts) when MEPs considered that the executive had overstepped its powers.

Examples: sugar in baby food, energy drinks, Cadmium

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**2018 State of the Union debate with EC President Jean-Claude Juncker ©EP**

State of the Union debates

Once a year, MEPs take stock of the work accomplished by the Commission in the past twelve months and discuss the challenges ahead in the "State of the Union" plenary debate with the Commission president in autumn.

All State of the Union speeches by European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker

International treaties

Furthermore, MEPs followed the Commission’s negotiations of international treaties closely and issued detailed resolutions to allow for more transparency and for Parliament to be more closely involved ahead of any final deal which needs its consent (i.e. approval or rejection vote) before entering into force.

Examples: BREXIT, TTIP, CETA

Citizens’ petitions

Parliament’s Petitions Committee has registered around 6 400 petitions since July 2014, and dealt with citizens’ complaints, requests, and observations by citizens on the application of EU law. The committee serves as a mediator between petitioners and member states in order to resolve a specific problem. Petitions are sometimes followed up in plenary session through debates, oral questions and resolutions.

Examples: fight precarious employment practices in the EU, the rights of persons with disabilities, non-discrimination of minorities in the EU, children’s rights

Further information

EP Research analysis: Mapping the cost of Non-Europe 2019-2024
Unfinished business: the top ten issues awaiting final agreement (EC)
End-of-term assessment of the work of the Juncker Commission
Surveys in all member states

Parliament regularly issues Eurobarometer surveys on public opinion, monitoring citizens’ expectations, concerns and voting intentions.

A dedicated series of Parliament Eurobarometer surveys is gauging Europeans’ interest in the 2019 elections and their opinions on the European project. Detailed post-election analyses will

Q: Taking everything into account, would you say that (our country) has benefited or not from being a member of the EU?
complete this series to improve understanding of European citizens’ voting behaviour.

2018/19 surveys show overall growing support for the EU

The 2018/2019 Eurobarometer surveys confirmed citizens’ steadily growing support for the European Union. Carried out amongst more than 27 000 people from 28 member states, they revealed that

- 62% of citizens believe that their countries’ EU membership is a good thing, whilst over two-thirds of respondents (68 %) are convinced that their country has benefited from being a member of the EU. This is the highest score ever measured since 1983.
- 66% of European respondents would vote for their country to remain a member of the EU (a majority in all member states) and only 17% would contemplate leaving, with 17% undecided.

Latest Eurobarometer data

The recent Spring Eurobarometer survey, published on 25 April 2019, showed that support for EU remains at historically high level despite sceptics. Read the press release.

Compare with September 2018 survey

Compare with April 2018 survey

Eurobarometer survey methodology

European Parliament and EU Commission surveys are carried out by the same contractor with the same methodology, to allow for direct comparability and observation of trends. They use face-to-face interviews with around 27 000 respondents in all 28 EU member states, drawn from the general population aged 15 years or more.

The survey sample is carefully constructed to mirror the socio-demographic set-up of each member state and is statistically fully representative. The analysis of the results is meant to ensure the most complete overview of national evolutions, regional specificities, socio-demographic differences and historical trends.

For each survey, the following information is available:

- the main report (EN only on publication date, all 23 languages later on),
- complete socio-demographic and results annex,
- national factsheets on the main results for each member state (in English and national language),
- aggregated Excel data files, and
- a SPSS file with the full raw data set (available on request).
What Europe does for me

An award-winning new website and the EP Citizens’ App demonstrate the EU’s positive impact on individual citizens and local communities.

The interactive, multilingual, ‘What Europe Does For Me’ online website, put together by the European Parliamentary Research Service, presents hundreds of easy-to-read, one-page notes giving examples of the positive difference that the EU makes to people’s lives. Users can easily find specific information about what Europe does for their region, their profession or their favourite pastime.

1 400 localities covered

Around 1 800 one-page notes are available to read, share or reuse as online pages or as PDF files. They are organised in two main categories on the website. The first section, ‘In my region’, allows users to select the place where they and their family live or work. How is Europe present in our towns, cities and regions? This section of the website covers over 1 400 localities in every part of the European Union.

400 snapshots of EU action for citizens

The second section of the site, ‘In my life’, lets each user select from 400 ‘one-pagers’ to find things that are important to her or to him personally. How does the EU affect, for example,
families, health care, hobbies, travel, security, consumer choices and social rights? How does the EU support people in their professional lives in dozens of jobs - from beekeepers to bus drivers to brewers? What has the EU done for people who enjoy leisure activities such as sport, music or watching television? A series of podcasts in a growing number of languages is also available for this section.

What’s next?

The third section of the site, with longer briefing papers on EU policies ‘in focus’, outlines some of the achievements of the current parliamentary term, and the outlook for the future, with a special focus on public opinion and citizens’ concerns and expectations of EU action.

Citizens’ App: Europe in the palm of your hand

This mobile application helps citizens to discover what the EU has done, is doing and plans to do. It is searchable, shareable, can be personalised and is available in twenty-four languages. It can be downloaded for free from the App Store and Google Play.

Further information

What Europe does for me
#EUandME - videos and stories about the tools and opportunities the EU provides for its young citizens to pursue their interests (EC)
InvestEU - real-life stories of how EU investments have made a difference near (EC)
EUProtects - ordinary heroes working together on the ground to protect the citizens (EC)
Test your EU knowledge: online quiz
Ask EP
FAQ on the European Parliament
Audiovisual services and multimedia content

Parliament offers a wide range of free, up-to-date multimedia tools and services to help media cover its activities.

This includes streaming and embedding options; cameras and studios can also be provided for TV and radio stations.

Multimedia content

A wealth of high-quality, ready-to-use multimedia content - from press releases and news stories to videos, infographics, photos and photo galleries is available for journalists. You can find an overview in the brochure European Parliament reporting made easy - Multimedia products and services available to journalists.

Audiovisual services

Parliament provides live transmission of plenary and committee meetings, available via satellite and online, both in broadcast and web quality. They are available at the Multimedia Centre.

It also offers services and facilities such as TV and radio studios, ENG crews, stand-up positions and photo reportages. Media can find all the information they need here (click on “Services”).

Background information

The European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS) provides independent and objective background information and insights on all policy areas for a broad audience. EPRS studies, briefings, and fact sheets are available on the EPRS webpages and on a mobile application.
The Graphics warehouse offers a free-to-use collection of graphs, charts, tables and maps with statistical data (to be credited to the European Parliamentary Research Service). The images are based on statistical information from sources mentioned on the graphic.

Short videos on how the European Parliament and the EU work.
Useful contacts for journalists covering the European Parliament’s activities

Press officers in Parliament and all member states (EP liaison offices) cover all policy areas and can help with media enquiries on Parliament’s work.

Spokesperson’s service

The Spokesperson’s service provides information on institutional issues and responds to enquiries about Parliament’s rules, procedures, finances and administration. For responses to the most frequently asked questions and myths, see the recently updated FAQs.

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Press service

Press officers in Parliament and all member states (EP liaison offices) cover all policy areas and can help with media enquiries on Parliament’s work. They draft and disseminate alerts and press releases on debates and votes, organise press conferences and seminars, and brief journalists. Contact details per country and policy area.

Press-briefings, press releases and the weekly agenda are online in the Press room section of Europarl.eu. Follow latest news on @EuroparlPress.

Press officers in Brussels, Dublin, London and Valletta (Malta)

Natalie Kate KONTOULIS
Press Officer

Jack MOLONEY
Press officer Dublin liaison office

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Further information
Contact details of press officers of political groups