

Mid-term election of new EP President, 14 Vice-Presidents and five Quaestors

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The European Parliament will elect a new President, for the second half of this legislature, on 17 January. Outgoing President Martin Schulz will preside over the election of his successor, who will in turn oversee the election of the 14 Vice-Presidents and the five Quaestors, on 18 January.

Contacts

Delphine COLARD

Press Officer

Telephone number: (+32)2 28 43383 (BXL)

Telephone number: (+33) 3 881 64123 (STR)

Mobile number: (+32) 498 98 44 85

Email: constit-press@europarl.europa.eu

Twitter: EPInstitutional

Background

Nomination of candidates for the presidency and election procedure

Candidates for the presidency may be proposed either by a political group or by a minimum of thirty-eight MEPs, with the nominee's consent (Rule 15 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure). Nominations can be handed in before each ballot. The election is held by secret ballot. In this special election, MEPs vote by marking the name of the candidate from the list on a paper ballot and placing it in a ballot box. The process is overseen by eight tellers, chosen by lot from among MEPs.

To be elected, a candidate must win an absolute majority of the valid votes cast, i.e. 50 per cent plus one (Rule 16). Blank or spoiled ballots do not count in calculating the majority required.

If no candidate is elected at the first ballot, the same or other candidates can be nominated for a second round of voting under the same conditions. This can be repeated in a third round if necessary, again under the same rules.

If no-one is elected at the third ballot, the two highest-scoring candidates in that round proceed to a fourth ballot, where the one receiving the greater number of votes wins. (Should there be a tie at this stage, the older candidate is declared the winner).

The newly-elected President then takes the chair and may make an opening address (though he or she may also choose to make just a few short remarks, with a more formal speech at a later date), before presiding over the election of the Vice-Presidents and Quaestors.

Background

Duties of the President

The President:

- chairs the plenary sittings of Parliament, the Conference of the Presidents of Political Groups and the Bureau (President and Vice-Presidents, plus the Quaestors in an advisory capacity),
- is responsible for the application of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, and, to this end, oversees all the activities of Parliament and its bodies,
- represents Parliament in all legal matters,
- addresses the European Council prior to each of its meetings, stating Parliament's views on the agenda items as part of a debate with the heads of state or government,
- represents Parliament in its international relations, and, in this connection, undertakes official visits within and outside the EU,
- signs the EU budget into being following Parliament's vote on it at the second reading. During the procedure, the President chairs the EP/Council conciliation delegations, and
- may, under the co-decision procedure, chair the EP/Council Conciliation Committee. Jointly with the President-in-Office of the Council, the President signs all legislative acts adopted by co-decision.

Background

Fourteen Vice-Presidents and five Quaestors

Candidates for the posts of Vice-President and Quaestor can also be put forward, with their consent, either by a political group or by at least 38 Members. Candidates are nominated after the election of the EP President. Each MEP may cast as many votes as there are posts available (e.g. up to 14 in the first round) but must cast a minimum of one more than half this number (e.g. at least 8 in the first round).

Candidates must win the support of an absolute majority of those casting valid ballots. If not all 14 posts are filled in the first round, a second round is held under the same conditions. If any posts remain vacant after the second round, a third round can be held, at which point a relative (simple) majority is enough to elect a candidate to one of the remaining positions (Rule 17). MEPs will cast their votes on paper during the first and second ballot and switch to electronic vote in the third ballot.

The order in which candidates are elected determines the order of precedence (Rule 17). If the number of candidates proposed is the same as the number of positions to be filled - 14 - then they will be elected by acclamation, with a vote held simply to determine the order of precedence. A similar procedure is followed for the election of the Quaestors (Rule 18).

The order of precedence determines which Vice-President is to replace the President in first instance should he be absent or unable to discharge his duties, including chairing plenary sittings or representing Parliament at specific ceremonies or acts (Rule 23).

Vice-Presidents are also members of the Bureau, the body responsible for all administrative, staff and organisational matters of the Parliament. The five Quaestors deal with administrative matters directly affecting MEPs themselves (Rule 28). Each Vice-President is responsible for specific files (budget, buildings, staff, co-decision ...) which are allocated according to the order of precedence.

Background

Presidents of the European Parliament 1952 to 1979

1952 - 1954 Paul-Henri SPAAK (Soc, BE)

1954 Alcide DE GASPERI (CD, IT)

1954 - 1956 Giuseppe PELLA (CD, IT)

1956 - 1958 Hans FURLER (CD, DE)

1958 - 1960 Robert SCHUMAN (CD, FR)

1960 - 1962 Hans FURLER (CD, DE)

1962 - 1964 Gaetano MARTINO (L, IT)

1964 - 1965 Jean DUVIEUSART (CD, BE)

1965 - 1966 Victor LEEMANS (CD, BE)

1966 - 1969 Alain POHER (CD, FR)

1969 - 1971 Mario SCALBA (CD, IT)

1971 - 1973 Walter BEHRENDT (Soc, DE)

1973 - 1975 Cornelis BERKHOUWER (L, NL)

1975 - 1977 Georges SPENALE (Soc, FR)

1977 - 1979 Emilio COLOMBO (CD, IT)

Background

Presidents of the directly elected European Parliament since 1979

Session of July 1979: Simone VEIL (LDR, FR)

- elected on the second ballot with 192 votes (votes cast: 377)

Session of January 1982: Pieter DANKERT (PES, NL)

- elected on the fourth ballot with 191 votes (votes cast: 366)

Session of July 1984: Pierre PFLIMLIN (EPP, FR)

- elected on the second ballot with 221 votes (votes cast: 403)

Session of January 1987: Lord (Henry) PLUMB (ED, UK)

- elected on the third ballot with 241 votes (votes cast: 477)

Session of July 1989: Enrique Baron CRESPO (PES, ES)

- elected on the first ballot with 301 votes (votes cast: 475)

Session of January 1992: Egon KLEPSCH (EPP, DE)

- elected on the first ballot with 253 votes (votes cast: 446)

Session of July 1994: Klaus HÄNSCH (PES, DE)

- elected on the first ballot with 365 votes (votes cast: 452)

Session of January 1997: Jose Maria GIL ROBLES (EPP, ES)

- elected on the first ballot with 338 votes (votes cast: 515)

Session of July 1999: Nicole FONTAINE (EPP-ED, FR)

- elected on the first ballot with 306 votes (votes cast: 555)

Session of January 2002: Pat COX (ELDR, IE)

- elected on the third ballot with 298 votes (votes cast: 568)

Session of July 2004: Josep BORRELL FONTELLES (PES, ES)

- elected on the first ballot with 388 votes (votes cast: 647)

Session of January 2007: Hans-Gert POETTERING (EPP-ED, DE)

- elected on the first ballot with 450 votes (votes cast: 689)

Session of July 2009: Jerzy BUZEK (EPP, PL)

- elected on the first ballot with 555 votes (votes cast: 644)

Session of January 2012: Martin SCHULZ (S&D, DE)

- elected on the first ballot with 387 votes (votes cast: 670)

Session of July 2014: Martin SCHULZ (S&D, DE)

Background

- elected on the first ballot with 409 votes (votes cast: 612)

Background

European Parliament committees

Parliament will vote on the composition of Parliament's committees on Wednesday, 18/01/2017

The composition of the committees shall, as far as possible, reflect the composition of Parliament. The proportionality of the distribution of committee seats among political groups must not depart from the nearest appropriate whole number (Rule 199).

Committees will hold their constituent meetings as of Monday 23/01 in Brussels when each committee will elect a chair and vice-chairs (Rule 204).

Election of committee chair and vice chairs (rule 191)

At the first meeting of the committee in its new composition (the constitutive session), each committee shall elect a chair and vice-chairs, in separate ballots. The number of vice-chairs to be elected shall be determined by Parliament upon a proposal by the Conference of Presidents.

At the first ballot, an absolute majority of the votes cast is required. At the second ballot, the candidate who obtains the highest number of votes shall be elected. In the event of a tie, the oldest candidate shall be elected. Where a second ballot is required, new candidates can be nominated.

When the number of nominations corresponds to the number of seats to be filled, the election may take place by acclamation. If this is not the case, or at the request of one-sixth of the members of the committee, the election takes place by secret ballot.

Before the constitutive meetings of the committees, the political groups sit together and negotiate their support for the chairmanship of each committee to be assumed by a representative of a political group. These negotiations, aimed at finding the majorities required for the election of committee chairs, are based on the d'Hondt proportional method. They cannot, of course, preclude the results of any election within the given committee.

On 15 January 2014, the outgoing Parliament adopted a decision on powers and responsibilities of the standing committees, which are as follows:

- Committee on Foreign Affairs,
- Committee on Development
- Committee on International Trade
- Committee on Budgets
- Committee on Budgetary Control
- Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs
- Committee on Employment and Social Affairs
- Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety
- Committee on Industry, Research and Energy
- Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection
- Committee on Transport and tourism
- Committee on Regional Development
- Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development
- Committee on Fisheries
- Committee on Culture and Education

Background

- Committee on Legal Affairs
- Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs
- Committee on Constitutional Affairs
- Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality
- Committee on Petitions

Background

Women / men

Women	37.42% (35.05% previous Parliament)
Men	62.58% (64.95% previous Parliament)
Highest proportion of women	66.67% (Malta)
Lowest proportion of women	18.18% (Lithuania)

Age

Youngest MEP Mr Andrey Novakov, born 07.07.1988 (28)

Oldest MEP Mr Jean-Marie Le Pen, born 20.06.1928, (88)

The ratio of male to female MEPs at the time of publication was 63% to 37%, a slight increase in the number of women over the last Parliament. (65% to 35%).

Election year	Men (%)	Women (%)
1979-1984	84	16
1984-1989	82	18
1989-1994	81	19
1994-1999	74	26
1999-2004	70	30
2004-2009	69	31
2009-2014	65	35
2014-2019	63	37

Background

Oldest and youngest MEPs by Member State

The oldest MEP is Mr Jean-Marie Le Pen, France, born 20.06.1928, (88), and the youngest Mr Andrey Novakov, Bulgaria, born 07.07.1988 (28).

COUNTRY	Number of MEPs	Youngest MEP	Oldest MEP
AUSTRIA	18	Ms Elisabeth KÖSTINGER (22.11.1978)	Mr Josef WEIDENHOLZER (06.03.1950)
BELGIUM	21	Mr Tom VANDENKENDELAERE (02.09.1984)	Mr Gérard DEPREZ (13.08.1943)
BULGARIA	17	Mr Andrey NOVAKOV (07.07.1988)	Mr Georgi PIRINSKI (10.09.1948)
CROATIA	11	Ms Marijana PETIR (04.10.1975)	Mr Jozo RADOŠ (03.11.1956)
CYPRUS	6	Mr Demetris PAPADAKIS (22.08.1966)	Ms Eleni THEOCHAROUS (24.06.1953)
CZECH REPUBLIC	21	Ms Kateřina KONEČNÁ (20.01.1981)	Mr Jaromír ŠTĚTINA (06.04.1943)
DENMARK	13	Mr Anders PRIMDAHL VISTISEN (12.11.1987)	Ms Margrete AUKEN (06.01.1945)
ESTONIA	6	Ms Kaja KALLAS (18.06.1977)	Mr Tunne KELAM (10.07.1936)
FINLAND	13	Ms Merja KYLLÖNEN (25.01.1977)	Mr Nils TORVALDS (07.08.1945)
FRANCE	74	Mr Florian PHILIPPOT (24.10.1981)	Mr Jean-Marie LE PEN (20.06.1928)
GERMANY	96	Ms Theresa REINTKE (09.05.1987)	Mr Hans-Olaf HENKEL (14.03.1940)
GREECE	21	Mr Nikolaos ANDROULAKIS (07.02.1979)	Mr Giorgos GRAMMATIKAKIS (21.05.1939)
HUNGARY	21	Ms Andrea BOCSKOR (11.08.1978)	Mr. György SCHÖPFLIN (24.11.1939)
IRELAND	11	Mr Matt CARTHY (19.07.1977)	Mr Sean KELLY (26.04.1952)
ITALY	73	Mr Brando BENIFEI (01.01.1986)	Ms Mercedes BRESSO (12.07.1944)
LATVIA	8	Mr Andrejs MAMIKINS (11.03.1976)	Ms Tatjana ŽDANOKA (08.05.1950)
LITHUANIA	11	Mr Antanas GUOGA (17.12.1973)	Mr Algirdas SAUDARGAS (17.04.1948)
LUXEMBOURG	6	Mr Frank ENGEL (10.05.1975)	Ms Mady DELVAUX (11.10.1950)
MALTA	6	Ms Roberta METSOLA (18.01.1979)	Mr Alfred SANT (28.02.1948)
NETHERLANDS	26	Ms Vicky MAEIJER (07.09.1986)	Mr Bas BELDER (25.10.1946)
POLAND	51	Mr Jarosław WAŁĘSA (13.09.1976)	Mr Adam GIEREK (17.04.1938)
PORTUGAL	21	Ms Cláudia MONTEIRO DE AGUIAR (08.04.1982)	Mr Manuel dos SANTOS (05.12.1943)
ROMANIA	32	Mr Victor NEGRESCU (17.08.1985)	Mr Theodor Dumitru STOLOJAN (24.10.1943)
SLOVAKIA	13	Ms Jana ŽITŇANSKÁ (14.5.1974)	Mr Eduard KUKAN (26.12.1939)
SLOVENIA	8	Ms Tanja FAJON (09.05.1971)	Mr Ivo VAJGL (03.03.1943)
SPAIN	54	Mr Xabier BENITO ZILUAGA (23.05.1988)	Ms Pilar AYUSO (16.06.1942)

Background

SWEDEN	20	Mr Jakop DALUNDE (02.02.1984)	Mr Jens NILSSON (25.09.1948)
UK	73	Mr Tim AKER (23.05.1985)	Ms Margot PARKER (24.07.1943)