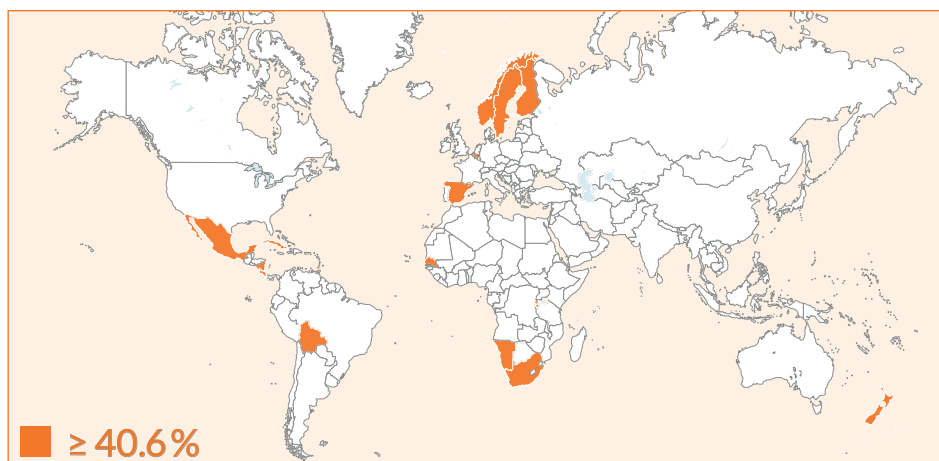


# Women in parliaments

National parliaments with a higher proportion of women members than the EP



## Top 10 national parliaments

1. Rwanda
2. Cuba
3. Bolivia
4. Andorra
5. Mexico
6. Spain
7. Sweden
8. Finland
9. Grenada
10. Namibia

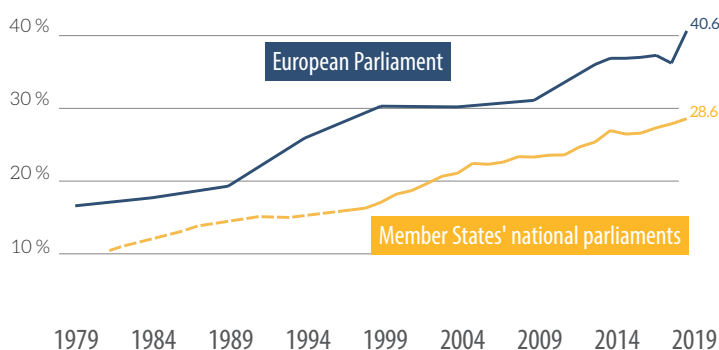
## Women Members in EP



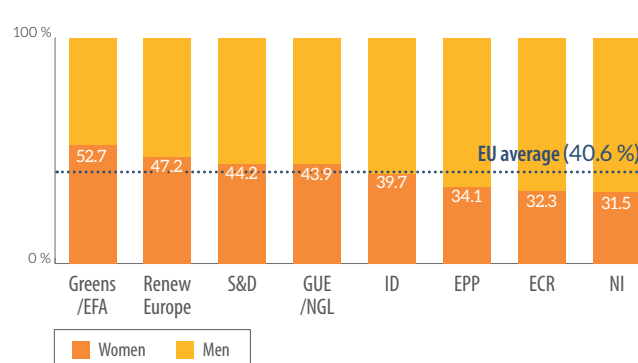
**40.6%\***

\*as of November II plenary session, 2019

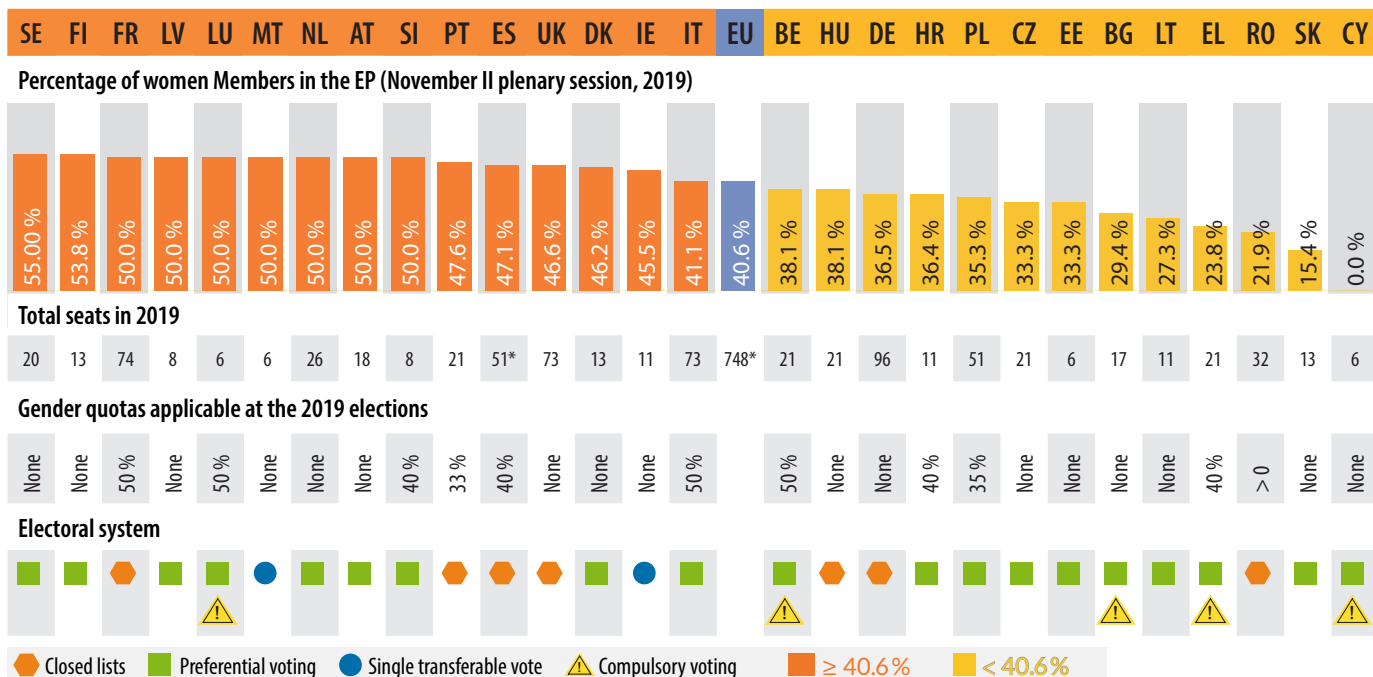
## Women in EP and EU national parliaments



## Women in EP by political group



## Female representatives in the EP by Member State



\* The Spanish authorities have not yet notified the Parliament of the Members elected to three seats; therefore the total does not reach the 751 provided for in EU law.

## Further information

Women in national parliaments compared with the European Parliament	The map shows those national parliaments across the world, that have a percentage of women members equal to or above the 40.6 % share of women Members in the European Parliament (EP). Worldwide, 17 countries have 40.6 % or more of women members in their national parliament. Source: <a href="#">Women in national parliaments</a> , Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) (information for October 2019).
Women in EP and national parliaments	The graph illustrates the average representation of women in national parliaments in Member States and in the EP. The line for national parliaments up to 1996 is illustrative only, as data are only available for some Member States. A notable increase in the percentage of women in national parliaments can be seen in the mid-2000s, which could be the consequence of the introduction of electoral gender quotas in several Member States around this time ( <b>France, Belgium, Portugal, Spain</b> ). <a href="#">Women in the European Parliament</a> , EP Equality and Diversity Unit, 2019 <a href="#">Women in national parliaments</a> , IPU (as of October 2019).
Women in EP by political group	The graph shows the distribution of women Members among the EP political groups, showing in which political groups the proportion of women is higher than the EP average (40.6 %) and in which it is lower. Source: based on information from the Members' Administration Unit, for the November II plenary session, 2019.
Female representatives in the EP by Member State	The graph shows the total number of seats in each Member State and the percentage of those currently held by women. For the 2014 European elections, eight Member States had gender quotas that concern the make-up of electoral lists. Member States' gender quotas are gender-neutral, aiming to avoid the under-representation of both women and men. Only two Member States required lists in parity (50 %/50 %) – <b>Belgium</b> and <b>France</b> . <b>Slovenia</b> and <b>Spain</b> required gender-balanced electoral lists, with each gender represented by at least 40 % of the candidates on the list. <b>Croatia</b> also had a 40 % gender balanced list, but the requirement will be legally enforceable only at the third regular European elections, i.e. in 2024. The gender-balanced lists in <b>Portugal</b> required at least 33 % (⅓) of each gender. <b>Poland's</b> gender quota for the European elections was first applied in the 2014 elections, with at least 35 % of candidates of each gender. <b>Romania's</b> electoral rules establish that no all-women or all-men lists are possible. In order to ensure that candidates from both sexes are placed in positions on an electoral list with a good chance of winning a seat, some Member States required the alternate ordering of men and women on the list ('zippering'). This is the case in <b>France, Belgium</b> (only the first two positions on the list) and <b>Portugal</b> (not more than two consecutive candidates of the same sex on the list). <b>Slovenian</b> electoral law required at least one candidate of each gender in the upper half of the list. In <b>Spain</b> , the 40 %/60 % ratio applied within each five-candidate cluster on the list. Some Member States had gender clauses for national elections but not for the European elections, for instance <b>Greece</b> and <b>Ireland</b> . Whilst in some Member States electoral lists that did not meet the requirements of the gender clause were invalid (e.g. <b>Spain, Slovenia</b> and <b>Romania</b> ), in others such lists were admitted to the elections but the party or coalition submitting them was punished with a fine and/or a cut in electoral campaign subsidies (e.g. <b>Portugal</b> ). <b>Italy</b> had gender-balanced lists (⅓ for each gender) for the 2004 and 2009 EP elections. It introduced a new system in 2014 whereby third preference votes would not be counted if the voter did not vote for at least one candidate of each gender.
Gender quotas applicable to the 2019 EP elections	Eleven Member States had gender quotas in the 2019 European elections. Along with the above-mentioned eight countries, <b>Greece</b> also required at least 40 % of each gender on the lists for the European Parliament, with the list considered invalid in case of non-compliance. <b>Luxembourg</b> required 50 % for each gender on the list, with financial sanctions for non-compliant parties. <b>Italy</b> applied parity lists whereby candidates of the same gender may not exceed half of the candidates on the list, and where the first two candidates must not be of the same gender. In addition, second and third preference votes were not to be counted if voters chose only candidates of one gender.
Voluntary party quotas	In those Member States without a legally binding electoral gender quota, political parties sometimes voluntarily introduce quotas for the nomination of candidates. This 'incremental track' seeking to increase women's representation progressively is sometimes regarded as more successful than the 'fast track' of legislative gender quotas, given the examples of <b>Sweden, Denmark</b> and <b>the Netherlands</b> that have large percentages of women in their national parliaments. Sources: <a href="#">Electoral gender quotas and their implementation in Europe update 2013</a> , L Freidenvall, D Dahlerup, Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs, European Parliament, 2013. <a href="#">Female representation in politics and the effect of quotas</a> , CESifo – ifo Institute, Centre for Economic Studies Munich, December 2015. <a href="#">Quota Project: Global database of Quotas for Women</a> , International IDEA, IPU and Stockholm University.
Electoral systems and women's representation	Analysts have sought to establish a relationship between electoral systems and the percentage of women elected. Whilst there is agreement that proportional representation systems are more favourable for female candidates than majoritarian systems, the link between open electoral lists (preferential voting, cross-list preferential voting) and women elected has recently been challenged. Compulsory voting has also been explored as one of the factors that may have an effect on the percentage of women being elected. Sources: <a href="#">Actions for Gender Balance in the European Parliament - EP Elections 2014</a> : compilation of briefing notes for workshop, 20 June 2013, Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs, EP, 2013. <a href="#">Do electoral laws affect women's representation?</a> , A Roberts, J Seawright, J Cyr, Comparative Political Studies, 2013. <a href="#">Forced to vote, but not for women. The effect of compulsory voting on voting for women</a> , B Wauters, R Devroe, Acta Politica, 2018. <a href="#">Women in political decision-making in view of the next European elections</a> , study by the Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs, February 2019.

This is an updated version of an [infographic](#) published in February 2019.

**Country codes:** Belgium (BE), Bulgaria (BG), Czechia (CZ), Denmark (DK), Germany (DE), Estonia (EE), Ireland (IE), Greece (EL), Spain (ES), France (FR), Croatia (HR), Italy (IT), Cyprus (CY), Latvia (LV), Lithuania (LT), Luxembourg (LU), Hungary (HU), Malta (MT), Netherlands (NL), Austria (AT), Poland (PL), Portugal (PT), Romania (RO), Slovenia (SI), Slovakia (SK), Finland (FI), Sweden (SE), United Kingdom (UK)

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