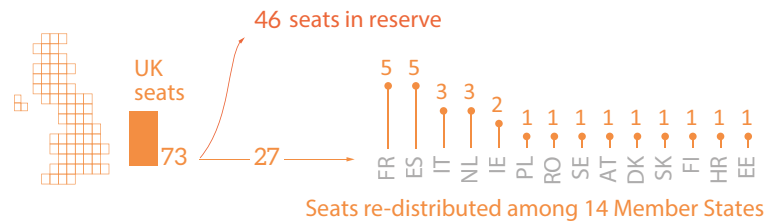


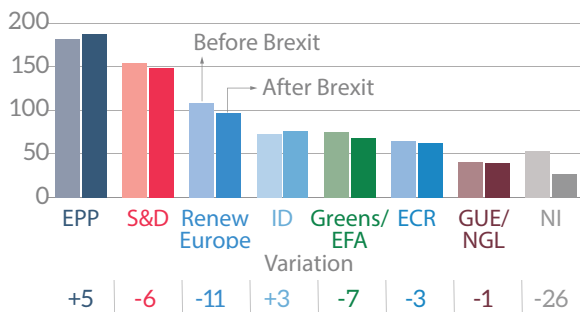
The European Parliament after Brexit

Once the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the EU becomes legally effective, 73 EP seats will become vacant. Twenty-seven of these seats will be re-distributed among 14 Member States. The remaining 46 seats would be available for potential EU enlargements and/or for the possible future creation of a transnational constituency.

Number of seats



Size of political groups before and after Brexit



The chart above shows the current size of political groups (light colours) compared to the probable size of political groups after Brexit (dark colours). The variation represents the likely overall change in each political group once Brexit happens.

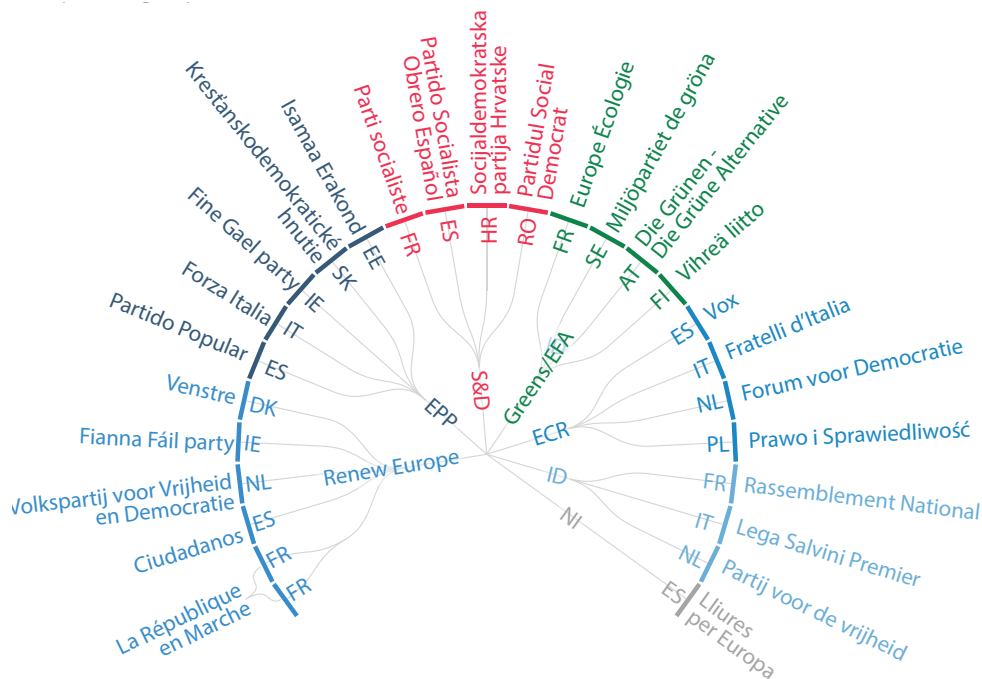
Seats vacant and re-distributed after Brexit

Political Group	73 seats from UK	27 seats re-distributed
EPP	0	5
S&D	-10	4
Renew Europe	-17	6
ID	0	3
Greens/EFA	-11	4
ECR	-7	4
GUE/NGL	-1	0
NI	-27	1

The bar chart above shows the 73 seats to be vacated with Brexit, by political group (left-hand bars), and the 27 re-distributed seats by political group (right-hand bars).

National parties obtaining re-distributed seats after Brexit

The chart below shows the national parties of the additional Members and the expected affiliation of those parties with political groups in the EP.



NB: Data reflect the situation as of 13 January 2020.

Allocation of seats in the European Parliament

European Council Decision [\(EU\) 2018/937](#) of 28 June 2018 establishes the composition of the European Parliament (EP) for the 2019-2024 parliamentary term, taking into account the United Kingdom's expected withdrawal from the EU. However, as the UK was still a Member State at the time of the European elections in May 2019, and thus participated, the June 2018 decision provided that Article 3 of the previous (2013) [European Council decision](#) applied (so the EP's composition remained unchanged from the 2014-2019 term).

After the UK leaves the EU, rendering 73 seats vacant, 27 of these will be [re-distributed](#) among 14 Member States, thereby re-balancing the current imperfect application of the principle of degressive proportionality. The remaining 46 seats would remain available for possible future enlargements and/or the possible future creation of a transnational constituency. Although the overall number of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) will be reduced from 751 to 705, no Member State will lose seats in this redistribution.

After Brexit, the 27 seats will be [re-distributed](#) among the following 14 Member States: France (+5), Spain (+5), Italy (+3), the Netherlands (+3), Ireland (+2), Sweden (+1), Austria (+1), Denmark (+1), Finland (+1), Slovakia (+1), Croatia (+1), Estonia (+1), Poland (+1) and Romania (+1).

Election of the additional Members after Brexit

In 10 Member States, the Members who will take the additional seats once the UK's withdrawal becomes legally effective have either already been formally elected or are already known, while not yet formally designated. This is the case in France, Italy, Ireland, Sweden, Finland, Slovakia, Croatia, Estonia, Poland and Romania. In Spain, the Netherlands, Austria and Denmark, only the lists from which the additional Members will come have been officially announced. In order to ensure the election of additional MEPs in May 2019, and avoid organising additional elections following Brexit, some Member States needed to amend national electoral law, to enact new legislation, or to issue an administrative decree. Consequently, no Member State receiving additional seats will need to hold a new election after Brexit.

Re-distribution of seats among the EP's political groups after Brexit

MEPs sit in [political groups](#), organised by political orientation and not by nationality. In the current parliamentary term, there are [seven political groups](#). Some MEPs do not belong to any political group (non-attached Members). As of 13 January there are 27 non-attached UK MEPs, while the rest belong to one of five political groups (S&D, Renew Europe, Greens/EFA, ECR, GUE/NGL). After Brexit, some changes to the EP's political landscape can be expected.

Projections

Immediately following the [2019 EU elections](#), it was clear from which national political parties the 27 new MEPs would come. In the majority of cases, EP political groups already include Members from those national parties in the current parliamentary term.¹ Based on the [current state of play](#), and the election results, we can thus associate the 27 new MEPs with EP political groups. However, although both their national political party affiliation and the link between national party and EP political group are well known, there is no guarantee that elected Members will choose to affiliate to a particular political group. Members may also change political affiliation. The projections in this paper thus remain provisional, pending the arrival of the additional Members.

Notes

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).

Political groups: Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) (EPP), Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament (S&D), Renew Europe, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance (Greens/EFA), Identity and Democracy (ID), European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR), Confederal Group of the European United Left – Nordic Green Left (GUE/NGL) and Non-attached Members (NI).

Acronyms: European Parliament (EP), Member of European Parliament (MEP).

Data source: data collected by EPRS.

¹ In certain cases, the additional seats go to candidates from a national party that is not currently represented in the EP. In these cases, the projection is based on national parties' membership of European political parties and/or affiliations in [previous](#) European Parliament terms.