BRIEFING

May 2023

European Parliament

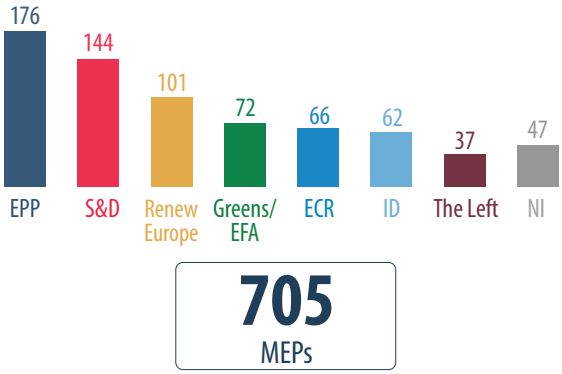
European Parliament: Facts and figures

This briefing, published by the European Parliamentary Research Service, aims to provide a broad range of key facts and figures about the European Parliament. Its many graphics offer a picture of the Parliament's Members and the institution's structures and activity in the current parliamentary term (July 2019 to June 2024) and in previous 5-year terms since direct elections were introduced in June 1979.

European Parliament, 2019-2024

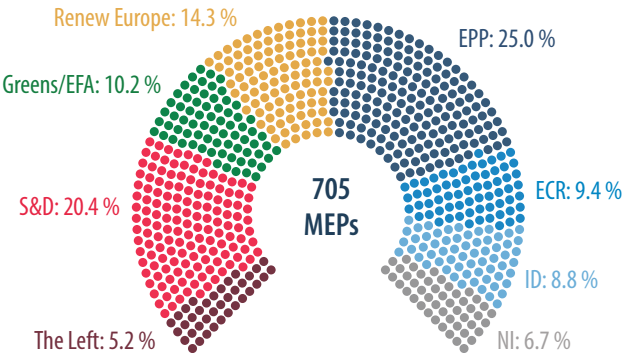
Size of the political groups

Number of Members in each political group as of 1 May 2023



Proportion of Members in each political group

Share of the total 705 Members in the Parliament by political group.



The seven political groups in the current Parliament, in order of size, are:

- Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) (EPP),
- Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D),
- Renew Europe Group,
- Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance (Greens/EFA),
- European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR),
- Identity and Democracy Group (ID),
- The Left Group in the European Parliament - GUE/NGL.

In addition, some MEPs sit as non-attached Members ('Non-inscrits' – NI).

The briefing is updated regularly, but for an up-to-date picture of the facts and figures on Members of the European Parliament today, as well as in each term since 1979, see our interactive infographic: https://facts-and-figures.europarl.europa.eu/

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Members' Research Service
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Size of political groups in the EP by Member State (as of 1 May 2023)

	EPP	S&D	Renew Europe	Greens/EFA	ECR	ID	The Left	NI	Total
DE	30	16	7	25	1	9	5	3	96
FR	8	7	23	12		18	6	5	79
IT	10	17	3	3	9	25		9	76
ES	13	21	9	4	4		5	3	59
PL	16	7	1	1	27				52
RO	14	10	7	1	1				33
NL	6	6	7	3	5		1	1	29
BE	4	2	4	3	3	3	1	1	21
CZ	5	1	5	3	4	2	1		21
EL	7	1	1		1		5	6	21
HU	1	5	2					13	21
PT	7	9		1			4		21
SE	6	5	3	3	3		1		21
AT	7	5	1	3		3			19
BG	7	5	3		2				17
DK	1	3	6	2		1	1		14
FI	3	2	3	3	2		1		14
SK	4	3	4		1			2	14
IE	5		2	2			4		13
HR	4	4	1		1			2	12
LT	4	2	1	2	1			1	11
LV	3	2	1		1			1	8
SI	4	2	2						8
EE	1	2	3			1			7
CY	2	2					2		6
LU	2	1	2	1					6
MT	2	4							6
	176	144	101	72	66	62	37	47	705
	EPP	S&D	Renew Europe	Greens/EFA	ECR	ID	The Left	NI	Total
	25.0 %	20.4 %	14.3 %	10.2 %	9.4 %	8.8 %	5.2 %	6.7 %	100 %

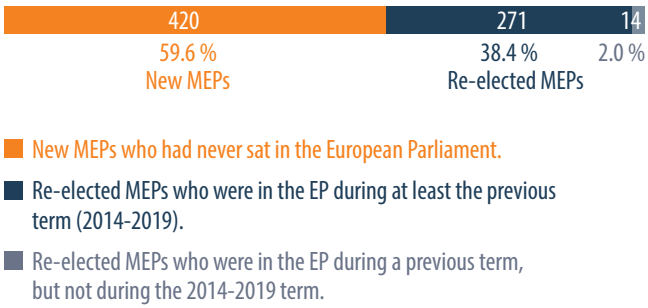
Data supplied by Members' Administration Unit, DG Presidency, European Parliament.

Country codes and flags

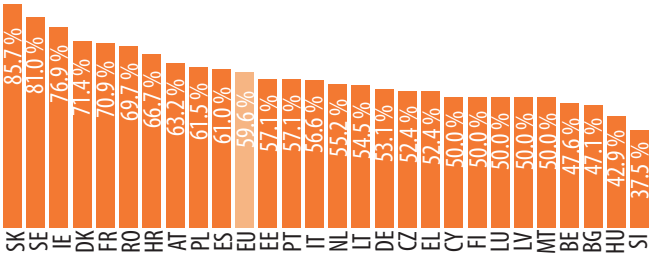
Belgium (BE) · Bulgaria (BG) · Czechia (CZ) · Denmark (DK) · Germany (DE) · Estonia (EE)
Ireland (IE) · Greece (EL) · Spain (ES) · France (FR) · Croatia (HR) · Italy (IT)
Cyprus (CY) · Latvia (LV) · Lithuania (LT) · Luxembourg (LU) · Hungary (HU) · Malta (MT)
Netherlands (NL) · Austria (AT) · Poland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

New and re-elected MEPs in 2019

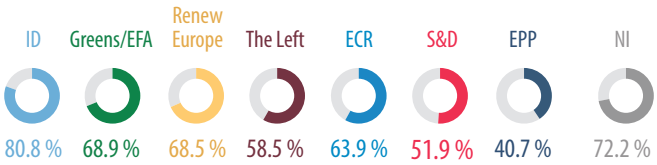
New MEPs in July 2019 are defined as those who had never sat in the European Parliament before. They represented 60 % of those elected in the current 27 Member States. The percentage varied between 86 % in Slovakia – where 12 of 14 MEPs were new – and 38 % in Slovenia (3 of 8). Among the political groups, Identity and Democracy (ID) had the highest percentage of new MEPs, with 59 new MEPs out of 73, and the EPP the least (74 of 182).



Share of new MEPs by Member State



Share of new MEPs by political group



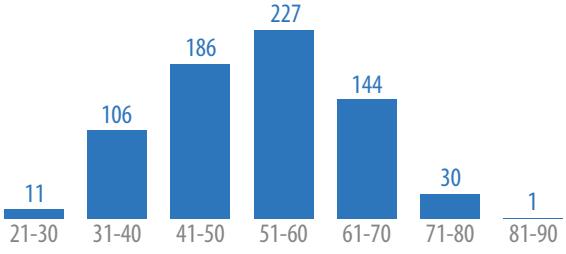
In the first 3.5 years of the current parliamentary term (July 2019 to January 2023), a total of 59 MEPs have been replaced for different reasons. Twelve MEPs resigned, three died, and 44 were appointed to an office incompatible with membership of the European Parliament – for instance, they became members of their national parliaments or governments. Furthermore, with the United Kingdom's departure from the EU on 31 January 2020, the 73 Members elected in the UK left the Parliament.

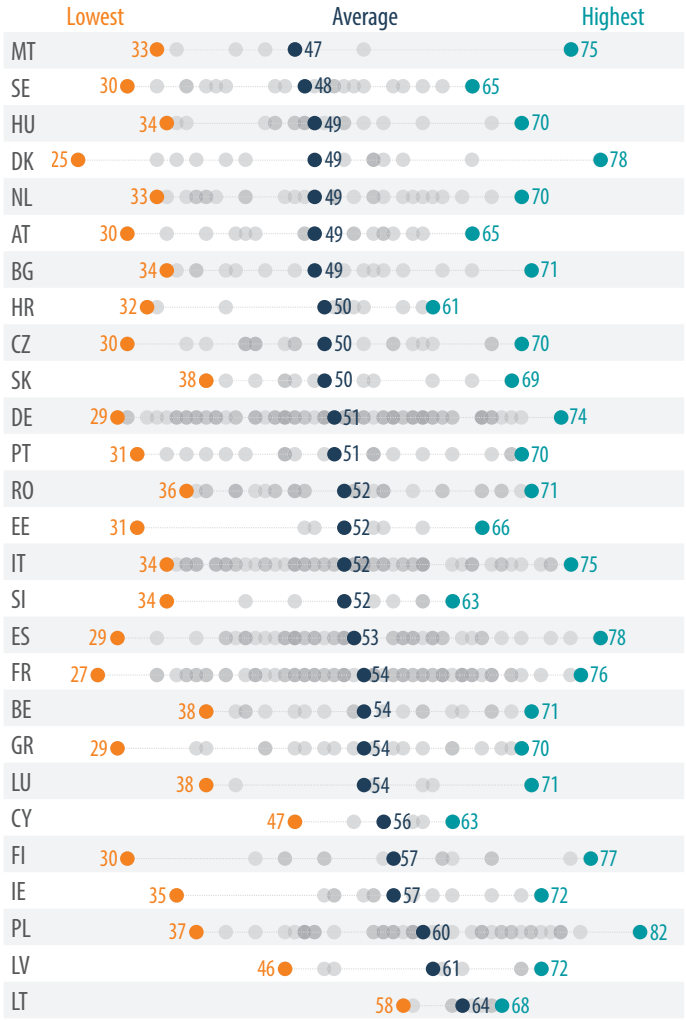
Age of MEPs

The graphs below and to the right show the average age of MEPs, together with their highest and lowest ages, both collectively and by Member State. The average age of MEPs is currently 53 years; national averages vary between 47 and 64. The youngest MEP is from Denmark (25 years old) and the oldest is from Poland (82 years old).

Age distribution of MEPs

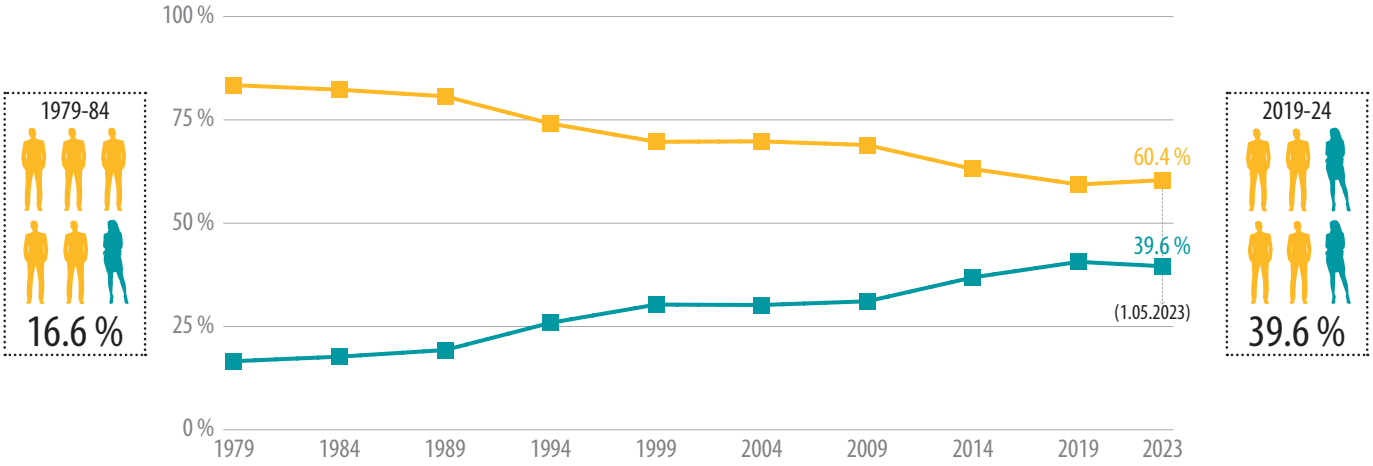
The graph below shows the age distribution of the 705 MEPs, with 186 MEPs aged between 41 and 50 years. The mode – the most common value – is 60 years and the median – the middle value – is, like the average, 53 years. The majority of MEPs, two out of three, are aged between 41 and 60 years old.





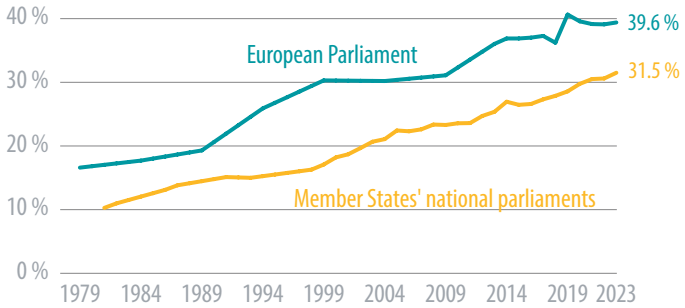
Proportion of men and women in the EP

The proportion of women among all MEPs at the beginning of each parliamentary term has grown steadily, starting at 16.6 % in the first term, in July 1979, and reaching 40.6 %, the highest percentage so far, at the beginning of the current term, in July 2019.

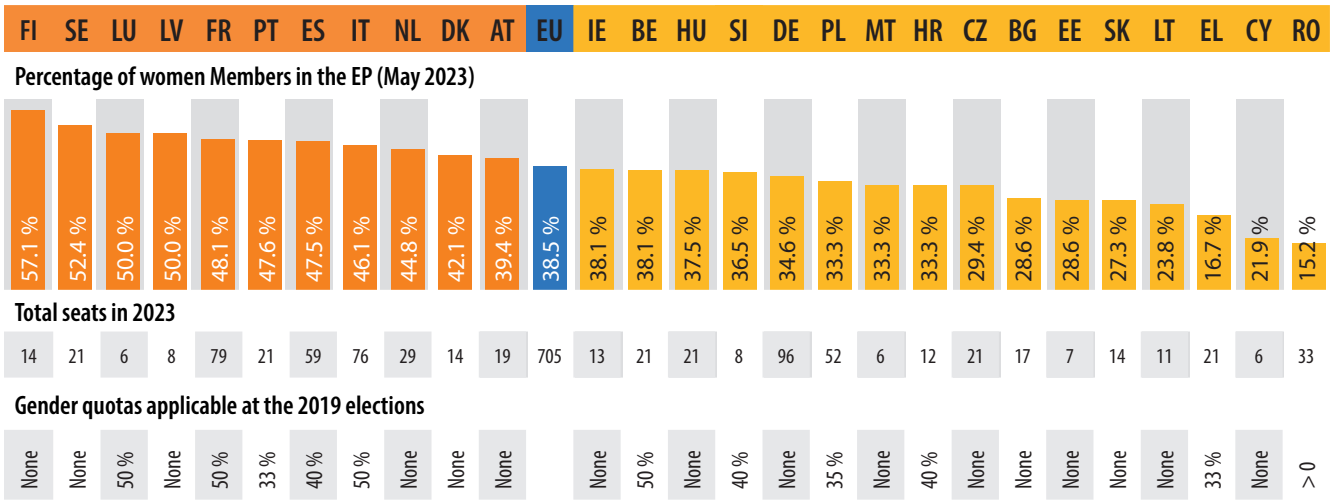


Women in the EP and EU national parliaments

Comparison between the average representation of women in national parliaments in Member States and in the European Parliament shows that both have increased over time. (The line for national parliaments up to 1996 is illustrative only, based on data available for a limited number of Member States). A marked increase in the percentage of women in national parliaments can be seen in the mid-2000s, which is partly a result of the introduction of gender quotas for elections in several Member States (for example, France - 2000, Belgium - 2002, Portugal - 2006, Spain - 2007).



Women MEPs by Member State

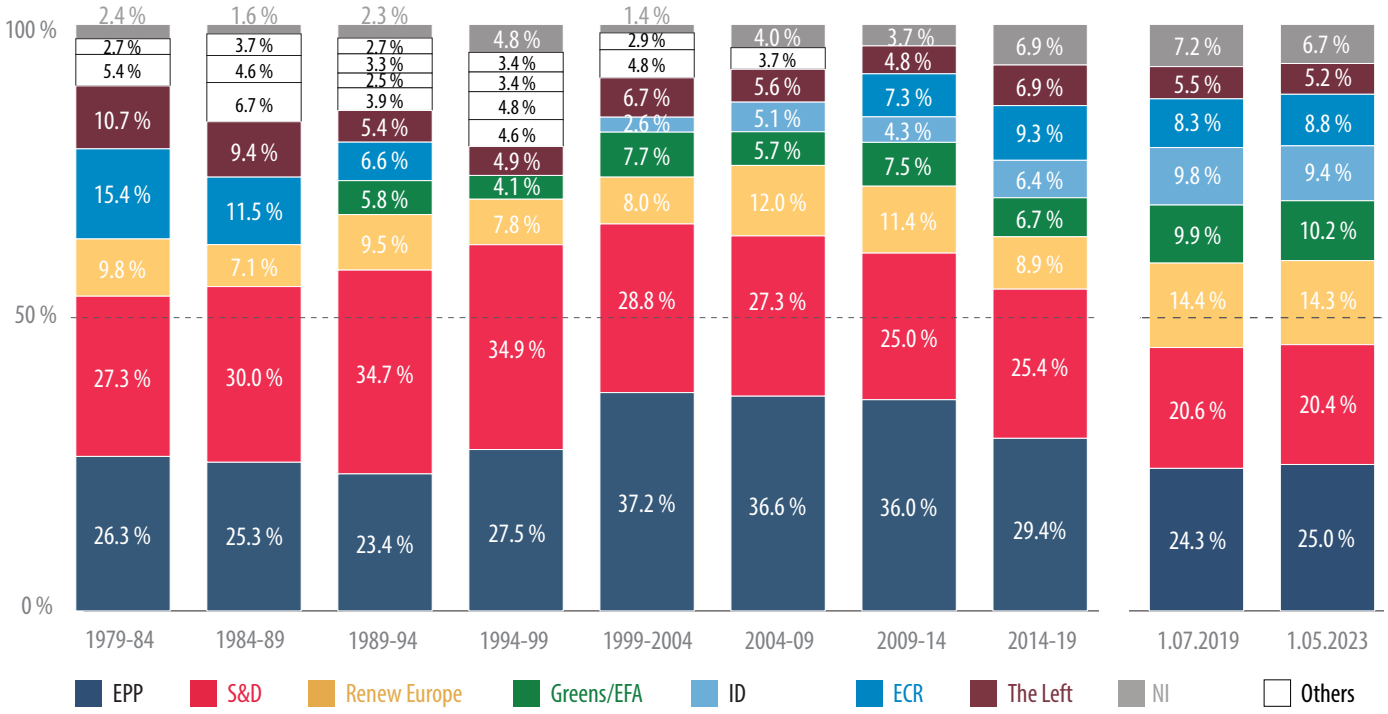


The percentage of women MEPs in the current European Parliament varies between 15 % in Romania and 57 % in Finland. In the May 2019 elections, eleven Member States had gender quotas, which mostly concern the make-up of electoral lists, applying to both sexes, to avoid the under-representation of either.

European Parliament, 1979-2019

Strengths of the political groups in each parliamentary term

The relative size of the political groups in the European Parliament is shown for each of the nine parliamentary terms since the first direct elections in 1979. The data, in percentages of total seats, refer to the constituent session (in July) at the beginning of each parliamentary term. The last column on the right shows the composition of the Parliament as of May 2023.



Source: DG Communication, European Parliament.

The colours used to denote political groups in the current parliamentary term are also used retrospectively for previous terms, so that the history of today's groups can be traced back. However, the names and constitutions of political groups, and indeed their membership, can change frequently. So, whilst we can often identify substantial continuity between the current groups and their predecessors, they cannot in every case be regarded as the same group with an unbroken history. The category 'others' includes a number of groups which no longer exist.

National parties and political groups in the EP

Over the nine terms of the European Parliament to date, the successive increases in the number of Member States and MEPs have been outpaced by the growth in the number of national political parties represented in the Parliament. Whilst the number of political groups has fluctuated between seven and ten – it is currently seven – the threshold for forming a group has been raised over time, and groups have included Members from a greater number of parties from a greater number of Member States – 209 national political parties today, compared with 127 in 1999, and 57 in 1979.

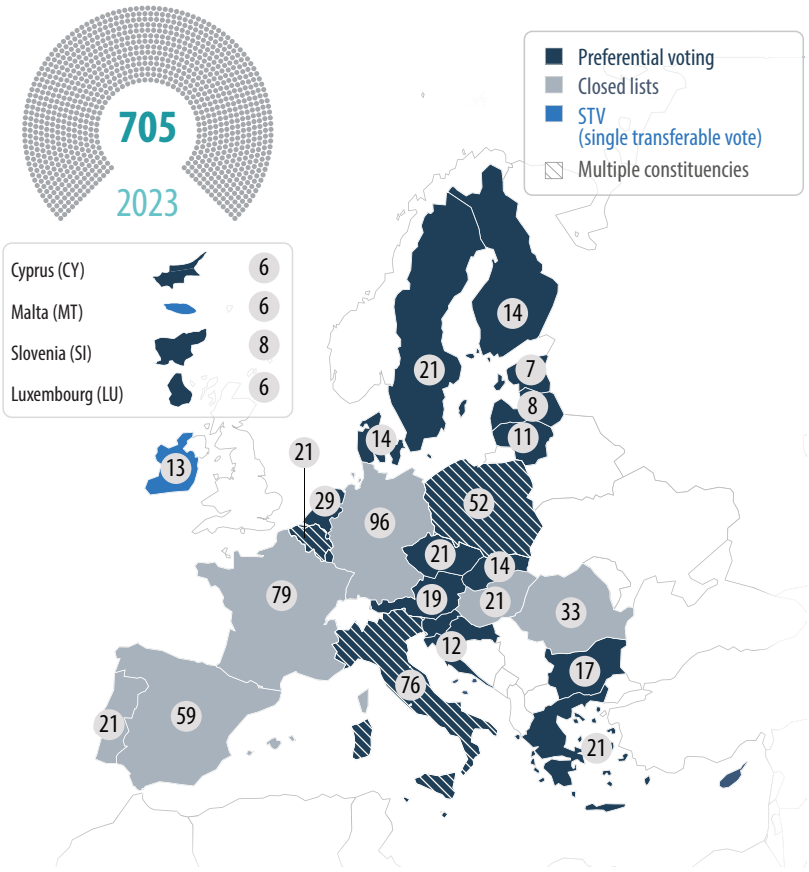
Data refer to constituent session	1979-1984	1984-1989	1989-1994	1994-1999	1999-2004	2004-2009	2009-2014	2014-2019	1.07.2019	1.05.2023
Number of MEPs	410	434	518	567	626	732	736	751	748	705
Number of Member States	9	10	12	12	15	25	27	28	28	27
Number of political groups	7	8	10	9	8	7	7	7	7	7
Number of national political parties	57	67	103	97	127	168	176	191	203	209
Number of national delegations in political groups	37	42	64	58	74	109	116	129	128	143

Electoral system for the European Parliament

Voting system and number of MEPs

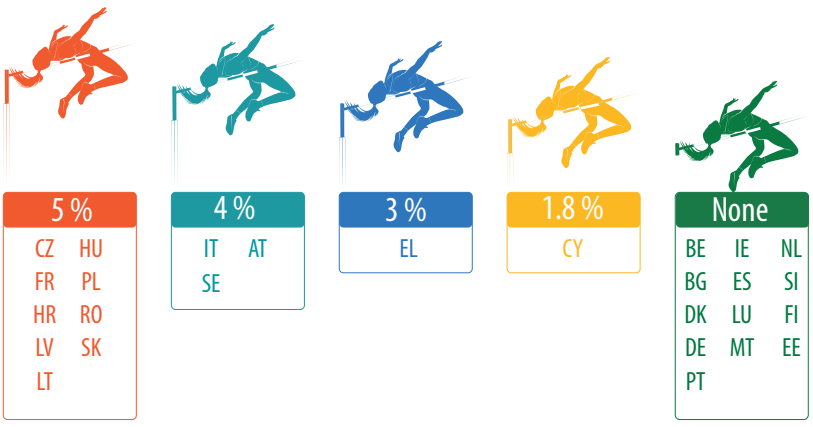
The EP currently has 705 seats, as opposed to 751 – the maximum permitted under the EU Treaties – as it did between 2014 and January 2020. Following the United Kingdom's departure from the EU on 31 January 2020, and with it the loss of the country's 73 MEPs, an additional 27 Members from 14 Member States joined the Parliament, following provisions made for filling those seats at the June 2019 elections.

The 705 MEPs are elected under national electoral systems, but these have to observe certain common principles established in EU law, notably proportional representation (PR). Under PR, voters may choose between political parties, individual candidates or both. Whilst in some Member States, voters can only vote for a list, with no possibility of changing the order of candidates (closed list), in others, voters can express their preference for one or more of the candidates (preferential voting). Instead of a list system, some Member States use the single transferable vote (STV) method of PR. The map to the right shows the number of seats in each Member State (from February 2020) as well as the electoral system used in the 2019 European elections.



Electoral threshold

EU law allows Member States to establish a threshold of votes to be achieved before a party/list can be allocated seats at EP elections. At national level, this threshold may not exceed five per cent of the valid votes cast.



Voting methods for citizens resident abroad

Almost all Member States allow the possibility to vote from abroad in EP elections. Some Member States require voters to pre-register with their national electoral authorities to be eligible to vote from abroad by post or at an embassy/consulate. In some Member States (e.g. DK), voting at embassies takes place prior to election day; and in some, postal votes may be submitted at embassies/consulates. In several Member States, the right to vote abroad applies only to citizens living in another EU Member State (e.g. BG, IT). In addition, most Member States make special arrangements for diplomats and military personnel serving abroad.

Amendments to the 1976 Electoral Act, to which Parliament gave its consent in plenary in July 2018 (but are yet to be ratified by certain Member States), state that Member States may provide for the possibilities of advance voting, postal voting, and electronic and internet voting in elections to the European Parliament. Where they do so, they shall adopt measures sufficient to ensure in particular the reliability of the result, the secrecy of the vote, and the protection of personal data in accordance with applicable Union law. Member States shall take the necessary measures to ensure that double voting in elections to the European Parliament is subject to effective, proportionate and dissuasive penalties. Finally, Member States may take the necessary measures to allow those of their citizens residing in third countries to vote in elections to the European Parliament.

Belgium	✉	🏛	🤝
Bulgaria	*	🏛	
Czechia	NOT POSSIBLE		
Denmark	✉	🏛	
Germany	✉		
Estonia	✉	🏛	Vote
Ireland	NOT POSSIBLE		
Greece		🏛	
Spain	✉	🏛	
France		🏛	🤝
Croatia		🏛	
Italy	*	🏛	
Cyprus		🏛	
Latvia	✉	🏛	
Lithuania	✉	🏛	
Luxembourg	✉		
Hungary	✉	🏛	
Malta	NOT POSSIBLE		
Netherlands	✉	🏛	🤝
Austria	✉		
Poland		🏛	
Portugal		🏛	
Romania		🏛	
Slovenia	✉	🏛	
Slovakia	NOT POSSIBLE		
Finland	✉	🏛	
Sweden	✉	🏛	

✉ By post 🤝 Proxy
🏛 Embassy Vote E-voting
* Voting from abroad only possible within another EU country.

Minimum age of candidates

The minimum age to be eligible to vote and to stand as a candidate in the European elections is established by national law. The age to be eligible to vote is 18 years in most Member States, except Greece, where the voting age is 17, and Austria and Malta, where the voting age is 16. (Belgium and Germany also plan to lower the voting age to 16 for the 2024 European elections.) The minimum age necessary to stand as a candidate in the European elections varies considerably, ranging from 18 to 25 years old.

18
BE DK DE ES FR
HR LU HU MT NL
AT PT SI FI SE

21
BG CZ EE IE LV
LT PL SK CY

23
RO

25
EL IT

The information on national rules on these two pages reflects those in force for the 2019 elections. As of the time of writing, changes are anticipated in several cases ahead of the 2024 European elections.

Turnout in European elections

Turnout in Member States at EP elections since 1979

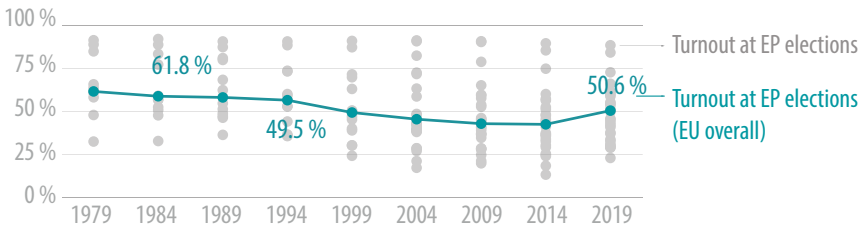
The table below shows the turnout by Member State for each of the nine European Parliament elections held since June 1979. For each election, the colours highlight the lowest turnout among Member States, the highest turnout in a Member State without compulsory voting, and the highest turnout overall. The EU average at each election is highlighted by the horizontal line in purple.

	1979	1984	1989	1994	1999	2004	2009	2014	2019
BE ⚠	91.4 %	92.1 %	90.7 %	90.7 %	91.0 %	90.8 %	90.4 %	89.6 %	88.5 %
LU ⚠	88.9 %	88.8 %	87.4 %	88.5 %	87.3 %	91.3 %	90.8 %	85.5 %	84.2 %
MT						82.4 %	78.8 %	74.8 %	72.7 %
DK	47.8 %	52.4 %	46.2 %	52.9 %	50.4 %	47.9 %	59.5 %	56.3 %	66.0 %
DE	65.7 %	56.8 %	62.3 %	60.0 %	45.2 %	43.0 %	43.3 %	48.1 %	61.4 %
ES			54.6 %	59.1 %	63.0 %	45.1 %	44.9 %	43.8 %	60.7 %
AT					49.0 %	42.4 %	46.0 %	45.4 %	59.8 %
EL ⚠		77.2 %	79.9 %	73.2 %	71.5 %	63.2 %	52.6 %	60.0 %	58.7 %
SE					38.8 %	37.9 %	45.5 %	51.1 %	55.3 %
IT	84.9 %	83.4 %	81.0 %	73.6 %	69.8 %	71.7 %	65.1 %	57.2 %	54.5 %
LT						48.4 %	21.0 %	47.4 %	53.5 %
RO							27.7 %	32.4 %	51.1 %
EU	61.8 %	59.0 %	58.3 %	56.7 %	49.5 %	45.6 %	43.0 %	42.6 %	50.6 %
FR	60.7 %	56.7 %	48.7 %	52.8 %	46.8 %	42.8 %	40.6 %	42.4 %	50.1 %
IE	63.6 %	47.6 %	68.3 %	44.0 %	50.2 %	58.6 %	57.6 %	52.4 %	49.7 %
PL						20.9 %	24.5 %	23.8 %	45.7 %
CY ⚠						72.5 %	59.4 %	44.0 %	45.0 %
HU						38.5 %	36.3 %	29.0 %	43.4 %
NL	58.1 %	50.6 %	47.2 %	35.7 %	30.0 %	39.3 %	36.8 %	37.3 %	41.9 %
FI					30.1 %	39.4 %	40.5 %	41.0 %	40.7 %
EE						26.8 %	43.9 %	36.5 %	37.6 %
UK	32.3 %	32.6 %	36.2 %	36.4 %	24.0 %	39.2 %	34.5 %	35.4 %	36.9 %
LV						41.3 %	53.7 %	30.2 %	33.5 %
BG ⚠							38.9 %	36.1 %	32.6 %
PT			51.2 %	35.5 %	39.9 %	38.6 %	36.8 %	33.7 %	30.8 %
HR								25.2 %	29.9 %
SI						28.4 %	28.3 %	24.5 %	28.9 %
CZ						28.3 %	28.2 %	18.2 %	28.7 %
SK						17.0 %	19.6 %	13.0 %	22.7 %

Highest turnout with compulsory voting
Highest turnout without compulsory voting
Lowest turnout

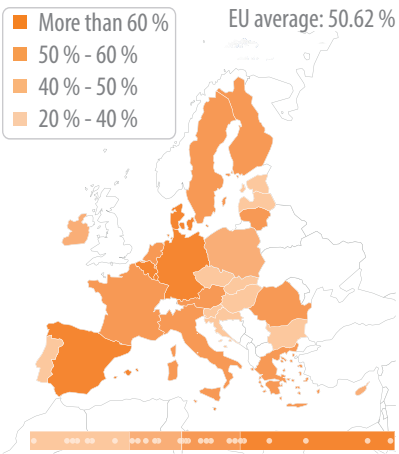
⚠ Compulsory voting in this Member State (Voting was also compulsory in Italy from 1979 to 1989).
In Bulgaria, while Article 3 of the Elections Code stipulates that voting is compulsory, following a 2017 ruling of the Constitutional Court the envisaged sanctions for not voting have been declared anti-constitutional and are hence not applicable.

The line chart below shows the trajectory of turnout at the nine European Parliament elections held to date, tracking both individual Member States (grey dots) and the total for the EU as a whole (blue dots/line). Successive European elections saw turnout fall until 2019. The most recent election saw turnout rise from 42.6 to 50.6 per cent (plus 8.0 per cent), making it the first contest since 1994 in which more than half the adult population of the EU voted. A similar downward trend over time is seen in the mid-term elections in the United States, where the US presidency is not at stake; while there was a sharp upturn in the 2018 mid-term election, the turnout fell again in the most recent (2022) election.



A similar downward trend can also be observed in national elections over the same period, although from a higher baseline, given that governments are also being elected in such contests.

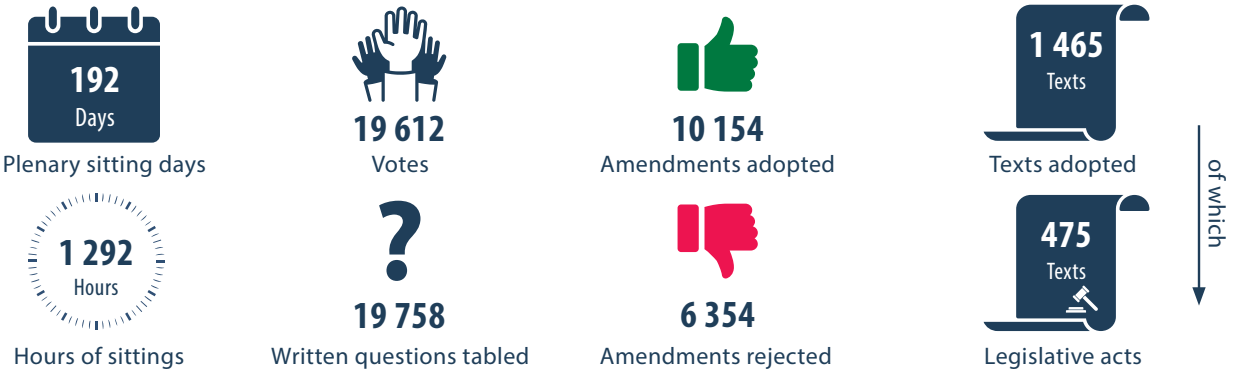
The map shows the turnout at the 2019 European elections in each current Member State.



The work of the European Parliament

The European Parliament adopts its positions by voting in plenary session on legislative and budgetary texts, as well as on own-initiative reports and other resolutions. The Parliament's 20 standing committees prepare the ground, undertaking detailed consideration of draft EU legislation and holding hearings on key issues. In the course of the EU legislative process, representatives of EP committees meet frequently with their counterparts in the Council and the European Commission, in trilateral negotiations known as 'trilogues', under the ordinary legislative procedure or 'co-decision' – see page 14.

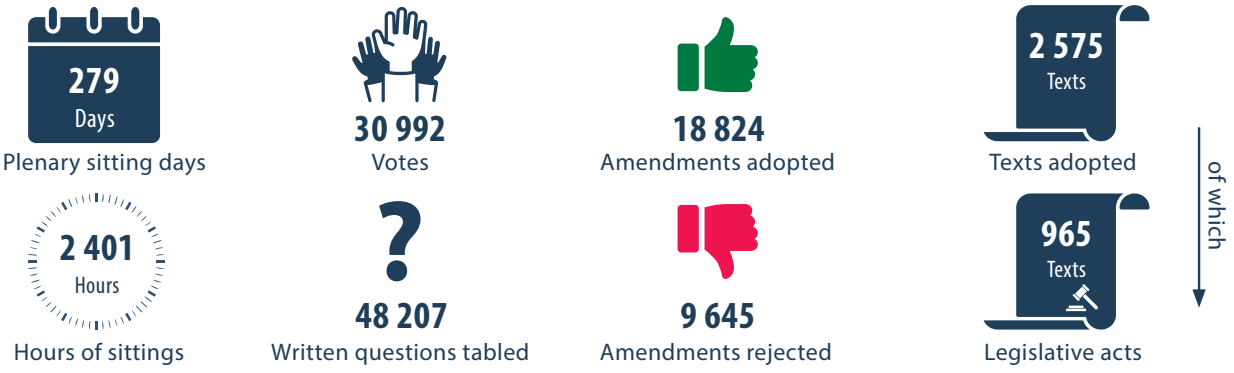
Activity in EP plenary sessions in the **ninth term** so far (July 2019 - Dec 2022)



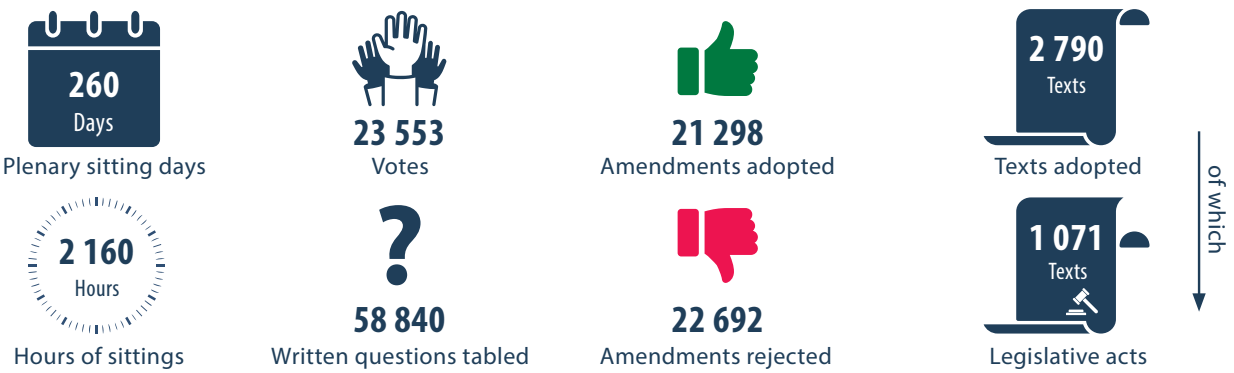
Comparing the Parliament's activity in the ninth term to date with the equivalent period in the previous term (July 2014 to December 2017) allows a view of the impact of the coronavirus crisis on the work of the institution, in particular in 2020 but also in 2021. Whilst there have been slightly fewer plenary sitting days this term than in the corresponding period of the eighth term, the hours taken up by sittings have been a quarter less than in the previous term (1 716 hours).

Despite the reduced sitting time, Parliament has held almost the same number of votes (for over a year using a remote voting procedure introduced in March 2020). Moreover, it has both adopted and rejected significantly more amendments this term than in the last one, although overall it adopted fewer texts than it had in the corresponding period last term (1 601).

Activity in EP plenary sessions in the **eighth term** (July 2014 - June 2019)



Activity in EP plenary sessions in the **seventh term** (July 2009 - June 2014)



Source: Plenary Organisation and Follow-up Unit, DG Presidency, European Parliament.

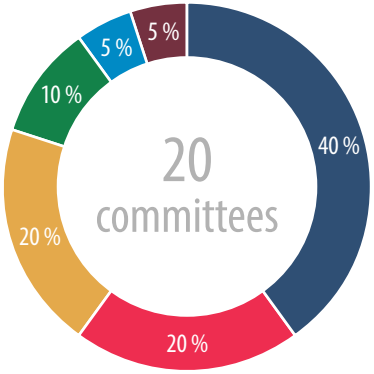
Parliamentary committees

There are 20 standing committees (and four sub-committees) in the EP, each covering a different policy area. They draw up reports for consideration in the plenary – on both legislative and non-legislative matters – and seek to hold the executive to account. The seats on each committee, and their chairs, are normally distributed among the Parliament's political groups in proportion to the number of seats they hold in the Parliament as a whole. The chart below lists the committees of the EP, ordered by the number of MEPs who sit on them. It also shows the chairs, elected by the members of each committee, together with their political group and nationality. The chairs formally meet together in the Conference of Committee Chairs, and have elected Bernd Lange, Chair of the International Trade (INTA) Committee, as their chair for the second half of the current parliamentary term.

The pie chart at the bottom shows the distribution of committee chairs between the political groups in April 2023, using the same colour code as before. In addition to its standing committees, the Parliament may also establish special committees and committees of inquiry. In March 2022, it set up two special committees – on lessons from the coronavirus pandemic and on foreign interference in democratic processes in the EU – as well as a committee of inquiry on the use of Pegasus and other spyware systems.

Committees and sub-committees	Number of MEPs	Name of chair		
Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI)	88	Pascal CANFIN	Renew Europe	
Subcommittee on Public Health (SANT)	30	Bartosz ARŁUKOWICZ	EPP	
Foreign Affairs (AFET)	79	David McALLISTER	EPP	
Human Rights (DROI)	30	Udo BULLMANN	S&D	
Security and Defence (SEDE)	30	Nathalie LOISEAU	Renew Europe	
Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE)	78	Cristian-Silviu BUŞOI	EPP	
Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE)	69	Juan Fernando LÓPEZ AGUILAR	S&D	
Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON)	61	Irene TINAGLI	S&D	
Tax Matters (FISC)	30	Paul TANG	S&D	
Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL)	55	Dragoş PÎSLARU	Renew Europe	
Transport and Tourism (TRAN)	49	Karima DELLI	Greens/EFA	
Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI)	48	Norbert LINS	EPP	
Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO)	45	Anna CAVAZZINI	Greens/EFA	
International Trade (INTA)	43	Bernd LANGE	S&D	
Regional Development (REGI)	43	Younous OMARJEE	The Left	
Budgets (BUDG)	41	Johan VAN OVERTVELDT	ECR	
Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM)	37	Robert BIEDROŃ	S&D	
Petitions (PETI)	35	Dolors MONTSERRAT	EPP	
Culture and Education (CULT)	31	Sabine VERHEYEN	EPP	
Budgetary Control (CONT)	30	Monika HOHLMEIER	EPP	
Constitutional Affairs (AFCO)	28	Salvatore DE MEO	EPP	
Fisheries (PECH)	28	Pierre KARLESKIND	Renew Europe	
Development (DEVE)	26	Tomas TOBÉ	EPP	
Legal Affairs (JURI)	25	Adrián VÁZQUEZ LÁZARA	Renew Europe	

Share of committee chairs by political group (April 2023)



EP committees' relationship with European Commissioners

The European Parliament's 20 standing committees exercise oversight over the work of the European Commission in their respective policy fields and regularly invite Commissioners to discuss different aspects of their activities in committee meetings. While some committees correspond exclusively to a single Commission portfolio, other committees cover multiple Commissioners' areas of responsibility.

The table below shows the College of Commissioners with their portfolios and corresponding EP committees. It is derived from the autumn 2019 hearings of the then Commissioners-designate. The third column highlights those committees that work with more than one Commissioner, while the fourth column shows all committees that correspond to any given Commission portfolio. For example, the remit of the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee (ENVI) covers the fields of work of three Commissioners in particular: Frans Timmermans, Stella Kyriakides and Virginijus Sinkevičius.

			Parliamentary committees	
	Commissioner	Commissioner's policy portfolio	Multiple coverage	by committee
Vice-Presidents	Frans Timmermans	European Green Deal	ENVI	ENVI
	Valdis Dombrovskis	An Economy that Works for People		INTA, ECON, EMPL
	Margrethe Vestager	Europe fit for the Digital Age		ITRE, IMCO, ECON
	Josep Borrell	High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy; A Stronger Europe in the World	ECON	AFET
	Margaritis Schinas	Promoting our European Way of Life	EMPL	LIBE, CULT
	Maroš Šefčovič	Interinstitutional Relations and Foresight		AFCO
	Věra Jourová	Values and Transparency	ITRE	AFCO, LIBE
	Dubravka Šuica	Democracy and Demography		AFCO
Commissioners	Johannes Hahn	Budget and Administration		BUDG, CONT
	Mariya Gabriel	Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth	IMCO	ITRE, CULT
	Nicolas Schmit	Jobs and Social Rights	AFET	EMPL
	Paolo Gentiloni	Economy	LIBE	ECON
	Janusz Wojciechowski	Agriculture		AGRI
	Thierry Breton	Internal Market		IMCO, ITRE
	Elisa Ferreira	Cohesion and Reforms	CULT	REGI
	Stella Kyriakides	Health and Food Safety		ENVI
	Didier Reynders	Justice	AFCO	LIBE, JURI
	Helena Dalli	Equality		FEMM, EMPL
	Ylva Johansson	Home Affairs		LIBE
	Janez Lenarčič	Crisis Management		DEVE
	Adina Vălean	Transport		TRAN
	Olivér Várhelyi	Neighbourhood and Enlargement		AFET
	Jutta Urpilainen	International Partnerships	DEV	DEVE
	Kadri Simson	Energy		ITRE
	Virginijus Sinkevičius	Environment, Oceans and Fisheries		ENVI, PECH
	Mairead McGuinness	Financial Services, Financial Stability and Capital Markets Union		ECON

Inter-parliamentary delegations

The European Parliament's inter-parliamentary delegations seek to maintain and deepen relations with parliaments or parliamentarians from countries, regions and organisations outside the EU. There are currently 45 standing delegations engaged in 'parliamentary diplomacy' and they fall into three types, as set out below. The chairs of the delegations meet together in the Conference of Delegation Chairs (CDC), together with those of the three committees that work on international relations – the Committees on Foreign Affairs (AFET), Development (DEVE) and International Trade (INTA). The Chair of the CDC is currently Inmaculada Rodríguez-Piñero, Chair of the EU-Chile Delegation.

Delegations	Type	Number of MEPs	Name of chair		
ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly		78	Carlos ZORRINHO	S&D	
Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly		75	Javi LÓPEZ	S&D	
United States		64	Radosław SIKORSKI	EPP	
Euronest Parliamentary Assembly		60	Andrius KUBILIUS	EPP	
Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean		49	Roberta METSOLA	EPP	
China		38	Reinhard BÜTIKOFER	Greens/EFA	
United Kingdom		35	Nathalie LOISEAU	Renew Europe	
Russia		31	Ryszard CZARNECKI	ECR	
South East Asia / ASEAN		27	Daniel CASPARY	EPP	
Turkey		25	Sergey LAGODINSKY	Greens/EFA	
Japan		24	Christel SCHALDEMOSE	S&D	
India		24	Morten LØKKEGAARD	Renew Europe	
Mercosur		19	Jordi CAÑAS	Renew Europe	
Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Mongolia		19	Fulvio MARTUSCIELLO	EPP	
Mashreq		19	Isabel SANTOS	S&D	
Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia		18	Marina KALJURAND	S&D	
Palestine		18	Manu PINEDA	The Left	
Maghreb / Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria		18	Matjaž NEMEC	S&D	
Israel		18	Antonio LÓPEZ-ISTÚRIZ WHITE	EPP	
Northern Cooperation / European Economic Area (EEA) / Switzerland		18	Andreas SCHWAB	EPP	
Canada		18	Stéphanie YON-COURTIN	Renew Europe	
Ukraine		16	Witold Jan WASZCZYKOWSKI	ECR	
Arab Peninsula		16	Hannah NEUMANN	Greens/EFA	
South Africa		16	Magdalena ADAMOWICZ	EPP	
Chile		15	Inmaculada RODRÍGUEZ-PIÑERO	S&D	
Serbia		15	Alessandra MORETTI	S&D	
Central America		15	Tilly METZ	Greens/EFA	
Cariforum		15	Stéphane BIJOUX	Renew Europe	
South Asia		15	Nicola PROCACCINI	ECR	
Mexico		14	Massimiliano SMERIGLIO	S&D	
Montenegro		14	Vladimír BILČÍK	EPP	
Moldova		14	Siegfried MUREŞAN	EPP	
Brazil		14	José Manuel FERNANDES	EPP	
Albania		14	Manolis KEFALOGIANNIS	EPP	
North Macedonia		13	Andreas SCHIEDER	S&D	
Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo		13	Romeo FRANZ	Greens/EFA	
Andean Community		13	Pilar del CASTILLO VERA	EPP	
Korean Peninsula		13	Lukas MANDL	EPP	
Australia and New Zealand		12	Ulrike MÜLLER	Renew Europe	
Belarus		12	Juozas OLEKAS	S&D	
Pan-African Parliament		12	María Soraya RODRÍGUEZ RAMOS	Renew Europe	
Iran		11	Cornelia ERNST	The Left	
NATO Parliamentary Assembly		10	Tom VANDENKENDELAERE	EPP	
Iraq		8	Sara SKYTTEDAL	EPP	
Afghanistan		8	Petras AUŠTREVIČIUS	Renew Europe	

EP delegation to a multilateral parliamentary assembly.

EP delegation to an interparliamentary committee, established under a bilateral agreement between the EU and the partner country.

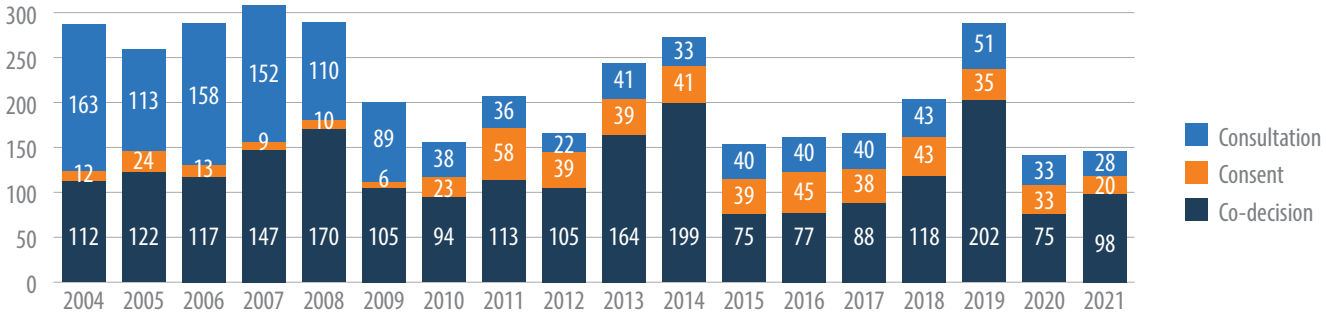
Other delegations that meet counterparts outside any formal framework.

European Parliament legislative activity, 2004-2021

A core element of the European Parliament's work lies in amending and passing EU legislation. Three procedures are used for this purpose, with the most common now being the 'ordinary legislative procedure' (OLP), often referred to as 'co-decision'. The Parliament may also be required to give (or withhold) its consent to certain Council decisions, or may simply be consulted on certain Commission proposals. Under OLP and consent, the EP has a right of veto over EU legal acts. When the Parliament is only consulted, it gives an opinion. The two charts below show the rise in the use of co-decision, reflecting greater EP power from successive Treaty changes, and the now established trend for the EP and Council to agree on legislative texts at the first reading of that process.

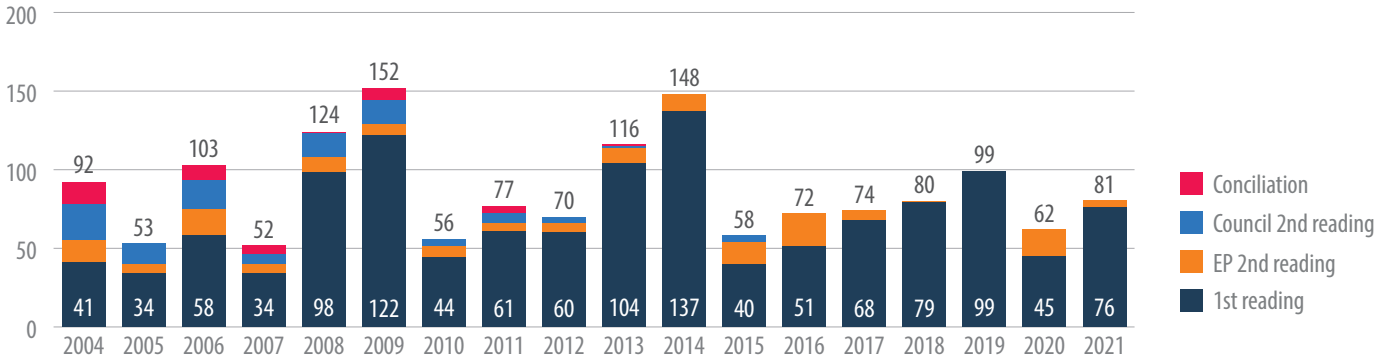
Legislative resolutions adopted in plenary

The chart below shows the number of legislative resolutions adopted in plenary each year since 2004, including at all readings for co-decision.



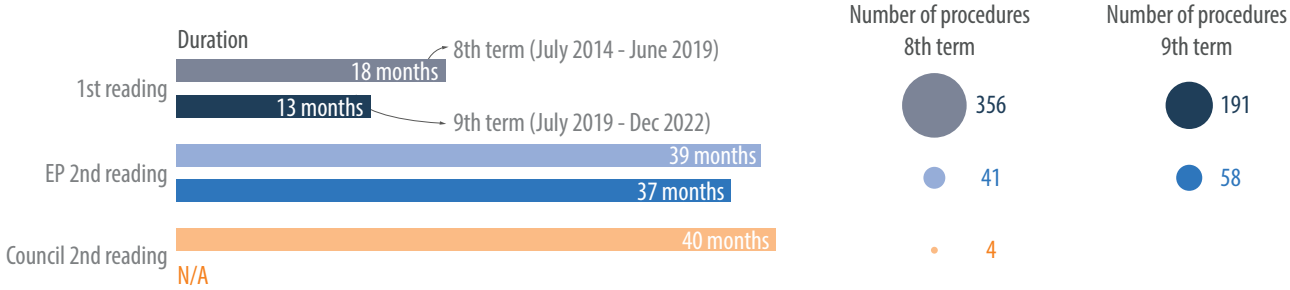
Ordinary legislative procedure / co-decision

The chart below shows the stage of the co-decision procedure at which the EP and Council reached agreement on individual legislative texts, for each year since 2004. As well as the total number of measures agreed, it also shows specifically the number agreed at first reading (the most common case).



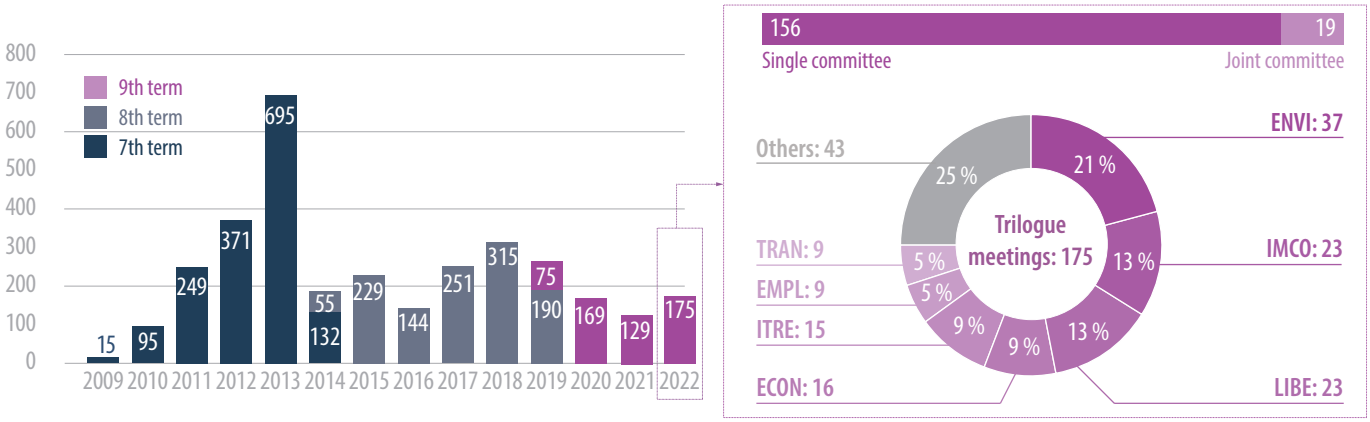
Source: Legislative Planning and Coordination Unit, DG Presidency, European Parliament.

The chart below shows the average length of time taken for files under OLP in the current parliamentary term and during the previous term (July 2014 to June 2019). The average duration of each completed procedure was 13 months in the first three and a half years of the current term for those concluded at first reading; whereas, at 18 months, it was significantly longer in the previous term. For files concluded at second reading, the difference between the two terms is marginal: 37 months in the current one and 39 in the previous one. In the previous term, files ending with the Council's second reading took 40 months, but none have reached that stage in the current term. (None have gone to a third reading in either term.)



Number of trilogues per year and per committee

From July 2019 to December 2022, EP committees participated in a total of 548 trilogue meetings with the Council and Commission. The bar graph below shows the number of trilogue meetings held by year since the beginning of the 2009-2014 term, with a peak in 2013, notably reflecting decisions on programmes within the 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework. While the number held in the second half of 2019 is in line with the number five years previously, the number held in 2020 and 2021 is considerably lower than for 2015 and 2016, in large part due to the coronavirus crisis restricting possibilities to meet physically. In 2022, out of 175 trilogue meetings, 156 involved a single committee, while in 19 cases, two committees took part. The pie chart shows which parliamentary committees were most involved in trilogue in 2022, the third full year of the 2019-2024 term. It highlights the seven most active committees in terms of trilogue meetings held, as a percentage of the total.



Number of legislative and own-initiative reports

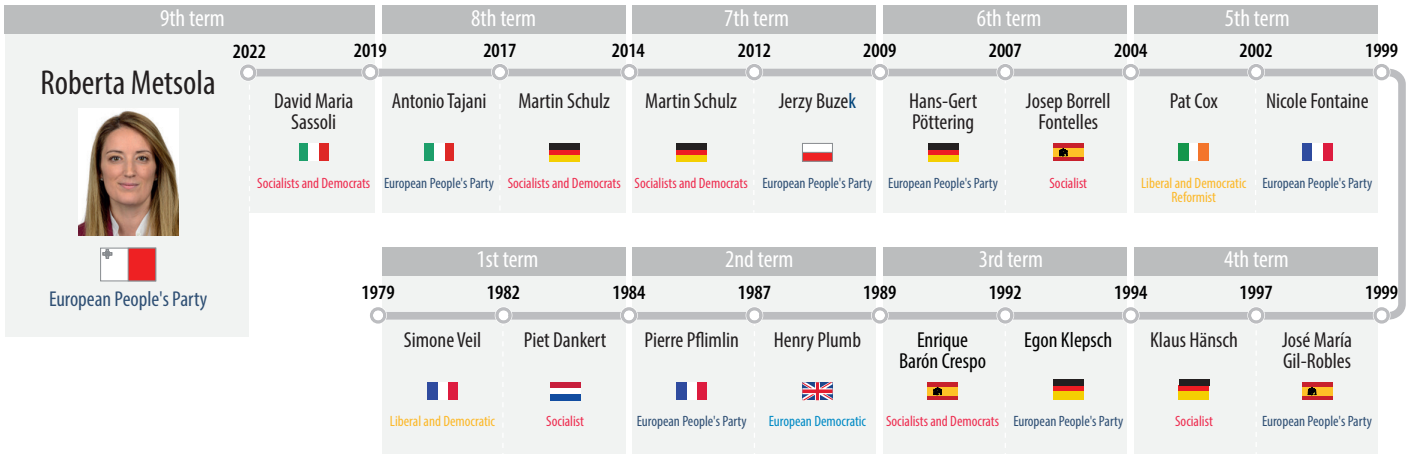
The chart below shows the number of reports adopted in each parliamentary committee between July 2019 and December 2022; the number in grey represents the previous term (2014-2019) as a whole. 'Own-initiative reports', represented by light orange bars, include both legislative-initiative and other own-initiative reports. 'Legislative reports', by blue bars, include reports under the ordinary legislative procedure (co-decision), consent procedure and consultation procedure, as well as procedures relating to international agreements.

The purple bars concern procedures in which committees consider whether to object to 'delegated' or 'implementing' acts, which are in effect forms of administrative law, adopted by the Commission under existing legislation.

	Own-initiative reports		Legislative reports		Delegated and implemented acts	
Foreign Affairs (AFET)	68	(101)	4	(47)	1	(0)
Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON)	29	(43)	60	(107)	157	(216)
Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE)	23	(29)	55	(174)	25	(14)
Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL)	20	(30)	11	(29)	23	(22)
Legal Affairs (JURI)	16	(28)	18	(97)	4	(7)
Culture and Education (CULT)	14	(20)	5	(9)	1	(1)
Budgetary Control (CONT)	13	(16)	18	(28)		(0)
Fisheries (PECH)	12	(17)	37	(47)	50	(57)
Regional Development (REGI)	12	(29)	15	(19)	4	(9)
Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE)	12	(21)	26	(58)	18	(32)
Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO)	11	(18)	12	(38)	51	(72)
Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM)	11	(26)				(0)
Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI)	9	(20)	29	(57)	377	(518)
Petitions (PETI)	9	(11)				(0)
Transport and Tourism (TRAN)	8	(18)	36	(61)	54	(80)
Development (DEVE)	8	(22)	2	(2)		(1)
Constitutional Affairs (AFCO)	8	(18)	3	(8)	1	(3)
International Trade (INTA)	6	(23)	37	(72)	25	(44)
Budgets (BUDG)	5	(5)	12	(10)	1	(2)
Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI)	5	(16)	9	(16)	106	(93)
Joint committees	16	(23)	19	(28)	16	(15)

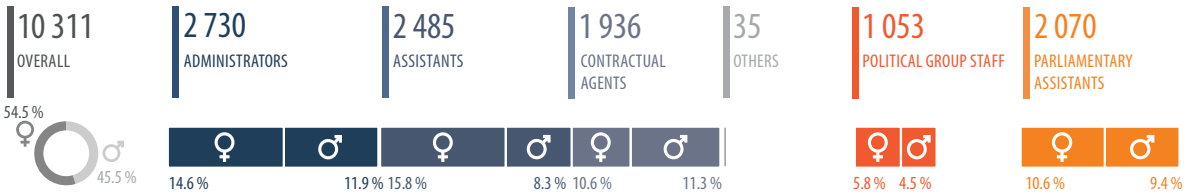
President of the European Parliament

The European Parliament's President is elected in a secret ballot of all MEPs at the start and mid-point of each five-year term, to serve for two and a half years. The President's role is to ensure proceedings are properly conducted, inter alia chairing plenary sessions and the main governing bodies, as well as to represent the European Parliament vis-à-vis the other EU institutions and the outside world more broadly. The President may delegate tasks or powers to the Vice-Presidents who make up the Bureau (see page 16). The graphic below shows the Parliament's current President and all her predecessors since the first direct elections in 1979, with their political group and nationality.

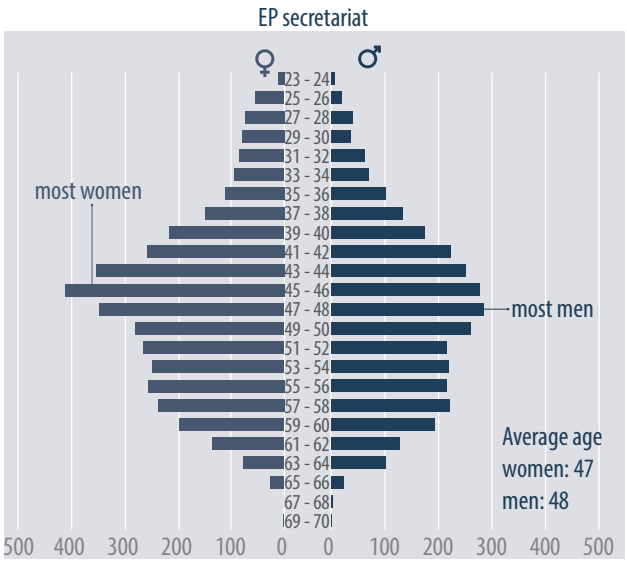


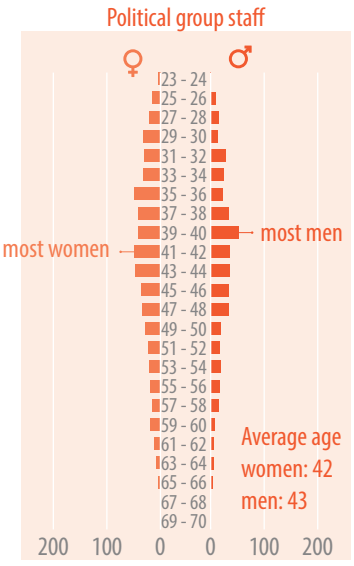
Staff of the European Parliament

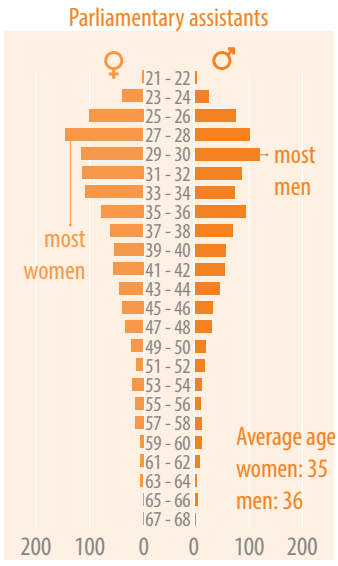
The European Parliament's permanent secretariat – headed by the Secretary-General, Alessandro Chiocchetti – had a total of 7 225 staff in December 2022, of whom 38.0 % were administrators, 34.6 % assistants and 26.9 % contractual agents. In addition to the secretariat, a further 2 070 staff worked directly for Members as accredited parliamentary assistants (APAs), and 1 053 worked for the secretariats of political groups. In total, therefore, 10 311 people work in support of the 705 Members of the European Parliament in various capacities. The bar chart below shows the breakdown by gender across all of those categories of staff.



The three graphics below show the distribution of EP staff in two-year age bands, for both men and women – from left to right, for the EP secretariat, political group staff and Members' assistants. Whereas for the EP secretariat, the most numerous group is in their mid-40s, for political group staff the most common age group is in their late 30s, and for parliamentary assistants in their late 20s.







Governing bodies of the European Parliament

The **Bureau** is the body responsible for financial, organisational and administrative matters within the European Parliament. It is composed of the President and the 14 Vice-Presidents, elected by an absolute majority of the votes in plenary, with the order in which they attained that majority determining their order of precedence. The five Quaestors, elected in plenary to manage administrative and financial matters directly concerning individual Members, also attend the Bureau in an advisory capacity, but cannot vote.

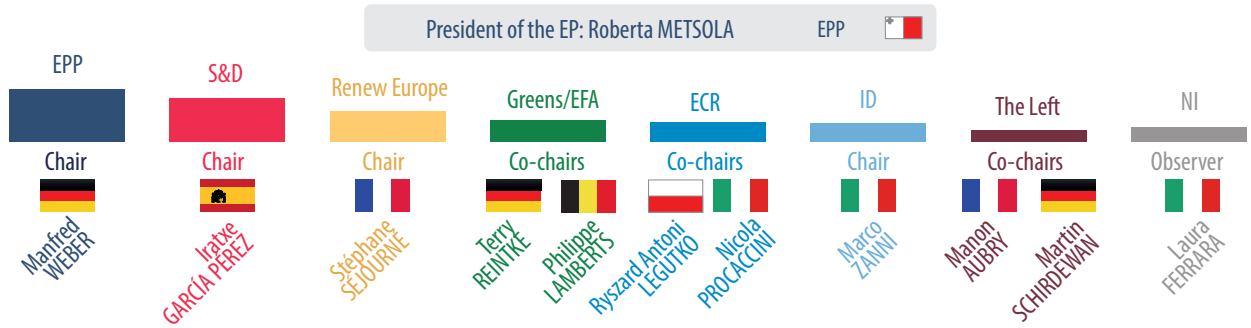
Roberta METSOLA	President	EPP
Othmar KARAS	Vice-President	EPP
Pina PICIERNO	Vice-President	S&D
Pedro SILVA PEREIRA	Vice-President	S&D
Ewa KOPACZ	Vice-President	EPP
Marc ANGEL	Vice-President	S&D
Evelyn REGNER	Vice-President	S&D
Rainer WIELAND	Vice-President	EPP
Katarina BARLEY	Vice-President	S&D
Dita CHARANZOVÁ	Vice-President	Renew Europe
Michal ŠIMEČKA	Vice-President	Renew Europe
Nicola BEER	Vice-President	Renew Europe
Roberts ZĪLE	Vice-President	ECR
Dimitrios PAPADIMOULIS	Vice-President	The Left
Heidi HAUTALA	Vice-President	Greens/EFA
Anne SANDER	Quaestor	EPP
Christophe HANSEN	Quaestor	EPP
Monika BEŇOVÁ	Quaestor	S&D
Fabienne KELLER	Quaestor	Renew Europe
Marcel KOLAJA	Quaestor	Greens/EFA

1 President

14 Vice-Presidents

5 Quaestors (non-voting)

The **Conference of Presidents** (CoP) – composed of the Parliament's President and the chairs of its seven political groups – sets the agenda of the plenary and determines the general political orientations of the institution. The table below shows the current members of the CoP, ordered by size of the groups, in terms of their seats in the Parliament. Three groups have co-chairs. The non-attached (NI) Members are represented by a non-voting observer.



The two governing bodies presented above – the Bureau and the Conference of Presidents – are complemented by other coordination bodies, notably the Conference of Committee Chairs (CCC), the Conference of Delegation Chairs, the Panel for the Future of Science and Technology (STOA Panel), and the Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group.

Previous editions of this Briefing were issued in March 2022 (PE 698.880), October 2021 (PE 690.537), April 2019 (PE 635.515), April 2018 (PE 614.733), March 2017 (PE 599.256), March 2016 (PE 573.919), April 2015 (PE 545.725) and November 2014 (PE 542.150). The data used are taken from a range of sources within and outside the European Parliament, including the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments and the Legislative Planning and Coordination, Members' Activities, Members' Administration, and Plenary Organisation and Follow-up Units of DG Presidency (PRES) and the Legislative Coordination Unit of DG Internal Policies (IPOL); the Public Opinion Monitoring, and Visits and Seminars Units of DG Communication (COMM); the Citizens' Enquiries Unit of DG EPRS; and the IDEA database of election statistics.

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