

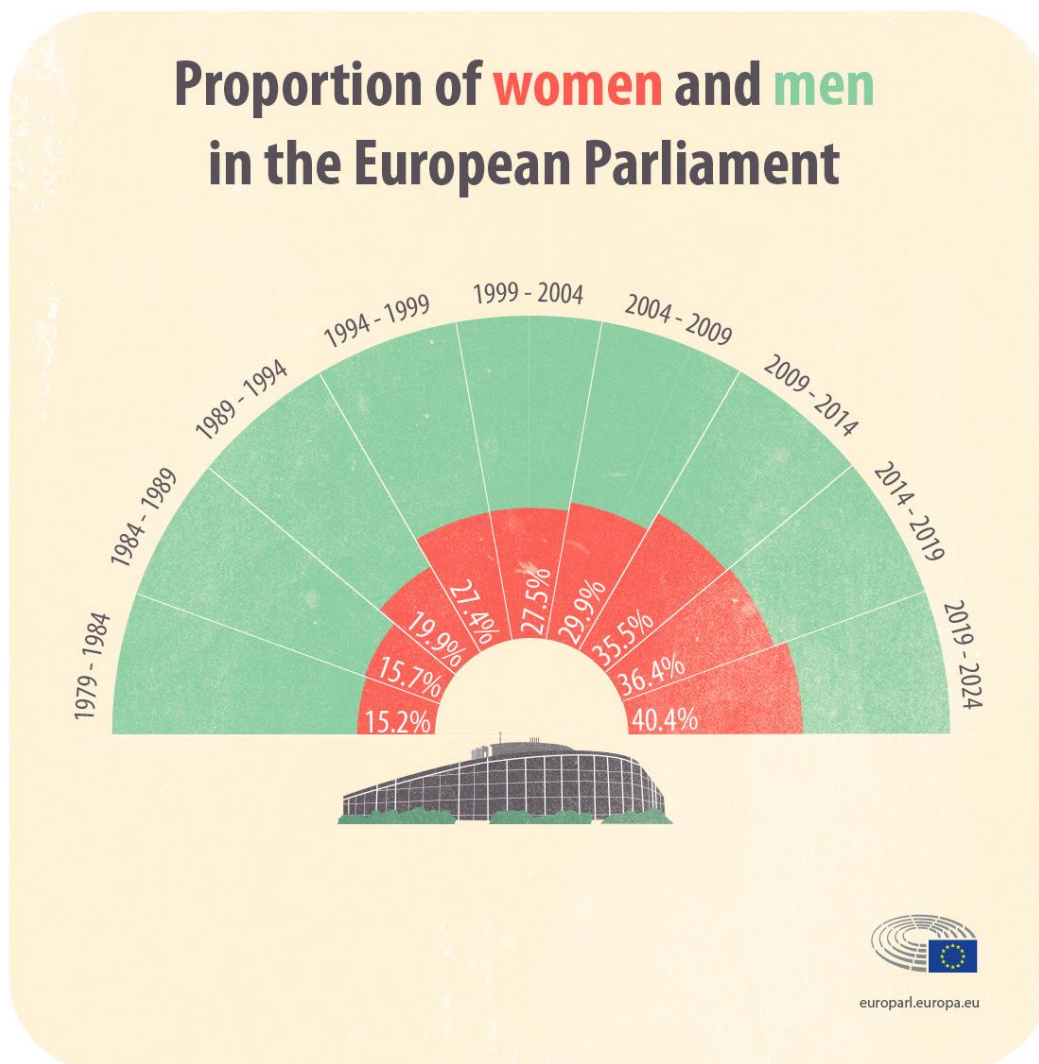
Article

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Women in the European Parliament (infographics)

Women should play a prominent role in politics, but how do they fare at the European Parliament? Find out in our infographics.



Proportion of women and men in the Parliament

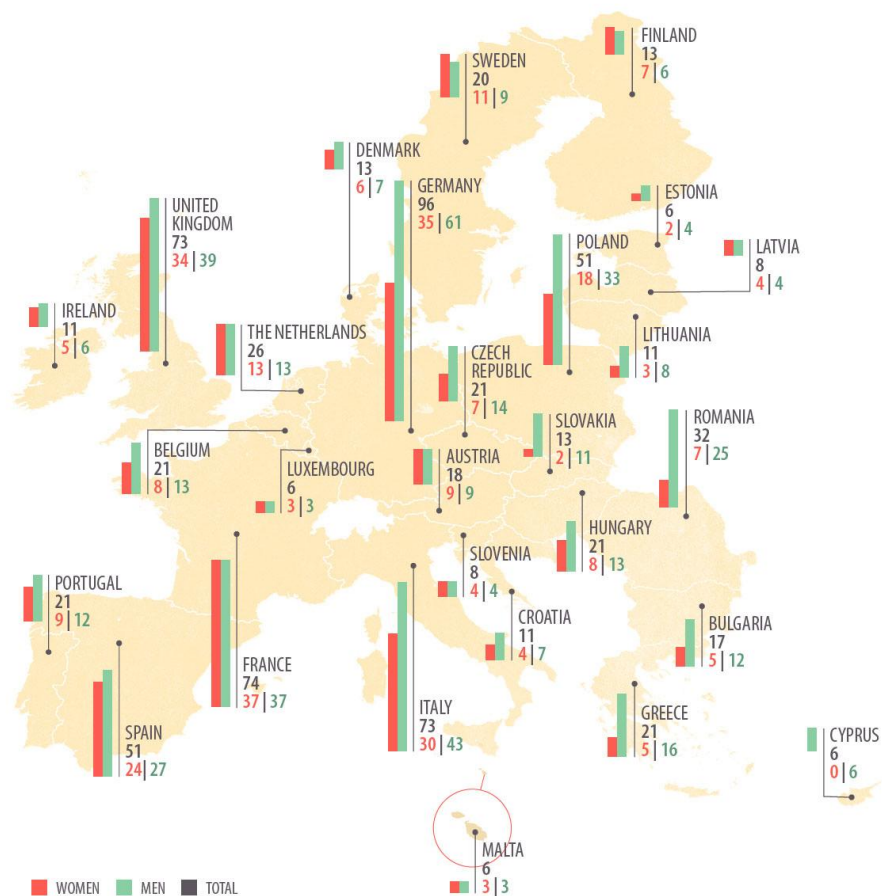
While [the European Parliament stands for gender equality](#), women continue to be under-represented in politics and public life at local, national and European level, as shown by [recent data](#).

Over the years, the percentage of female MEPs has increased. Only **31 women** were members from 1952 until the first elections in 1979. In the first directly-elected European Parliament representation of women stood at 15.2%. The percentage of female members has gone up with each election. Currently, it is the highest it has ever been with 40.4% of MEPs now being

women.

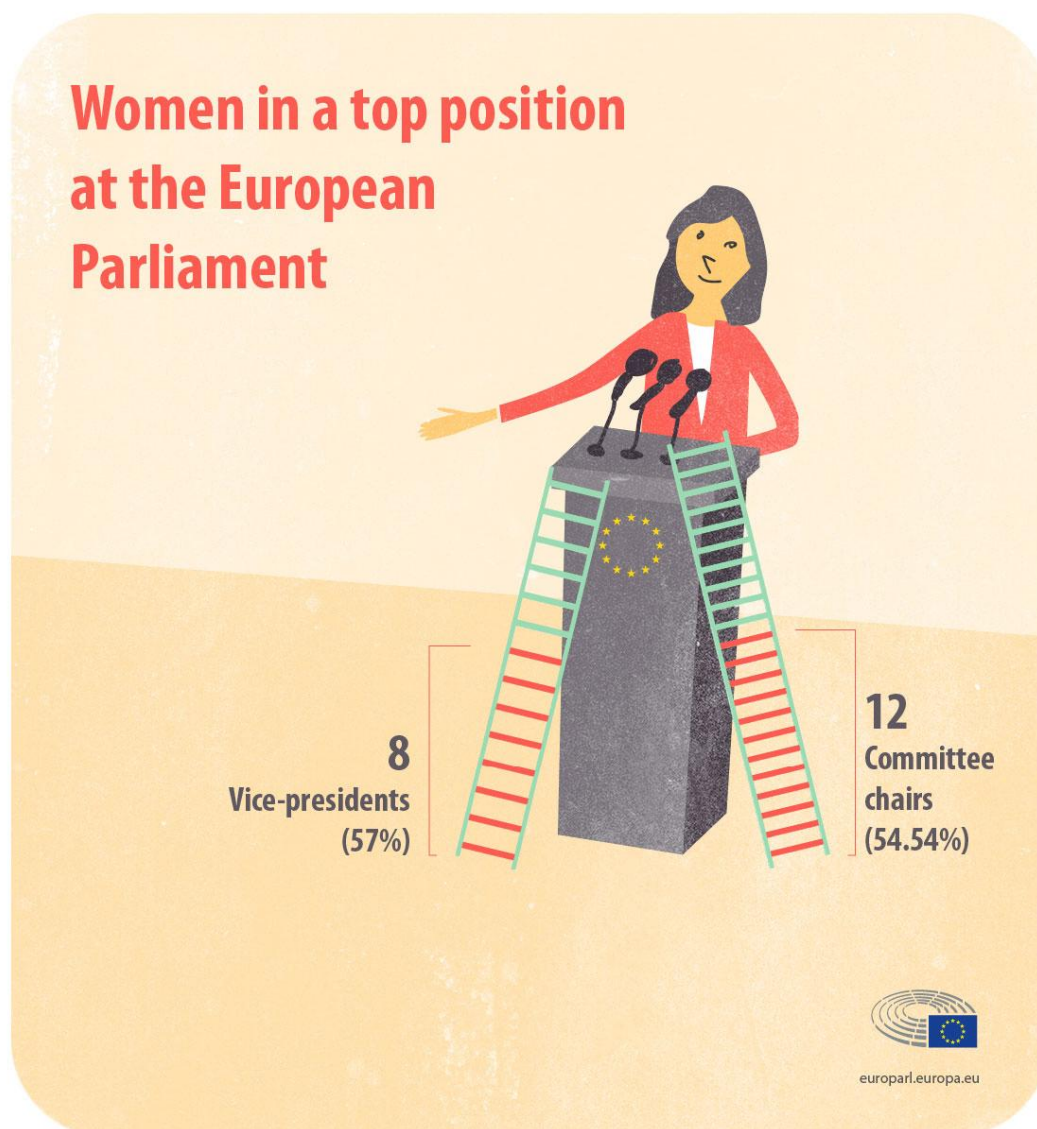
As far as the representation of women in the European Parliament goes, it is above the [world average](#) for national parliaments and [above the EU average](#) for national parliaments.

Members of the European Parliament: situation on 16 July 2019



Proportion of female and male MEPs per country

The number of women in high-level posts in the European Parliament is also increasing. In the current ninth parliamentary term, eight of the 14 vice-presidents are women, as are 12 of the 22 committee chairs. That is up from the [previous term](#) when we had five vice-presidents and eleven female chairs in a total of 23 committees.



Women in a top position at the Parliament

Women in top EU jobs

For the first time, [the president of the European Commission will be a woman](#). Ursula von der Leyen declared ahead of her election in Parliament that she wanted a gender-balanced College of Commissioners and lived up to her promise. On 9 September, she presented 12 women and 14 men as commission nominees.

Economic decision-making continues to be the [area where the EU scores the lowest](#) in terms of gender equality and women's representation. Men continue to dominate central banks and finance ministries. Parliament has been calling for [more women in high-level posts in economic and monetary affairs](#). For the first time ever a women could lead the European Central Bank, with [Christine Lagarde](#) nominated for the job.

Find out more

[International Women's Day 2019](#)

[Gender equality index in the EU and member states](#)