European Parliament: Facts and Figures

This Briefing, published by the European Parliamentary Research Service, is designed to provide key facts and figures about the European Parliament. It looks at both the current parliamentary term (July 2019 to June 2024) and the eight previous five-year terms since direct elections were introduced in June 1979.

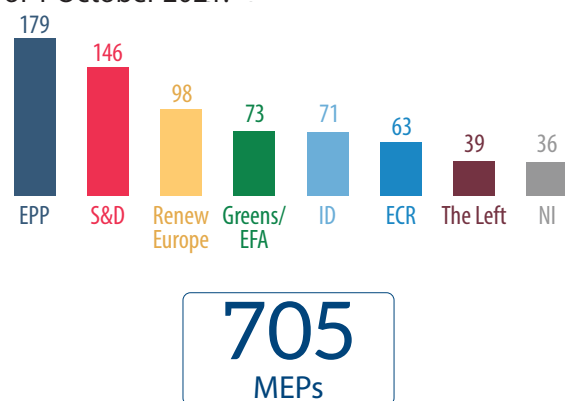On the following pages you will find graphics of various kinds which:

- detail the composition of the European Parliament now and in the past;
- trace the increase in the number of parties represented in the EP and the evolution of political groups;
- show the age of Members and chart the rise in the number of women sitting in the Parliament;
- explain the electoral systems used in elections to the Parliament across the Member States;
- show how turnout in European elections has changed over time and varied between Member States;
- summarise the work of the Parliament in the current and previous five-year terms;
- outline the composition of the Parliament's committees, delegations and governing bodies;
- explain the legislative role of the Parliament and its interaction with the European Commission.

The Briefing is being updated regularly over the 2019-24 term to take account of latest developments.
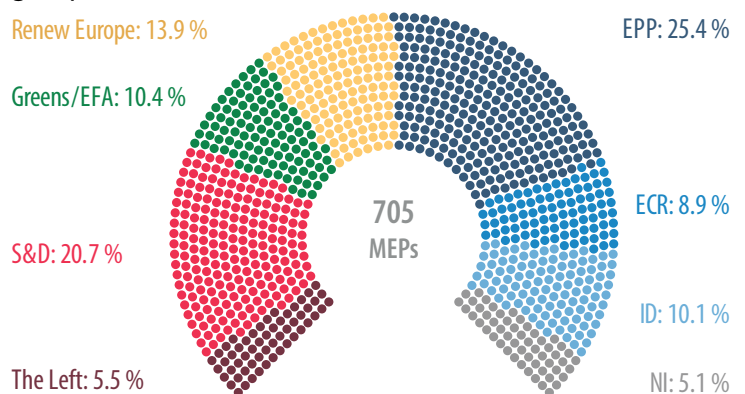
European Parliament, 2019-24

Size of the political groups

Number of Members in each political group as of 1 October 2021.

Group	Members
EPP	179
S&D	146
Renew Europe	98
Greens/EFA	73
ID	71
ECR	63
The Left	39
NI	36

705 MEPs

Proportion of Members in each political group

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

Renew Europe: 13.9 %
Greens/EFA: 10.4 %
S&D: 20.7 %
The Left: 5.5 %
EPP: 25.4 %
ECR: 8.9 %
ID: 10.1 %
NI: 5.1 %

705 MEPs

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),
- Identity and Democracy Group (ID),
- European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR),
- The Left Group in the European Parliament - GUE/NGL.

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

Size of political groups in the EP by Member State (as of 1 October 2021)

	EPP	S&D	Renew Europe	Greens/EFA	ID	ECR	The Left	NI	Total
DE	30	16	7	25	10	1	5	2	96
FR	8	6	23	13	23		6		79
IT	11	18	2	4	25	8		8	76
ES	13	21	9	3		4	6	3	59
PL	17	7		1		27			52
RO	14	10	8			1			33
NL	6	6	7	3	1	4	1	1	29
BE	4	3	4	3	3	3	1		21
CZ	5	1	5	3	2	4	1		21
EL	8	2				1	6	4	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	5	3	3			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	2	2	1	1		2			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
	179	146	98	73	71	63	39	36	705
	EPP	S&D	Renew Europe	Greens/EFA	ID	ECR	The Left	NI	Total
	25.4 %	20.7 %	13.9 %	10.4 %	10.1 %	8.9 %	5.5 %	5.1 %	100 %

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

Country codes and flags:

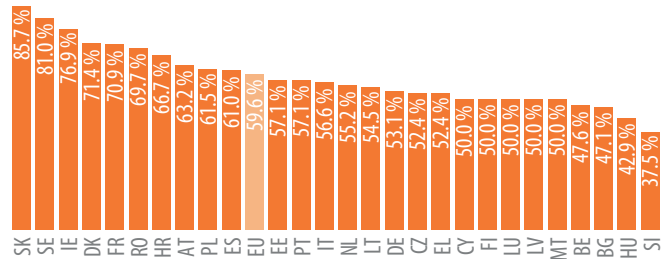|					
Belgium (BE)	Bulgaria (BG)	Czechia (CZ)	Denmark (DK)	Germany (DE)	Estonia (EE)
Ireland (IE)	Greece (EL)	Spain (ES)	France (FR)	Croatia (HR)	Italy (IT)
Cyprus (CY)	Latvia (LV)	Lithuania (LT)	Luxembourg (LU)	Hungary (HU)	Malta (MT)
Netherlands (NL)	Austria (AT)	Poland (PL)	Portugal (PT)	Romania (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 the total. 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 57 new MEPs out of 72.

420	271	14
59.6 %	38.4 %	2.0 %
New MEPs	Re-elected MEPs	

■ New MEPs who had never sat in the European Parliament.

■ Re-elected MEPs who were in the EP during at least the previous term (2014-19).

■ Re-elected MEPs who were in the EP during a previous term, but not during the 2014-19 term.

Share of new MEPs by Member State

Share of new MEPs by political group

ID	Renew Europe	Greens/EFA	ECR	The Left	S&D	EPP	NI
79.2 %	69.4 %	64.4 %	63.9 %	61.5 %	56.8 %	44.4 %	60.5 %
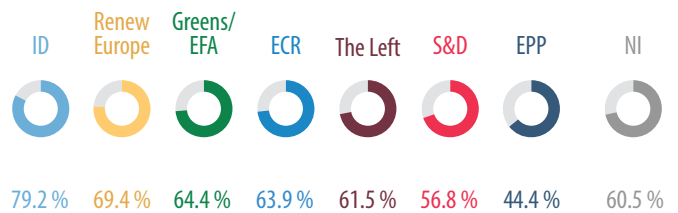
In the first two years of the current parliamentary term (July 2019 to June 2021), a total of 25 MEPs were replaced for different reasons. Five MEPs resigned, one died, and 19 were appointed to an office incompatible with membership of the European Parliament – for instance, they became members of their 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 European Parliament.
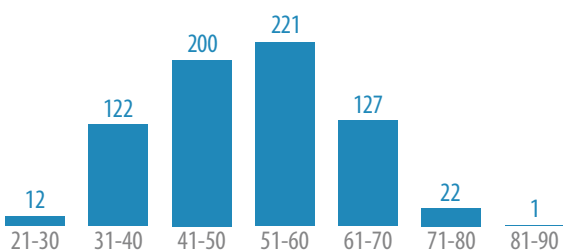
Age of MEPs

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 52 years; national averages vary between 45 and 62. The youngest MEP is from Denmark (23 years old) and the oldest is from Italy (84 years old).

| 23	52	84
Lowest	Average	Highest
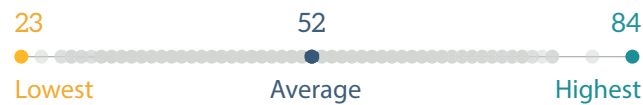
Age distribution of MEPs

The graph below represents the age distribution of the 705 MEPs. It shows, for instance, that 200 MEPs are aged between 41 and 50 years. The mode – the most common value – is 58 years and the median – the middle value – is, like the average, 52 years. The majority of MEPs are aged between 41 and 60 years old.

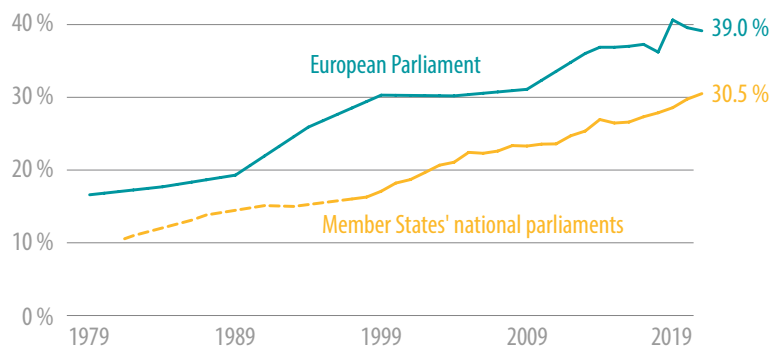|	Lowest	Average	Highest
MT	31	45	73
SE	28	45	60
HU	32	47	68
NL	31	47	68
BG	32	47	69
DK	23	47	76
CZ	28	48	68
AT	28	49	63
HR	30	49	62
RO	34	50	69
SK	36	50	67
DE	28	50	72
EE	29	50	64
PT	29	51	68
IT	32	51	84
SI	32	51	61
FR	25	52	74
ES	27	52	76
BE	36	52	69
LU	36	52	69
GR	27	52	68
FI	28	55	75
IE	33	55	70
CY	51	57	61
PL	35	58	80
LV	44	59	70
LT	56	62	66
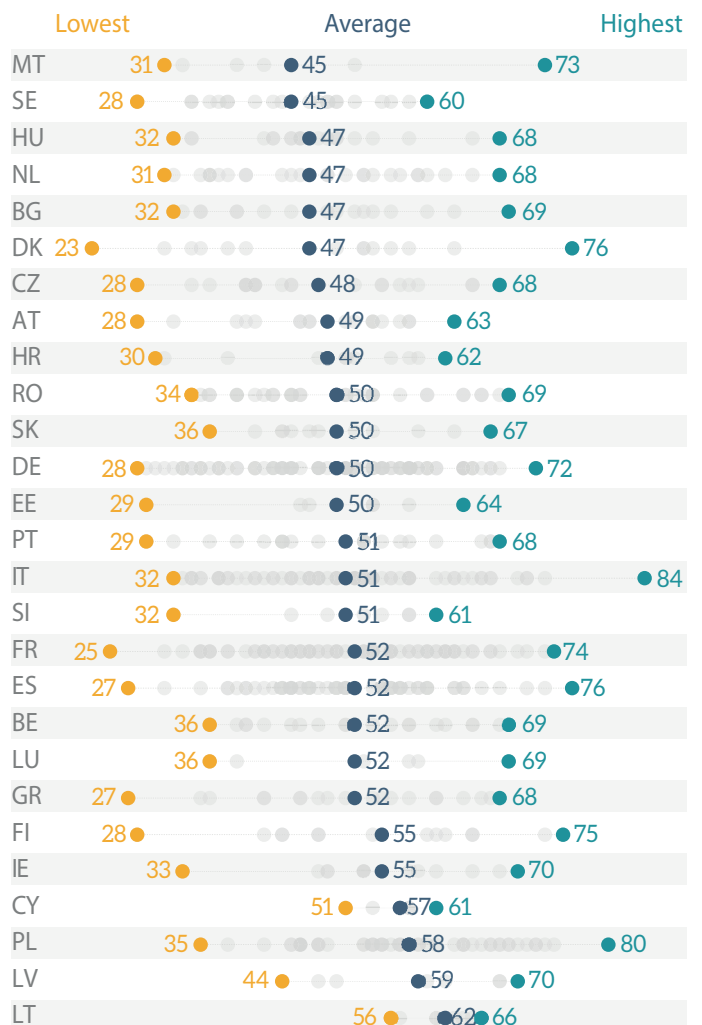
Proportion of men and women in the EP

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.
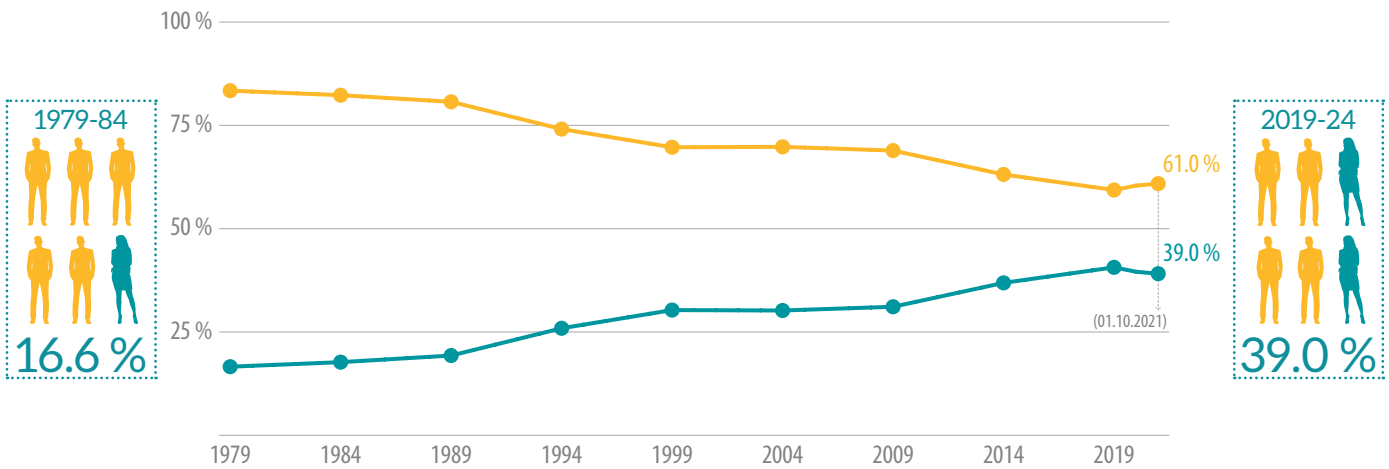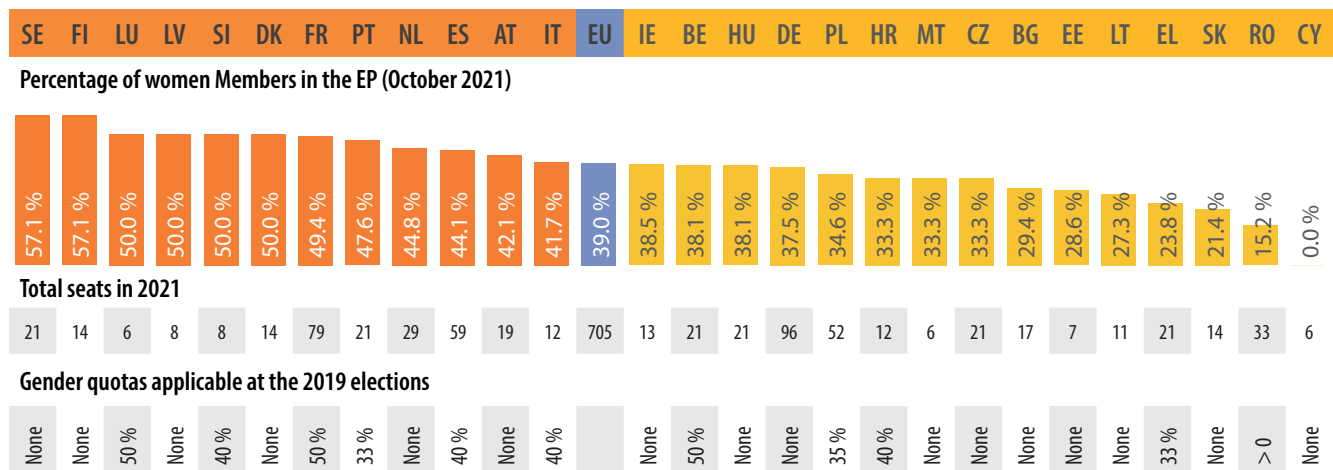

Women in the EP and EU national parliaments

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 consequence 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

SE	FI	LU	LV	SI	DK	FR	PT	NL	ES	AT	IT	EU	IE	BE	HU	DE	PL	HR	MT	CZ	BG	EE	LT	EL	SK	RO	CY

Percentage of women Members in the EP (October 2021)

57.1 %	57.1 %	50.0 %	50.0 %	50.0 %	50.0 %	49.4 %	47.6 %	44.8 %	44.1 %	42.1 %	41.7 %	39.0 %	38.5 %	38.1 %	38.1 %	37.5 %	34.6 %	33.3 %	33.3 %	33.3 %	29.4 %	28.6 %	27.3 %	23.8 %	21.4 %	15.2 %	0.0 %

Total seats in 2021

21	14	6	8	8	14	79	21	29	59	19	12	705	13	21	21	96	52	12	6	21	17	7	11	21	14	33	6

Gender quotas applicable at the 2019 elections

None	None	50 %	None	40 %	None	50 %	33 %	None	40 %	None	40 %		None	50 %	None	None	35 %	40 %	None	None	None	None	None	33 %	None	> 0	None

The percentage of women MEPs in the current European Parliament varies between zero in Cyprus and 57 % in Sweden. 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 1 October 2021.
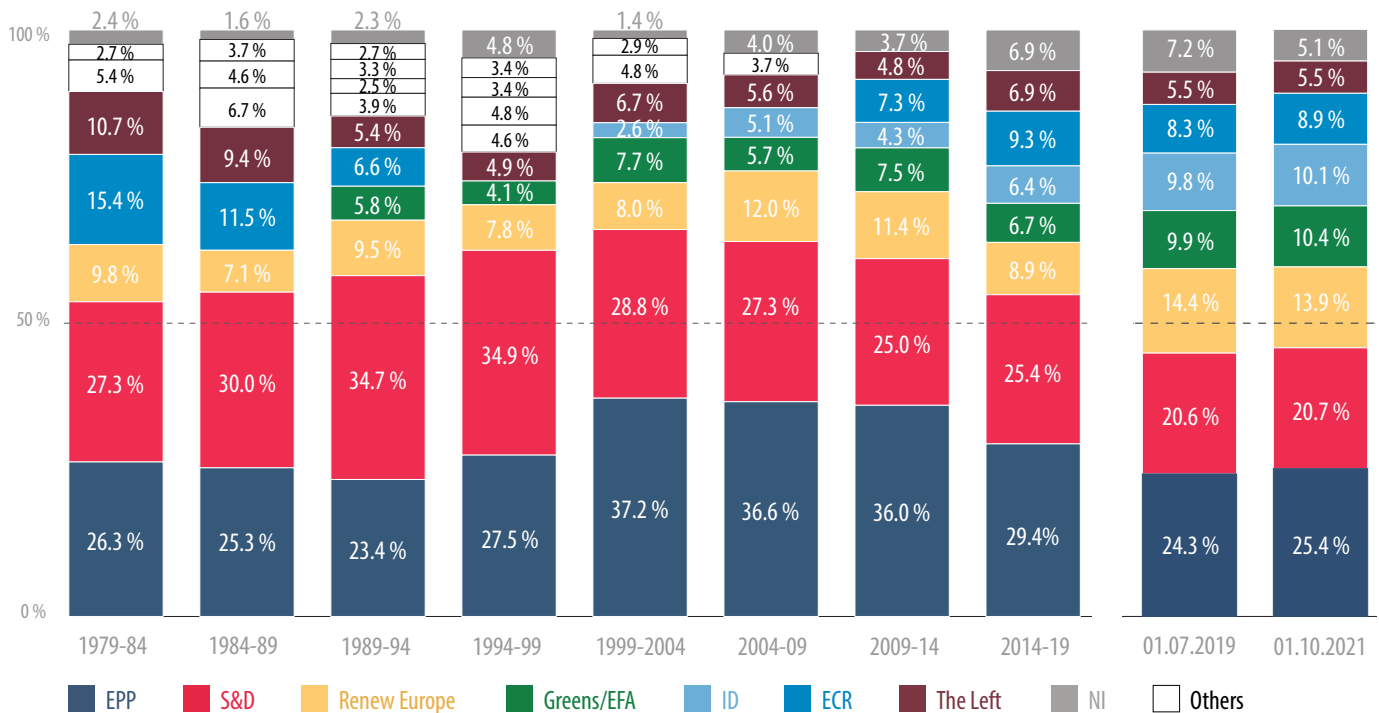
Source: DG Communication, European Parliament.

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 cases 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 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 EP. 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 – 202 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	01.07.2019	01.10.2021
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	202
Number of national delegations in political groups	37	42	64	58	74	109	116	129	128	137

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, as shown in the table below. The Member States concerned had already made provision for filling those seats at the June 2019 elections.

Member States gaining additional seats on 1 February 2020

Member State:	FR	ES	IT	NL	IE	PL	RO	SE	AT	DK	SK	FI	HR	EE	TOTAL
Additional seats:	5	5	3	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	27

NB: These seats are included in the totals for each country shown on the map.

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). As a general rule, under PR, voters can 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.
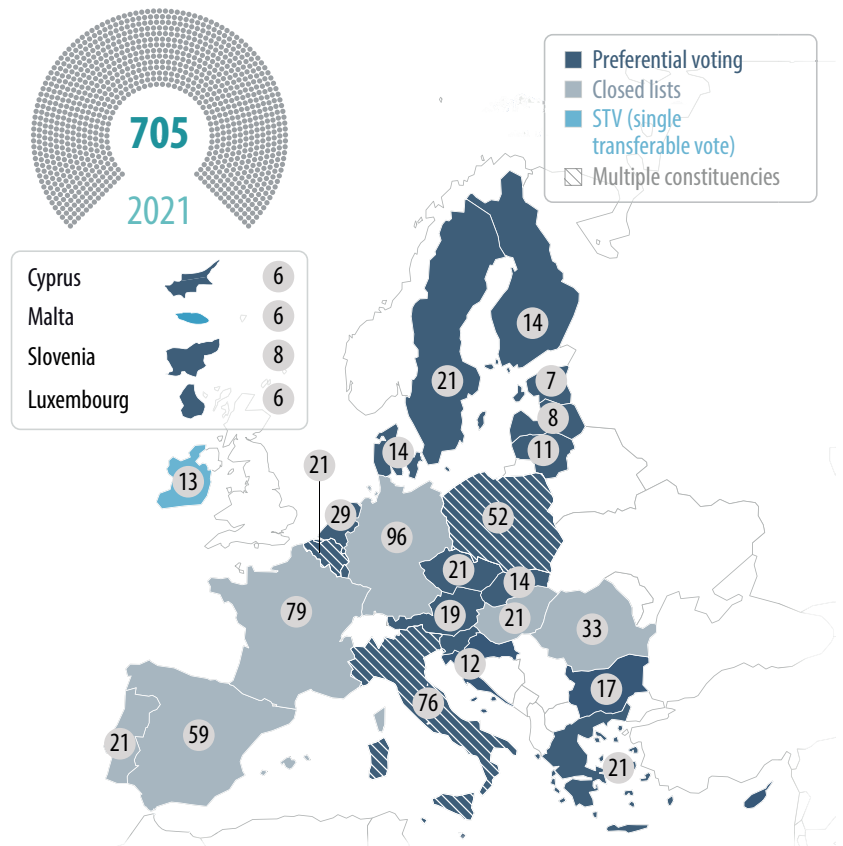
Electoral threshold

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.

5 %	4 %	3 %	1.8 %	None
CZ HU	IT AT	EL	CY	BE IE NL
FR PL	SE			BG ES SI
HR RO				DK LU FI
LV SK				DE MT EE
LT				PT
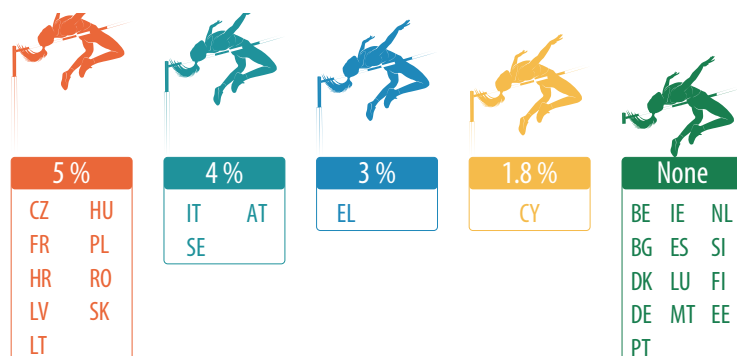
Turnout in European elections

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).

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 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, again with a sharp upturn in the most recent (2018) mid-term election.

Turnout at EP elections by Member State
Turnout at EP elections (EU overall)

EU average: 50.62 %

More than 60 %
50 % - 60 %
40 % - 50 %
20 % - 40 %
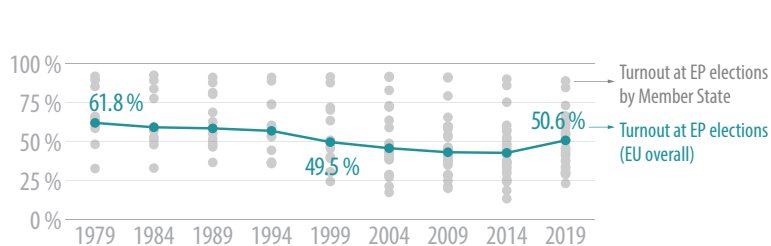
Such a downward trend can also be observed in national elections over the same period, although from a higher baseline, given that governments are also being elected in such contests.

The map shows the turnout at the 2019 European elections in each Member State.
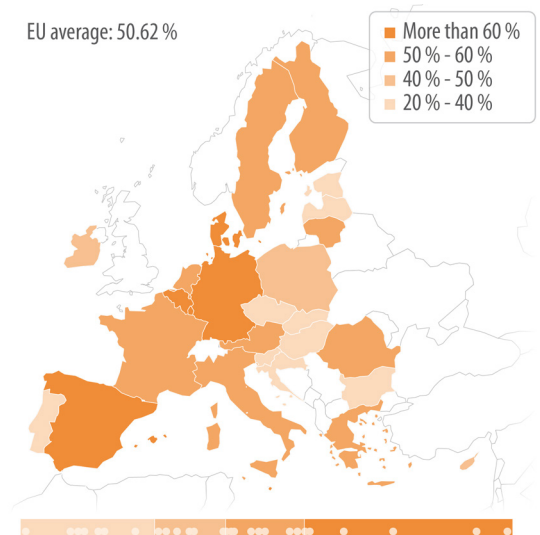
The work of the European Parliament

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 'co-decision' procedure – see page 14.

The statistics below show that whilst the 2014-19 European Parliament sat for longer than its predecessor and held almost a third more votes, it adopted fewer texts, both legislative and non-legislative.

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

260 Days
Plenary sitting days

2 160 Hours
Hours of sittings

23 553
Votes

?
58 840
Written questions tabled

21 298
Amendments adopted

22 692
Amendments rejected

2 790 Texts
Texts adopted

of which

1 071 Texts
Legislative acts
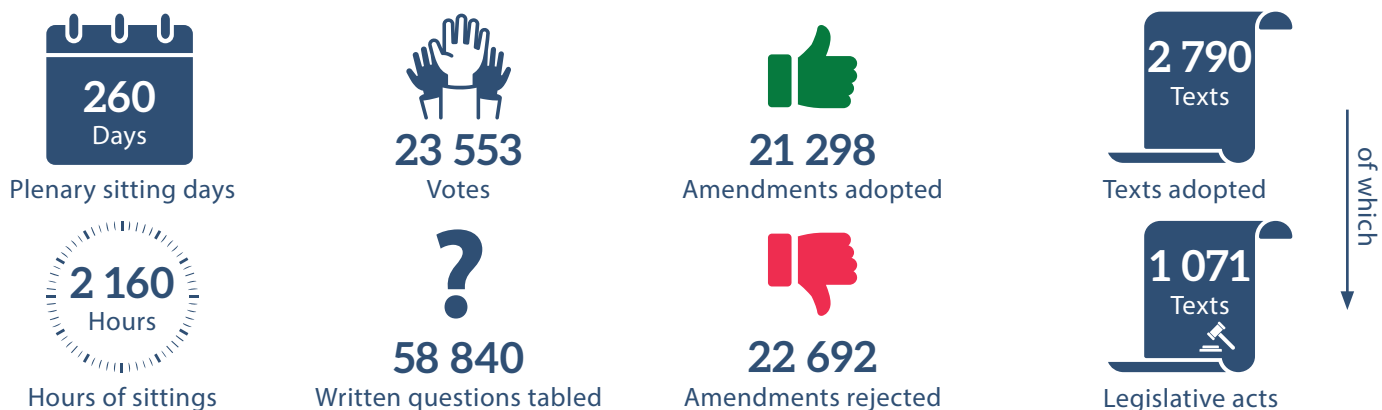
Activity in EP plenary sessions in the **eighth term** (July 2014 - June 2019)

279 Days
Plenary sitting days

2 401 Hours
Hours of sittings

30 992
Votes

?
48 207
Written questions tabled

18 824
Amendments adopted

9 645
Amendments rejected

2 575 Texts
Texts adopted

of which

965 Texts
Legislative acts
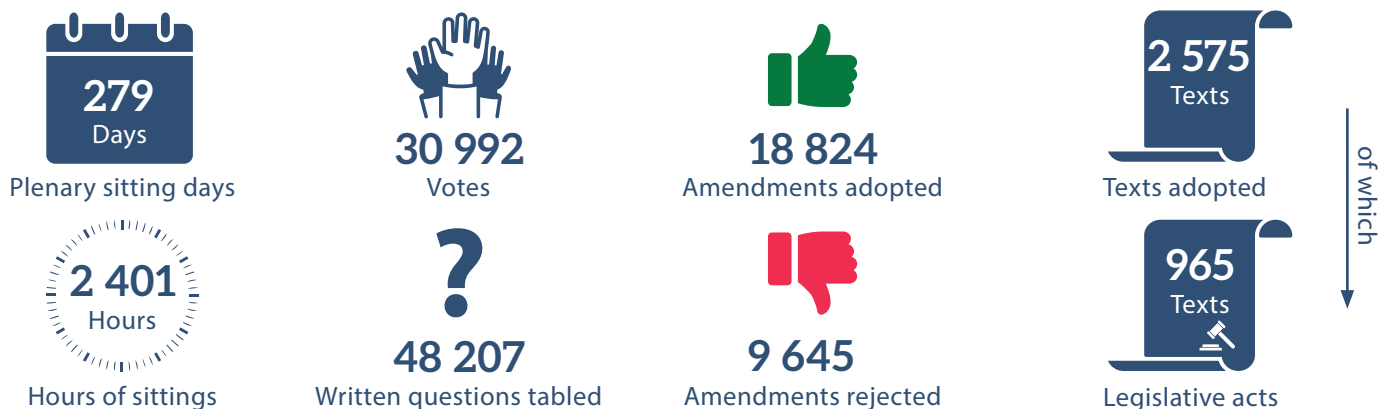
Activity in EP plenary sessions in the **ninth term** so far (July 2019 - Dec 2020)

79 Days
Plenary sitting days

421 Hours
Hours of sittings

7 033
Votes

?
9 716
Written questions tabled

3 271
Amendments adopted

2 765
Amendments rejected

500 Texts
Texts adopted

of which

172 Texts
Legislative acts
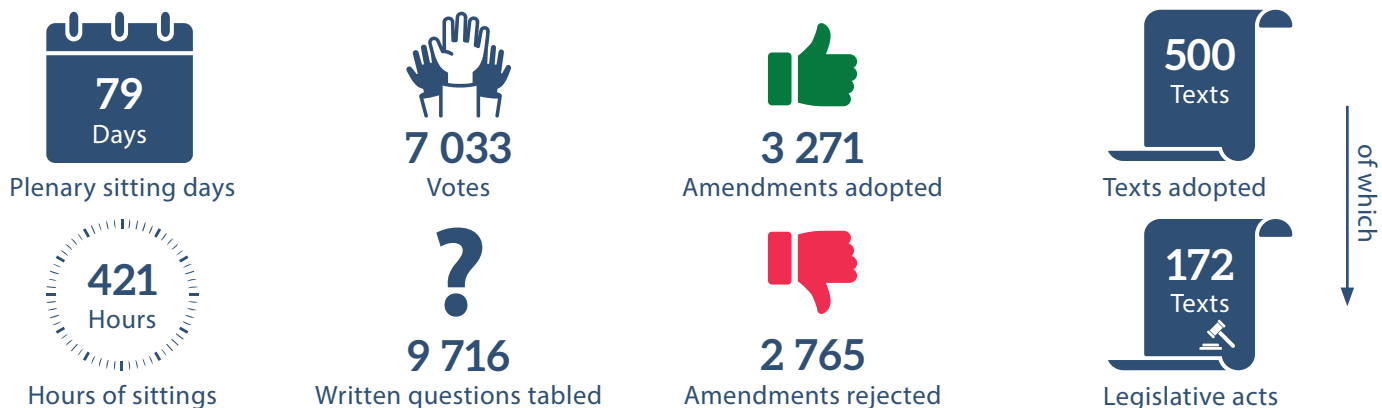
Source: Plenary Organisation and Follow-up Unit, DG Presidency, European Parliament.

EP work during the coronavirus crisis

The graphic below left aims to compare the Parliament's activity in 2020, much of it affected by the coronavirus crisis, with the equivalent first full calendar year of the preceding term (2015). On the left below, in blue, are data for 2015, and, in orange, for 2020. The graphic below right shows monthly data for the two years in question. In 2020, the Parliament sat for slightly fewer days than in 2015, and for barely half the hours of the earlier year. Despite the reduced sitting time, the Parliament held almost the same number of votes in 2020 as in 2015, using a remote voting procedure introduced in March 2020. Moreover, it both adopted and rejected significantly more amendments in 2020 than in 2015, although overall it adopted fewer texts than it had five years earlier.

	8th term 2015	9th term 2020	Monthly comparison 2015 vs 2020
Plenary sitting days	59	51	
Hours	529	260	
Votes	6 575	5 964	
Amendments adopted	1 585	2 809	
Amendments rejected	1 509	2 298	
Texts adopted	474	388	
of which Legislative acts	154	141	
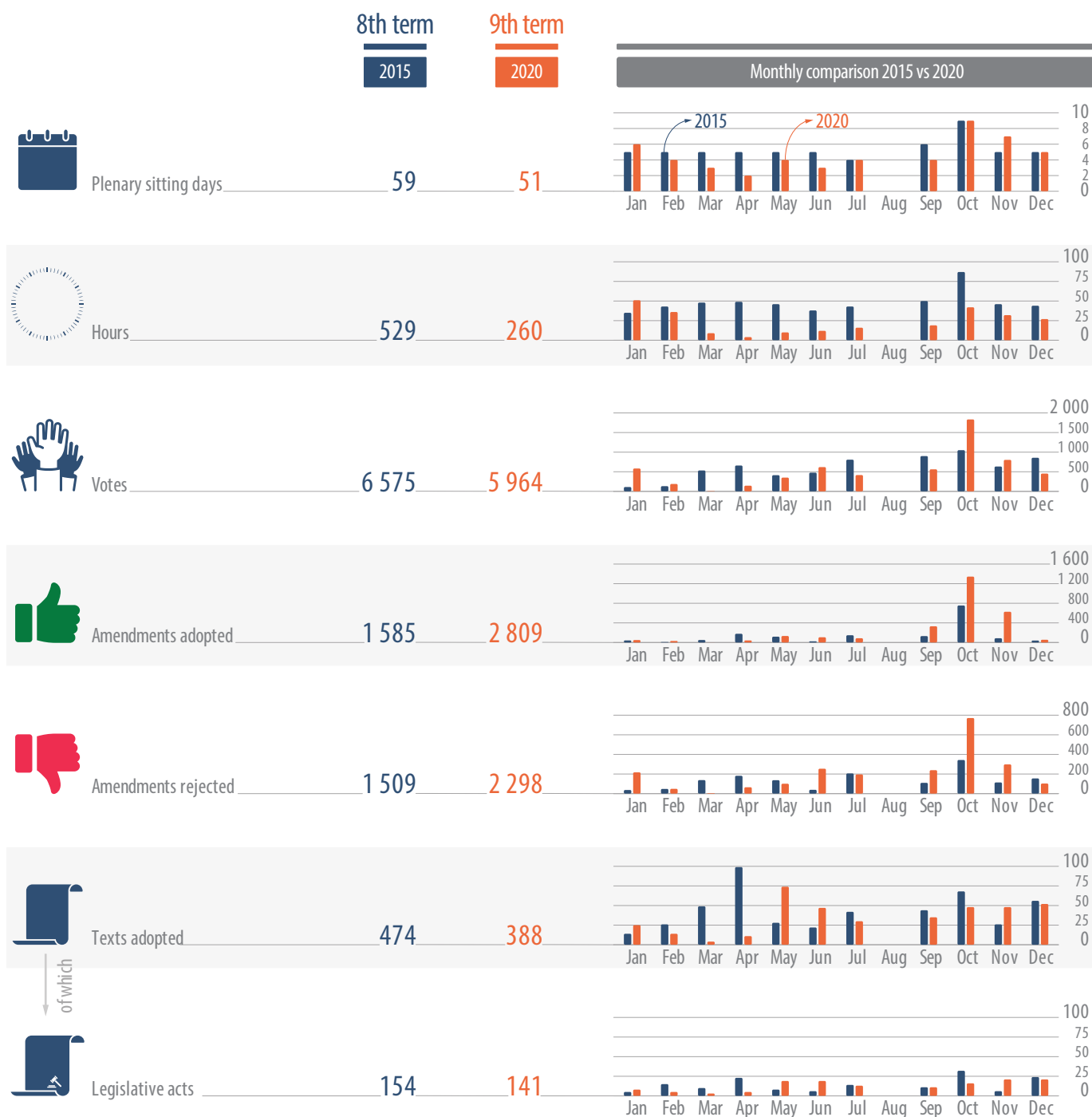
Parliamentary committees

There are 20 standing committees (and three 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 Antonio Tajani, Chair of the Constitutional Affairs (AFCO) Committee, as their chair for the first half of the current parliamentary term.

The pie chart at the bottom shows the distribution of committee chairs between the political groups in July 2019, using the same colour code as before. In addition to the standing committees, the Parliament currently has three special committees and a committee of inquiry, whose terms are all due to expire later in 2021.

Committees and sub-committees	Number of MEPs	Name of Chair		
Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI)	81	Pascal CANFIN	Renew Europe	
Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE)	78	Cristian-Silviu BUŞOI	EPP	
Foreign Affairs (AFET)	71	David McALLISTER	EPP	
Human Rights (DROI)	30	Maria ARENA	S&D	
Security and Defence (SEDE)	30	Nathalie LOISEAU	Renew Europe	
Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE)	68	Juan Fernando LÓPEZ AGUILAR	S&D	
Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON)	60	Irene TINAGLI	S&D	
Tax Matters (FISC)	30	Paul TANG	S&D	
Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL)	55	Lucia ĎURIŠ NICHOLSONOVÁ	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)	35	Evelyn REGNER	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	Antonio TAJANI	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 (July 2019)

20 committees

40 %
20 %
15 %
10 %
10 %
5 %
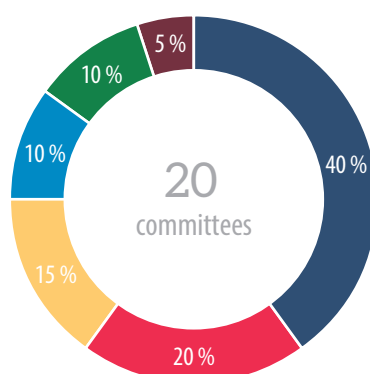
EP committees' relationship with European Commissioners

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.

	Commissioner	Commissioner's policy portfolio	Multiple coverage	by committee
Vice-Presidents	Frans Timmermans	European Green Deal		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		AFET
	Margaritis Schinas	Promoting our European Way of Life		LIBE, CULT
	Maroš Šefčovič	Interinstitutional Relations and Foresight		AFCO
Commissioners	Věra Jourová	Values and Transparency		AFCO, LIBE
	Dubravka Šuica	Democracy and Demography		AFCO
	Johannes Hahn	Budget and Administration		BUDG, CONT
	Mariya Gabriel	Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth		ITRE, CULT
	Nicolas Schmit	Jobs and Social Rights		EMPL
	Paolo Gentiloni	Economy		ECON
	Janusz Wojciechowski	Agriculture		AGRI
	Thierry Breton	Internal Market		IMCO, ITRE
	Elisa Ferreira	Cohesion and Reforms		REGI
	Stella Kyriakides	Health and Food Safety		ENVI
	Didier Reynders	Justice		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		DEVE
	Kadri Simson	Energy		ITRE
	Virginijus Sinkevičius	Environment, Oceans and Fisheries		ENVI, PECH
	Mairead McGuinness	Financial Services, Financial Stability and Capital Markets Union		ECON

Parliamentary committees — Multiple coverage committees: ENVI, ECON, EMPL, ITRE, IMCO, AFET, LIBE, CULT, AFCO, DEV

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 44 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		63	Radosław SIKORSKI	EPP	
Euronest Parliamentary Assembly		60	Andrius KUBILIUS	EPP	
Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean		49	David Maria SASSOLI	S&D	
China		37	Reinhard BÜTIKOFER	Greens/EFA	
Russia		31	Ryszard CZARNECKI	ECR	
South East Asia / ASEAN		26	Daniel CASPARY	EPP	
Turkey		25	Sergey LAGODINSKY	Greens/EFA	
Japan		24	Christel SCHALDEMOSE	S&D	
India		23	Søren GADE	Renew Europe	
Mercosur		19	Stéphane SÉJOURNÉ	Renew Europe	
Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Mongolia		19	Fulvio MARTUSCIELLO	EPP	
Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia		18	Marina KALJURAND	S&D	
Palestine		18	Manu PINEDA	The Left	
Maghreb / Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria		18	Andrea COZZOLINO	S&D	
Mashreq		18	Isabel SANTOS	S&D	
Israel		18	Antonio LÓPEZ-ISTÚRIZ WHITE	EPP	
Northern Cooperation / European Economic Area (EEA) / Switzerland		17	Andreas SCHWAB	EPP	
Canada		16	Stéphanie YON-COURTIN	Renew	
Ukraine		16	Witold Jan WASZCZYKOWSKI	ECR	
Chile		15	Inmaculada RODRÍGUEZ-PIÑERO	S&D	
Serbia		15	Tanja FAJON	S&D	
Arab Peninsula		15	Hannah NEUMANN	Greens/EFA	
Central America		15	Tilly METZ	Greens/EFA	
South Africa		15	Magdalena ADAMOWICZ	EPP	
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		12	Pilar del CASTILLO VERA	EPP	
Korean Peninsula		12	Lukas MANDL	EPP	
Australia and New Zealand		12	Ulrike MÜLLER	Renew Europe	
Belarus		12	Robert BIEDROŃ	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		7	Sara SKYTTEDAL	EPP	
Afghanistan		7	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.

Note: The EP is also expected to establish a delegation with the United Kingdom Parliament in the near future.

European Parliament legislative activity, 2004-20

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', traditionally 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 co-decision 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 growing 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.
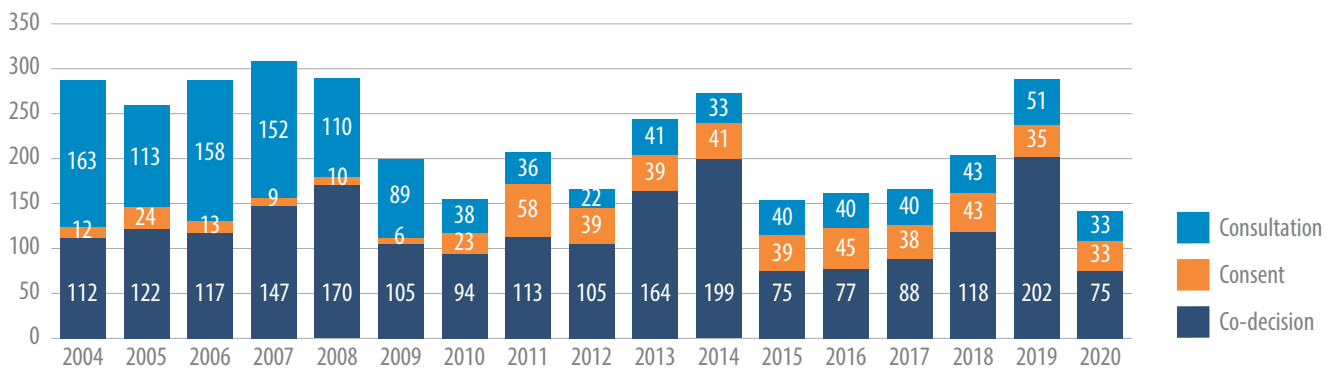
Co-decision procedure

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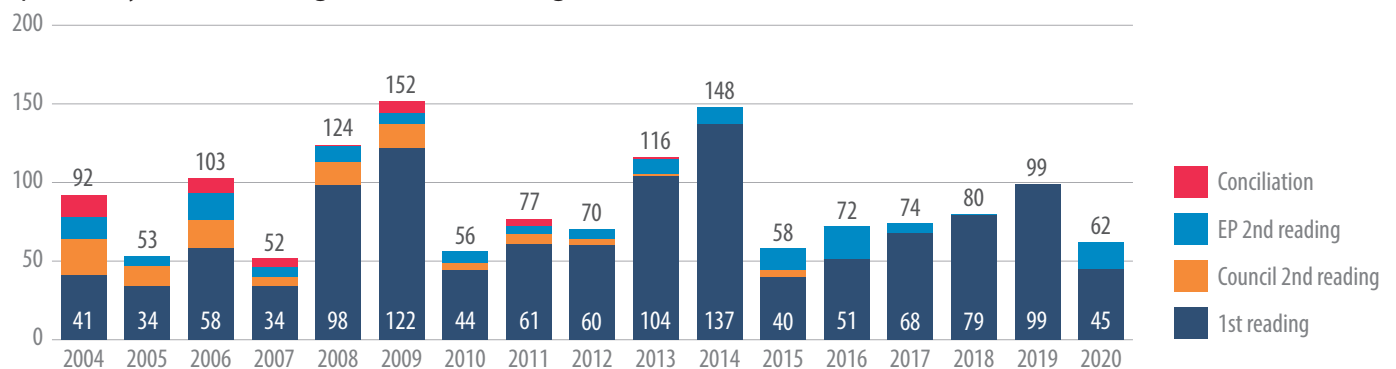
Source: Legislative Planning and Coordination Unit, DG Presidency, European Parliament.

It is still too early in the current parliamentary term to show the average length of time taken for the co-decision procedure, particularly given the disruption caused by coronavirus. During the previous term (July 2014 to June 2019), the average duration of each completed ordinary legislative procedure (co-decision), was 18 months for those concluded at first reading, 39 months for those concluded at second reading, and 40 months for those ending with the Council's second reading. (None went to a third reading.)

Number of trilogues per year and per committee

From July 2019 to December 2020, EP committees participated in a total of 244 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 2009-14 term, with a peak in 2013, notably reflecting decisions on programmes within the 2014-20 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 is considerably lower than for 2015, in large part due to the coronavirus crisis restricting possibilities to meet physically. In 2020, out of 169 trilogue meetings, 138 involved a single committee, while in 31 cases, two committees took part. The pie chart shows which parliamentary committees were most involved in trilogue in 2020, the first full year of the 2019-24 term. It highlights the eight most active committees in terms of trilogue meetings held, as a percentage of the total.
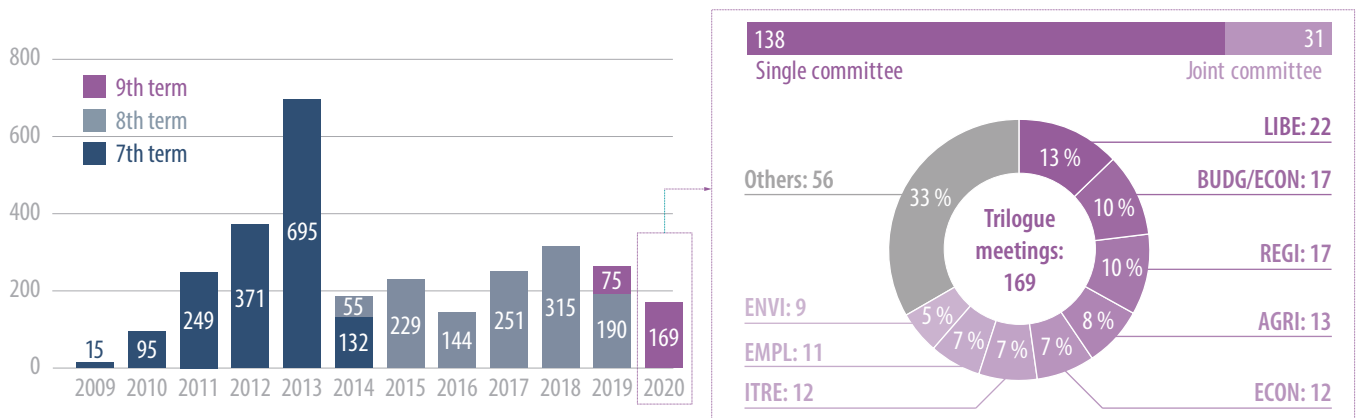
Number of legislative and own-initiative reports

The chart below shows the number of reports adopted in each parliamentary committee between July 2019 and December 2020; the number in grey represents the previous term (2014-19) 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.

Certain committees work on other types of report, in particular procedures relating to the annual budget (BUDG), the discharge of previous budget (CONT), and questions of Members' immunity in legal proceedings (JURI).

	Own-initiative reports		Legislative opinion		Delegated and implemented acts	
Foreign Affairs (AFET)	18	(101)	0	(47)		
Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON)	9	(43)	30	(107)	46	(216)
Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE)	9	(29)	21	(174)	6	(14)
Legal Affairs (JURI)	7	(28)	4	(97)	2	(7)
Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL)	6	(30)	4	(29)	15	(22)
Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM)	4	(26)				
Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE)	4	(21)	5	(58)	10	(32)
Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO)	4	(18)	1	(38)	16	(72)
Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI)	3	(20)	9	(57)	146	(518)
Culture and Education (CULT)	2	(20)	1	(9)	1	(1)
Budgetary Control (CONT)	2	(16)	8	(28)		
Petitions (PETI)	2	(11)				
Budgets (BUDG)	2	(5)	4	(10)	1	(2)
International Trade (INTA)	1	(23)	16	(72)	15	(44)
Development (DEVE)	1	(22)	1	(2)	0	(1)
Constitutional Affairs (AFCO)	1	(18)	1	(8)	1	(3)
Transport and Tourism (TRAN)	1	(18)	16	(61)	25	(80)
Fisheries (PECH)	1	(17)	19	(47)	16	(57)
Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI)	1	(16)	4	(16)	31	(93)
Regional Development (REGI)	0	(29)	8	(19)	2	(9)
Joint committees	2	(23)	6	(28)	4	(12)

Source: Legislative Coordination Unit, DG Internal Policies, European Parliament.

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 his predecessors since the first direct elections in 1979, with their political group and nationality.

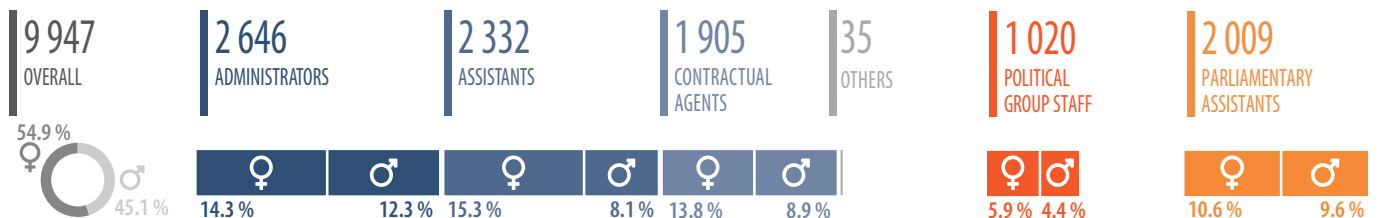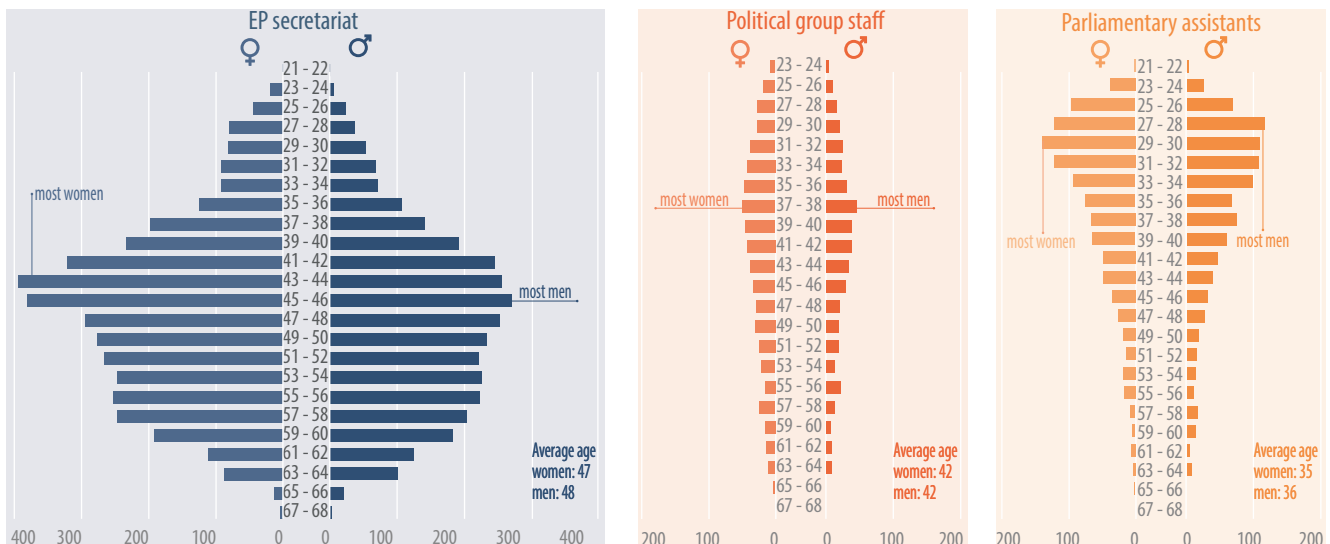| 9th term	8th term		7th term		6th term		5th term	
2022 — 2019	2017	2014	2012	2009	2007	2004	2002	1999
David Maria Sassoli 🇮🇹	Antonio Tajani 🇮🇹	Martin Schulz 🇩🇪	Martin Schulz 🇩🇪	Jerzy Buzek 🇵🇱	Hans-Gert Pöttering 🇩🇪	Josep Borrell Fontelles 🇪🇸	Pat Cox 🇮🇪	Nicole Fontaine 🇫🇷
Socialists and Democrats	European People's Party	Socialists and Democrats	Socialists and Democrats	European People's Party	European People's Party	Socialist	Liberal and Democratic Reformist	European People's Party

1st term		2nd term		3rd term		4th term	
1979	1982	1984	1987	1989	1992	1994	1997	1999
Simone Veil 🇫🇷	Piet Dankert 🇳🇱	Pierre Pflimlin 🇫🇷	Lord Plumb 🇬🇧	Enrique Barón Crespo 🇪🇸	Egon Klepsch 🇩🇪	Klaus Hänsch 🇩🇪	José María Gil-Robles 🇪🇸
Liberal and Democratic	Socialist	European People's Party	European Democratic	Socialist	European People's Party	Socialist	European People's Party

Staff of the European Parliament

The European Parliament's permanent secretariat – headed by the Secretary-General, Klaus Welle – had a total of 6 918 staff in September 2021, of whom 38.2 % were administrators, 33.7 % assistants and 27.5 % contractual agents. In addition to the secretariat, a further 2 009 staff worked directly for Members as accredited parliamentary assistants (APAs), and 1 020 worked for the secretariats of political groups. In total, therefore, 9 947 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.

9 947 OVERALL	2 646 ADMINISTRATORS	2 332 ASSISTANTS	1 905 CONTRACTUAL AGENTS	35 OTHERS	1 020 POLITICAL GROUP STAFF	2 009 PARLIAMENTARY ASSISTANTS

54.9 % ♀ / ♂ 45.1 %

| ♀ 14.3 % | ♂ 12.3 % | ♀ 15.3 % | ♂ 8.1 % | ♀ 13.8 % | ♂ 8.9 % | ♀ 5.9 % | ♂ 4.4 % | ♀ 10.6 % | ♂ 9.6 % |

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.

EP secretariat ♀ ♂
21-22, 23-24, 25-26, 27-28, 29-30, 31-32, 33-34, 35-36, 37-38, 39-40, 41-42, 43-44, 45-46, 47-48, 49-50, 51-52, 53-54, 55-56, 57-58, 59-60, 61-62, 63-64, 65-66, 67-68
most women / most men
Average age women: 47 men: 48
400 300 200 100 0 0 100 200 300 400

Political group staff ♀ ♂
23-24, 25-26, 27-28, 29-30, 31-32, 33-34, 35-36, 37-38, 39-40, 41-42, 43-44, 45-46, 47-48, 49-50, 51-52, 53-54, 55-56, 57-58, 59-60, 61-62, 63-64, 65-66, 67-68
most women / most men
Average age women: 42 men: 42
200 100 0 0 100 200

Parliamentary assistants ♀ ♂
21-22, 23-24, 25-26, 27-28, 29-30, 31-32, 33-34, 35-36, 37-38, 39-40, 41-42, 43-44, 45-46, 47-48, 49-50, 51-52, 53-54, 55-56, 57-58, 59-60, 61-62, 63-64, 65-66, 67-68
most women / most men
Average age women: 35 men: 36
200 100 0 0 100 200

Governing bodies of the EP

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.
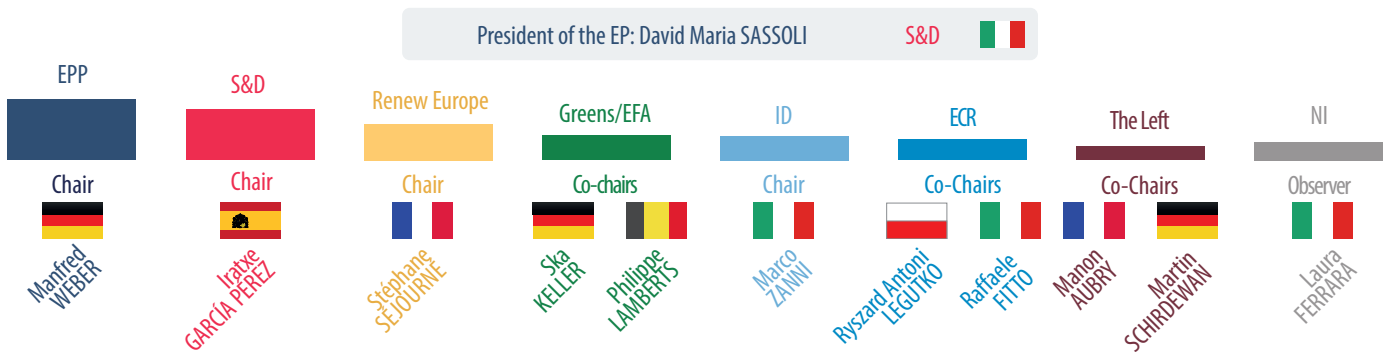
David Maria SASSOLI	President	S&D	
Roberta METSOLA	Vice-President	EPP	
Pedro SILVA PEREIRA	Vice-President	S&D	
Rainer WIELAND	Vice-President	EPP	
Katarina BARLEY	Vice-President	S&D	
Othmar KARAS	Vice-President	EPP	
Ewa KOPACZ	Vice-President	EPP	
Klára DOBREV	Vice-President	S&D	
Dita CHARANZOVÁ	Vice-President	Renew Europe	
Nicola BEER	Vice-President	Renew Europe	
Lívia JÁRÓKA	Vice-President	EPP	
Heidi HAUTALA	Vice-President	Greens/EFA	
Marcel KOLAJA	Vice-President	Greens/EFA	
Dimitrios PAPADIMOULIS	Vice-President	The Left	
Fabio Massimo CASTALDO	Vice-President	NI	
Anne SANDER	Quaestor	EPP	
Monika BEŇOVÁ	Quaestor	S&D	
David CASA	Quaestor	EPP	
Gilles BOYER	Quaestor	Renew Europe	
Karol KARSKI	Quaestor	ECR	

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.

President of the EP: David Maria SASSOLI — S&D

EPP	S&D	Renew Europe	Greens/EFA	ID	ECR	The Left	NI
Chair	Chair	Chair	Co-chairs	Chair	Co-Chairs	Co-Chairs	Observer
Manfred WEBER	Iratxe GARCÍA PÉREZ	Stéphane SÉJOURNÉ	Ska KELLER / Philippe LAMBERTS	Marco ZANNI	Ryszard Antoni LEGUTKO / Raffaele FITTO	Manon AUBRY / Martin SCHIRDEWAN	Laura FERRARA

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) – see page 10 – the Conference of Delegation Chairs – see page 12 – the Panel for the Future of Science and Technology (STOA Panel), and the Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group.

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