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, both today - during the current 2014 to 2019 parliamentary term - and in the seven previous 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 evolution of political groups;
- 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 compares with that in national elections;
- summarise the activity of the Parliament in the 2009-14 term, and so far in the current term;
- present the annual cost of the Parliament compared with other parliaments;
- outline the composition of the Parliament's main governing bodies.

The Briefing is updated regularly during the 2014-19 term to take account of latest developments.

European Parliament, 2014-19
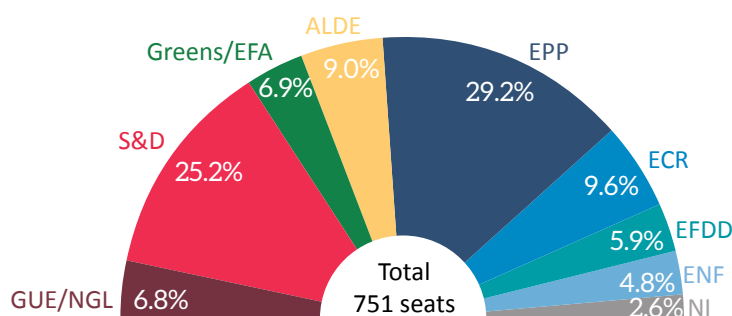
Size of the political groups

Number of MEPs in each political group as of 1 April 2018.

219 EPP
189 S&D
72 ECR
68 ALDE
52 Greens/EFA
51 GUE/NGL
44 EFDD
36 ENF
20 NI
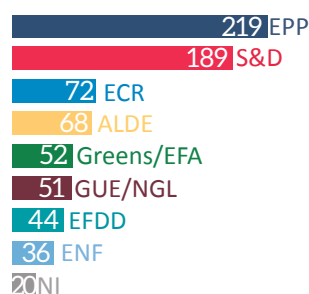
751 MEPs

Proportion of Members in each political group

Share of each political group in the total 751 seats in the Parliament.

ALDE 9.0%
Greens/EFA 6.9%
EPP 29.2%
S&D 25.2%
ECR 9.6%
EFDD 5.9%
ENF 4.8%
GUE/NGL 6.8%
NI 2.6%
Total 751 seats

The eight 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 in the European Parliament (S&D),
- European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR),
- Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE),
- Confederal Group of the European United Left – Nordic Green Left (GUE/NGL),
- Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance (Greens/EFA),
- Europe of Freedom and Direct Democracy Group (EFDD),
- Europe of Nations and Freedom (ENF).

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 April 2018)

|	EPP	S&D	ECR	ALDE	Greens/EFA	GUE/NGL	EFDD	ENF	NI	Total
DE	34	27	6	4	13	8	1	1	2	96
FR	20	13		7	6	4	4	17	3	74
IT	15	31	2		1	3	14	6	1	73
UK	2	20	19	1	6	1	20	1	3	73
ES	17	14		8	5	10				54
PL	22	5	19				1	2	2	51
RO	13	14	2	3						32
NL	5	3	2	7	2	3		4		26
BE	4	4	4	6	2			1		21
CZ	7	4	2	4		3	1			21
EL	5	4	1			6			5	21
HU	12	4			2				3	21
PT	8	8		1		4				21
SE	4	6		3	4	1	2			20
AT	5	5		1	3			4		18
BG	7	4	2	4						17
DK	1	3	3	3	1	1			1	13
SK	6	4	3							13
FI	3	2	2	4	1	1				13
IE	4	1	1	1		4				11
HR	5	2	1	2	1					11
LT	3	2	1	3	1		1			11
LV	4	1	1	1	1					8
SI	5	1		1	1					8
EE	1	1		3	1					6
CY	1	2	1			2				6
LU	3	1		1	1					6
MT	3	3								6
	219	189	70	68	52	51	44	36	20	751
	EPP	S&D	ECR	ALDE	Greens/EFA	GUE/NGL	EFDD	ENF	NI	Total
	29.2%	25.2%	9.5%	9.0%	6.9%	6.8%	5.9%	4.8%	2.6%	100%

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

Country codes and flags:

Austria (AT) Belgium (BE) Bulgaria (BG) Croatia (HR) Cyprus (CY) Czech Republic (CZ)

Denmark (DK) Estonia (EE) Finland (FI) France (FR) Germany (DE) Greece (EL)

Hungary (HU) Ireland (IE) Italy (IT) Latvia (LV) Lithuania (LT) Luxembourg (LU)

Malta (MT) Netherlands (NL) Poland (PL) Portugal (PT) Romania (RO) Slovakia (SK)

Slovenia (SI) Spain (ES) Sweden (SE) United Kingdom (UK)

New and re-elected MEPs in 2014 (as a percentage of all MEPs)

New MEPs in 2014 were defined as those who did not sit in the EP either in the previous term (2009-2014) or in a preceding one. Overall, of the 751 MEPs, 48.5% were new to the EP in 2014, whilst 51.5% were Members in a previous term. The highest proportion of new MEPs was in Greece (90.5%), whilst the lowest was in Luxembourg (16.7%).
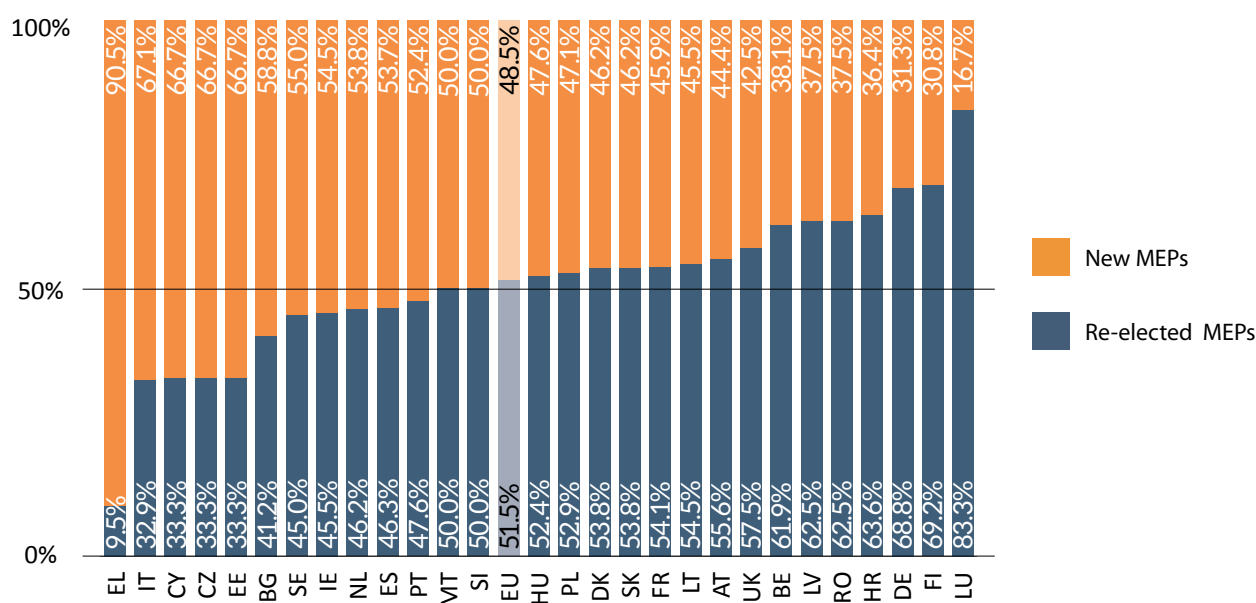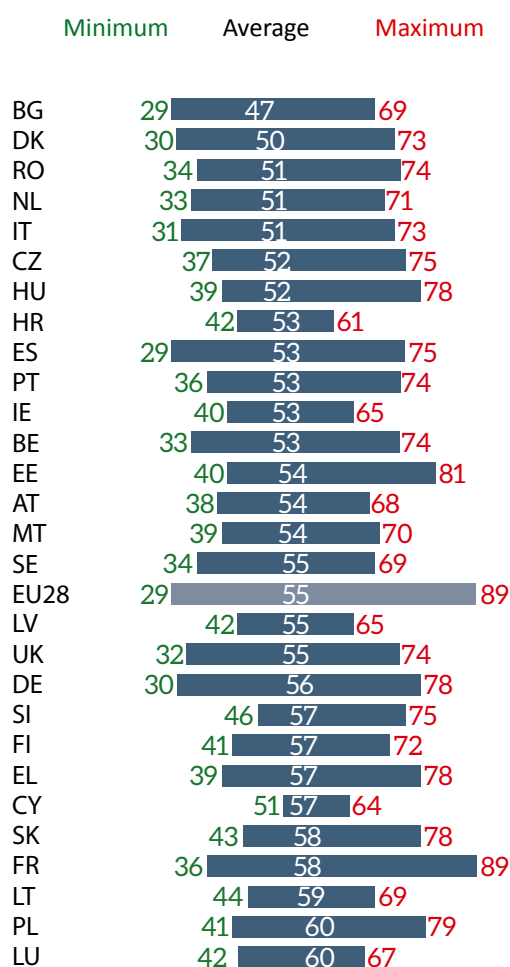

Age of MEPs by Member State

The graph shows the average age of MEPs, together with the maximum and minimum age, per Member State. The average age of Members on 1 April 2018 was 55 years, with the oldest member aged 89 (from France) and the youngest 29 (a Bulgarian and a Spanish Member).

At the constituent session in July 2014 the average was 53 years, with the oldest Member aged 91 (from Greece) and the youngest 26 (from Denmark).

Between July 2014 and April 2018, 92 MEPs have been replaced for different reasons. Thirty-six MEPs resigned, 6 died and 50 were appointed to an office incompatible with membership of the European Parliament – for instance they became members of their national parliaments or governments.

	Minimum	Average	Maximum
BG	29	47	69
DK	30	50	73
RO	34	51	74
NL	33	51	71
IT	31	51	73
CZ	37	52	75
HU	39	52	78
HR	42	53	61
ES	29	53	75
PT	36	53	74
IE	40	53	65
BE	33	53	74
EE	40	54	81
AT	38	54	68
MT	39	54	70
SE	34	55	69
EU28	29	55	89
LV	42	55	65
UK	32	55	74
DE	30	56	78
SI	46	57	75
FI	41	57	72
EL	39	57	78
CY	51	57	64
SK	43	58	78
FR	36	58	89
LT	44	59	69
PL	41	60	79
LU	42	60	67

European Parliament, 1979-2014

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 eight 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 April 2018.
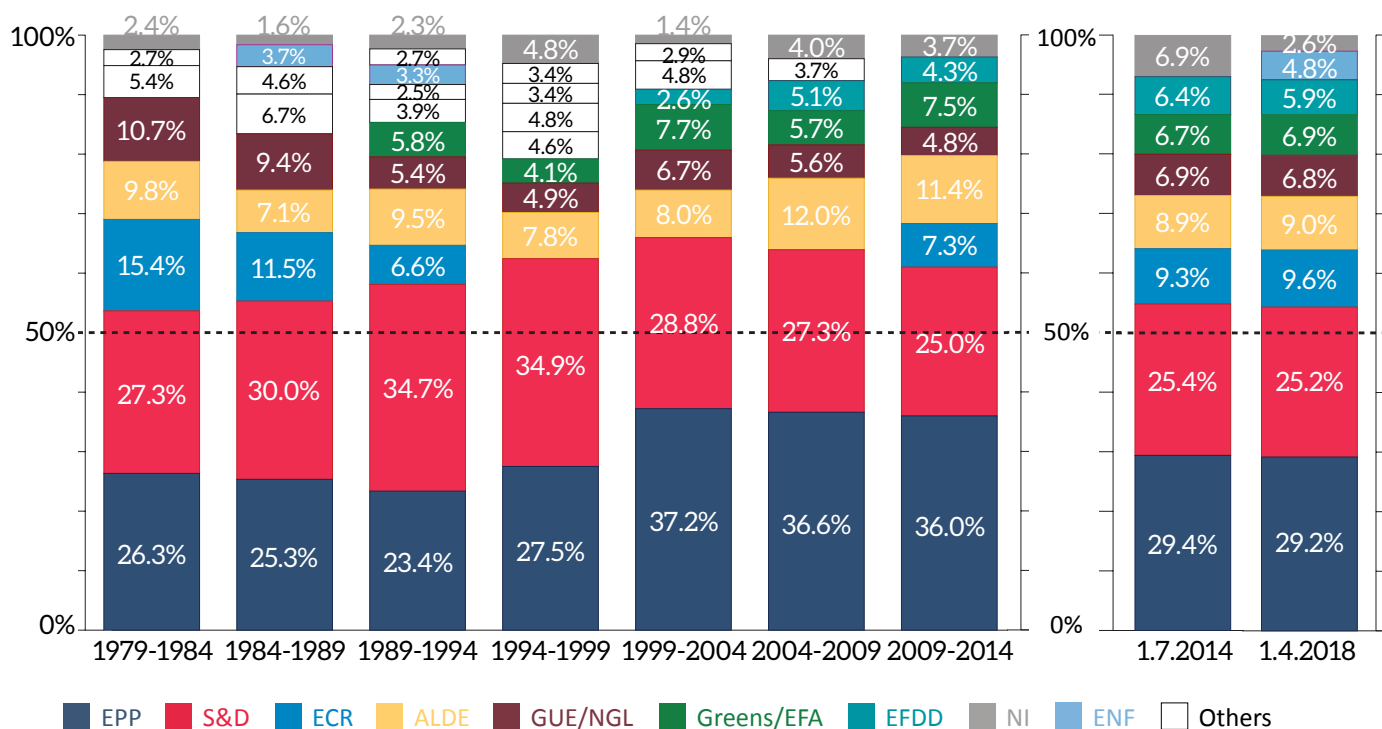
Source: DG Communication, European Parliament

The colours used to denote political groups in the current parliamentary term are also used in previous terms, so that the history of today's groups can be traced back. However, it should be understood that 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 all cases be regarded as the same group with an unbroken history. The category 'others' includes a number of groups which no longer exist.
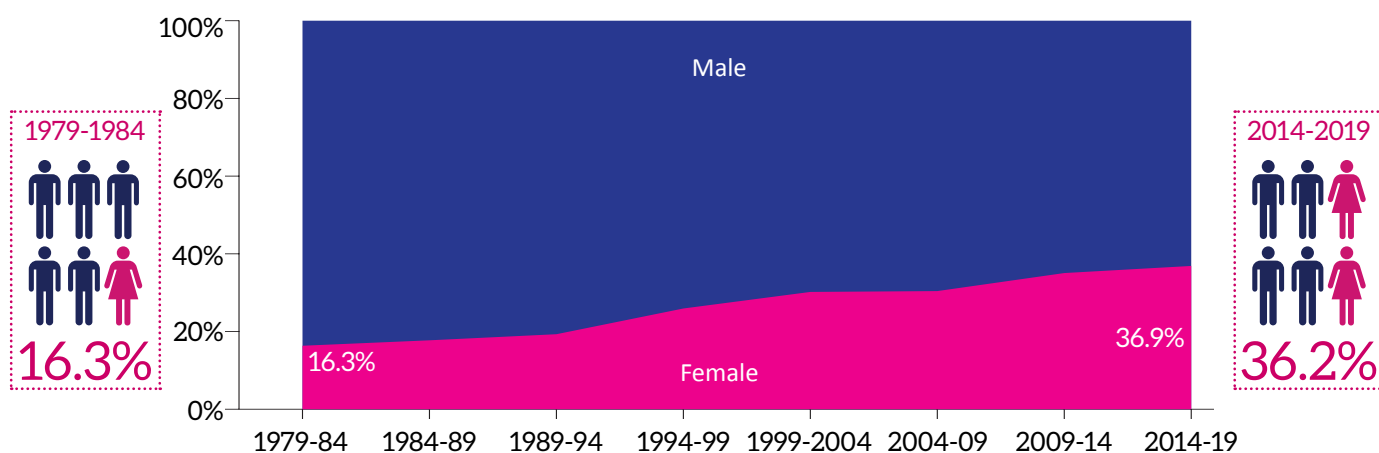
National parties and political groups in the EP

Over the eight 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. However, whilst the number of political groups has remained broadly stable, at between seven and ten, the threshold for forming a group has been raised over time, and groups now tend to include Members from a greater number of Member States than in previous terms.

|	1979-1984	1984-1989	1989-1994	1994-1999	1999-2004	2004-2009	2009-2014	1.7.2014	1.4.2018
Number of MEPs	410	434	518	567	626	732	736	751	751
Number of Member States	9	10	12	12	15	25	27	28	28
Number of political groups	7	8	10	9	8	7	7	7	8
Number of national political parties	57	67	103	97	127	168	176	191	212
Number of national delegations in political groups	37	42	64	58	74	109	116	129	143

Proportion of men and women in the EP

The evolution of the proportion of women among all MEPs at the beginning of each parliamentary term shows steady growth, starting at 16.3% in the first term and reaching the highest percentage yet in the current term, at 36.9%. Changes in the composition of the Parliament since July 2014 have slightly decreased the percentage of women, from 36.9% to 36.2%.

1979-1984
16.3%

Male

Female

16.3%   36.9%

2014-2019
36.2%

1979-84   1984-89   1989-94   1994-99   1999-2004   2004-09   2009-14   2014-19

Women in 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 (France - 2000, Belgium - 2002, Portugal - 2006, Spain - 2007).

European Parliament   36.2%

27.9%

Member States' national parliaments

1979   1984   1989   1994   1999   2004   2009   2014   2018
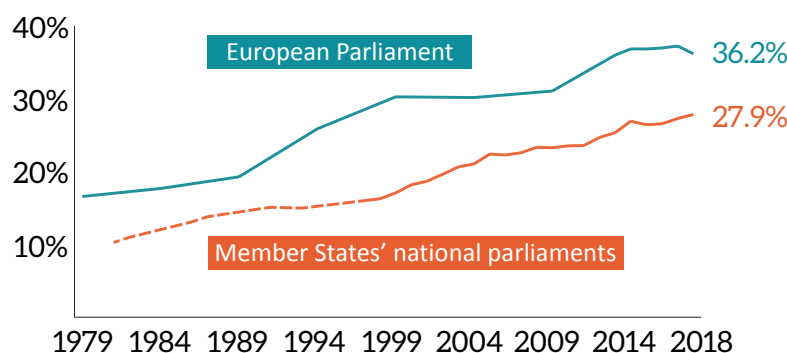
Women MEPs by Member State

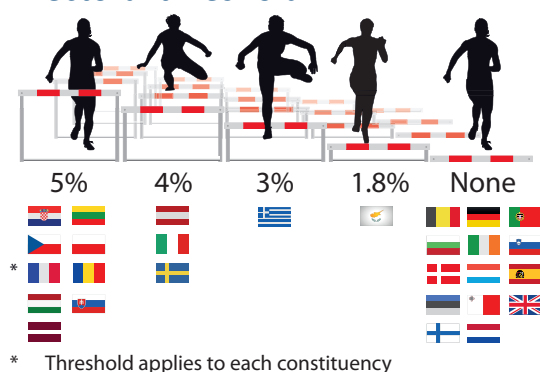|	FI	IE	HR	MT	SE	ES	FR	UK	AT	NL	IT	LV	SI	EU	DE	EE	BE	LU	DK	SK	PT	RO	PL	CZ	EL	HU	LT	BG	CY
Total seats	13	11	11	6	20	54	74	73	18	26	73	8	8	751	96	6	21	6	13	13	21	32	51	21	21	21	11	17	6
Percentage of women Members in the EP (1 April 2018)	69.2%	54.5%	54.5%	50.0%	50.0%	48.1%	41.9%	39.7%	38.9%	38.5%	38.4%	37.5%	37.5%	36.2%	35.4%	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%	30.8%	30.8%	28.6%	28.1%	25.5%	23.8%	23.8%	19.0%	18.2%	17.6%	16.7%
Gender quotas applicable to EP in the 2014 elections	None	None	40%	None	None	40%	50%	None	None	33%	None	40%	40%		None	None	50%	None	None	None	33%	>0	None	None	None	None	None	None	None

The percentage of women MEPs in the current European Parliament varies between 69.2% in Finland and 16.7% in Cyprus. In the May 2014 elections, nine Member States had gender quotas, which mostly concern the make-up of electoral lists, with gender proportions applying to both sexes, to avoid the under-representation of either.

Electoral systems for the European Parliament

Voting system and number of MEPs

Cyprus		6
Malta		6
Slovenia		8
Luxembourg		6

■ Closed lists
■ Preferential voting
■ STV
▨ Multiple constituencies
96 Number of MEPs

Map labels: 13, 20, 6, 13, 8, 3 + 70, 26, 11, 11, 21, 51, 96, 21, 13, 74, 18, 21, 11, 32, 21, 54, 73, 17, 21
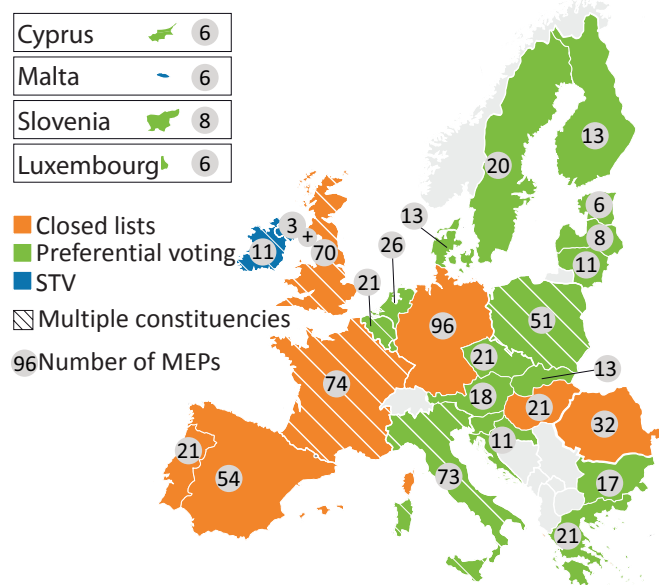
The EP currently has 751 MEPs, a reduction from the previous Parliament (2009-2014), in which there were 766 MEPs (754 plus 12 for Croatia, which joined in 2013).

MEPs are elected under national electoral systems, but these have to observe certain common principles established in EU law, notably proportional representation. As a general rule, 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 achieve the latter possibility of preferential voting by using the single transferable vote (STV).

EU law allows Member States to establish thresholds of up to 5% of all votes cast as a condition for any party to be allocated seats in the European Parliament. In 14 Member States, there are formal thresholds of this kind. (Logically, in Member States or regions with a relatively low number of MEPs, there is a de facto, if not formal, threshold above 5%.)

Electoral threshold

5%	4%	3%	1.8%	None

* Threshold applies to each constituency

Note: The graphics on the left show the situation at the 2014 election. Some changes are expected for the 2019 election.

Annual cost of the EP per inhabitant

EP	European Parliament		€ 3.50
Germany			€ 9.20
UK			€ 8.90
France			€ 8.00
USA			€ 6.00

The graphic above shows the annual running cost, divided by the number of inhabitants, for the European Parliament, German Bundestag, UK House of Commons, French Assemblée nationale, and US House of Representatives.[1] Caution is inevitably needed in making comparisons between the costs of parliaments, as each has its own history, traditions and organisational form: budget allocations for a given purpose in one parliament may have no parallel in another, while very different levels of resources may be dedicated to apparently similar tasks. The EP budget, for example, includes the costs of translation and interpreting into and out of 24 languages, and of operating in three centres – Brussels, Strasbourg and Luxembourg – whereas other parliaments do not have these dimensions to their work.

[1] The figures are for executed budgets in the 2015 calendar year (UK – 2014/2015 financial year, US – fiscal year 2015).

Turnout in European elections

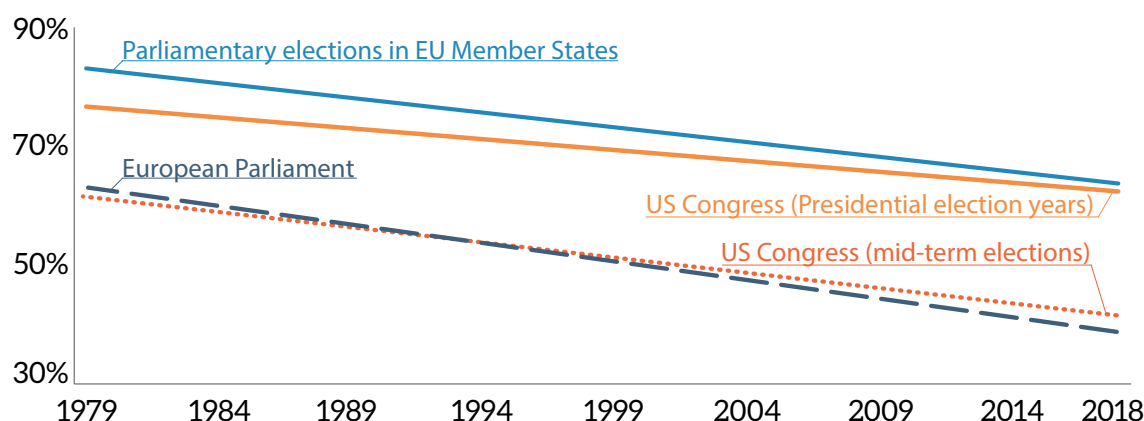## Turnout in Member States at EP elections since 1979

For each of the eight European Parliament elections held since 1979, the table below shows the lowest turnout among all Member States, the highest in a Member State without compulsory voting, and finally the highest overall. The EU average at each election is highlighted by the line in light blue.

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

■ 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).

Trends in turnout at national and EP elections

The trend lines for turnout in four different types of election in the period since the first EP direct elections took place in 1979 show that voter turnout has been on a consistently downward path, both within the European Union and in the United States. Indeed, these trends are consistent with a general decline in average turnout at elections in most G20 democracies since 1945 – from around 80% in the immediate post-war period to around 60% today.

The graph above highlights the close relationship between the (downward) paths of turnout in EP elections and (mid-term) US Congressional elections, in both absolute values and trends. The parallel declines in turnout at Member States' parliamentary elections and at European Parliament elections demonstrate that voters treat EP elections in the same way as their national elections, but with an average turnout at national elections around 15 to 20 percentage points higher. In general, elections in which voters decide who runs the executive branch of government, as well as who controls the legislature, attract a higher turnout than other elections.

For reference, turnout in both European Parliament and national parliamentary elections is calculated as the total number of votes as a percentage of the total number of registered voters. All national elections taking place in the same year are totalled to generate an annual EU-wide percentage.
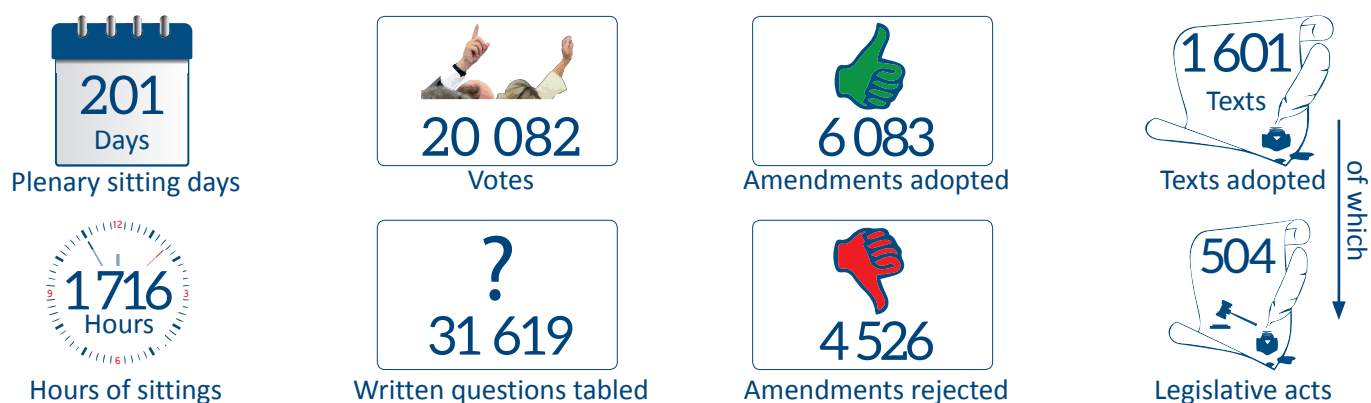
The work of the European Parliament

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 legislation and holding public hearings on key issues. In the course of the legislative process, representatives of EP committees meet frequently with their counterparts in the Council of Ministers and the European Commission, in trilateral negotiations known as 'trilogues'.

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

260 Days	**23 553**	**21 298**	**2 790** Texts
Plenary sitting days	Votes	Amendments adopted	Texts adopted
2 160 Hours	**?** **58 840**	**22 692**	of which **1 071**
Hours of sittings	Written questions tabled	Amendments rejected	Legislative acts
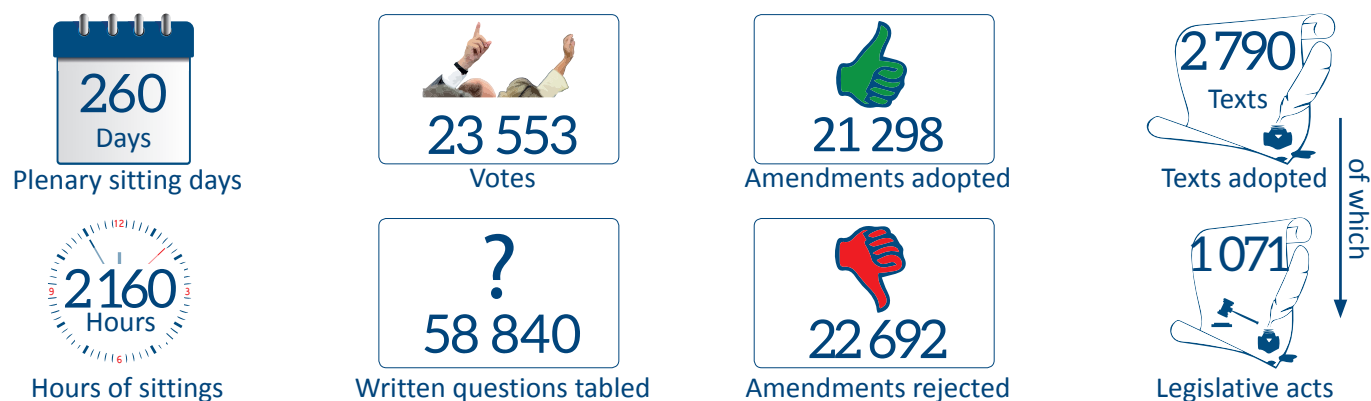
Activity in EP plenary sessions in the **eighth term** so far (July 2014 - December 2017)

201 Days	**20 082**	**6 083**	**1 601** Texts
Plenary sitting days	Votes	Amendments adopted	Texts adopted
1 716 Hours	**?** **31 619**	**4 526**	of which **504**
Hours of sittings	Written questions tabled	Amendments rejected	Legislative acts

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

Working with partners and citizens

The European Parliament has regular meetings with counterparts from the Member States' national parliaments, in particular at committee level. The Parliament's committees also regularly seek direct input from experts and stakeholders in public hearings, to feed their deliberations on specific topics. Citizens also have various means to make contact with the Parliament, either by visiting the institution, raising questions with the Citizens' Enquiries Unit (Ask EP), or delivering a petition for consideration by the Petitions Committee. The figures below give a flavour of these activites in the eighth term so far, from July 2014 to December 2017.

50 Meetings with national parliaments	**228 728** Citizens' enquiries received by 'Ask EP'	**5 361** Petitions received from citizens
408 Public hearings by EP Committees	**1 128 935** Citizens' visits to the EP	**14 716** Follow-up letters from Petitions Committee

European Parliament legislative activity, 2004-2017

A core element of the European Parliament's work lies in amending and passing EU legislation. Three procedures are used, 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. The two charts below together 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.

The chart below shows the number of legislative resolutions adopted in plenary each year since 2004, including at all readings for co-decision.
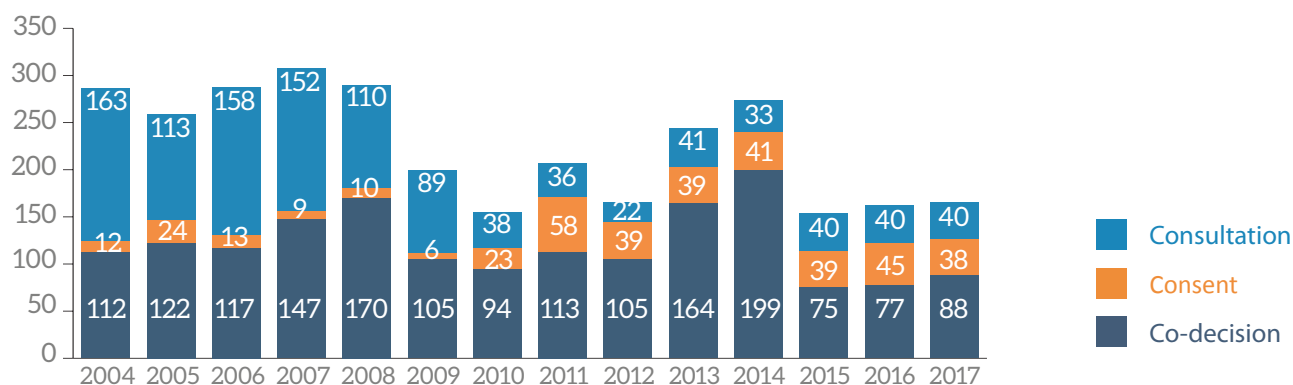
The chart below shows the stage of the co-decision procedure at which the EP and Council reached agreement on individual legislative texts, in each year since 2004.
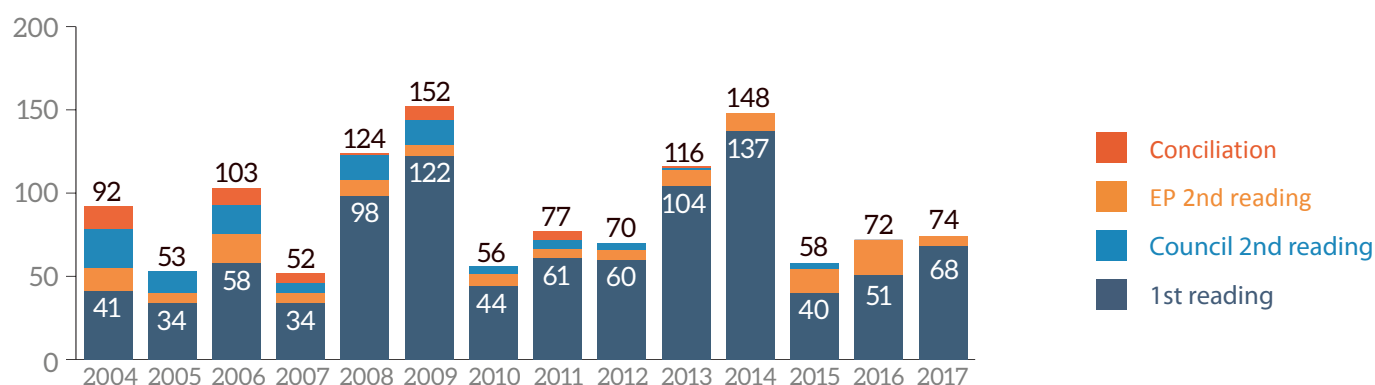
Source: Legislative Planning and Coordination Unit, DG Presidency, European Parliament

Number and average length of co-decision procedures

The chart below shows the average duration in months of each completed ordinary legislative procedure (co-decision files), and the stage at which it was concluded, for the current parliamentary term from July 2014 to December 2017. The circles, in proportion, show the numbers of files concluded at each stage of the procedure. So far during this term, no files have gone to the conciliation/third reading stage.

Duration		Number of procedures	
1st reading	17 months	⬤	185
EP 2nd reading	39 months	●	40
Council 2nd reading	40 months	•	4
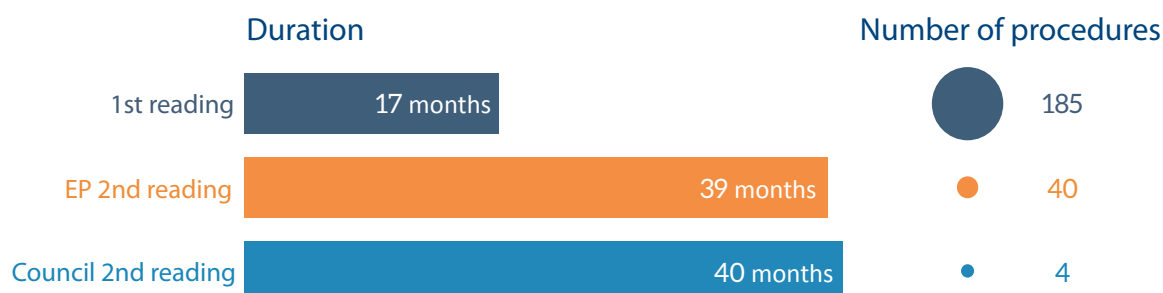
Number of trilogues per year and per committee

In the eighth term so far (from July 2014 to December 2017), EP committees have participated in a total of 683 trilogue meetings with the Council and Commission. The bar graph below shows the number of trilogues held by year since the beginning of the seventh term, with a peak in 2013, notably reflecting key decisions on programmes within the 2014-20 Multiannual Financial Framework.

In 2017, out of 251 trilogues, 198 had a single committee participating, while in 53 two or even three committees were involved in the meeting. The pie chart shows which parliamentary committees were most involved in trilogues in 2017, the third full year of the 2014-19 term. It highlights the eight most active committees in terms of trilogues held, as a percentage of the total. (Note that the second highest number concerns joint meetings of BUDG/CONT, sometimes with other committees also participating, on the revision of the Financial Regulation.)
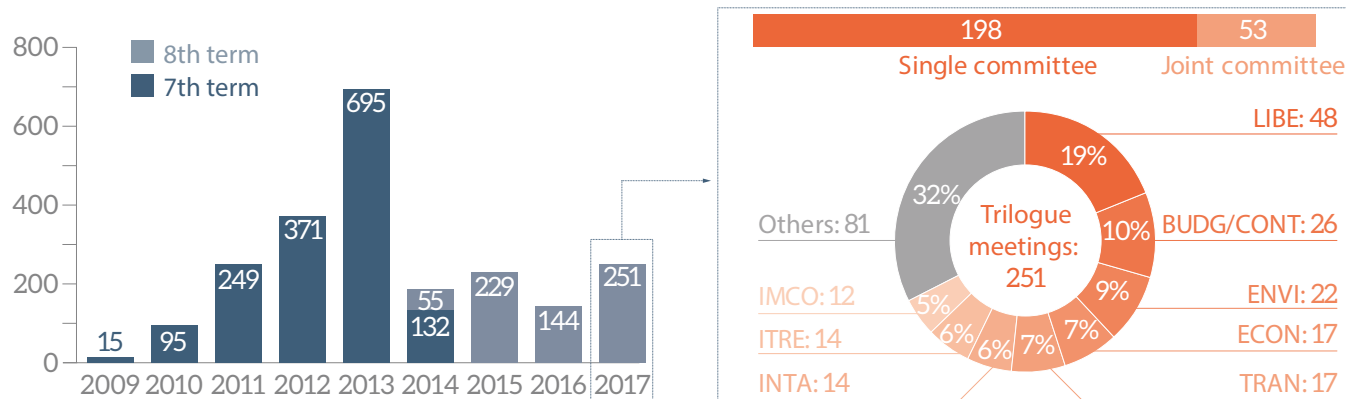
Number of legislative and own-initiative reports

The chart below shows the number of reports adopted in each parliamentary committee between July 2014 and December 2017. 'Own initiative reports', represented by light orange bars, includes both legislative initiative and other own-initiative reports. 'Legislative reports', by blue bars, includes reports under the ordinary legislative procedure (co-decision), consent and consultation, as well as procedures relating to international agreements. 'Other reports', in dark orange, primarily relate to work under procedures specific to a given committee, such as on the budget, discharge, and questions of Members' immunity in legal proceedings. The green bars concern procedures in which committees consider whether to object to a delegated or implementing act of the Commission, based on earlier legislative acts. Thirty-one reports were adopted jointly (under Rule 55) by two committees (and in one case by three committees), and are presented as a separate category.

|	Own-initiative reports	Legislative reports	Other reports	Delegated and implemented acts
Foreign Affairs (AFET)	58	30	12	
Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON)	30	50	1	178
Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL)	25	18		18
Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM)	21			
Legal Affairs (JURI)	21	71	48	6
Regional Development (REGI)	21	8	1	10
Development (DEVE)	17	1	7	1
Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE)	17	27		29
International Trade (INTA)	16	46		40
Culture and Education (CULT)	14	4		1
Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO)	14	22	1	56
Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI)	13	40		423
Transport and Tourism (TRAN)	13	28		66
Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE)	12	124		8
Fisheries (PECH)	12	32	1	51
Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI)	10	10		79
Budgetary Control (CONT)	10	20	159	
Petitions (PETI)	8			
Constitutional Affairs (AFCO)	7	1	6	4
Budgets (BUDG)	2	7	408	1
Joint committees	14	17		8

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

Main governing bodies in the EP

The Bureau, the Conference of Presidents and the Conference of Committee Chairs, presented below, are complemented by other governing and coordination bodies within the Parliament, including the Conference of Delegation Chairs, the STOA Panel and the Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group.

EP Bureau

The Bureau is the body responsible for financial, organisational and administrative matters within the 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 Members, also attend the Bureau in an advisory capacity, but cannot vote.

Name	Role	Group	Country
Antonio TAJANI	President	EPP	Italy
Mairead McGUINNESS	Vice-President	EPP	Ireland
Bogusław LIBERADZKI	Vice-President	S&D	Poland
David-Maria SASSOLI	Vice-President	S&D	Italy
Rainer WIELAND	Vice-President	EPP	Germany
Sylvie GUILLAUME	Vice-President	S&D	France
Zdzisław KRASNODĘBSKI	Vice-President	ECR	Poland
Ramón Luis VALCÁRCEL SISO	Vice-President	EPP	Spain
Evelyne GEBHARDT	Vice-President	S&D	Germany
Pavel TELIČKA	Vice-President	ALDE	Czech Republic
Lívia JÁRÓKA	Vice-President	EPP	Hungary
Ioan Mircea PAŞCU	Vice-President	S&D	Romania
Dimitrios PAPADIMOULIS	Vice-President	GUE/NGL	Greece
Heidi HAUTALA	Vice-President	Greens/EFA	Finland
Fabio Massimo CASTALDO	Vice-President	EFDD	Italy
Elisabeth MORIN-CHARTIER	Quaestor	EPP	France
Andrey KOVATCHEV	Quaestor	EPP	Bulgaria
Vladimír MAŇKA	Quaestor	S&D	Slovakia
Catherine BEARDER	Quaestor	ALDE	United Kingdom
Karol KARSKI	Quaestor	ECR	Poland

1 President

14 Vice-Presidents

5 Quaestors (non-voting)

EP Conference of Presidents

The Conference of Presidents (CoP) - composed of the Parliament's President and the chairs of its eight 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 Parliament. Three groups have co-chairs. The non-attached (NI) Members are represented by a non-voting observer.

President of the EP: Antonio TAJANI
EPP

| EPP	S&D	ECR	ALDE	Greens/EFA	GUE/NGL	EFDD	ENF	NI
Chair	Chair	Co-chairs	Chair	Co-chairs	Chair	Chair	Co-Chairs	Observer
Manfred WEBER	Udo BULLMANN	Syed KAMALL	Guy VERHOFSTADT	Ska KELLER	Gabriele ZIMMER	Nigel FARAGE	Nicolas BAY	Diane DODDS
		Ryszard Antoni LEGUTKO		Philippe LAMBERTS			Marcel de GRAAFF	

Parliamentary committees

There are 20 standing committees (and two 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 hold the executive to account. The chart below lists the committees of the EP, ordered by the number of MEPs who sit on them. It shows the chairs, elected by the members of each committee, together with their political group and nationality. The chairs of the committees meet together in the Conference of Committee Chairs, and have elected Cecilia Wikström, Chair of the Petitions (PETI) Committee, as their president for the second half of the current parliamentary term. The pie chart shows the distribution of committee chairs between the political groups, using the same colour code as before.

In addition, there are currently three special committees - normally with a term of office of up to twelve months - on Terrorism (TERR), on the EU authorisation procedure for pesticides (PEST), and on Financial Crimes, Tax Evasion and Tax Avoidance (TAX3). The first two comprise 30 members each, and the third has 45 members.

	Number of MEPs	Name of Chair		
Foreign Affairs	73	McALLISTER David	EPP	
Security and Defence	30	FOTYGA Anna Elżbieta	ECR	
Human Rights	30	PANZERI Pier Antonio	S&D	
Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	69	VĂLEAN Adina-Ioana	EPP	
Industry, Research and Energy	67	BUZEK Jerzy	EPP	
Economic and Monetary Affairs	61	GUALTIERI Roberto	S&D	
Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs	60	MORAES Claude	S&D	
Employment and Social Affairs	55	HÄNDEL Thomas	GUE/NGL	
Transport and Tourism	49	DELLI Karima	Greens/EFA	
Agriculture and Rural Development	46	SIEKIERSKI Czesław Adam	EPP	
Regional Development	43	MIHAYLOVA Iskra	ALDE	
Budgets	41	ARTHUIS Jean	ALDE	
International Trade	41	LANGE Bernd	S&D	
Internal Market and Consumer Protection	40	VAN BOSSUYT Anneleen	ECR	
Women's Rights and Gender Equality	37	BLINKEVIČIŪTĖ Vilija	S&D	
Petitions	36	WIKSTRÖM Cecilia	ALDE	
Culture and Education	31	KAMMEREVERT Petra	S&D	
Budgetary Control	30	GRÄSSLE Ingeborg	EPP	
Development	28	McAVAN Linda	S&D	
Fisheries	27	CADEC Alain	EPP	
Constitutional Affairs	25	HÜBNER Danuta Maria	EPP	
Legal Affairs	25	SVOBODA Pavel	EPP	

Share of committee chairs by political group

5% 5% 5% 15% 40% 30% 20
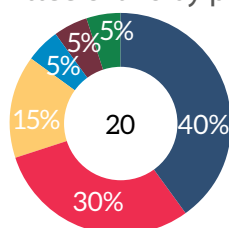
Previous editions of this Briefing were issued in March 2017 (PE 599.256), March 2016 (PE 573.919), April 2015 (PE 545.725) and November 2014 (PE 542.150). The data used are taken from a range of sources within and outside the European Parliament, including the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments and the Legislative Planning and Coordination, Members' Activities, Members' Administration, and Plenary Organisation and Follow-up Units of DG Presidency (PRES), the Legislative Coordination Unit and Petitions Committee secretariat 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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