

2015 EPRG MEP Survey Questionnaire

In which language would you like to complete the survey? <> In welcher Sprache möchten Sie den Fragebogen auszufüllen? <> Dans quelle langue voulez-vous répondre au sondage?
{list of all languages}

Thank you for helping us with this research. It is completely confidential and solely for academic purposes. It is about your work as an MEP, your election campaign, and your views on various aspects of the EU. Our research aims to increase academic and public understanding of how the European Parliament works. The questionnaire contains the following sections:

Section 1: Background, Career and Elections

Section 2: Representation and Contacts

Section 3: Legislative Behaviour

Section 4: Political Attitudes

SECTION 1 – Background, Career and Elections

1.1. In which member state were you elected?

Belgium
Bulgaria
Czech Republic
Croatia
Denmark
Germany
Estonia
Ireland
Greece
Spain
France
Italy
Cyprus
Latvia
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Hungary
Malta
Netherlands
Austria
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Slovenia
Slovakia
Finland
Sweden
United Kingdom

1.2. What is your Political Group in the European Parliament?

Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats)

Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament
Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
Group of the Greens / European Free Alliance
European Conservatives and Reformists
Confederal Group of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left
Europe of Freedom and Direct Democracy Group
I am a non-attached member

1.3. When did you first become an MEP?

Month:

Year:

1.4. Have you previously held any of these positions?

Choose all boxes that apply.

Member of national parliament
Member of national government
European Commissioner
Observer to the European Parliament
European party or political group official
Assistant to an MEP
Official (fonctionnaire) in the European Parliament
Official in the Commission
Official in the Council
A 'lobbyist' in Brussels
None of the above

1.5 Have you ever previously held, or do you currently hold, any of these positions?

Choose all boxes that apply.

Options: Previously held, but not now; Currently hold

Regional or local elected office
President of the European Parliament
President of a European political group
Leader of a national delegation in the European Parliament
Chair or Vice-Chair of a European Parliament committee
Group Coordinator in a European Parliament committee
Vice-President or Quaestor of the European Parliament
Domestic party official
Official in a women's organisation
Official in an interest group, trade union or professional association.

1.6. What would you like to be doing 10 years from now?

Choose as many boxes as you wish.

Member of the European Parliament
Chair of a European Parliament committee
Chair of a European political group
Member of a national parliament
Member of a national government
European Commissioner
Retired from public life
Something else, please specify below:

1.7. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: In European Parliament elections, citizens should be able to vote for individual candidates rather than just for political parties (for example in an 'open' or 'semi-open' list form of proportional representation, as opposed to a 'closed' list form of PR)?

Choose one box only (Scale 1-5)

Strongly disagree to Strongly agree

1.8. Were any of the following activities part of your 2014 campaign? If yes, how important were they?

1 – not used, 2 – of little importance, 3 – somewhat important, 4 – very important, 5 – most important

Choose one box per line.

- Door-knocking, canvassing
- Distributing party campaign material
- Calling up voters on the phone
- Visiting businesses and social organisations
- Meetings with party elites/members and/or party groups
- Media activities (interviews, press releases)
- Public speeches and rallies
- Personal campaign posters
- Direct mailing
- Personal newspaper ads
- Personal spots in radio, TV, movie houses
- Personal flyers or other campaign material (give-aways)
- Personal website
- Mailing list to inform supporters and voters about my campaign
- Own blog
- SMS messages
- Facebook or Twitter
- Other
- If 'other', please specify below:

1.9. What was the primary aim of your campaign? Where would you place yourself on this scale?

Choose one box only.

(to attract as much attention as possible for me as a candidate) 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (to attract as much attention as possible for my party)

1.10 Do you intend to stand in the next European election? (select one option)

Yes

No

Not decided yet

{If no, then follow-up question}

1.11 Why do you not intend to stand?

- I do not think I will be re-elected
- I have decided to pursue a career in national politics
- I have decided to pursue a career outside politics
- Other [please specify]

SECTION 2 – Representation and Contacts

2.1. When thinking about your work as an MEP, how important are the following aspects of your work?

Options: 1 (Of little importance) / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5 (Of great importance)

Choose one box per line.

Working on legislation

Parliamentary oversight

Articulation of important societal needs and interests

Developing common strategies for EU policies

Mediation between different interests in society

Representation of individual interests of individual citizens

2.2. How important is it for you to represent the following groups of people in the European Parliament?

Options: 1 (Of little importance) / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5 (Of great importance)

Please choose one box per line.

All people in Europe

All people in my member state

All the people who voted for my party

All the people in my constituency/region

My national party

My European political group

Women

2.3. How frequently are you in contact with the following groups, people or institutions?

Options: At least once a week / At least once a month / At least every three months / At least once a year / Less often / No contact

Choose one box per line.

Ordinary citizens

Organised groups

Lobbyists

Journalists

Leaders of my European political group

MEPs of other parties from my member state

Officials in the Commission

European Commissioners

Members of my national political party

Members of my national party executive

MPs from my national parliament

Ministers from my national government

Public officials from my national government

Officials in the Council of the European Union

2.4 How frequently are you in contact with the following interest groups?

Options: At least once a week / At least once a month / At least every three months / At least once a year / Less often / No contact

Choose one box per line.

Consumer associations

Environmental organisations

Women's organisations

Trade unions

Professional associations

Agriculture/fisheries organisations
Industry organisations
Transport associations
Trade and commerce associations
Banking and insurance associations
Human rights organisations
Other
If 'other', please specify:

2.5. How often do you travel to your constituency? (a) Never, (b) every 2 months, (c) once a month, (d) once a week, (e) more than once a week.

SECTION 3 – Legislative Behaviour

3.1. How often do you receive recommendations on which way to vote from the following parties or groups?

Choose one box per line.

Your national party leadership
Your European political group leadership
Your national party delegation of MEPs
Your European Parliament committee leadership
The European Commission
Your national government
Interest groups
Voters in your constituency

Options: 1 (Never) / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5 (On almost every vote)

3.2. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

Options: Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Disagree / Disagree strongly

Choose one box per line.

Members of a European political group should not speak openly about discussions within the European political group
If the opinions of the European political group appear in conflict with one's own opinions, it is correct to vote with the European political group
If a member of parliament is under pressure from constituents, it is correct that s/he votes against the expressed will of the European political group
No political initiatives should be taken without the authorisation of the European political group
For our European political group it is very important to appear united
The leader of a European political group should, as far as possible, ensure the unity of that European political group. In doing so the use of far reaching means, such as the denial of particular parliamentary posts (e.g. seats on committees), is legitimate.

3.3 How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Choose one box per line.

When making decisions on legislation, MEPs should:

[Answers on five point scale from strongly agree to strongly disagree]

* defend their national position

* look for a common policy in collaboration with MEPs from other member states and party groups

* agree compromises on a legislative proposal in return for other MEPs' support on other legislative proposals

3.4 When making decisions in the European Parliament, are MEPs affected by any of the following? [please tick any that apply]

Praise
Acceptance
Recognition
Isolation
Loss of support
Criticism

3.5. After the 2014 European election, which committee did you most want to sit on? *Drop down list of the 20 permanent parliamentary committees*

3.6 Which committee(s) do you currently sit on as a full member?
Boxes for each of 20 permanent parliamentary committees

3.7. Here is a list of reasons why MEPs choose which European Parliament committee to join. How important were each of these reasons for you in deciding which committee to join after the 2014 European elections?

Choose one box per line.

The committee concerns my personal interests
The committee is important to my voters
The committee tackles topics in which I have professional expertise
The committee covers important issues
I was asked to serve on the committee by my European political group
I was asked to serve on the committee by my national party
I was a member of this committee in the last European Parliament

Options: 1 (Not at all Important) / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5 (Extremely Important)

SECTION 4 –Political Attitudes

4.1. In political matters, people talk of the 'left' and the 'right'. Where would you place each of the following on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means 'left' and 10 means 'right'? *Choose one box per line.*

Yourself	(LEFT) 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (RIGHT)
Your national political party	(LEFT) 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (RIGHT)
Your party's voters	(LEFT) 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (RIGHT)
Your European political group	(LEFT) 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (RIGHT)

4.2. People hold different views on political issues. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following general political statements?

Choose one box per line

Options: 1-5 (strongly agree – strongly disagree)

Greater effort should be made to reduce inequality of income
Same sex marriage should be legalized
People who break the law should be given stiffer sentences
Governments should abstain from intervening in the economy
Governments should adopt a restrictive policy on immigration

4.3 Some say European integration should be pushed further. Others say it already has gone too far. Where would you place each of the following on the question of European integration?

Choose one box per line

- *Yourself*
- *Your national political party*
- *Your party's voters*
- *Your European political group*

(European integration has already gone too far) 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (European integration should be pushed further)

4.4 The Treaty on European Union allows groups of member states to establish enhanced cooperation between themselves without the involvement of all 28 member states. Do you think that there should be more or less use of enhanced cooperation?

- 1 Less use of enhanced cooperation
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 More use of enhanced cooperation

4.5 How much responsibility do you think these different institutions have in the current economic situation in your country?

Choose one box per line (0-10 where 0= no responsibility, 10 = full responsibility)

- The national government
- The European Union
- The IMF
- The banks
- Foreign investors/speculators
- The European currency - EURO
- The people/everybody in the country

4.6. Do you think there should be more or less EU-wide regulation in the following areas?

Options: A lot more / A little more / About the same / A little less / A lot less

Choose one box per line.

- Labour rights (e.g. working time rules)
- Discrimination (on the grounds of gender, race, religion, age, disability, and sexual orientation)
- Environmental protection standards
- Financial services

4.7. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Economic and Monetary Union and EU monetary policies?

Options: Agree strongly / Agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Disagree / Disagree strongly

Choose one box per line.

- Governments should be allowed to run deficits of more than 3% of GDP
- The Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance is sufficient for ensuring budgetary discipline in the member states

4.8. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about EU Justice and Home Affairs policies?

Options: Agree strongly / Agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Disagree / Disagree strongly

Choose one box per line.

There should be a common EU policy on economic migrants from third countries
Individual member states should be allowed to place restrictions on the free movement of people into their country.
EU migrants should be granted the same rights and access to public services as citizens of the recipient member state.
For serious crimes, the police in each member state should be able to issue arrest warrants which apply throughout the EU

4.10 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about EU external policies?

Options: Agree strongly / Agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Disagree / Disagree strongly
Choose one box per line.

EU foreign policy should develop as a counterweight to the United States
The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) will be beneficial for my country.
The TTIP should exclude healthcare.
The TTIP should exclude food safety regulation.
The EU should develop closer political ties with Russia despite concerns about democracy and human rights in that country.

4.11. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the powers of the European Parliament?

Options: Agree strongly / Agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Disagree / Disagree strongly
Choose one box per line.

The European Parliament should have the right to initiate legislation
The European Parliament should have equal power with the Council in all areas of EU legislation
The European Parliament should be able to remove individual Commissioners from office
The European Parliament should be allowed to hold all its plenary sessions in Brussels
European political groups should nominate candidates for the Commission Presidency in future European elections.

4.12 The government of the United Kingdom (UK) has expressed an interest in re-negotiating the UK's relationship with the European Union and then holding a referendum on whether the UK should remain in the EU. Are you in favour of continued UK membership in the EU? (Please choose one option from the list)

1. Yes, the UK should remain in the EU but without renegotiation
2. Yes the UK should remain in the EU but with a broad renegotiation of the treaties. on a range of issues including the UK's concerns
3. Yes the UK should remain in the EU but there should be a UK-specific renegotiation of the treaties.
4. No, the UK should leave the EU