



BRUSSELS EXPLAINED

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

JUNE 2023

KEY FIGURES

- The elections take place **every 5 years** and are the largest transnational elections in the world.
- Around **350 million** people eligible to vote.
- Average **participation** is usually slightly **below 50%**.
- **10 European political parties:** MEPs may join political groups, based on their political affinities. Those who do not are considered 'non-attached' MEPs.
- **705 Members** elected in the 27 Member States.



The number of members elected in each country determined based on the size of the population, with smaller countries getting more seats than strict proportionality would imply. Currently, the number of MEPs ranges from 6 for Malta, Luxembourg and Cyprus to 96 for Germany.

LIST OF EUROPEAN POLITICAL PARTIES



European People's Party



Party of European Socialists



Renew



European Democratic Party



European Free Alliance



European Green Party



European Conservatives and Reformists



European Christian Political Movement



Identity and Democracy Group



The procedures for the election of the European Parliament are determined by European legislation laying down rules common to all Member States AND by specific national provisions.

- **No uniform voting system** - Each member state chooses its own system, subject to certain restrictions.
- **Proportional representation** under either the party list or the single transferable vote system.

The 2024 election may see a minimum electoral threshold of between 2% and 5% for constituencies with more than 35 seats, if the Council Decision 2018/994 is approved by all EU states in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements.



An EU electoral reform is currently ongoing. It aims at “europeanising” the elections. It is unsure, however, whether it will enter into force before the 2024 elections.

Next elections? 6 - 9 June 2024

Election days: Can vary from one Member State to the other but the elections normally start on a Thursday (the day on which the Netherlands usually votes) and finish on a Sunday (when most countries hold their elections).

AND THEN?

- Once elected, the European Parliament votes to elect the new head of the European Commission, which is EU's executive body, and approve the full team of commissioners.
- As the 'co-legislator', it decides on new legislation proposed by the European Commission.



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