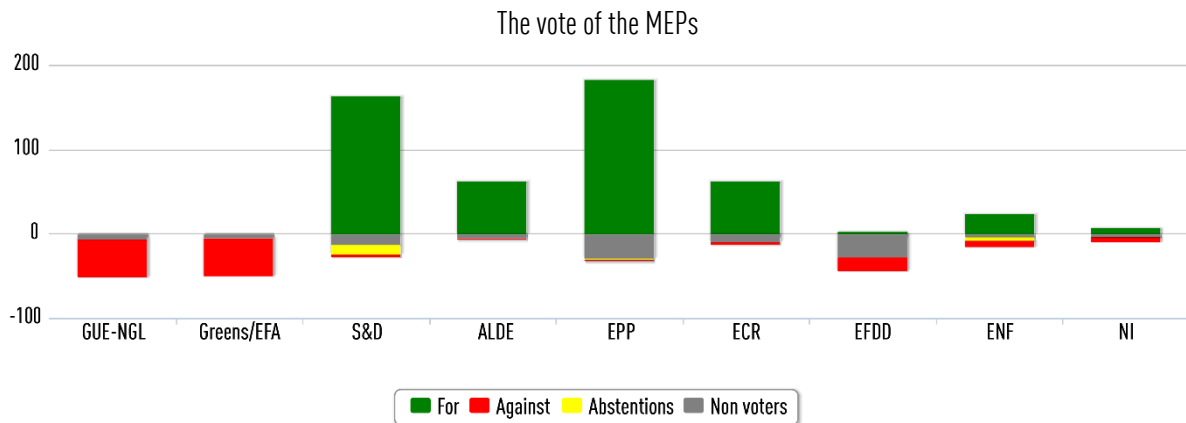
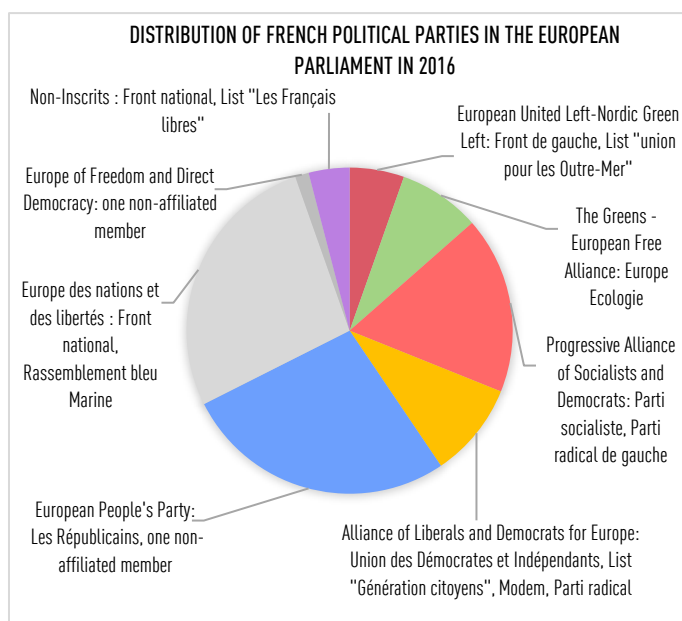


## Should trade secrets be protected?



Constance Le Grip, a Republican MEP from Ile de France drafted a legislative report on the harmonisation of the definition and protection of know-how and business information across all Member States. The EP approved her report by a large majority (77%) made up of the S&D, ALDE, EPP, ECR and ENF. On the other hand, the other political groups, namely the Greens/EFA, GUE-NGL and the EFDD, opposed the report. The directive was first drafted in 2013, when the European Commission provided a common definition of business secrets, as well as a framework for the victims of business secrets' thefts to claim compensation. However, the text was also criticised for its alleged negative consequences on freedom of information.

Interestingly, the far-right group Europe for Freedom and Nations supported Le Grip's report and contributed to its approval. This rarely happens in plenary. All in all, a large majority of French MEPs (55) supported the new measures to protect business secrets. More specifically, all the French MEPs in ALDE, the National Front and the Republicans voted in favour.



Similarly, a majority of MEPs from the Socialist Party supported the proposal. However, 3 Socialists (Edouard Martin, Emmanuel Maurel, Guillaume Balas) decided to abstain. Instead, within the left-wing groups opposing the protection of business secrets (GUE-NGL and Greens/EFA) all French MEPs voted according to their group's line.

## Should trade secrets be protected?

The vote of MEPs elected in France\*

### For

Jean ARTHUIS <i>Union of Democrats and Independents</i>	Jean-Marie CAVADA <i>Citizens' Generation</i>	Marielle DE SARNEZ <i>Democratic Movement</i>	Nathalie GRIESBECK <i>Democratic Movement</i>	Dominique RIQUET <i>Radical Party - UDI</i>	Robert ROCHEFORT <i>Democratic Movement</i>	Joëlle BERGERON	Louis ALIOT <i>National Front</i>	Nicolas BAY <i>National Front</i>	Dominique BILDE <i>National Front</i>
ALDE	ALDE	ALDE	ALDE	ALDE	ALDE	EFDD	ENF	ENF	ENF
Marie-Christine BOUTONNET <i>National Front</i>	Steeve BRIOIS <i>National Front</i>	Mireille D'ORNANO <i>National Front</i>	Edouard FERRAND <i>National Front</i>	Sylvie GODDYN <i>National Front</i>	Jean-Francois JALKH <i>National Front</i>	Marine LE PEN <i>National Front</i>	Gilles LEBRETON <i>National Front</i>	Philippe LOISEAU <i>National Front</i>	Dominique MARTIN <i>National Front</i>
ENF	ENF	ENF	ENF	ENF	ENF	ENF	ENF	ENF	ENF
Joëlle MÉLIN <i>National Front</i>	Bernard MONOT <i>National Front</i>	Sophie MONTEL <i>National Front</i>	Jean-Luc SCHAFFHAUSER <i>Bleu Marine Mouvement</i>	Mylène TROSZCZYNSKI <i>National Front</i>	Michèle ALLIOT-MARIE <i>The Republicans</i>	Alain CADEC <i>The Republicans</i>	Arnaud DANJEAN <i>The Republicans</i>	Michel DANTIN <i>The Republicans</i>	Rachida DATI <i>The Republicans</i>
ENF	ENF	ENF	ENF	ENF	EPP	EPP	EPP	EPP	EPP
Angélique DELAHAYE <i>The Republicans</i>	Françoise GROSSETÊTE <i>The Republicans</i>	Brice HORTEFEUX <i>The Republicans</i>	Marc JOULAUD <i>The Republicans</i>	Philippe JUVIN <i>The Republicans</i>	Jérôme LAVRILLEUX <i>The Republicans</i>	Constance LE GRIP <i>The Republicans</i>	Nadine MORANO <i>The Republicans</i>	Elisabeth MORIN-CHARTIER <i>The Republicans</i>	Renaud MUSELIER <i>The Republicans</i>
EPP	EPP	EPP	EPP	EPP	EPP	EPP	EPP	EPP	EPP
Maurice PONGA <i>The Republicans</i>	Franck PROUST <i>The Republicans</i>	Tokia SAIFI <i>The Republicans</i>	Anne SANDER <i>The Republicans</i>	Aymeric CHAUPRADE <i>The Free French</i>	Bruno GOLLNISCH <i>National Front</i>	Pervenche BERÈS <i>Socialist Party</i>	Jean-Paul DENANOT <i>Socialist Party</i>	Sylvie GUILLAUME <i>Socialist Party</i>	Louis-Joseph MANSCOUR <i>Socialist Party</i>
EPP	EPP	EPP	EPP	NI	NI	S&D	S&D	S&D	S&D
Gilles PARGNEAUX <i>Socialist Party</i>	Vincent PEILLON <i>Socialist Party</i>	Christine REVAULT D'ALLONNES BONNEFOY <i>Socialist Party</i>	Virginie ROZIÈRE <i>Left Radical Party</i>	Isabelle THOMAS <i>Socialist Party</i>					
S&D	S&D	S&D	S&D	S&D					

### Against

José BOVÉ <i>Europe Ecology - The Greens</i>	Karima DELLI <i>Europe Ecology - The Greens</i>	Pascal DURAND <i>Europe Ecology - The Greens</i>	Yannick JADOT <i>Europe Ecology - The Greens</i>	Eva JOLY <i>Europe Ecology - The Greens</i>	Michèle RIVASI <i>Europe Ecology - The Greens</i>	Patrick LE HYARIC <i>Left Front</i>	Jean-Luc MÉLENCHON <i>Left Front</i>	Younous OMARJEE <i>The Union for Overseas Territories</i>	Marie-Christine VERGIAT <i>Left Front</i>
Greens/EFA	Greens/EFA	Greens/EFA	Greens/EFA	Greens/EFA	Greens/EFA	GUE/NGL	GUE/NGL	GUE/NGL	GUE/NGL

### Abstain

Guillaume BALAS <i>Socialist Party</i>	Edouard MARTIN <i>Socialist Party</i>	Emmanuel MAUREL <i>Socialist Party</i>
S&D	S&D	S&D

### Absent

Sylvie GOULARD <i>Democratic Movement</i>	Marie-Christine ARNAUTU <i>National Front</i>	Florian PHILIPPOT <i>National Front</i>
ALDE	ENF	ENF

### Didn't vote

Alain LAMASSOURE <i>The Republicans</i>	Eric ANDRIEU <i>Socialist Party</i>
EPP	S&D

### Documented absence

Jean-Marie LE PEN <i>National Front</i>
NI