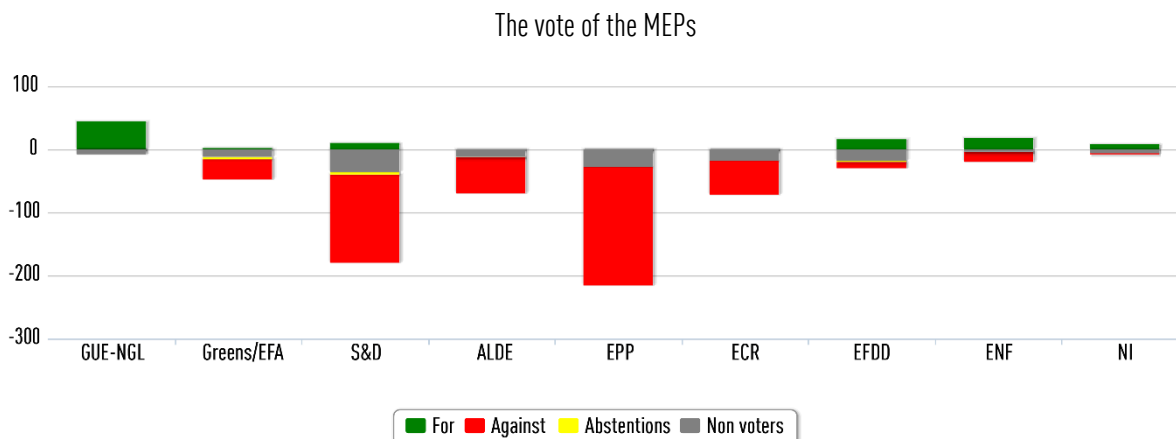


Should the EU prevent public railway systems from being privatized?

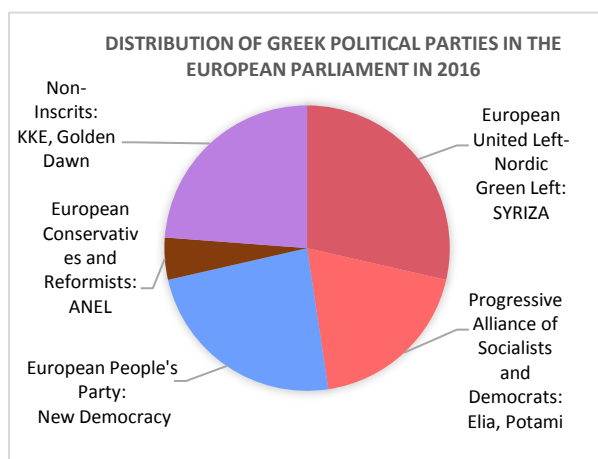


Although the European Union does not have competences with regards to whether rail suppliers should be privatized or kept public, the vote on this amendment highlights some interesting positions of national parties. In this case, a large majority of MEPs (72%) rejected the proposal of the far-left group GUE-NGL, which called on Member states to maintain their public ownerships of railways and, consequently, to avoid any privatization.

The anti-privatization initiative was supported by GUE-NGL, the Greens/EFA and EFDD, whereas opposition came from EPP, ALDE, S&D and ECR. The far right ENF was split between supporting and opposing MEPs (the National Front rejected privatization, whereas the other parties in the group supported them).

While most MEPs support privatization of railways, the Greek MEPs adopted a completely opposite stance, as they defended the principle of public ownership of railways. If, on the one hand, the opposition from Golden Dawn and the Communist party for privatizations is well known, on the other hand, the party in government, SYRIZA, was divided on this issue.

In fact, only one member of the far-left party, Stelios Kouloglou, voted against privatization, whereas Kostadinka Kuneva and Kostas Chrysogonos defected from their own political group and abstained. Finally, the remaining SYRIZA's member, Dimitrios Papadimoulis, did not vote. More neat the positions of the other Greek members of GUE-NGL: both Nikolaos Chountis (Popular Unity) and Sofia Sakorafa (Independent) opposed the privatizations.



Centrist parties were more cohesive, as all the members of New Democracy, PASOK and Potami rejected the ban on railway privatizations.

Should the EU prevent public railway systems from being privatized?

The vote of MEPs elected in Greece*

For

Notis MARIAS



Independent

ECR

Nikolaos CHOUNTIS



Popular Unity

GUE/NGL

Kostas CHRYSOGONOS



Coalition of the Radical Left

GUE/NGL

Stelios KOULOGLOU



Coalition of the Radical Left

GUE/NGL

Kostadinka KUNEVA



Coalition of the Radical Left

GUE/NGL

Sofia SAKORAFI



Independent

GUE/NGL

Georgios EPITIDEIOS



Popular Association – Golden Dawn

NI

Lampros FOUNTOULIS



Popular Association – Golden Dawn

NI

Konstantinos PAPANIKOLAOU



Communist Party of Greece

NI

Eleftherios SYNADINOS



Popular Association – Golden Dawn

NI

Sotirios ZARIANPOULOS



Communist Party of Greece

NI

Against

Manolis KEFALOGIANNIS



New Democracy

EPP

Georgios KYRTSOS



New Democracy

EPP

Maria SPYRAKI



New Democracy

EPP

Nikos ANDROULAKIS



Panhellenic Socialist Movement - Olive Tree

S&D

Giorgos GRAMMATIKAKIS



The River

S&D

Miltiadis KYRKOS



The River

S&D

Absent

Theodoros ZAGORAKIS



New Democracy

EPP

Eva KAILI



Panhellenic Socialist Movement - Olive Tree

S&D

Didn't vote

Dimitrios PAPANIKOLAOU



Coalition of the Radical Left

GUE/NGL

Documented absence

Elissavet VOZEMBERG-VRIONIDI



New Democracy

EPP