



Why the European Parliament matters?

1 How does the European Parliament work?

DID YOU KNOW

The European Parliament is the only multi-national institution in the world (27 countries represented).

27

It is the only EU institution directly elected by European citizens every 5 years. The next elections will be held from 6 to 9 June 2024.

6 - 9 JUNE 2024

POWERS



LEGISLATIVE

Co-decision with the EU Council of Ministers on all legislation proposed by the European Commission (in areas where the European Union has competences)



BUDGET

Adoption of the Union's annual and multiannual budgets



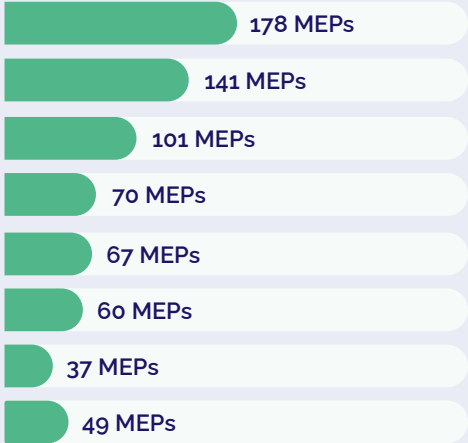
CONTROL

Investiture of the European Commission elected by the European Parliament, after hearings of the future Commissioners, power of censuring the Commission and setting up temporary special committees and committees of enquiry



Members are not aggregated by nationality but by political group.
There are currently eight political groups in the European Parliament:

- 1 European People's Party (EPP)
- 2 Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament (S&D)
- 3 Renew Europe (Renew)
- 4 Greens/Free Alliance Group European (Greens/EFA)
- 5 European conservatives and reformists (CRE)
- 6 Identity and democracy (ID)
- 7 The Left in the European Parliament (GUE/NGL)
- 8 *Non inscrits*



POLITICAL GROUPS*

For details of the political groups and standing committees for the 2019-2024 legislature, see the Jacques Delors Institute's infographic 'European elections 2024: instructions for use'.

The European Parliament has **20 standing committees**, as well as a number of **special committees and committees of enquiry**, whose work has been completed:



SPECIAL COMMITTEES



Foreign interference in the democratic processes of the European Union, including disinformation (INGE)



COVID-19 pandemic: Lessons learned and recommendations for the future (COVI)



Special Committee on interference and disinformation and on strengthening the integrity of the EP (INGE2)



Artificial intelligence in the digital age (AIDA)



Fight against cancer (BECA)

COMMITTEES OF INQUIRY

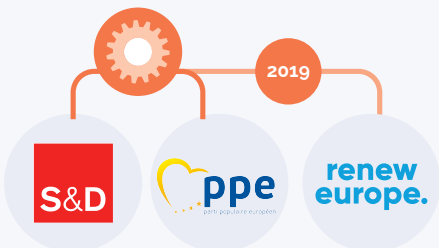


Protection of animals during transport (ANIT)



Use of Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware (PEGA)

Each MEP is a member of one or more standing committees, in which the European Commission's proposals are studied before being forwarded to the political groups who prepare the votes in plenary.



THE GRAND COALITION

In previous legislatures, the EPP (centre-right) and S&D (centre-left) had a two-party majority to pass most legislation. Since 2019, they no longer have an absolute majority together, and form a "grand coalition" with the Renew group (centre). When this grand coalition is not operational, other majorities may be formed (approximately one in four cases).

A CULTURE OF NEGOTIATION AND COMPROMISE

The culture of negotiation and compromise: since no political group has a majority on its own, it has to form alliances with other groups and seek compromises in order to achieve majorities. As a result, political groups have developed a strong culture of negotiation and compromise. This parliamentary culture of compromise is already at work in many countries, where governments (and therefore parliaments) are multi-party coalitions.



Examples of votes in the 2019-2024 legislature

DID YOU KNOW



The European Parliament has continued to operate throughout the Covid-19 period. MEPs were able to vote remotely.



EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL

European Climate Law

✓ 442 in favour

✗ 203 against

● 51 abstentions

EU countries must reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030. The aim is to make the EU climate neutral by 2050.



CODECISION
VOTING WITH
THE COUNCIL
OF MINISTERS

JUNE 8,
2021

EUROPEAN HEALTH PASS (COVID-19)

European health pass

✓ 546 in favour

✗ 93 against

● 51 abstentions

Member States are called to introduce a Covid European digital certificate in order to restore freedom of movement within the EU by July 1, 2021.



CO-DECISION VOTE WITH
THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

Parliament's position on the proposed Ukraine facility

✓ 512 in favour

✗ 45 against

● 63 abstentions

Support of almost €50 billion for the recovery, reconstruction and modernisation of Ukraine over the period 2024-2027.



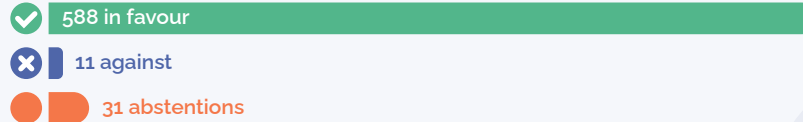
BUDGETARY
POWER

OCT. 17,
2023

DIGITAL SERVICES FRAMEWORK



Digital Markets Act



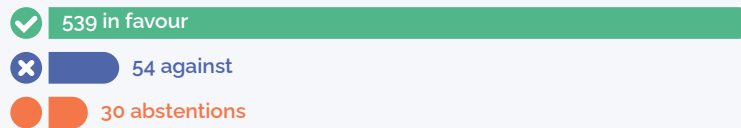
The DMA aims to fight the anticompetitive practices of the digital giants and correct the imbalances in their dominance of the European market.



VOTE IN
CO-DECISION WITH
THE COUNCIL OF
MINISTER



Digital Services Act



The DSA wants to put into practice the principle that "what is illegal offline is illegal online": content (hate, child pornography, terrorism, etc.) and illegal (counterfeit) products.

ADEQUATE MINIMUM WAGES

Directive on adequate minimum wages



The aim of the directive is not to introduce a European minimum wage but to speed up the convergence of different minimum wages in Europe.



VOTE IN
CO-DECISION WITH
THE COUNCIL OF
MINISTERS

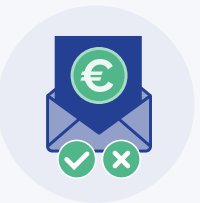


MAKING THE BUDGET CONDITIONAL ON THE RESPECT FOR THE RULE OF LAW

At the initiative of the European Parliament, a mechanism has been created to make the granting of European funds in member countries conditional on the respect for the rule of law (independence of the judiciary, freedom of the press, etc.).



CO-DECISION VOTE
BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT AND THE
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS





LEGISLATIVE DOSSIERS



FINISHED



STILL UNDER REVIEW

3

The European Parliament's political and international influence



POLITICAL INFLUENCE



In addition to its legislative and budgetary role, the European Parliament plays a major role in appointing the President of the European Commission on a proposal from the European Council and the College of Commissioners, who are elected by the European Parliament.



In particular, it conducts hearings of future Commissioners, with the possibility of refusing them, which has already happened on several occasions!

Since 2014, the European political families have been putting forward proposals for candidates for the Presidency of the Commission ("Spitzenkandidaten" system).



INTERNATIONAL INFLUENCE



The European Parliament's international role is limited by the Treaties. But through its functions as co-legislator and budgetary authority, it exerts influence in large areas of the EU's external action (for example through the common commercial policy, or development cooperation and humanitarian aid). Its diplomatic approach is proactive (for example, in the area of human rights and the promotion of democracy, such as the annual award of the Sakharov Prize).



As a place of power, the European Parliament attracts the interest of many non-EU countries, at the risk of foreign interference. It has embarked on a process of internal reform in response to this.



RIGHT OF INITIATIVE OR NOT?



The European Parliament would like to have a direct right of legislative initiative like many national parliaments.

Under the Treaties, only the European Commission has a monopoly on the right of initiative. This sensitive issue could come back on the agenda in the context of a possible institutional reform.

Today, the European Commission often draws inspiration from the European Parliament's own-initiative reports when preparing its proposals.



225 own-initiative resolutions from the European Parliament have been replied to by the Commission.



ROLE ON ENLARGEMENT TO INCLUDE NEW MEMBERS?



The European Parliament is not involved in negotiations for the accession of a new Member State. However, its essential role is to give its assent before the signing of the Accession Treaty. Its vote is therefore binding.

It nevertheless accompanies the process through reports and resolutions. It can also receive members of parliamentary observers from the candidate countries.



EXTEND THE SCOPE OF CO-DECISION?



In the wake of the Conference on the Future of Europe and ongoing discussions on potential Treaty changes, particularly with a view to future enlargements, the question arises of a possible

extension of the scope of qualified majority voting in a number of areas (foreign and security policy in particular), with a consequent extension of the scope of co-decision.



HARMONISATION OF ELECTORAL LAWS?



The Member States have not yet reached agreement on harmonising the conditions under which elections to the European Parliament are held, with a view to giving a more European dimension to election campaigns, nor on the principle of transnational lists.

The question remains open for the future...