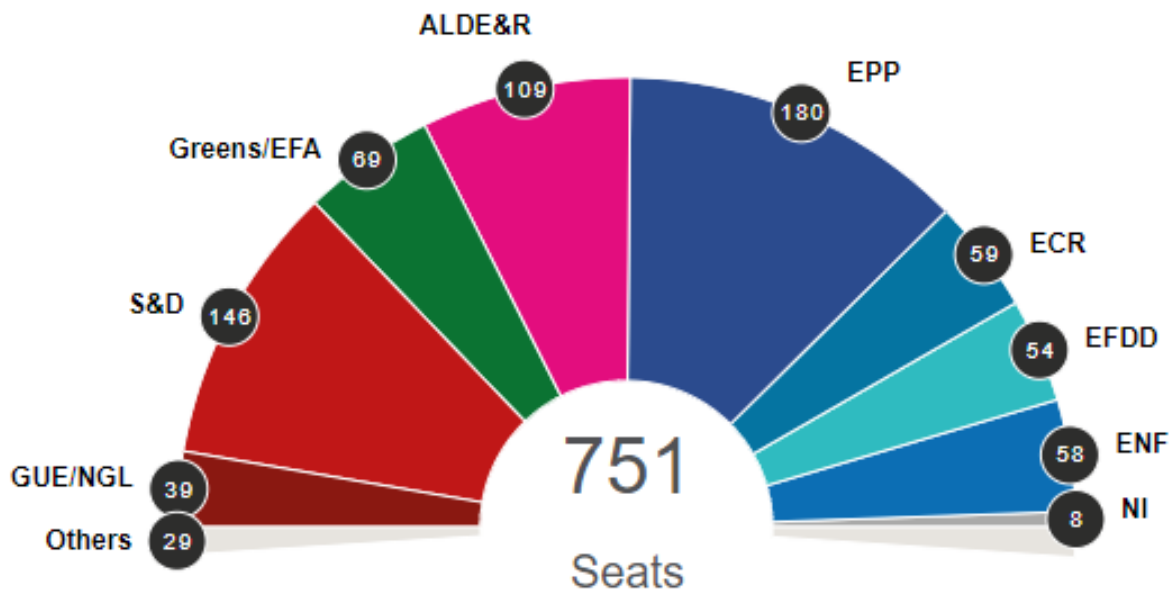


# European Parliamentary Election 2019



## Elections Analysis (Provisionally)

Between 23 and 26 May 2019, EU citizens in 28 countries voted to elect 751 representatives to the European Parliament for the next five years. These are the main takeaways.

### 1) Highest turnout in 25 years

- The overall **turnout was 50.5%**, the highest in 25 years (2014: 42.61%). This can be read that most voters saw this Parliament election as a decisive one.
- Highest turnout in Malta, Denmark and Spain all way above 60%.
- Lowest turnout was seen in Slovakia, Slovenia, Czech Republic and Croatia (all below 30%).

### 2) The Fall of the Giants

- **EPP** and **S&D** remain the two largest groups in the European Parliament. However, both lost a significant amount of seats. EPP got 180 seats (2014: 216/-36) and S&D 146 (2014: 185/-39). Together they reach 326 seats (2014: over 400), not less than 50 seats short of the simple majority of 376. This means that they can no longer form a majority coalition.

### 3) Fragmentation of Parliament

- **ALDE** is one of the winners of the elections. Heavily helped by Macron's decision to join the liberal group and the UK LibDems, their number of seats increase to 109 (2014: 69). For ALDE this is good news: they have the chance to be the kingmaker in an EPP-S&D-ALDE maxi coalition (Vestager as President of the Commission?).
- Another winner of the European elections is the **Greens**. With climate change being one of the dominating themes of the elections they got 69 seats (2014: 52).
- On the right spectrum, populists or European sceptics gained traction, or remained relevant: **ECR** got 59 seats (2014: -18), **ENF** won 58 seats (2014: +22), **EFDD** won 54 (+12),
- On the left spectrum, the United Left **GUE/NGL** gained 39 seats, 13 less than in 2014.
- The **non-affiliated** and **others** got a combined of 37 seats (2014: 20/+17). However, among the 'others' some members may affiliate with political groups in the following days.

### **Eurosceptics on the rise?**

- Right-wing/Eurosceptic parties in Italy, France, Poland and the UK came out as strongest parties in their countries, adding up to 104 MEPs. Despite a rise in absolute numbers, radical Eurosceptics make up 1/7 of total MEPs in the Parliament.

### **Pro-EU still strong**

- Taken all together, pro-EU parties will continue to have a majority in the Parliament. Whilst both S&D and ALDE have the intention to challenge the dominance of the EPP, there is also no centre-left coalition possible against the EPP.
- There was no major 'Weber' or 'Timmermans' *spitzenkandidat* – German for 'lead candidate' - effect in their respective country or beyond.

## Next steps

### **EP *spitzenkandidat* or Member State Prerogative?**

- The next urgent question is to who will become European Commission President.
- The European Parliament insists that it should be one of the '*Spitzenkandidaten*' (EPP Weber or S&D Timmermans, now also ALDE Vestager).
- Legally, the Member States decide on the European Commission President and need to 'reflect' the European Parliament vote but can decide on other candidates. Macron is known to reject the '*spitzenkandidat*' system.
- The political groups in the European Parliament have to explore swiftly if they can propose a common EC candidate to the Member States, to leverage their momentum of high turnout before member states come together this Tuesday evening to discuss the election outcome and potential posts.

### **Parliament Groups, Functions, Committees**

- During the month of June, political groups will be officially formed.
- Beginning of July, the new Parliament will hold its first plenary session where the appointment of Committees chairs and election of President and VPs will happen.

### **EU's top Jobs**

- On 20 and 21 June, EU heads of states will adopt EU Strategic Agenda 2019-2024 and decide on top EU jobs, notably the President of the European Commission.
- In the week of 15 July, the Parliament will have the first chance to elect the European Commission's President. Whether or not the *Spitzenkandidat* system will continue is still to be confirmed.
- In late-September and beginning-October, hearings of Commissioners-Designate will take place.
- 21 - 24 October confirmation of the new Commission.
- In November the new Commission team is elected and ready to start the 5-year mandate.