



European elections

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What the European elections mean?

- European elections mean opting for the people you want to defend your interests in the EU. Members of the European Parliament not only draft and decide on laws, they also vote on new trade agreements, oversee the other EU institutions, check that EU money is spent properly and launch investigations into issues.



- By voting in the European elections, you are exercising your democratic right to participate in decisions about Europe's future and giving Parliament the legitimacy it needs to do its job.
- The elections take place every five years and are the largest transnational elections in the world. Following the elections, Parliament votes to elect the new head of the European Commission, the EU's executive body, and to approve the entire team of commissioners.
- The most recent elections, in May 2019, saw a significant increase in voter turnout to an EU-wide average of over 50%. The Parliament organised an impartial information campaign urging citizens to vote. The campaign led to the launch of the Together.EU community to promote discussion on Europe's democratic future.



How voting works

01

Election days can also be different. Elections normally start on Thursdays (the day on which voting is normally held in the Netherlands) and end on Sundays (when most countries hold their elections).

02

National political parties take part in the elections, but once elected, most MEPs choose to become members of a transnational political group. Most national parties are affiliated to a European political party.

03

The number of Members elected in each country depends on the size of the population, with smaller countries getting more seats than strict proportionality would require. Currently, the number of Members ranges from six for Malta, Luxembourg and Cyprus to 96 for Germany.

List of European political parties

- European People's Party
- Party of European Socialists
- Renew Europe
- European Democratic Party
- European Free Alliance
- European Green Party
- Party of the European Left
- European Conservatives and Reformists Party
- European Christian Political Movement
- Identity and Democracy Party



EUROPEAN POLITICAL PARTIES

