



## LXXII PLenary MEETING OF THE COSAC

SESSION II: THE STATE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION IN THE YEAR OF INSTITUTIONAL TRANSITION AND THE 15-YEAR APPLICATION OF THE TREATY OF LISBON



European elections were held between 6 and 9 June 2024 in the 27 EU Member States. Eight political groups have been formed in the 720-seat European Parliament (EP). A change compared to the previous term is the dissolution of the Identity and Democracy (ID) group and the creation of new political groups: the Patriots for Europe (Pfe) and the Europe of Sovereign Nations (ESN). The two largest political groups remain the European People's Party (EPP) and the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D).

Among the top leaders of the EU institutions, Roberta Metsola was re-elected President of the EP for the next two and a half years, while António Costa was elected President of the European Council. Ursula von der Leyen may start her five-year term as the re-elected President of the European Commission (EC) at the end of 2024. Kaja Kallas is the new candidate for High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. The EP will start interviewing the Commissioners-designate of the Member States in line with the [reform „Parliament 2024”](#). The [programme](#) of the 2024 Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union is committed to ensuring a smooth institutional transition.

In June 2024, the European Council addressed the issue of the EU's internal reform and in its adopted [conclusions](#) underlined the need to lay the necessary internal groundwork and reforms to fulfil the EU's long-term ambitions. The European Council called on the EC to present in-depth policy reviews with operational elements by spring 2025, in particular to ensure the EU's long-term competitiveness, prosperity and global leadership and to strengthen its strategic sovereignty.

The last major amendment to the Treaties was made by the Treaty of Lisbon, which entered into force on 1 December 2009, with the following important innovations (European Parliament [website](#), EUR-Lex [website](#), EUR-Lex [2017](#)):

- the post of permanent president of the European Council and the position of High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy have been created;
- the trio presidency has been introduced, with three member states taking turns to chair the presidency;

- the role of the EP has been increased by electing the President of the EC on the basis of a proposal from the European Council;
- the ordinary legislative procedure (former codecision procedure) has been extended to 40 new policy areas (e.g. agriculture, judicial and police cooperation);
- the European Citizens' Initiative as an institution of participatory democracy has been introduced;
- the former pillar structure of EU policies has been replaced by an exclusive, shared and supporting division of competences.

Protocols No. 1 and 2 of the Treaty of Lisbon have been of particular importance in the context of the EU procedures of national parliaments. Under Protocol No. 1 on the role of national parliaments in the European Union, the EC must give them direct access to consultation documents and draft legislative acts. Protocol No. 2 on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality gives national parliaments the right of direct control, so that they can carry out a subsidiarity check on draft legislative acts in the fields of non-exclusive competences within eight weeks of the proposal being tabled. A breach of the subsidiarity principle is established in a reasoned opinion.

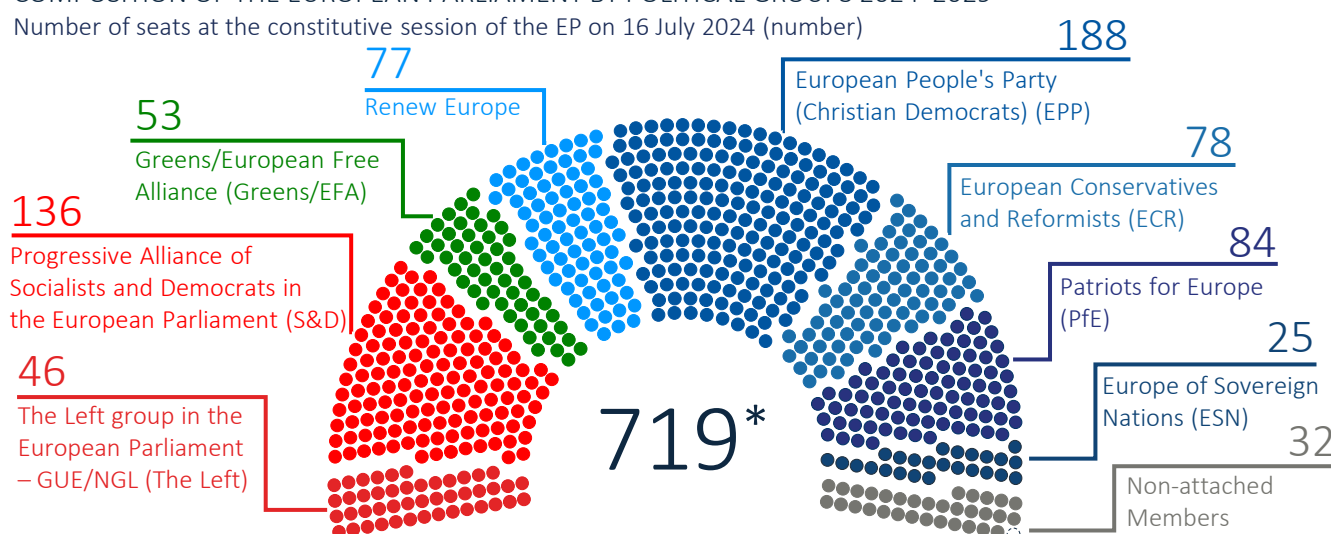
The EC published in October 2018 [the Report of the Task Force on Subsidiarity, Proportionality and 'Doing Less More Efficiently'](#), which also made recommendations related to Protocol No. 2. The EC and EP produce annual reports on the role of national parliaments in the EU (the [EC's latest report](#) was published in October 2023, the [EP's latest report](#) in January 2024).

The [Conference on the Future of Europe](#), which ran from April 2021 to May 2022, provided an opportunity for a comprehensive discussion of issues related to the application of the Treaty of Lisbon where citizens shared their ideas. The results of the conference are presented in a final report containing 49 proposals and 326 measures. In its resolution of November 2023 [\[P9\\_TA\(2023\)0427\]](#), the EP proposed a number of institutional and policy reforms based on the final report. ♦

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## COMPOSITION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT BY POLITICAL GROUPS 2024–2029

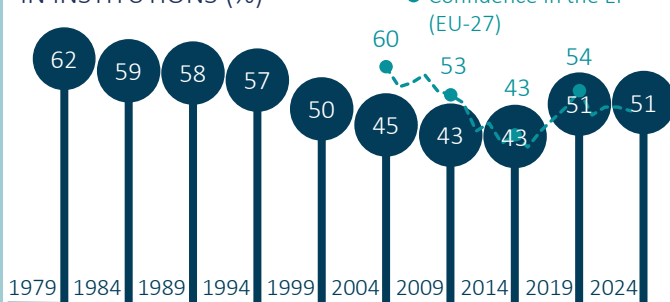
Number of seats at the constitutive session of the EP on 16 July 2024 (number)



\* Until the constitutive session, the Spanish authorities had not notified the EP of one mandate, so the number of seats was below the 720 seats set by the [European Council Decision \(EU\) 2023/2061](#).

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## EP TURNOUT AND CONFIDENCE IN INSTITUTIONS (%)



3

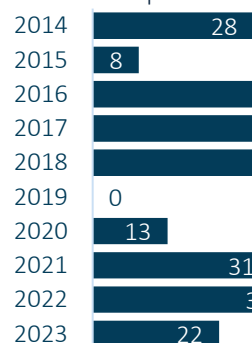
## NUMBER OF EUROPEAN CITIZENS' INITIATIVES, 2012–2024 (number of initiatives)



4

## NUMBER OF REASONED OPINIONS (SUBSIDIARITY CHECK), 2014–2023

Number of opinions



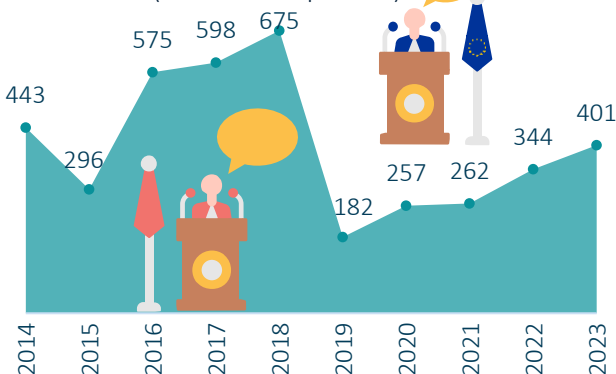
Number of procedures applied since 2009:

3 'yellow card' procedure (2012, 2013, 2016)

0 'orange card' procedure

5

## NUMBER OF POLITICAL DIALOGUE OPINIONS, 2014–2023 (number of opinions)



## SOURCES

- 1 European Parliament (2024): [The political groups of the European Parliament](#) (Flourish chart) | 2 European Parliament (2024): [European results](#), Eurostat (2024): [\[sdg 16 60\]](#) | 3 European Union (2024): [The European Citizens' Initiative in key figures](#) | 4 | 5 [Written report of the IPEX Information Officer on the work of IPEX 2023](#), European Parliament (2024): [The principle of subsidiarity](#)