

SNAPSHOT

The latest updates from the team at FTI Consulting
Giving you insight to what is on the EU political agenda

Initial overview of EU parliamentary election results

27 May 2019: What kind of results define this EU parliamentary election? Pro Europeans across the board will be happy at least that more voters turned out than the previous election in 2014, bucking a downward trend that has been in effect since 1979. However, voting in some Member States remains worryingly low. The two largest traditional parties on the centre-left and right remain the largest but had a bad night by losing their combined majority. Others such as the Liberals and the Greens had a good one. The predicted Nationalist wave did not materialise uniformly as perhaps anticipated. This will impact governance of the European Parliament with a more eclectic range of views seeking a share of voice. A mixture of emotions appears to have driven the European electorate, for a variety of reasons.

Turnout

Only 42% of the electorate voted in 2014. With votes still being counted, final turnout for 2019 cannot yet be confirmed, but current estimates suggest around 51% of eligible voters participated in these elections. The clear increase in participation will be very much welcomed by parties and institutions across Europe, in particular by the European Parliament itself, as it will provide the institutions with increased legitimacy.

The Greens did well, jumping from 52 to 70 seats, with specific gains in Germany and getting a foothold in many Member States.

Nationalist parties in Europe secured 115 seats and will have a strengthened voice in the European Parliament. They did particularly well in France, Italy, Poland, Hungary and the United Kingdom. The challenge they have is that they are currently divided into multiple groups with many different priorities, many of which are nationally focused.

The results

As expected, the right of centre European People's Party (EPP) grouping in Parliament won the 2019 EU elections. The centre-left Socialists and Democrats (S&D) came second. The EPP won 179 seats – down from 217 – and the S&D won 150 – down from 184. For the first time since European elections began in 1979, the two main parties do not have a combined majority of seats. As a result, the traditional structure of how Parliament reaches agreement will change.

A new governance for the European parliament

A more splintered European Parliament with a significant increase in the number of Greens, Liberals and Nationalist MEPs.

This is a real opportunity for political groupings other than the EPP and S&D to have a stronger voice and potentially play the role of kingmaker.

As expected, the centrist progressive Liberals and Democrats (ALDE) saw a significant increase in numbers, rising from 69 to 107, with gains most notably coming from the UK and France, with President Macron's La Republique en Marche (LREM) – assuming that they join.

The next governing coalition could be based on an alliance of pro-European groupings to contain the strengthened Eurosceptic and anti-European representation. Who this could involve and how this could form will become clear over

the coming weeks and will be based on the political priorities for each political group.

Next steps

Internal negotiations within each political group will intensify over the coming weeks. Based on national results, political parties from individual Member States will try to get a leading role in their respective European political groups. Discussions will also start today about how a future grand coalition could work and how the EU's top jobs could be allocated.

Expect tough and extended negotiations prior to the appointment of the next European Parliament and European Commission Presidents. The difference between EPP and S&D is small. Given the change in dynamic, it is possible that the top jobs may not necessarily go to the grouping that won the most seats, which is the traditional outcome. If other parties come together to oppose their candidate, we could see a different scenario.

While the EPP remains the largest grouping in these elections it is still unclear if Manfred Weber, their choice to be the next Commission President, will be confirmed. Political groups will also start to prepare their staff for the first plenary session in Strasbourg to be held in early July.

Questions remain as to what could happen to British MEPs and the impact this will have on the balance of power on different political groupings if Brexit is concluded.

A lot is yet to be clarified, as all results have yet to be finalised. What is clear is that the status quo has changed and business needs to be ready for whatever implications this might have.

For more information please go to www.getready4.eu

Institutional Timeline

- 2-4 July (Strasbourg)
 - Election of the President of the Parliament
 - Election of the Vice-Presidents of Parliament
 - Election of the Quaestors of Parliament
 - Appointments to Committees
- 8 July (tbc)
 - Constitutive meeting of Committees, where the Chairs and Vice-Chairs will be elected.
- 15-18 July (Strasbourg)
 - First meetings of Committee Co-ordinators
 - Appointments to interparliamentary delegations



EXPERTS WITH IMPACT

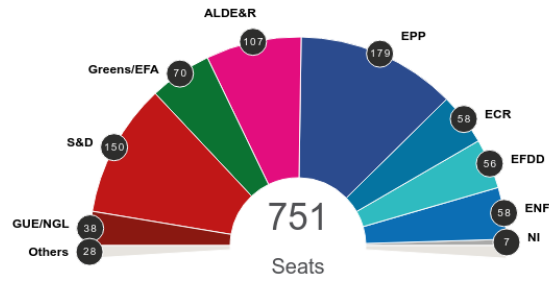
About FTI Consulting

FTI Consulting is an independent global business advisory firm dedicated to helping organisations manage change, mitigate risk and resolve disputes: financial, legal, operational, political & regulatory, reputational and transactional. FTI Consulting professionals, located in all major business centres throughout the world, work closely with clients to anticipate, illuminate and overcome complex business challenges and opportunities. Connect with us at www.fticonsulting.com or on Twitter (@FTIConsulting), Facebook and LinkedIn. The views expressed herein are those of the author(s) and not necessarily the views of FTI Consulting, Inc. its management, its subsidiaries, its affiliates, or its other professionals, members of employees.

www.fticonsulting.com

European Parliament: 2019-2024

Provisional results



Composition of the European Parliament based on available provisional or final national results published after voting has finished in all Member States, based on the structure of the outgoing Parliament.

Political groups in the European Parliament	Number of seats	% of seats
EPP - Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats)	179	23.83%
S&D - Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament	150	19.97%
ALDE&R - Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe + Renaissance + USR PLUS	107	14.25%
Greens/EFA - Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance	70	9.32%
ECR - European Conservatives and Reformists Group	58	7.72%
ENF - Europe of Nations and Freedom Group	58	7.72%
EFDD - Europe of Freedom and Direct Democracy Group	56	7.46%
GUE/NGL - Confederal Group of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left	38	5.06%
NI - Non-attached Members	7	0.93%
Others - Newly elected Members not allied to any of the political groups set up in the outgoing Parliament	28	3.73%

Since 2009, according to Parliament's rules of procedure, a political group shall consist of at least 25 Members elected in at least seven Member States.