

The Development of European Integration

Structure of the European Parliament

Chart 3 | 6

Topic:

The European Parliament is the largest EU institution. It consists of 705 elected members.

The European Parliament (EP)

President

Elected by the European Parliament

Members of the European Parliament (MEP), 2019-2024

At present 705 members in total (compare Art. 14(2) TEU),* elected by the peoples of all Member States in direct elections, based on a proportional representation system, for five years. There is no uniform procedure yet (see Art. 223(1) TFEU). Distribution of seats (including the President):

• Germany	96
• France	79
• Italy	76
• Spain	59
• Poland	52
• Romania	33
• The Netherlands	29
• Belgium, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Portugal, Sweden	21 each
• Austria	19
• Bulgaria	17
• Denmark, Finland, Slovakia	14 each
• Ireland	13
• Croatia	12
• Lithuania	11
• Latvia, Slovenia	8 each
• Estonia	7
• Cyprus, Luxembourg, Malta	6 each

* With regard to Brexit (see **Chart 2/27**), the Council adopted a decision on the composition of the European Parliament following the withdrawal of the UK: Decision 2018/937.

On the right to vote in special territories of the Member States, see e.g. *Spain v UK* (2006), concerning the UK and Gibraltar; *Eman and Sevinger* (2006), concerning the Netherlands and Aruba.

Political groups in the European Parliament

The MEPs sit in political groups (fractions), based on their chosen political affiliation. There are currently seven political groups:

- Group of the European People's Party (EPP);
- Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the EP (S&D);
- Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance (Greens/EFA);
- European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR);
- Confederal Group of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left (GUE/NGL);
- Identity and Democracy Group (ID);
- Renew Europe Group (Renew).