



FEMYSO



Toolkit.

EUROPEAN ELECTION 2024

Your Vote, Your Voice Campaign

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Why your vote, your voice matters?

The upcoming European Parliamentary Elections pose a great significance in the future direction of the European Union. This year marks a turning point in European politics, as recent polling indicates a notable rise in support for right-wing political parties. Such developments have intensified the concerns among young Muslims regarding the trajectory of the European landscape and the safeguarding of their fundamental rights. While the concept of unity in diversity has long driven the European Union forward, diversity has recently been cast as a scapegoat in prevailing political narratives.

As young European Muslim citizens, it is incumbent upon us to champion our Muslim and broader communities against injustices such as discrimination, civil and religious rights violations, disparities in socio-economic opportunities, and intrusive surveillance. Simultaneously, we must construct our own narrative about ourselves and the future we envision by actively participating in political dialogues, mobilizing our communities, and contributing to the latest developments with the principles we uphold.

FEMYSO is actively mobilizing its community to engage in the European Elections, striving to provide individuals from varied backgrounds with opportunities for active and meaningful participation in public discourse and political processes. In our pluralist societies, engaged voting stands as a cornerstone of democracy. Nevertheless, the mounting political and social obstacles confronting Muslim communities in Europe demand urgent attention. We firmly uphold that the proactive engagement of young people in politics is essential for cultivating a more resilient Europe and nurturing societies that are diverse, cohesive, and vibrant.

'Your Vote, Your Voice' Campaign.

Your Vote, Your Voice Campaign comes for YOU, all **European Muslim Youth**. It aims at significantly **increasing the voters' turnout** among Muslim youth, **increasing their political literacy** - particularly on EU-related issues- and **strengthening the collaboration with MEPs and MEP candidates** that will pledge to work for or implement the presented demands by the European Muslim youth during the upcoming mandate. Backed by **ambassadors from 14 different European countries**, FEMYSO is committed to expanding the reach of the 'Your Vote, Your Voice' Campaign and mobilising young Muslims all over Europe. As a crucial part of the campaign, **this toolkit possesses the necessary resources and guidance** to enable proactive engagement in the European Elections by tailoring your local European Election Campaign. FEMYSO works to empower Muslim youth to become proactive, competent, and exemplary citizens who hold and utilize the power to improve their societies.





The European Elections.

The European Elections stand as a **foundation of democratic participation** within the European Union, offering citizens across its member states the opportunity to shape the direction of the continent's governance. At the heart of this electoral process lies the **European Parliament**, serving as **the only EU institution directly elected by its citizens** every five years. The European Parliament holds considerable power in the EU's legislative framework, wielding authority in approving the majority of European legislation and electing the President of the European Commission.

Through the electoral process, citizens like you, can exercise their democratic rights to influence the composition of the European Parliament, thereby shaping the policies and priorities that govern their lives. By electing MEPs who support your cause, fostering dialogues with them, monitoring their statements and actions, and ensuring they remain accountable throughout their term, **you can exert significant influence** on the direction of policy-making.

**FEMYSO confirms that it does not provide support to neither political parties nor candidates participating in the elections, nor does it intend to field its own candidates in the 2024 European Elections.*

How can you participate?

FEMYSO's network consists of 32 Member Organisations (MOs) across 22 European Countries, out of which 14 are EU Member States. This toolkit is dedicated to everyone who desires to enact positive change within their community and influence political decisions for the better. Whether you're a 'Your Vote, Your Voice' Campaign Ambassador, a board member, or volunteer of one of our Member Organisations (MOs), part of the expansive FEMYSO network, or simply a responsible and change-driven EU Muslim citizen, there are numerous ways through which you can contribute to this campaign. Find some of these below:

ORGANISING EVENTS ON THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

- **Short Educational Session at Existing Events** - Host a concise discussion during existing events to inform attendees about the European Elections and encourage political engagement.
- **Dedicated Event to the European Elections 2024** - Organize a seminar focusing on active citizenship, featuring training sessions on advocacy and media engagement to prepare participants for the upcoming elections.
- **Panel Discussion with MEPs or Key Figures** - Arrange a panel discussion with MEPs, candidates, or notable figures to discuss the importance of youth involvement in shaping European politics and address key issues facing Muslim communities.
- **Elections Simulations** - Organize simulated voting exercises in schools and community centers to familiarize participants with the voting process and encourage civic participation.
- **Campaign Training Workshops** - Provide training workshops to equip volunteers with the skills needed to campaign effectively for candidates or causes during the European Elections.

ENGAGING WITH MEPs AND MEP CANDIDATES

- **Roundtable Discussions** - Organize local or national roundtable discussions where candidate MEPs can engage with community members to discuss key issues and policy priorities. An opportunity to pitch FEMYSO's 'Voices of Diversity' Manifesto.
- **Video Message/Interview/Podcast** - Invite candidate MEPs to participate in video interviews or podcasts where they can address questions from constituents.
- **Coffee Interviews for Articles** - Arrange informal coffee meetings with candidate MEPs to conduct interviews for articles that highlight their positions and priorities for voters.
- **Social Media Engagement** - Utilize social media platforms to engage with candidate MEPs by tweeting at them, emailing them with questions or concerns, and challenging their messages and ideas publicly.

ENGAGING WITH THE MEDIA

- **Op-eds on EP and the Elections** - Collaborate with FEMYSO to write op-eds expressing your opinions on European issues and the Elections, with the assistance of editing and publication on their website.
- **Interviews with Journalists** - Proactively contact journalists to offer interviews on Election Days, providing insights and perspectives on key topics and voter sentiments.
- **Media Strategy Consultation** - Seek guidance from FEMYSO for developing a comprehensive media strategy, leveraging their expertise to craft effective messaging and outreach plans tailored to your goals and target audience.

COOPERATING WITH OTHER YOUTH NGOS

- **Participate in Joint Events** - Collaborate with other youth NGOs partnering with the EE24 Campaign by actively participating in their events, workshops, and forums aimed at promoting civic engagement and voter turnout.
- **Organize Joint Initiatives** - Initiate partnerships with other youth NGOs by reaching out to them to plan and execute joint projects or initiatives focused on voter education, registration drives, or community outreach efforts.
- **Facilitate Networking** - Utilize FEMYSO's network to connect with local youth NGOs that are also partners of the EE24 Campaign, leveraging their resources and expertise to amplify collective efforts and maximize impact.

ENGAGING IN SCHOOLS & UNIVERSITIES

- **Debate or Discussion Sessions** - Host a debate or discussion session on the European Elections at your university, engaging students in dialogue about the importance of civic participation and the electoral process.
- **High School Visits** - Visit your alma mater and engage with students about the upcoming elections, providing insights and information to encourage their interest and participation in the democratic process.
- **Election Day Breakfast Meeting** - Organize a breakfast meeting on election day where participants can gather to discuss election-related topics before heading to the polls together to vote.
- **Civic Engagement Clubs** - Establish student-led clubs or organizations focused on civic engagement and political activism, providing opportunities for students to learn about, discuss, and take action on issues relevant to the European Elections and beyond.

SOCIAL MEDIA CONTENT CREATION

- **Street Survey** - Conduct a street survey by recording audio or video with your phone, asking people questions about the upcoming European Elections and the European Parliament.
- **Podcast Series** - Organize a podcast series featuring politically active guests discussing the importance of voting and the upcoming elections. Keep it simple by conducting the podcast via phone interviews and share it on various platforms to reach a wider audience.
- **Instagram Story Campaign** - Create short Instagram story content promoting voter awareness and engagement. Use creative visuals and catchy captions to grab attention and encourage followers to participate in the elections.
- **Temporary Website Creation** - Develop a temporary website dedicated to discussions about the upcoming elections, where visitors can engage in polls, share opinions, and access relevant information. Foster a collaborative environment for open dialogue and exchange of ideas among users.

LEVERAGING THE OPPORTUNITIES OF EP & ITS LOCAL OFFICES

- **Merchandise Distribution** - Access merchandise from the European Parliament or its local offices to enhance visibility during local campaigns and events.
- **Training Sessions** - Attend educational sessions hosted by the European Parliament to gain insights into democratic participation and the role of the Parliament in EU governance.
- **Speaker Engagement** - Invite European Parliament staff to speak at local events, providing valuable expertise on EU policies and the electoral process.



What support can FEMYSO give?

FEMYSO offers diverse forms of support to both our Member Organisations and individuals, which may be provided directly by FEMYSO or facilitated through our extensive network affiliations.

THIS TOOLKIT

This toolkit provides essential insights into European elections and the role of the European Parliament, along with a range of resources and tools to facilitate effective engagement in the voting process and influence decision-making. Feel free to utilize this toolkit yourself and share it with your communities or fellow young change-makers.

TRAINING SESSIONS*

FEMYSO offers comprehensive training sessions covering advocacy, lobbying, media engagement, civic participation, and more. Our support also encompasses organizing sessions, arranging experienced trainers, conceptualizing content, and providing assistance in social media and mainstream media coverage and strategies.

** The Exploring Uncharted Realms of Political Awareness Training in Brussels 23–25 Feb*

ACCESS TO RESOURCES

Benefit from a wealth of resources including:

- Previous academic research or reports
- Past successful campaigns
- Expert team members and a vast expert network
- Access to data and statistics on relevant topics
- Training materials and workshops on advocacy and engagement strategies

COOPERATION POSSIBILITIES WITH OUR MOs

Explore various avenues for cooperation, including:

- Engaging in joint initiatives and campaigns
- Sharing resources and expertise
- Co-hosting events and workshops to amplify impact
- Supporting each other's initiatives through promotion and networking opportunities

ACCESS TO OUR INSTITUTIONAL and NGO NETWORKS

Leverage our institutional networks to access:

- Open sessions of the European Parliament
- Support for research including statistics
- Resources for media, PR, and communications content
- Funding opportunities for relevant initiatives

Additionally, tap into collaborations with key entities such as:

- The European Commission Coordinator on Combating Anti-Muslim Hatred
- The European Network Against Racism (ENAR)

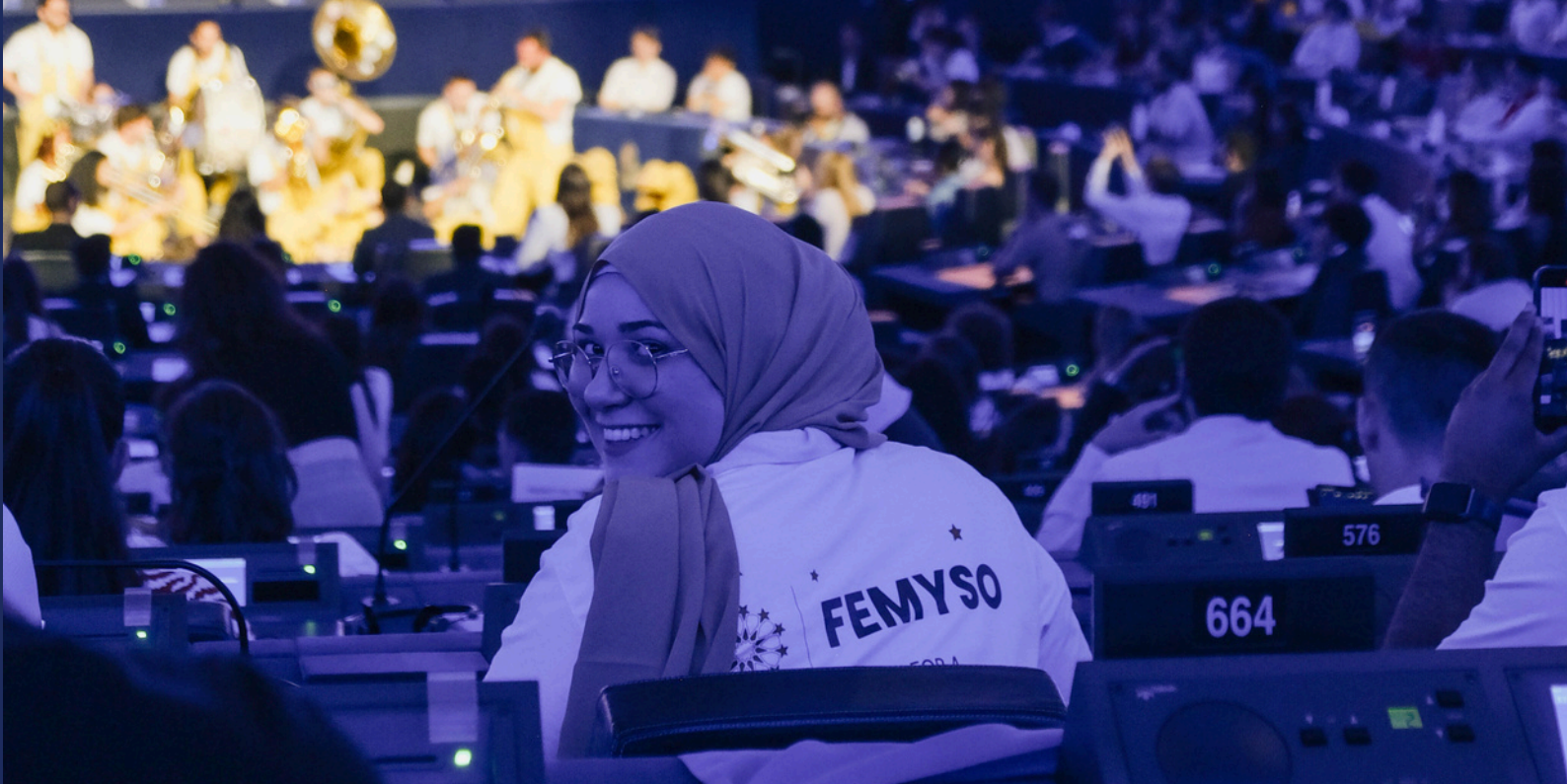
ROUNDTABLE AT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT/ ONLINE

Participants will have the unique opportunity to engage in interactive discussions with both candidates and incumbent MEPs, fostering dialogue and exchanging perspectives on key issues. Additionally, participants can share their insights, ask questions, and contribute to shaping the discourse surrounding European governance and policymaking.

PARTICIPATION IN EU-LEVEL ACTIVITIES

FEMYSO can facilitate your attendance:

- At plenary sessions of the European Parliament, which are held in Brussels or Strasbourg.
- At activities offered by other partners of the European Parliament, which are accessible via <https://together.europarl.europa.eu/> .



European Parliament & European Elections 2024.

Every five years, EU citizens exercise their right to choose representatives to serve in the European Parliament, the directly elected body responsible for advocating and safeguarding their interests within the EU decision-making framework. This section aims to equip you with essential technical information pertaining to the European Parliament and the electoral process.

** Directly adopted from: What are European elections and how do they work? (europa.eu)*

What is the European Parliament?

The world's only directly elected trans-national assembly, the Parliament, represents the interests of EU citizens at the European level. Every 5 years, voters choose over 700 members – or MEPs – to represent nearly 450 million Europeans.

It elects the President of the European Commission, appoints its Commissioners and holds them to account. It passes laws for our protection and budgets on our behalf. The discourse of its Members shapes the political and social agenda upholding the values of the Treaty of the European Union.*

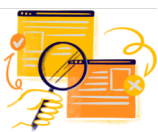
What are the powers and roles of the Parliament?

The parliament has 3 main roles:



LEGISLATIVE

- Passing EU laws, together with the Council of the EU, based on European Commission proposals.
- Deciding on international agreements
- Deciding on enlargements
- Reviewing the Commission's work programme and asking it to propose legislation.



SUPERVISORY

- Electing the Commission President and approving the Commission as a body. Possibility of voting a motion of censure, obliging the Commission to resign.
- Granting discharge, i.e. approving the way EU budgets have been spent
- Examining citizens' petitions and setting up inquiries
- Discussing monetary policy with the European Central Bank
- Questioning Commission and Council
- Election observations



BUDGETARY

- Establishing the EU budget, together with the Council
- Approving the EU's long-term budget, the "Multiannual Financial Framework" *

* Adopted from: *How European elections work?* (europa.eu)

How is the European Parliament composed?

The Parliament is composed of **705 MEPs**, but with the 2024 European Elections the seats will increase to **720**. The allocation of these seats is outlined in the EU Treaties. Each member state has the autonomy to determine the structure of its elections, ensuring gender equality and ballot secrecy. European Union elections follow **a proportional representation system**, where seats are allocated based on the population of each member state. **MEPs are organized according to their political alignment** rather than their nationality. Currently, the number of MEPs per country ranges from 6 for each of the following countries: Malta, Luxembourg and Cyprus; to 96 for Germany. The seats will be distributed at the European Parliament as following:



MEMBER STATE	2019	2024	MEMBER STATE	2019	2024
Germany	96	96	Bulgaria	17	17
France	79	81	Denmark	14	15
Italy	76	76	Slovakia	14	15
Spain	59	61	Finland	14	15
Poland	52	53	Ireland	13	14
Romania	33	33	Croatia	12	12
Netherlands	29	31	Lithuania	11	11
Greece	21	21	Slovenia	8	9
Belgium	21	22	Latvia	8	9
Portugal	21	21	Estonia	7	7
Czech Republic	21	21	Cyprus	6	6
Hungary	21	21	Luxembourg	6	6
Sweden	21	21	Malta	6	6
Austria	19	20			

Source: <https://elections.europa.eu/en/how-elections-work>

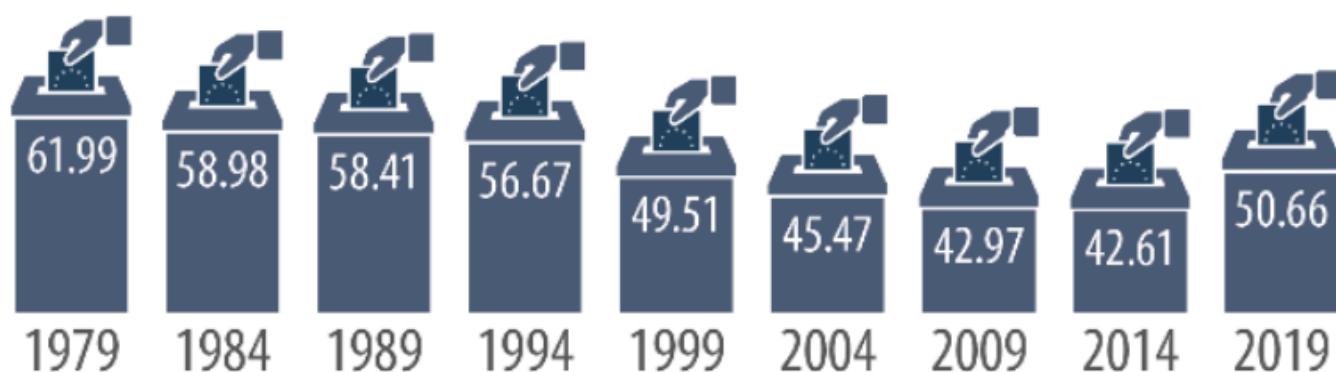
What are the European Elections 2024?

Occurring **every five years**, the European elections constitute **the largest transnational electoral** event globally. Following the elections, the European Parliament votes to elect the new President of the European Commission, the executive arm of the EU, and approve the entire team of commissioners.

The upcoming European elections, being held **on 6–9 June 2024**, offer you the opportunity to exercise your voting rights and contribute to shaping the future direction of Europe. By participating in these elections, you not only play a role in determining the course of European politics, but also provide the European Parliament with the necessary legitimacy to carry out its responsibilities effectively.

These elections are instrumental in selecting representatives who will advocate for your interests within the EU. **MEPs wield the power to influence legislative decisions, negotiate trade agreements, oversee EU institutions, ensure transparent use of public funds, and initiate investigations into pertinent issues.** It is essential to familiarize yourself with the current MEPs representing your country.

The previous elections in **May 2019** witnessed a notable **increase in voter turnout**, surpassing an EU average of **more than 50%**, underscoring the significance of citizen engagement in shaping the European democratic process. We anticipate that these elections will experience an even greater voter turnout.*



*Adopted from: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/at-your-service/en/be-heard/elections>

Image source: *Heading towards the 2024 European elections [Ten issues to watch in 2023] | Epthinktank | European Parliament*



How can I vote?

Voting eligibility is limited to EU citizens. Typically, upon reaching the minimum voting age in their respective EU country, individuals receive a voting card. On the day of the election, voters simply need to go to their assigned polling station

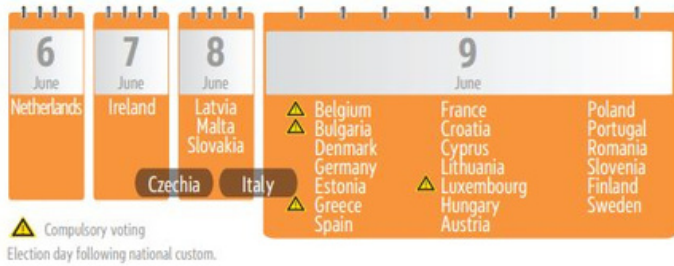
To obtain specific details for your country, refer to the website

<https://www.european-elections.eu>, where you can find information on:

- The voting date
- Registration requirements and deadlines
- Minimum voting age
- Polling locations
- Procedures for voting from abroad

National Rules.

Election day

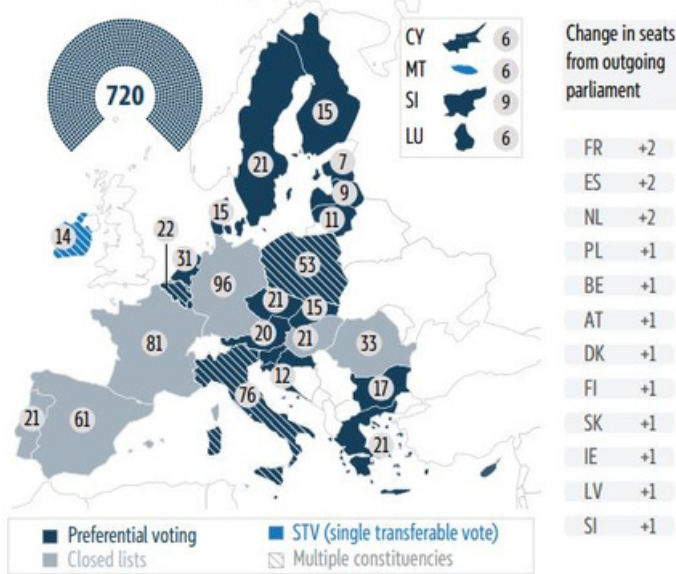


Voting methods for citizens abroad

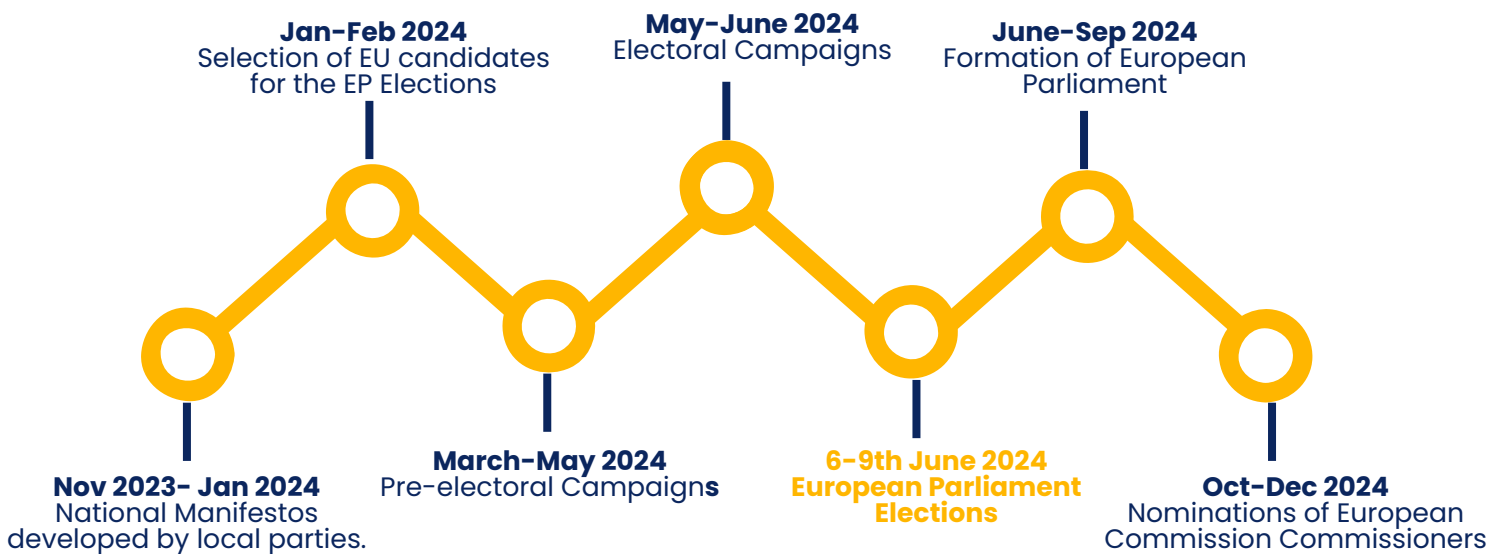
Belgium	By post	Embassy/consulate	Proxy
Bulgaria	*		
Czechia	NOT POSSIBLE		
Denmark		Embassy/consulate	
Germany	By post		
Estonia	By post	Embassy/consulate	E-voting
Ireland	NOT POSSIBLE		
Greece	By post		
Spain	By post	Embassy/consulate	
France		Embassy/consulate	Proxy
Croatia		Embassy/consulate	
Italy	*		
Cyprus		Embassy/consulate	
Latvia	By post	Embassy/consulate	
Lithuania	By post	Embassy/consulate	
Luxembourg	By post	Embassy/consulate	
Hungary	By post	Embassy/consulate	
Malta	NOT POSSIBLE		
Netherlands	By post	Embassy/consulate	Proxy
Austria	By post		
Poland		Embassy/consulate	
Portugal		Embassy/consulate	
Romania		Embassy/consulate	
Slovenia	By post	Embassy/consulate	
Slovakia	NOT POSSIBLE		
Finland	By post	Embassy/consulate	E-voting
Sweden	By post	Embassy/consulate	

By post, Embassy/consulate, Proxy, E-voting
 * Voting from abroad only possible within another EU country.

Number of MEPs and voting system



Elections timeline.



Sources:

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/ATAG/2023/754620/EPRS_ATA\(2023\)754620_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/ATAG/2023/754620/EPRS_ATA(2023)754620_EN.pdf)
<https://easpd.eu/resources/europeanelections24/>



Political groups.

European People's Party (EPP) – 182 MEPs

- Centre-right, majority German Christian Democrats
- Biggest group in the Parliament
- Pro European Integration
- Liberalism & Social conservatism
- Strong transatlantic foreign policy

Progressive Alliance of Socialist & Democrats (S&D)

– 154 MEPs

- Centre-left
- Progressive social policies
- Government intervention in economy
- Environmental protection
- Pro European integration
- Multilateral approach to foreign policies

Renew Europe Group – 108 MEPs

- Centre-left
- A pro-European political group
- Economic and social liberalism
- Social progressivism
- Environmental policies
- Multilateral approach to foreign policies

European Greens/European Free Alliance (Greens/EFA) – 74 MEPs

- Alliance of two parties: the European Greens and the European Free Alliance
- Environmentalism & Sustainable development
- Social justice & Human rights
- European integration
- Regionalism and self-determination

Identity and Democracy Group (ID) – 73 MEPs

- Disagree with the idea of European integration from right-wing view
- Nationalism and Sovereignty
- Migration Control
- Anti-globalism
- Skepticism of multilateralism

The Left Group in the EP (GUE/NGL) – 41 MEPs

- Association of democratic & communist political parties in the EU
- Left-wing economy
- Anti-austerity
- Anti-imperialism and International solidarity
- Anti-fascism and antiracism
- Democratic reform

European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) – 62 MEPs

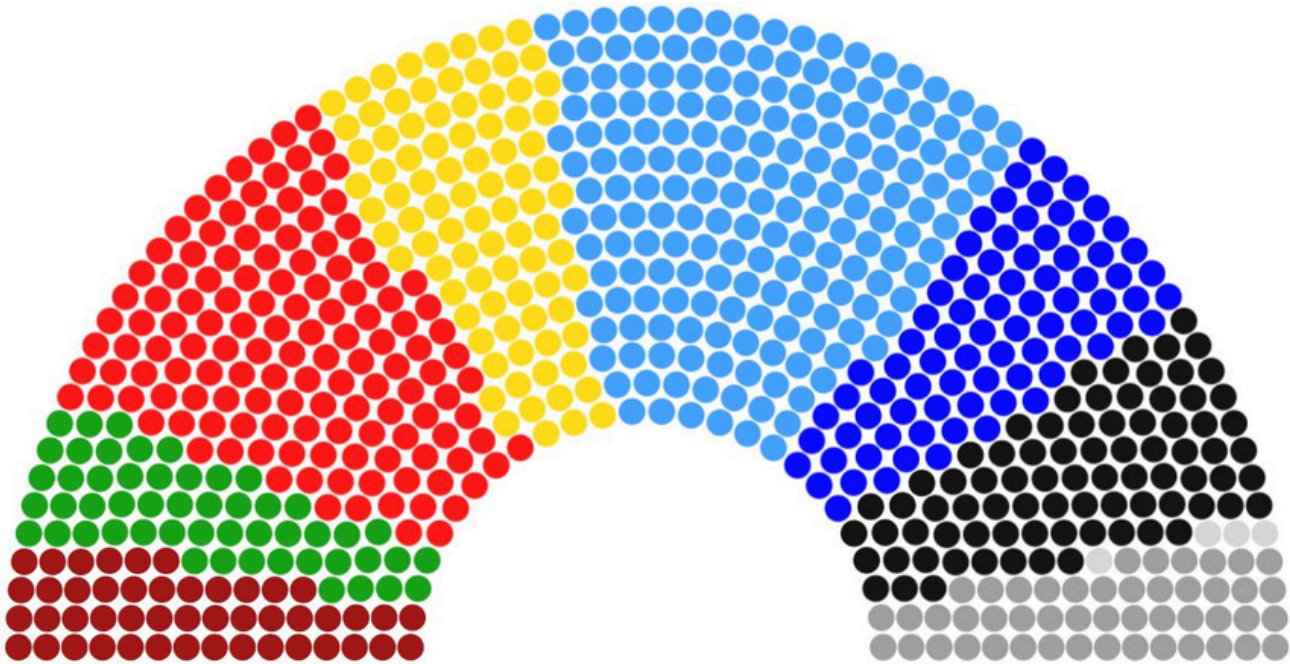
- Euroscepticism
- Conservatism
- National Sovereignty
- Social conservatism
- Strong national defense

Non-attached (NI) – 57 MEPs

- MEPs who could not find allies to form a group
- Mainly nationalist MEPs
- Disadvantages: less speaking time, less resources



Seat projections after European Elections 2024.



European Parliament Group	2019 election	March 2024 Projection	Change
● The Left group in the European Parliament - GUE/NGL (LEFT)	41	47	↑ 6
● Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance (Greens/EFA)	74	52	↓ 22
● Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament (S&D)	154	135	↓ 19
● Renew Europe Group (RE)	108	87	↓ 21
● Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) (EPP)	182	184	↑ 2
● European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR)	62	81	↑ 19
● Identity and Democracy Group (ID)	73	82	↑ 9
● Unaffiliated parties	0	4	↑ 4
● Non-inscrits (NI)	57	48	↓ 9

Latest update by Europe Elects: 29 February 2024

source: <https://europeelects.eu/ep2024/>



FEMYSO

Working for a diverse, cohesive,
and vibrant Europe.

Get in touch.

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