

News from the Parliament

[EP Committees: at the heart of European politics.](#) When MEPs take up their duties in the new Parliament, on 1 July, one of the first things to do is to see which parliamentary committees they will join. It is a key decision, as it will determine in which field they will focus most of their efforts. The committees play a crucial role in policy-making, as they are responsible for drafting Parliament's positions on new legislative proposals. *European Parliament, 4 June 2014.*

[European elections buzz words: Spitzenkandidaten, camembert and stemfie.](#) Like all great events, the European elections also came with its own special jargon. The media delighted in the use of words such as Spitzenkandidaten, camembert and stemfie, but what do they actually mean? The Parliament's newsroom has prepared a look at some of the most popular terms related to the elections. *European Parliament, 2 June 2014.*

[How social media enabled people to be a part of the European elections.](#) Social media have transformed voting from a democratic duty into an event. Where before it was an anonymous act in the privacy of a voting booth, these days it is something you share on Facebook or Twitter, sometimes accompanied with a "stemfie" of yourself voting in the polling station. It has allowed a lively debate online in the weeks leading up to the elections. Perhaps this has helped to stabilise turnout after years of decline, but it is certain it has enabled people to become involved. *European Parliament, 3 June 2014.*

[Towards a new Commission.](#) Infographic prepared by the Parliament's newsroom on the new Commission. *European Parliament.*

The Head of the European Commission

[Cameron's campaign against Juncker is a democratic outrage.](#) John Palmer, former European editor of the Guardian, and former political editor of the European Policy Centre, expresses his point of view on the selection of next President of the European Commission: "*David Cameron's attempt to veto the nomination of the Prime Minister of Luxembourg, Jean-Claude Juncker, as the next President of the European Commission is a democratic outrage. I say that as someone who hasn't voted for Juncker's candidacy in the European Parliament elections (...)*". *The Guardian, 3 June 2014.*

[Does Christine Lagarde want the job?](#) In recent days there has been heavy briefing that Christine Lagarde, head of the IMF, would be the perfect candidate to head the European Commission. The idea of a Lagarde candidacy is particularly popular in Britain, where the government is desperate to stop the job going to Jean-Claude Juncker, the former Prime Minister of Luxembourg. But nobody seems to have paused to ask whether Lagarde herself is interested. *The Financial Times, 5 June 2014.*

On the same topic:

[Europe's Juncker Bond.](#) *Der Spiegel, 5 June 2014.*

[Angela Merkel wants Christine Lagarde as EC President.](#) *The Telegraph, 3 June 2014.*

[Block Juncker to save real democracy in Europe.](#) *The Financial Times, 2 June 2014.*

[Juncker will not kneel' before Brits.](#) *EUobserver, 6 June 2014.*

New Arrangement in the Parliament

[Farage's EU Parliament group faces uncertain future.](#) Despite a victory in the UK, Nigel Farage's Europe of Freedom and Democracy group in the Parliament risks isolation and extinction without the support of Beppe Grillo's Five Star Movement, after a wave of defections hit the political grouping led by the UKIP. *Euractiv, 6 June 2014.*

[Support for ALDE slipping away.](#) The new ALDE group will not only be a diminished presence in the Parliament, it will also have a different geographic distribution. *European Voice, 5 June 2014.*

[Greens reject Beppe Grillo's offer to team up.](#) The Greens in the Parliament on Wednesday (4 June) turned down an offer from Italy's Five Star movement leader and former comedian Beppe Grillo to join their group. *EUobserver, 5 June 2014.*

On the same topic:

[Farage and Grillo's approach is not well seen by the Five Star Movement.](#) *Le Monde, 31 May 2014.*

[Euro-sceptic Danes and Finns leave Farage's group.](#) *Euractiv, 5 June 2014.*

Local Flavours

[Court rules Jobbik cannot be called 'far-right'.](#) Jobbik, Hungary's far-right party cannot be deemed "far-right" by newscasters, according to a decision on Monday (3 June) by the country's highest court. Hungary's supreme court said that by referring to Jobbik as a "parliamentary far-right party" in a newscast in 2012, the Hungarian commercial television channel ATV breached the law because it expressed an opinion. *EUobserver, 6 June 2014.*

[Italy ripe for change under Renzi.](#) For Italy's Prime Minister, the young reformer Matteo Renzi, these are heady days, full of new-found promise – but heavy too with the weight of great expectations. *BBC, 5 June 2014.*