

News from the Parliament

[Elections night is over: what follows?](#)

The European elections are now behind us, but many questions have yet to be answered. The next few days should cast more light on who will be the next Commission president and which political groups will find common ground to shape the agenda of the new Parliament. This article presents a brief look at what comes next. *European Parliament, 25 May 2014.*

[Political groups: representing people's different views at the European level.](#)

With the elections over, many of the newly elected MEPs are now coming together to form or join transnational political groups in the Parliament on the basis of their political affinities. Political groups enjoy certain advantages, but to be recognised as a group, they need to meet some requirements. The official political groups forming the Parliament should be created by late June in time for the first plenary session on 1 July. *European Parliament, 28 May 2014.*

[Election Provisional Results.](#) The Parliament's website presents the provisional results of the elections, updated on a regular basis. The details on the political groups are provided, as well as the results for each one of the EU members. *European Parliament, 28 May 2014 (last updated).*

[The European Political Parties.](#) A political party at European level is an organisation following a political programme, which is composed of national parties and individuals as members and which is represented in several Member States. As mentioned in the Treaties, "political parties at European level are important as a factor for integration within the Union. They contribute to forming a European awareness and to expressing the political will of the citizens of the Union." *European Parliament.*

Elections Results

[Centre-right wins most EP seats, but anti-establishment parties score well.](#)

The centre-right European People's Party (EPP) won the most European Parliament seats, results showed, but across Europe mainstream parties lost out to anti-establishment parties, with the biggest upset in France, Denmark and the UK. *EUobserver, 26 May 2014.*

[2014-19 European Parliament will see same balance of power.](#) The three main groups of the European Parliament have all lost seats, but they will maintain their position of dominance as the top three parties in the legislature. The centre-right European People's Party (EPP) will remain the largest party in the European Parliament, though it appears to have lost around 60 seats. *European Voice, 26 May 2014.*

[European Elections: Ten highlights.](#) The 2014 European elections will be remembered as an "earthquake" which rocked the EU's political establishment. In two of the EU's biggest countries - France and the UK - anti-EU, anti-immigration parties came top. And in struggling Greece it was a Eurosceptic party of the left - Syriza - which won. Yet overall the pro-EU parties remained the dominant players. The BBC presents in this article 10 highlights of the elections, in which millions of Europe's voters protested against their leaders - or simply did not bother to vote. *BBC, 28 May 2014.*

[European headlines: The electoral shock in France.](#) On May 26th, many European newspapers reported as headline the news of the "political earthquake" that represents the rise of the Front National in France. This article presents the reactions by the [Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung](#), [Bild](#), [Repubblica](#), [Corriere Della Sera](#), [El Mundo](#), [The Daily Mail](#) and other newspapers. *La Libération, 26 May 2014.*

[EUobserver](#) and [EurActiv](#) have also interpreted the results in France.

[New EU Parliament faces heavy agenda.](#) The 751 politicians elected to the European Parliament will join an institution expected to be more powerful, more controversial and more divided than at any point since its first direct election in 1979, awaiting a long list of policy questions on which the new MEPs must weigh in: how to spend the budget, what rules to impose on technology titans such as Google and Facebook, where to press the City of London and - if it arises - whether to back a trade deal with the US. *The Financial Times, 25 May 2014.*

[EU leaders decline to endorse Juncker.](#) EU leaders on 27 May tasked council chief Herman Van Rompuy with exploring who could fill top EU posts and gather a majority in the European Parliament, with consultations set to last at least until the end of June. They ignored a request made earlier in the day by the leaders of the political groups in the European Parliament to task Jean-Claude Juncker with trying to get a majority behind him for the European Commission presidency. *EUobserver, 28 May 2014.*

[New EP will struggle to find majorities.](#) It will take days if not weeks for the political dust to settle after the EU vote but it is already clear that the new European Parliament will need to work harder to find majorities with discussions on issues such as migration and free trade deals set to become more polarised. *EUobserver, 26 May 2014.*

Local Flavours

[Podemos hopes to cement rise of citizen politics in Spain after elections success.](#) Until recently, it appeared that the Spanish *Indignados* movement had fizzled out. But on Sunday evening, a fledgling party born from its ashes proved otherwise, winning five seats and 1.2 million votes in Spain's European elections. *The Guardian, 27 May 2014.*

[Le Monde](#) has also reported on the success of Podemos.