

European Parliament

The European Parliament represents, in the words of the 1957 Treaty of Rome, 'the peoples of the States brought together in the European Community.' It can be perceived as a powerful symbol of reconciliation between the nations of Europe. The Parliament is the only institution which is directly elected by EU citizens. The first direct elections to the European Parliament were held in June 1979.

Some 450 million European citizens in 25 countries are now involved in the process of European integration through their 732 representatives in the European Parliament.

Since 1957 the European Parliament has continuously sought to acquire greater influence and power. This has been done through a series of treaties, particularly the 1992 Maastricht Treaty and the 1997 Amsterdam Treaty, which have transformed the European Parliament from a purely consultative assembly into a co-legislator, exercising powers similar to those of the national parliaments. The European Parliament now has three fundamental powers: legislative, budgetary and political supervision.

This trend of enlarging the scope of the Parliament's responsibilities will continue with the formal adoption of the European Constitution. Under the new Constitutional Treaty, the European Parliament sees its co-legislative power almost doubled as all but the most sensitive EU decisions (i.e. foreign affairs, security and defence policy and taxation), will be adopted jointly with the Council by the co-decision procedure.

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Some telephone number for the European Parliament are extension number precede the number with +32 2 284 XXXX for Brussels and +33 3 88 17 XXXX for Strasbourg

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European Parliament

European Association for the Education of Adults

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<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/expert/committees/allMembers.do?committee=1246&language=EN>

Calendar and Agendas

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/expert/committees/meetings.do?committee=1246&language=EN>

Meeting Documents

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2004_2009/organes/cult/cult_meetinglist.htm

Responsibilities

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/omk/sipade3?PROG=RULES-EP&L=EN&REF=RESP-CULT>

POLITICAL GROUPS

Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats (EPP-ED)
Socialist Group in the European Parliament (PES)
Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance (Green/EFA)

Confederal Group of the European United Left- Nordic Green Left (GUE/NGL)
Independence and Democracy Group (IND/DEM)
Union for Europe of the Nations Group (UEN)
Non-attached Members (NA)

Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats (EPP-ED)

Members: 267 / Percent: 36

Breakdown by country

Chairman

Hans-Gert Poettering (Germany)

Secretary General

Niels Pedersen

<http://www.epp-ed.eu/home/en/default.asp>

DE	49	AT	6
UK	27	IE	5
ES	24	SE	5
IT	24	SI	4
PL	19	FI	4
FR	17	CY	3
CZ	14	LV	3
HU	13	LU	3
EL	11	LT	2
PT	9	MT	2
SK	8	DK	1
NL	7	EE	1
BE	6		