



# The European Parliament and the Treaty of Lisbon: New powers, new opportunities

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# The European Parliament



## The European Parliament: reminder



- **Not mentioned in the Schuman Declaration!**
- **Growing powers since its creation**
- **Elected directly by EU citizens since 1979**

## The European Parliament: Figures



- **736 Members elected in the 27 Member States of the European Union (as of 2014: 751 MEPs)**
- **The seats are, as a general rule, shared out proportionately to the population of each Member State. Each Member State has a set number of seats, the maximum being 99 and the minimum five.**

## European Parliament Seats per Member State in EU27



MEMBER STATE	EU27 2007	EU27 2009	MEMBER STATE	EU27 2007	EU27 2009
Germany	99	99	Austria	18	17
France	78	72	Bulgaria	18	17
United Kingdom	78	72	Denmark	14	13
Italy	78	72	Finland	14	13
Spain	54	50	Slovakia	14	13
Poland	54	50	Ireland	13	12
Romania	35	33	Lithuania	13	12
Netherlands	27	25	Latvia	9	8
Belgium	24	22	Slovenia	7	7
Czech	24	22	Estonia	6	6
Greece	24	22	Cyprus	6	6
Hungary	24	22	Luxembourg	6	6
Portugal	24	22	Malta	5	5
Sweden	19	18			



732 → 785

(2007)

Nice: 736



751

(2014)

LISBON  
TREATY

## Composition of the European Parliament 2009-2014



- Political groups**

- \***EPP**: *European's People Party* (265)

- \***S&D**: *Socialists and Democrats* (184)

- \***ALDE**: *Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe* (84) (in yellow)

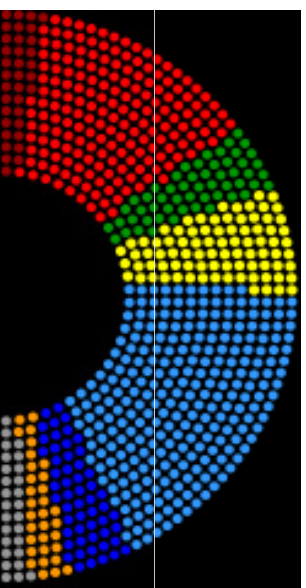
- \***Greens – EFA**: *Group of The Greens / European Free Alliance* (55)

- \***ECR** (54): *European Conservatives and Reformists*

- \***EUL-NGL** *Confederate Group of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left* (35)

- \***EFD**: *Europe of Freedom and Democracy* (32)

- \***Non-Inscrits** (27): *Independants*



## Powers of the European Parliament 1957-2009



- **In the 70's, power only re. The budget of the Community**
- **Legislative power: co-decision procedure: limited number of areas**
- **Advisory power**
- **Consent/approval of the European Commission**

## Co-decision



- **In some areas, European Parliament and European Council have the same weight**
- **The Commission sends its proposal to Parliament and the Council.**
- **They consider it, and discuss it on two successive occasions.**
- **The final agreement of the two institutions is essential if the text is to be adopted as a law.**
- **Rejection of the proposed law by an absolute majority of MEPs.**

## Lisbon Treaty and European Parliament



- **Extension of the co-decision procedure to new areas**
- **over 40 new fields in the codecision: justice and home affairs, public health agriculture, energy security, legal immigration...**
- **Gives the European Parliament a true role as lawmaker!**

## European Parliament in the 2010's

### EU legislations



- **The Lisbon Treaty now places Parliament on an equal footing with the Council of Ministers in deciding on the vast majority of EU laws**
- **More power = more responsibility. Respect of the fundamental rights of EU citizens, in line with the Charter of Fundamental Rights**

# Work with the MEPPs



- **New dimension of the lobbying work**
- **More influence on EU policies and legislations: a real impact of civil society on shaping the EU policies including health policies**

## conclusion



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