



Guide to the EU elections and beyond

2014 is a momentous year for the European Union. It must reduce its risk from geopolitical turmoil in Ukraine, agree its climate & energy framework to 2030 and help rejuvenate confidence in itself in face of growing scepticism about its purpose and effectiveness. All of its main institutions - the European Parliament, European Commission, European Council and European External Action Services will undergo significant change of personnel to usher in a new chapter that will run to 2019. Between 22-25 May voters in all 28 Member States will return 751 MEPs, as highlighted in Figure 1. Once it has set itself up into Committees and elected its President, the Parliament's first priority is to approve the newly appointed President of the European Commission and the College of Commissioners. Then it can move on to pressing issues such as the climate & energy framework, the Transatlantic Trade & Investment Partnership (TTIP) and the Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) Market Stability Reserve proposals.

Figure 1: National breakdown of the European Parliament 2014-2019

Country	Number of MEPs	Difference from 2009	Country	Number of MEPs	Difference from 2009	Country	Number of MEPs	Difference from 2009
Germany	96	-3	Portugal	21	-1	Croatia	11	-1
France	74	0	Czech Republic	21	-1	Lithuania	11	-1
UK	73	0	Hungary	21	-1	Slovenia	8	0
Italy	73	0	Sweden	20	0	Latvia	8	-1
Spain	54	0	Austria	18	-1	Estonia	6	0
Poland	51	0	Bulgaria	17	-1	Cyprus	6	0
Romania	32	-1	Denmark	13	0	Luxemburg	6	0
Netherlands	26	0	Slovakia	13	0	Malta	6	0
Greece	21	-1	Finland	13	0			
Belgium	21	-1	Ireland	11	-1			

Timeline to December

Straight after the European Parliamentary elections are concluded the real work of the Parliament and other institutions starts as outlined in Figure 2. The EU will plunge into an internal debate before it is able to have confidence in its external projection. For the largest economic bloc it is of the utmost imperative that the EU gets this right so that it is set up to address the challenges of today as well as tomorrow.

Figure 2: Timeline to December

Date	Activity
22-25 May	European Parliamentary elections.
27 May	Informal Heads of Government & leading MEP meeting. This will be the first discussion on the issue of the President of the European Commission.
June	Commission: The Secretary General's office begins coordinating 'hand-over' notes for the College of Commissioners. These are background notes on the key technical and political issues and will help prospective Commissioners with their 'Hearings' in respective European Parliament Committees.
June	Groups: Political groups are formed in the European Parliament. Negotiations for Chairs, Vice-Chairs are made within the national delegations of each of the political groups.
11 June	Environment Council: This will issue a progress report on discussions around the 2030 climate and energy framework.
12 June	Energy Council: This will look at energy security as well as the energy implications of the 2030 framework.
13 June	Commission: 1st 'carbon leakage' workshop to discuss industry opposition to 2030 climate and energy targets and possible solutions.
26-27 June	European Council: New President of the Commission nominated by governments.
30 June	Former MEPs officially leave office.
1 July	Italian Presidency of the European Council
1-3 July	Plenary (Strasbourg): New MEPs formally appointed, President of the Parliament and Vice-Presidents elected.
10-17 July	Groups: Committees formed, Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs are elected. Rapporteur for ETS Market Stability Reserve could be appointed?
14-17 July	Plenary (Strasbourg): European Parliament nominates Commission president.*
18 July onwards	Commission President nominates Commissioners and portfolios.
23-24 July	First session of the new Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee
9-11 September	Groups: Rapporteur for ETS Market Stability Reserve could be appointed?
22-25 September	Parliamentary hearings of proposed Commissioners in respective Committees.
October	College of Commissioners confirmed by the European Parliament.
23-24 October	European Council: 2030 climate and energy framework likely to be agreed.
1 November	New Commission takes office
30 November	Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, second term of office ends.**
1 January 2015	Latvian Presidency of the European Council

*This is a provisional date and could change if the Parliament rejects the proposed candidate. This changes the entire timeline.

**The President of the European Council's term of office lasts 2 and a half years.

There are three main activities for the new institutions:

- **Restoring confidence in the European project** - This requires creating a socially inclusive socio-economic model which safeguards core European values such as those on harmful products which are threatened by the TTIP negotiations as well as ensuring low-risk energy infrastructure and system investments to reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels.
- **International leadership** - Europe is in the driving seat of international discussions leading to a new international treaty to address climate change in Paris, in 2015. This will be the key point in human history and an example of whether our elected leaders are able to act in the interests of humanity today and tomorrow. This will require the full extent of the External Action Service's diplomatic muscle working with national diplomatic channels to bring together the intentional community. Success will go a long way in restoring confidence.
- **Getting its house in order** - The lack of aggressive de-risking of the energy system has exposed Europe to significant geopolitical threats from the crisis in Ukraine. In February 2014, the European Parliament rejected the Commission's proposal to scrap safe and employment-rich energy architecture by asking for binding 30% renewable energy and 40% energy savings targets by 2030¹. This is the key battle ground for boosting employment, saving households' money and removing significant risks that could destabilise prosperity today and get worse in the long-term.

19 May, 2014

¹ European Parliament, 'Report on a 2030 framework for climate and energy policies 2013/2135' (2014).