

# Advocacy opportunities during the 2024 EU Commission and Parliament handover

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3 May 2023

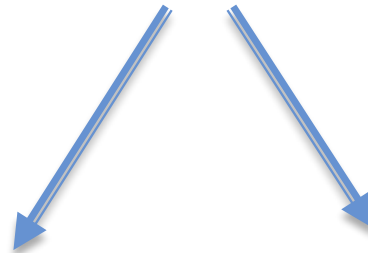
# Agenda

- **The Parliament and Commission today**
- Timeline of Parliament elections and advocacy opportunities
- Timeline of Commission change and advocacy opportunities

# The EU triangle



European  
Commission



European  
Parliament



Council of the  
European Union  
  
(and the  
European Council)



# EP 2020-2024 (post Brexit)



**705 MEPs**

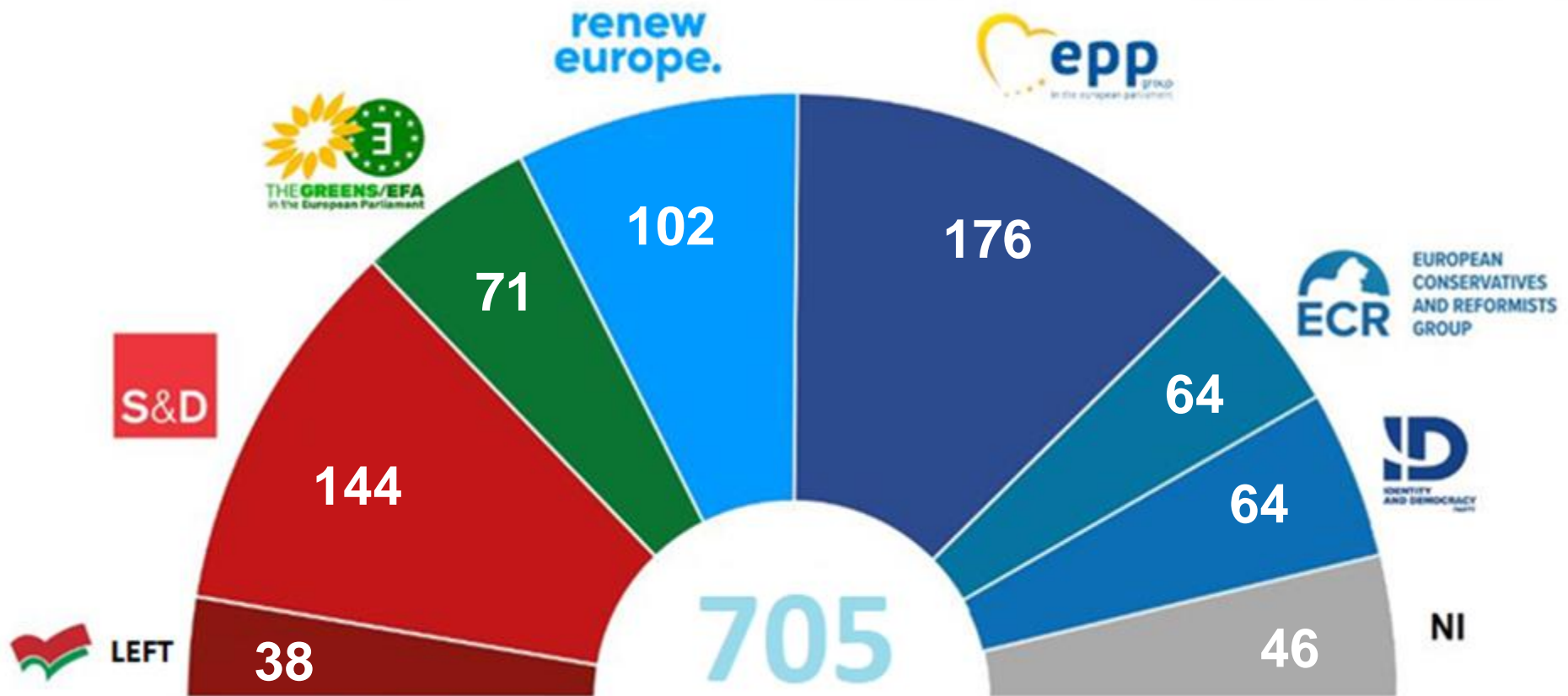
**20 Permanent Committees**

**45 EP Delegations**

**7 Political Groups**

- Foreign Affairs
- Economic and Monetary Affairs
- Environment, Public Health and Food Safety
- Industry, Research and Energy
- Transport and Tourism
- International Trade
- Legal Affairs
- Budget
- Development
- Fisheries
- Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs
- Culture and Education
- Regional Development
- Internal Market and Consumer Protection
- Agriculture and Rural Development
- Constitutional Affairs
- Employment and Social Affairs
- Women's Rights and Gender Equality
- Petitions
- Budgetary Control

# The current EP Hemicycle



# MEPs by Member State and political group

(120+ national  
delegations)

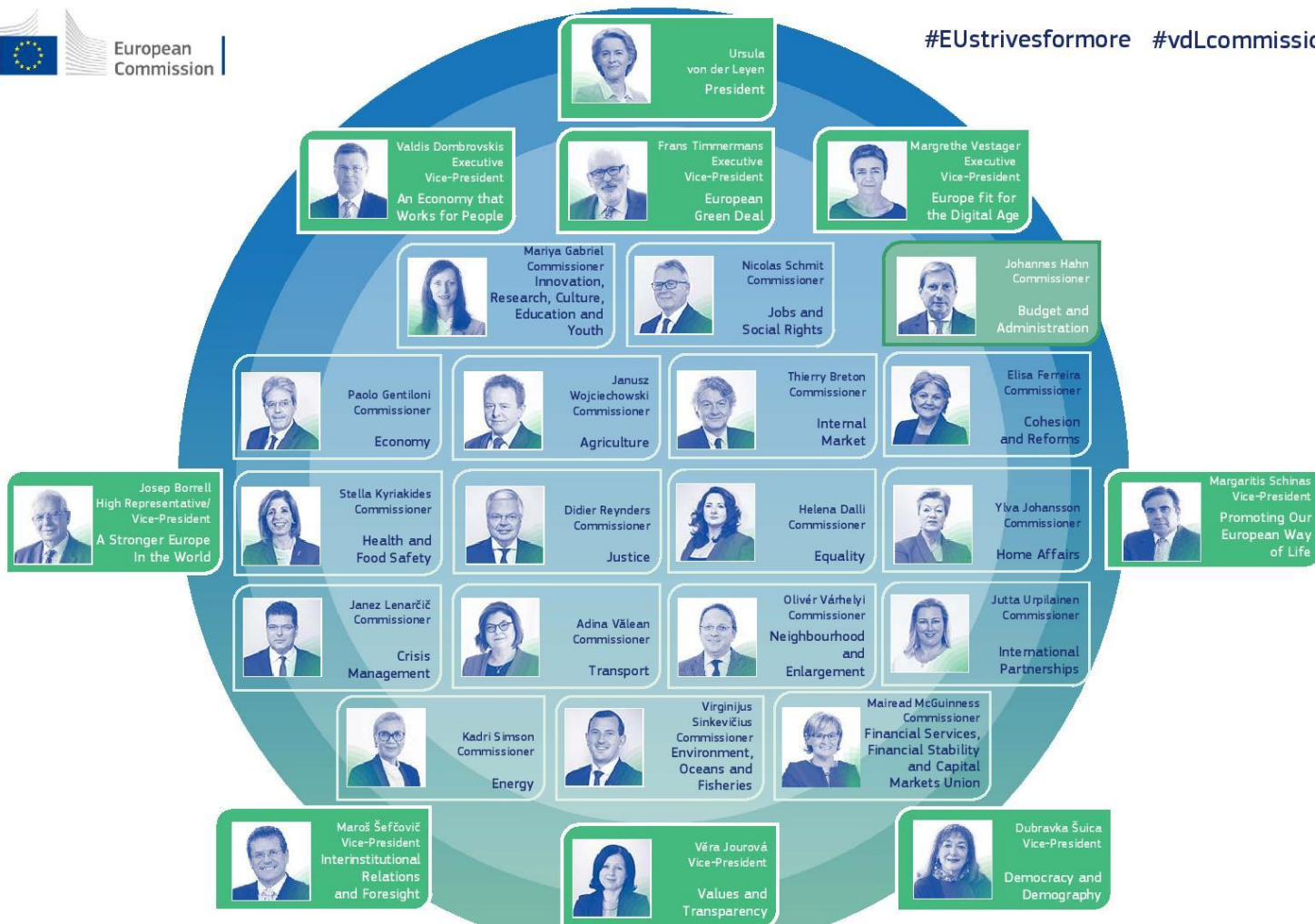
Country	EPP	S&D	Renew	Greens/ EFA	ID	ECR	The Left	NI	Total
Belgium	4	2	4	3	3	3	1	1	21
Bulgaria	7	5	3			2			17
Czechia	5	1	5	3	2	4	1		21
Denmark	1	3	6	2	1		1		14
Germany	30	16	7	25	9	1	5	3	96
Estonia	1	2	3		1				7
Ireland	5		2	2			4		13
Greece	7	1	1			1	6	5	21
Spain	13	21	9	4		4	5	3	59
France	8	7	23	12	18		6	5	79
Croatia	4	4	1			1		2	12
Italy	10	17	3	3	25	9		9	76
Cyprus	2	2					2		6
Latvia	3	2	1			1		1	8
Lithuania	4	2	1	2		1		1	11
Luxembourg	2	1	2	1					6
Hungary	1	5	2					13	21
Malta	2	4							6
Netherlands	6	6	7	3		5	1	1	29
Austria	7	5	1	3	3				19
Poland	16	7	1	1		27			52
Portugal	7	9		1			4		21
Romania	14	10	8			1			33
Slovenia	4	2	2						8
Slovakia	4	3	4			1		2	14
Finland	3	2	3	3	2		1		14
Sweden	6	5	3	3		3	1		21
<b>EU</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>705</b>



# The College of Commissioners



#EUstrivesformore #vdLcommission



A New Push for European Democracy

# Agenda

- The Parliament and Commission today
- **Timeline of Parliament elections and advocacy opportunities**
- Timeline of Commission change and advocacy opportunities



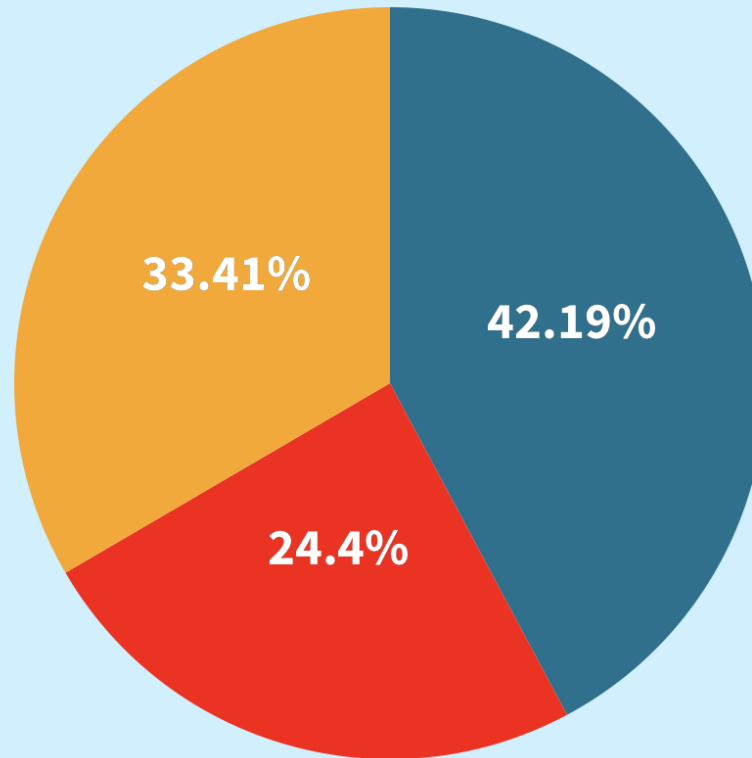
# Expected EP 2024 elections timeline

- June-July 2023 (tbc): Deadline for legislative proposals to be concluded in this mandate
- H2 2023: National parties draft lists, programmes, run primaries
- November-December 2023: European party families elect their lead candidates (*Spitzenkandidaten*)
- By early 2024 (varies by Member State): National party congresses confirm candidates and national manifestoes
- April 2024: End of EP work and inter-institutional negotiations
- 6-9 June 2024:  
Elections



## Projected share of new MEPs after 2024

- Re-elected MEPs
- New MEPs due to changing size of parties
- New MEPs due to lists' turnover

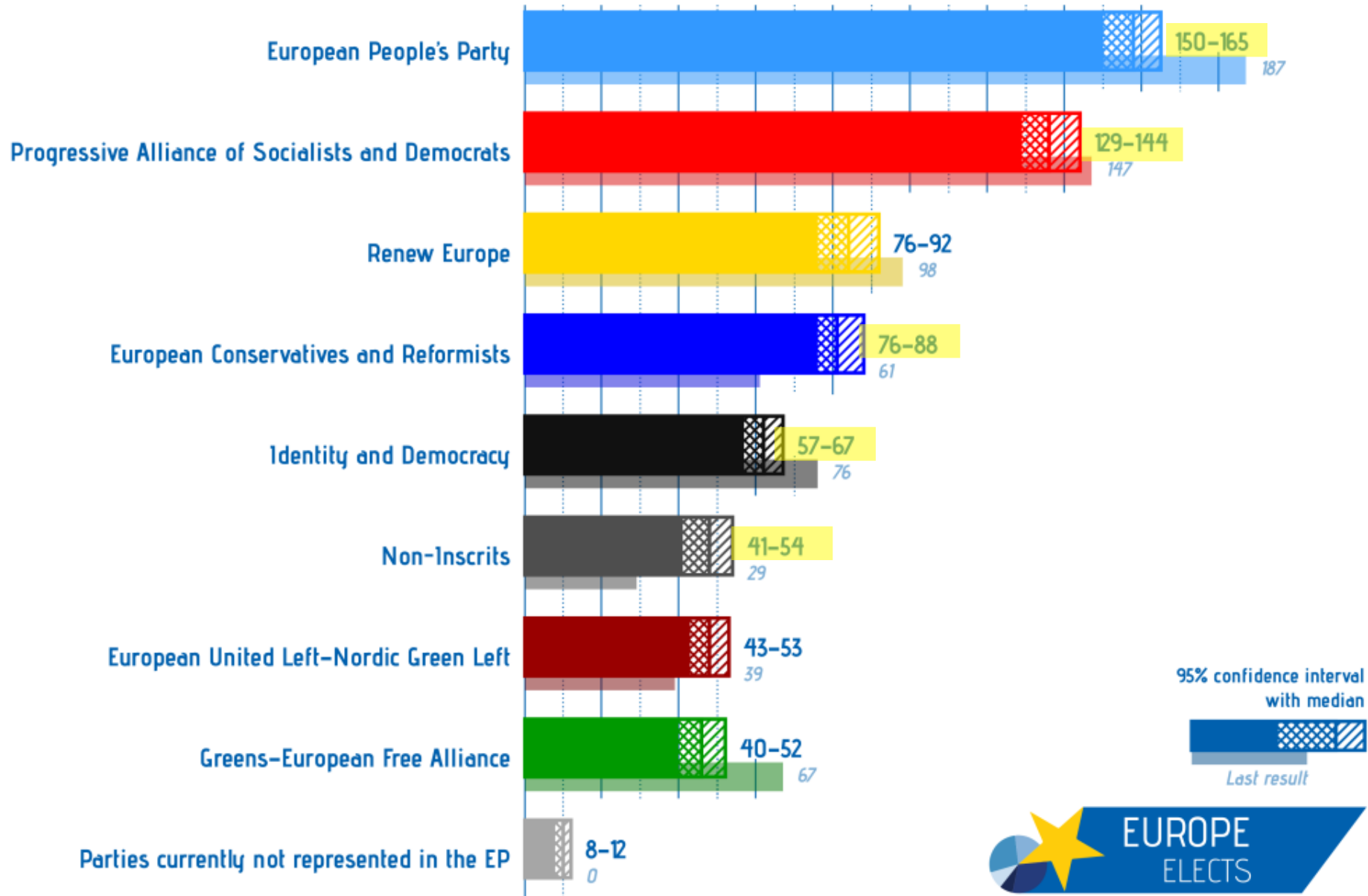


Source: Data elaborated in March 2023



# Seat Projections for the European Parliament (EU27/705)

Average of Polls for April 2023



# Impact of shift away from EPP-S&D centre on EU long-term policies

- Compromise positions will be harder to achieve
- Climate-sceptic and anti-regulation ECR may be part of majorities more often
- “Business as Usual” seems the best-case outcome for progressive organisations
- The worst scenario leads to an ungovernable EU, with a deadlock on major policies including the Green Deal and its initiatives such as the Corporate Due Diligence and Taxonomy

# Pre-election advocacy opportunities

- H1 2023: Lead or join civil society campaigns asking **candidate MEPs to pledge** that they will promote your objectives/agenda
- Autumn 2023: Influence **national programmes**
- Winter 2023-2024: Work with returning and outgoing MEPs to ensure **final impact on files** that will be concluded in the current mandate

# Stand Up For Integrity – 2019 EU Elections Pledge

## Putting Integrity First

The European Parliament elections this year are an opportunity for democratic renewal, a renewal that places integrity, openness and fairness at the heart of the European Union. Transparency International is calling on candidates for the European Parliament and the Presidency of the European Commission to commit themselves to this renewal, in their own efforts and in the institutions that they shall govern.

The authors of the EU's founding treaty were determined to **"eliminate the barriers which divide Europe"**. Over 60 years later, corruption remains one of the main barriers to realising the original vision of a Union built on the rule of law,

That is why Transparency International has agreed an ambitious agenda for the next five years that would protect the rule of law in the EU and those who wish to defend it ; that would prevent corrupt individuals benefiting from the freedoms enjoyed by law-abiding EU citizens

### Author

Nicholas Aiossa

### Date

9 April, 2019

### Type

Article

### Share



EU elections 2019:

# We will only vote for politicians who vote against Article 13

and say no to upload filters

5.034.963 people have signed the petition against Article 13

134 members of the European Parliament have **pledged to vote against this law.**

The vote already takes place in the end of this month.

134

**Let's get to 150: Get your representatives on board!**

**I'm in!**



## 1.1 Child Rights Manifesto & Intergroup

Launched in February 2014, the campaign called on candidate Members of the European Parliament to promote children's rights and well-being, both at national and European level. After four months of campaigning, over 340 candidates signed the Manifesto on the Manifesto website<sup>1</sup> and became Child Rights Champions; ninety of them were elected as Members of the European Parliament.



The Manifesto calls on its signatories to take concrete steps to put children's rights in the centre of the European Parliament. In November, the European Parliament expressed (in the Resolution on the 25th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child) its will to create the Intergroup based on the Child Rights Manifesto. The document describes it as a “permanent body

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1 in 7 of the new Parliament is now a Child Rights Champion!

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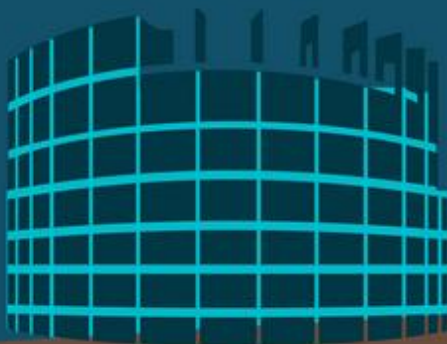
who will work together



July 2019

## 79 Newly Elected MEPs Pledged to Support Cycling

48 MEPs think the EU should  
commit to an objective to  
increase the number of bicycle  
trips by at least 50%



79 out of those 404 who signed ECF pledge were actually elected. Meaning that more than 10% of the current Members of the European Parliament committed to being cycling champions. More than any other European elections, the ones in 2019 were characterised by a strong mandate to green policies.

[Home](#)

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social media

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Balanced expert groups

Block the revolving door

Greater lobbying  
transparency

Stronger ethics regulation

Code of Conduct EC

Code of Conduct EP

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About ALTER-EU

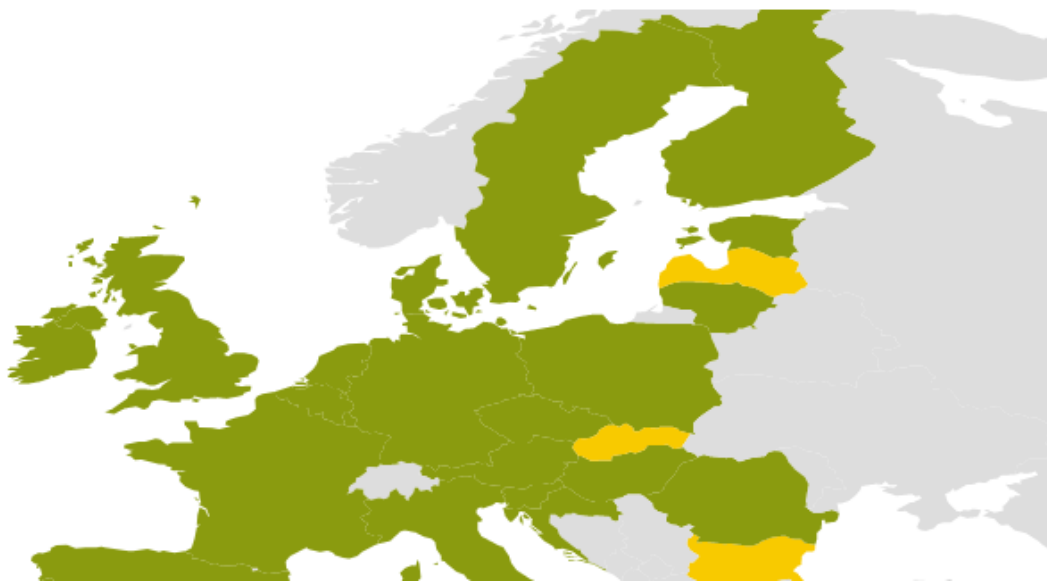
## Politics for People 2014 EU election campaign

The Politics for People 2014 EU election campaign mobilised over 25,000 citizens to call on their MEP candidates to stand up for citizens against the excessive lobbying influence of banks and big business in order to help create European institutions which:

- Are free from conflicts of interest
- Do not offer privileged access to decision-making to corporations and their lobbyists
- Have strong ethics rules for politicians, officials and lobbyists
- Are open and transparent in the way they work
- Always operate in the public interest

1344 candidates signed our pledge, of which 180 were elected.

Below you can find a breakdown of MEPs who supported our pledge by country and political group. This information is also available [here](#)




# Post-election advocacy opportunities

- July 2024: Constituent session – Election of (Vice)-Presidents
- July-August 2024: Appointment committee members and Chairs
  - **Bring together a cross-party group of friendly MEPs**, e.g. those that have signed a pledge
  - **Set up a meeting programme focussing on new MEPs**: this is a great opportunity for introductory meetings where you do not have an advocacy agenda on a specific initiative
  - **Reconnect with re-elected MEPs** who will be important during the Commissioner hearings in September-October
- October 2024 earliest: Start of “normal” Committee meetings
  - **Push for an own-initiative report in the new EP** (as there are no new legislative proposals yet). This could list the EP’s asks for the mandate and reflect on the new Commission’s agenda

# Agenda

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# Likely Commission 2024\* timeline

	 <b>Council</b> 	 <b>Commission</b> 	 <b>Parliament</b> 
<b>July 2024</b>	European Council proposes a candidate for the Presidency of the Commission		EP hearing and plenary vote on the Commission President
<b>July-Aug 2024</b>	Member States submit names of their Commissioner-designate	President to compose college and decide on portfolios	
<b>Sept-Oct 2024</b>		Commissioners-designate choose their cabinet	EP Hearings of Commissioners-designate.  EP plenary vote to endorse the new Commission as a whole
<b>Nov 2024</b>		Formal end of current Commission mandate and earliest start date for the new Commission.	



# Commission advocacy opportunities

- **Hearings of Commissioner-designate** before the Parliament can be used to get a political commitment from the candidate
- Commission staff („services“) does not change and **prepare the agenda** for their new Commissioner in H1 2024: They are an important point of contact during the transition period
- During the summer of 2024, the Commission's Secretariat-General will assist the President-elect in **drafting priorities and mission letters** for the new College



# Timeline for political engagement

- **Phase 1: Ahead of an election campaign (EP: H2 2023)**
  - Key players: political parties
  - Objective: ensure that drafting committees integrate your priorities in their manifestoes
  - Target: party think tanks, elected politicians, media
  - Tools: opinion articles; position papers to share in writing with insiders; targeted mobilisation aimed at current politicians, prominent party members and local chapters to defend your ideas (or candidates where allowed) at congresses

# Timeline for political engagement

- **Phase 2: During an election campaign (EP: H1 2024)**
  - Key players: voters
  - Objective: ensure that politicians defend your demands
  - Target: citizens, political leadership, media
  - Tools: election guides, debates, public events; grassroots campaigns for citizens to show candidates that your issue determines their vote (FD Roosevelt: “You’ve convinced me; now go out and make me do it”)

# Timeline for political engagement

- **Phase 3: After an election (EP: H2 2024)**
  - Key players: winning/negotiating parties
  - Objective: ensure your points are a red line in government/coalition negotiations (and don't watered down or traded off) irrespective of election outcome
  - Target: negotiators, party presidents/bureau (or equivalent at local/regional/national/EU level)
  - Tools: privileged contacts with party experts who are drafting the government priorities

# **Setting the EU agenda takes time**

Example: campaigns for due diligence legislation

- 2006 ECCJ coalition created
- 2018 Scale up ECCJ secretariat and campaign
- 2019 EP election pledge
- 2019 Push to have EP own-initiative report
- 2020 Commission announces intent to legislate
- 2020 Completion of EP report (which became a report on substance rather than pressure to legislate)
- 2022 Commission legislative proposal

# Thank you

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