

## News from the Parliament

[European elections: events that will help you decide.](#) EU Voters will choose the new European Parliament in four weeks. To raise awareness of the importance of these elections, a series of events are being organised all over the EU by the European Parliament and its information offices. These events range from a debate with candidates for the position of president of the European Commission to national events that have been tailored for the member states. *European Parliament, 29 April 2014.*

[Survey: 70% of young people see EU membership as an asset in a globalised world.](#) EU membership represents an advantage in a globalised world, according to 70% of young people in a survey commissioned by the EP in view of the European Youth Event 2014. The survey was conducted among Europeans aged 16-30 from all member states. It will serve as a source of facts and figures for the 5,000 young people meeting in Strasbourg on 9-11 May as it addresses the event's five main themes: youth unemployment, digital revolution, future of the EU, sustainability and European values. *European Parliament, 29 April 2014.*

[This time it's different: a pre-election seminar for journalists.](#) With just two weeks until the first polling stations open for the European elections, the Parliament hosts journalists from across the continent this 5-6 May to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing the European Union. *European Parliament, 6 May 2014.*

[European Youth Event 2014 \(EYE\) to table ideas for a better Europe on 9-11 May.](#) "Ideas for a better Europe" will be pooled by around five thousand young Europeans at a three-day European Youth Event (EYE) at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, on 9-11 May. Over 200 debates and workshops will enable 16-30 year-olds to air policy issues close to their hearts. Over half of Europe's young people feel excluded from its economic and social life, says a recent Eurobarometer poll. *European Parliament, 5 May 2014.*

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[Politicians must keep the dream of Europe alive.](#) The left-liberal daily *Libération* has carried out a survey on the French people's attitude to Europe, which shows that a majority of French want their country to stay in the EU, but feel the Union should put more emphasis on social welfare. The paper sees this as a signal to politicians: "The results should prompt pro-Europeans on the left and the right to speak up more and present clear alternatives: amend the liberal agenda that has held sway for so long, defend the federalist model and establish closer ties between Brussels and national governments. ... These are clear political propositions that will combat the rise of populism in Europe more effectively. Because the people have understood that the upcoming elections are much larger than what's at stake on a national level, that the European Union is not simply a deaf bureaucracy, but that the ties between the countries that make it up now play a decisive role. Politicians have the duty to keep the people's dream of Europe alive." *Libération, 4 May 2014.*

## The Threat of Euroscepticism

[Eurosceptic MEPs will struggle to change the Parliament.](#) A forecast out last week from a pro-business think tank Open Europe made an alarming claim – more than 30% of the Members of the European Parliament after the 22-25 May elections will come from anti-EU parties that want either to dismantle the Union or to remove their country from it. This would be an increase on 25% in the current parliament. *European Voice, 30 April 2014.*

[Eurosceptics: Beyond the Fringe.](#) In the first part of a series on anti-EU parties shaking up politics across Europe, the *Financial Times* provides an analysis on Britain's UKIP. *The Financial Times, 6 May 2014.*

[European 'migration': Too much or too little?](#) The Centre for European Policy Studies hosted a conference on April 24th on labour mobility in the EU, at which national experts were invited to highlight recent trends in this area and their policy implications. The case of the UK showed how the issue is often misconceived and mistreated by politicians – deliberately or not. The UK government had set an upper threshold for net migration of 100,000, including EU mobile workers. Since the target had been determined, the number of EU workers alone who have migrated to that country has risen to over 100,000. Obviously the government has little influence on the arrival of EU workers to the UK but it may nevertheless use the free movement of workers as a scapegoat during the upcoming elections, which, with regard to the EU membership referendum, seems a risky strategy. The case studies presented indicated that EU mobile workers are on average net contributors to the receiving country, aside from the earnings to the individuals themselves. *CEPS, 29 April 2014.*

## Local Flavours

[New Spanish party wants to turn indignation into political change.](#) A new political party that emerged from Spain's protest movement, *los Indignados*, is running in the upcoming elections. Named *Podemos* ("We can"), its founders say they want to convert indignation into political change. *EUobserver, 2 May 2014.*

[Slovakia's eurosceptics end EU honeymoon.](#) The EU honeymoon is over for Slovakia, say analysts, as Eurosceptic voices for the first time make themselves clearly heard in the run-up to European elections. In the last two rounds of EU elections, Slovak voters distinguished themselves by being the European citizens least inclined to vote, even though they express strong support for the EU institutions when surveyed. *EUobserver, 2 May 2014.*