

## News from the Parliament

[Parliament provides elections results in open data format.](#) The European Parliament is making a range of tools available to make it easier for the media to cover the European elections on 25 May. The results will be available in open data format, enabling the media, bloggers and interested users to automatically retrieve the raw data and publish it. *European Parliament, 14 May 2014.*

[2014 European elections: latest projections of seats in the Parliament.](#) How will the European Parliament look after the European elections on 22-25 May? Based on the current state of play of public opinion in the EU member states, the Parliament and its contractor TNS Opinion propose a projection. *European Parliament, 24 March 2014 (updated on 15 May 2014).*

[Old and new Parliaments: facts and figures.](#) The Old European Parliament passed its last laws in April, making a total of over 1,000. The new one takes office on 1 July. A press release provides a brief overview of some of the Parliament's work over the past five years and what it will need to do in the next five. *European Parliament, 15 May 2014.*

[Young people voice their opinion on Europe's future.](#) The European Youth Event (EYE 2014) brought together 5,000 Europeans aged 16-30 to exchange ideas on youth-related issues in Strasbourg on 11 May. They took part in panel discussions on topics such as human rights, youth employment, the digital revolution and sustainability and talked about their ideas for the future of Europe, which will be handed to the newly-elected MEPs during the first plenary of July. *European Parliament, 13 May 2014.*

Read also the op-ed [Europe's youth ready to make their voices heard!](#) written by Peter Matjašič as President of the European Youth Forum. *EurActiv, 14 May 2014.*

[A fragile rebound for EU image on eve of European Parliament elections.](#) Support for the EU is rebounding in time for the elections, according to a survey by the Pew Research Center. *Pew Research, 12 May 2014.*

These results have been interpreted by [The New York Times](#), which focuses on the improved attitudes towards the EU ahead of EP elections, and by [EUObserver](#) that spotlights pro-EU Brits and growing number of anti-EU Italians. Both articles, however, also mention the bad news that most Europeans still think that the EU is remote, doesn't listen and is inefficient.

[VoteWatch Europe analysis: what groups will form the new EP?](#) PollWatch2014 prediction has EPP leading S&D by only 3 seats: 212 to 209. As a result, either group could still emerge on top on the evening of Sunday 25 May. The VoteWatch Europe team has considered what might happen in terms of the changing make-up of the political groups after the elections. *VoteWatch, 14 May 2014.*

## Eurovision Debate

[European candidates warn the heads of state.](#) Greece, austerity, Russia, immigration, banking regulation...the "great debate", broadcasted live on thirty channels across the continent, was the culmination of the unprecedented campaign being waged by the European parties with the hope to bring their leaders at the head of the European Commission. *Le Monde, 15 May 2014.*

[Left and Right trade blows on economy in EU elections debate.](#) The candidates bidding to become the next European Commission president traded blows over Europe's economic past and future, in the last debate before the elections. *EUobserver, 16 May 2014.*

[Diversity wins as EU presidential candidates try to impress voters.](#) In a multilingual debate, which turned into a fight about austerity, the candidates to become the next President of the European Commission showed the face of a not-so-divided, decidedly diverse Europe. *EurActiv, 16 May 2014.*

[Why the Spitzenkandidat process is the best thing to happen to EU-level representative democracy for years.](#) An opinion article analyses, in the context of the debate, how for the first time there is a clear connection between the legislature (the European Parliament), and the executive (the European Commission), which makes the elections more understandable to voters. These and other arguments in favour of the Spitzenkandidat process are provided in the article. *Jon Worth's Blog, 15 May 2014.*

[Why this month's European election matters more than the most.](#) Europeans will select the MEPs in a ballot that will be a measure of popular support for European integration after years of crisis and, that will provide a gauge of the strength of anti-EU parties of left and right. This time the election matters more than usual and could influence the course of the European project. *The Economist, 5 May 2014.*

## Local Flavours

[Denmark withdraws scandalous EU election video.](#) Danish Parliament has withdrawn a cartoon video featuring a scene of group sex and a non-voter being punched in the face that was aimed at motivating young people to vote in European parliamentary elections. *EurActiv, 14 May 2014.*

[Hollande warns voters not to fall for anti-EU rhetoric.](#) French President François Hollande intervened in the EU election campaign Friday (9 May) criticising anti-EU rhetoric as anachronistic and financially ruinous. In a piece for left-leaning daily Le Monde, Hollande targets the far-right National Front – set to emerge top in the 25 May EU vote – although he never explicitly mentions the party or its leader Marine Le Pen. *EUobserver, 12 May 2014.*