Democracy and its development in the EU

Kommunenes Sentralforbund Lynkurs for folkevalgte

Eamonn Noonan Brussels, 13 September 2018



EPRS | European Parliamentary Research Service

- 1. Introduction: on strategic foresight
- 2. European Parliament elections 2019
- 3. EU governance
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Carrying on

Nothing but the single market

Those who want more do more

Doing less more efficiently

Doing much more together







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Essays on medium- and long-term global trends July 2018



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European Parliament: role and powers

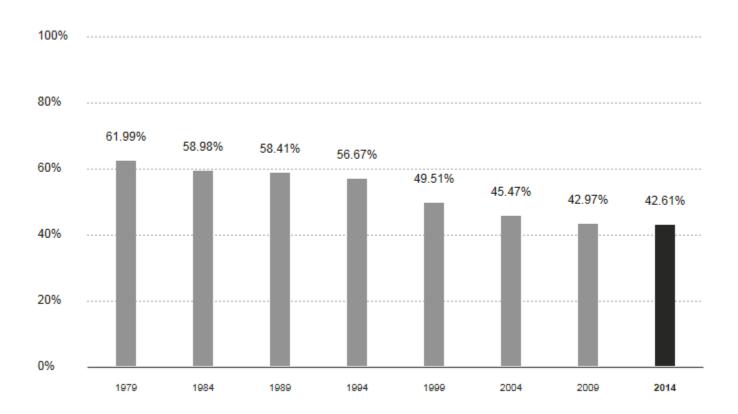
- Powers
 - Legislation
 - Joint Budgetary Authority
 - Appointment and dismissal
 - Scrutiny and control of the executive
- Role and reach are still evolving

More: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/aboutparliament/en/20150201PVL00004/Powers-and-procedures



A trend ready for reversal?

Turnout in the European Parliament election, 1979-2014



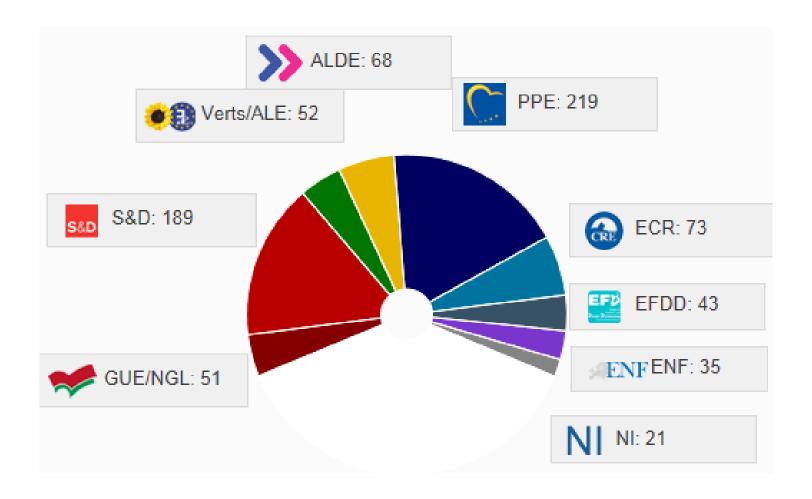


European Parliament: seats by Member State, 2019

	2019	+/-		2019	+/-
Germany	96	=	Austria	19	1
France	79	5	Bulgaria	17	=
United Kingdom		-73	Denmark	14	1
ltaly	76	3	Finland	14	1
Spain	59	5	Slovakia	14	1
Poland	52	1	Ireland	13	2
Romania	33	1	Croatia	12	1
Netherlands	29	3	Lithuania	11	=
Belgium	21	=	Latvia	8	=
Czech Republic	21	=	Slovenia	8	=
Greece	21	=	Estonia	7	1
Hungary	21	=	Cyprus	6	=
Poland	21	=	Luxembourg	6	=
Sweden	21	1	Malta	6	=
				705	-46



Distribution of EP seats, July 2018





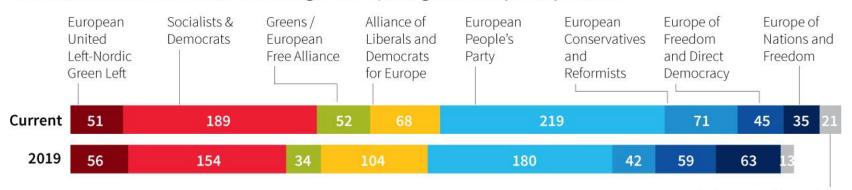
Projections fro 2019

EU parliament elections

Reuters analysed data from different agencies on polls and recent election results in the 27 EU countries to estimate the evolution of the seats distribution in the future EU parliament after 2019 elections.

SEATS DISTRIBUTION

Current seats and future seats according to 2019 polling data analysed by Reuters



Independent/uncertain

Note: 2019 European parliament will count a total of 705 seats only due to Brexit.

Sources: EU Parliament; Reuters analysis of recent national polls

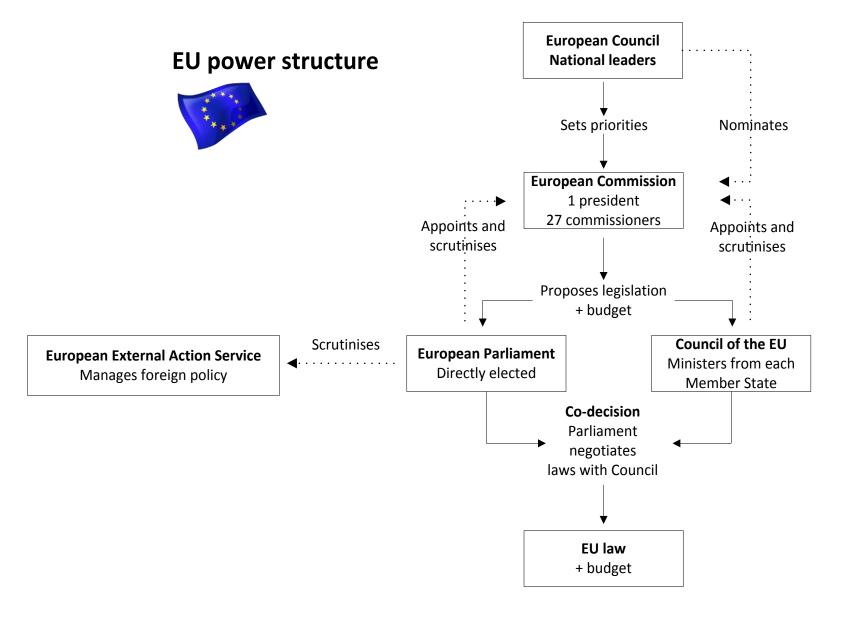
M. Dollar, A. Macdonald, L. Desrayaud, 26/07/2018





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The work of the European Commission

Legislation

- → Minimum requirements
- → Free movement and mobility
- → Harmonisation of basic standards

Guidance

- → Policy recommendations
- → Exchange of best practices
- → Support for reform

Funding

- → Skills
- → Youth
- → SME financing
- → Poverty reduction
- → Regional and rural development
- → Research and development

Cooperation

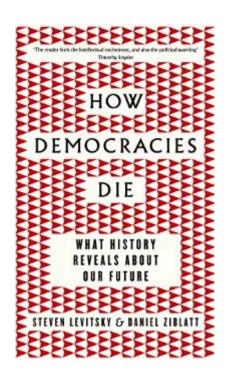
- → Dialogue with social partners
- → Engaging with civil society
- → Working with national actors and international institutions

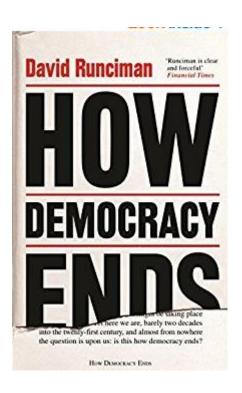


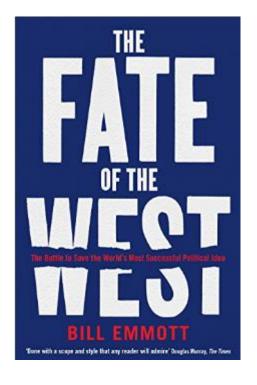
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Doubts about the future of democracy ...





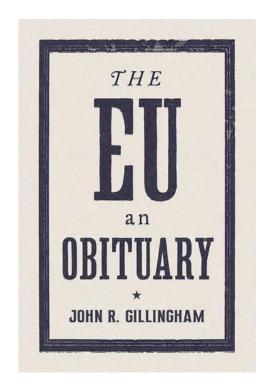




Doubts about the future of the EU ...



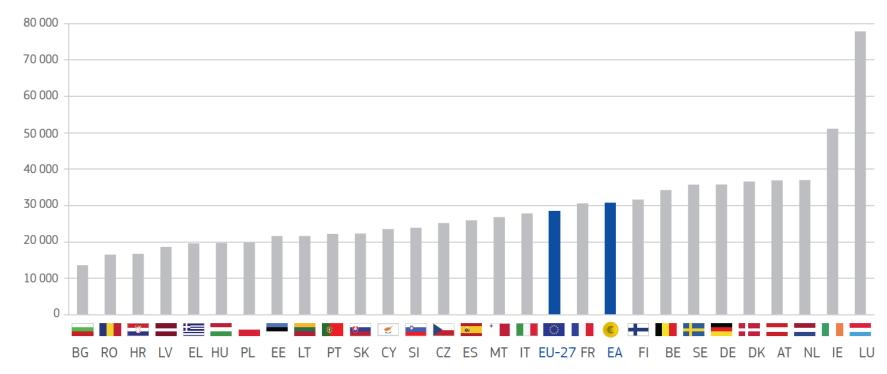






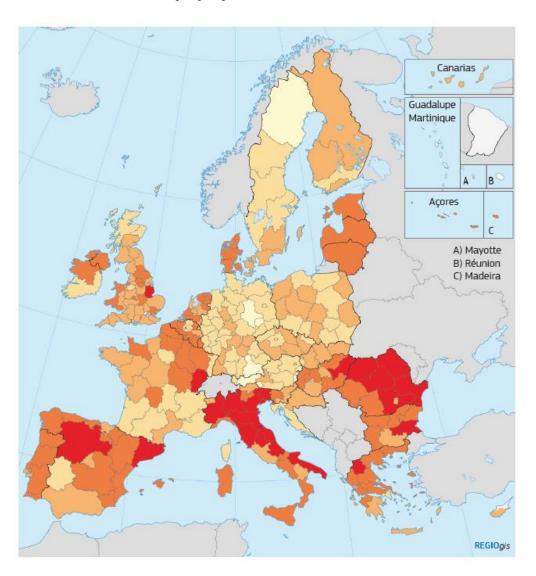
Living standards vary across Europe

Gross domestic product per capita, in purchasing power standards, in euros, 2015



Source: European Commission

Globalisation: is Europe prepared?



Risk factors linked to globalisation and technological change

Number of risk factors out of 4 (see footnote)



A risk factor is defined as a negative value for the first indicator and a value above the EU regions average for the next indicators:

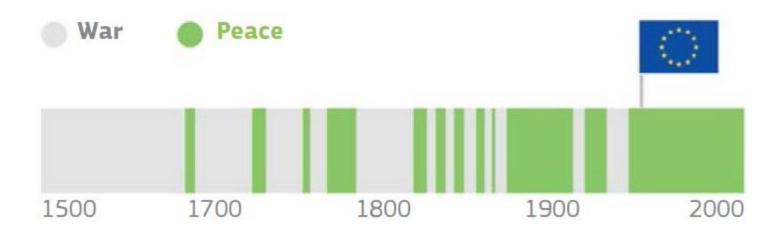
- Employment growth in the industry between 2000 and 2013 (EU: -1.3%)
- Share in employment of low-technology manufacturing, 2015 (EU: 5.5%)
- Share of people between 25 and 64 with a low educational attainment, 2015 (EU: 23.3%)
- Change in manufacturing ULC between 2003 and 2013 (EU: 14.3%)



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Seven peaceful decades



The best way to keep something bad from happening is to see it ahead of time ... and you can't see it if you refuse to face the possibility.

William S. Burroughs



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Bonus round! Brexit latest

The undefined being negotiated by the unprepared in order to get the unspecified for the uninformed.



