INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

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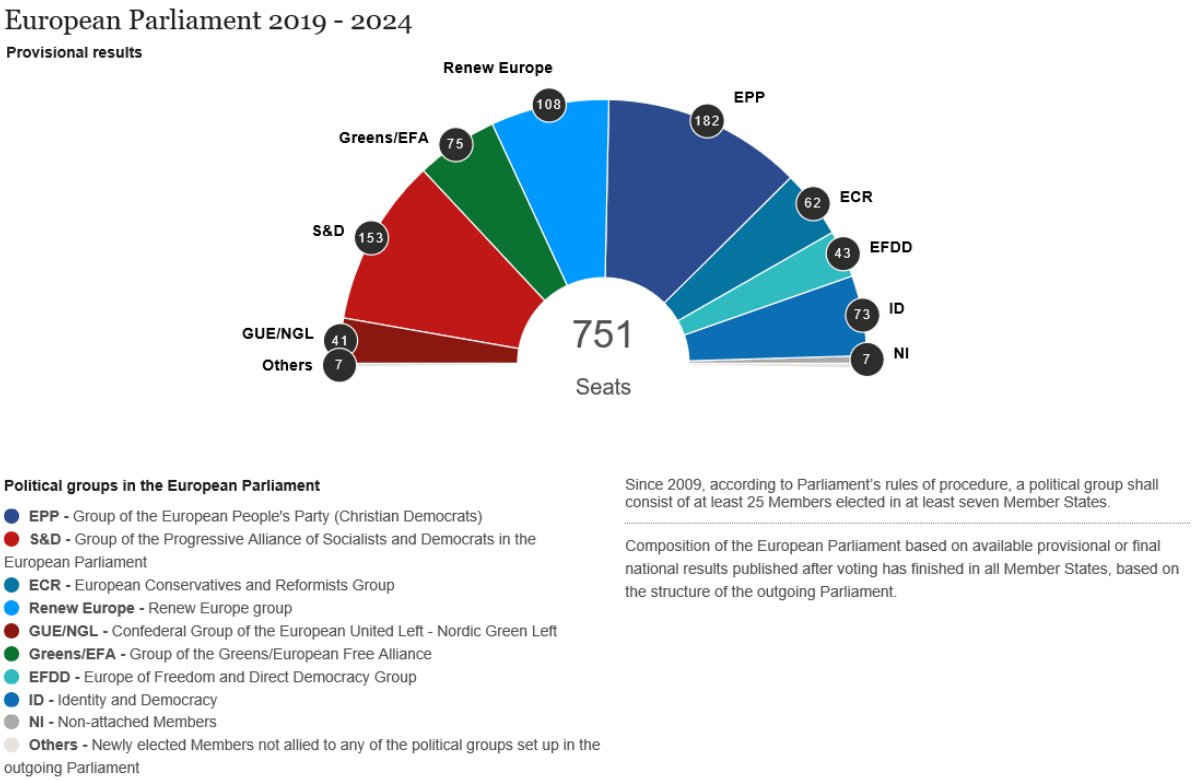
EPF Analysis of European Parliament 2019 Election Results



Source: https://www.election-results.eu/ (last accessed on 25 June 2019)

POLITICAL COMPOSITION: COMPARISON OF THE INCOMING AND THE OUT-GOING EP

1.1 Overall findings & main changes in political groups:

- 51% of EU citizens eligible to vote participated in the 2019 elections which is the highest turnout in 20 years. The turnout increased in 21 countries and 751 Members of the European Parliament were elected. Pro-European groups keep a clear majority in the new Parliament, but as predicted, the far-right-wing populist and nationalists groups have strenghened their position.

- The main changes in the political groups are: The previous ALDE group is recomposed and is now called Renew Europe. The Renew Europe group brings together members of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE), Macron's La République En Marche and others. Macron's party wanted to avoid the word "liberal" in the group's name as it has a negative connotation in France. The previous far-right Europe of Nations and Freedom group (ENF) is recomposed and has now the name: Identity and Democracy, or ID for short.

- One of the main changes in the new Parliament is a shift away from the mainstream centre-right and centre-left parties of the EPP and S&D which emerge as the biggest two losing parties in the 2019 elections. Their combined number of MEPs in the new EP is 335, down from 400 seats. The Eu-

ropean Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) and the left-wing GUE/NGL also lost 15 and respectively 11 seats.

- The Liberals/Renew Europe, Greens/EFA and the far-right ID have been strengthened and are the biggest winners in the 2019 elections. Renew Europe increased by 39 seats, Greens/EFA won 23 seats and ID 37 seats. The EFDD group remains stable with 43 seats compared to 42 in the previous parliament.

- The losses of the centre-right and centre-left seem to have benefitted different political parties, namely ID further to the right as well as the Liberals/Renew Europe and the Greens/EFA.

1.2 Findings per political group:

- The EPP remains the single biggest party in the EP with 182 MEPs, reaching 24.23% of all seats. However, this is after having lost 34 MEPs. The EPP is therefore the party with the biggest losses in the 2019 elections. The EPP group unanimously reelected Manfred Weber as its Chairman. The German delegation is the biggest in the group with 29 MEPs (CDU/CSU).

- The S&D group remains the second biggest political group with 153 MEPs, but has also lost 31 MEPs and now reaches 20.37% of all seats. The S&D group elected Spain's Iratxe Garcia as their new group leader. The Spanish delegation is the biggest in the group with 20 MEP.

- The Renew Europe group is the third biggest group with 108 seats in the new Parliament and the biggest winner in 2019, gaining 39 MEPs and their share of seats reaching 14.38%. This increase can be registered in large part thanks to Macron's party and a surge of support for the U.K. Liberal Democrats. Ex-Romanian prime minister and former European Commissioner Dacian Ciolos was elected as the group's chairman. The French delegation is now the biggest in the new group with 21 MEPs.

- The Greens/EFA have increased their MEPs by 23 seats and are now the EP's 4th largest group with 75 MEPs, reaching 9.99% of all seats. Co-presidents of the group are Philippe Lamberts and Ska Keller. The German delegation is the biggest in the group with 22 MEPs.

- The ID group seems to become the 5th largest group with 73 MEPs, reaching 9.72% of all seats. Italy and France have the largest delegations with 28 seats for the Lega Nord and respectively 22 seats for the Rassemblement National.

- The ECR (initially led by UK Conservatives) is now the 6th largest party in the EP having lost 15 seats, reaching now 62 seats or 8.26% of all seats. Belgium's biggest political party, the New Flemish Alliance (N-VA) and Spain's far-right party Vox are both part of the ECR group. The Polish delegation (PiS/Law and Justic party) is now the biggest with 26 MEPs.

- The EFDD group remains relatively stable with 43 seats or 5.73% of the seats, being the 7th largest group. The UK's Brexit Party is the largest delegation with 29 seats – making it the single largest party in the EP. The final composition of the EFDD group is still subject to possible changes in the coming weeks as it did not yet submit their name and composition to the legislature's administration (by 26 June 2019).

- The GUE/NGL group lost 11 seats and now have 41 seats or 5.46% of the seats in the EP, being the 8th largest group.

Political Group	Description	N° MEPs 2014-2019	N° MEPs 2019-2024	Net Change in MEPs
EPP	*Centre-right*	216	182	-34
S&D	*Centre-left*	184	153	-31
ALDE/Renew Europe	*Centre/liberal*	69	108	+39
Greens/EFA	*Green*	52	75	+23
ENF/ID	*Far-right*	36	73	+37
ECR	*Euro-sceptic conservatives, now also far-right*	77	62	-15
EFDD	*Hard-right/ populists*	42	43	+1
GUE/NGL	*Far-left*	52	41	-11
NI/new parties/others	*Non-attached – heterogenous*	20	14	-6
Sub-totals		***748***	***751***	

Source: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/home & https://www.election-results.eu/european-results/2019-2024/ (last accessed on 25 June 2019)

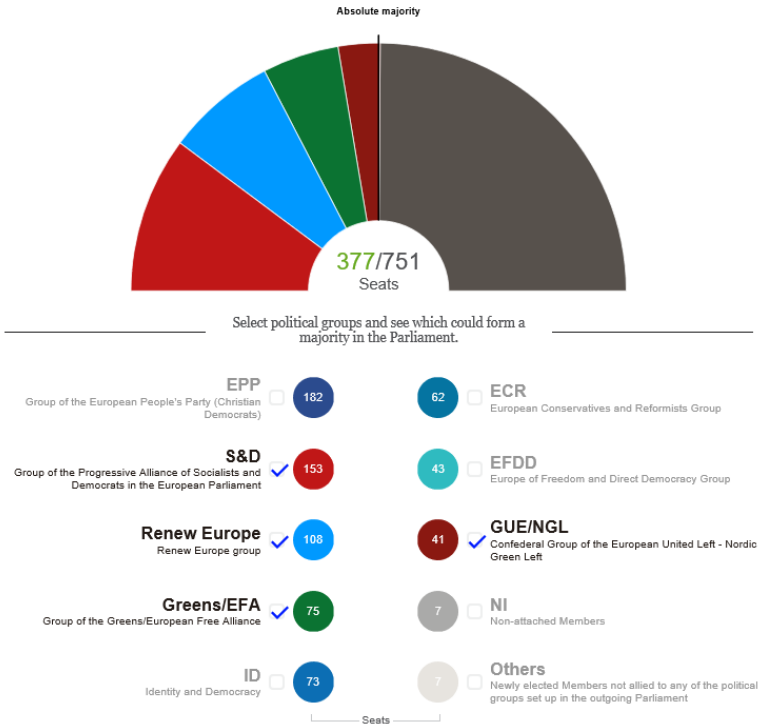
2. EP Support for SRHR?

In terms of support for sexual and reproductive health and rights, if one assumes political party positions based on voting patterns of political parties during the legislative term 2014-19, then the pro/anti-choice factions of the European Parliament are now as follows. 376 MEPs are needed to obtain an absolute majority:

Pro-choice	EP 2014-19	EP 2019-24		Anti-choice	EP 2014-19	EP 2019-24
S&D	184	153		**EPP**	216	182
ALDE/Renew Europe	69	108		**ECR**	77	62
Greens/EFA	52	75		**ENF/ID**	36	73
GUE/NGL	52	41		**EFDD**	42	43
Sub-total	357	**377**		Sub-total	371	**360**
%	47.73%	**50.20%**		%	49.60%	**48%**

Check who could form a majority in the Parliament

Provisional results



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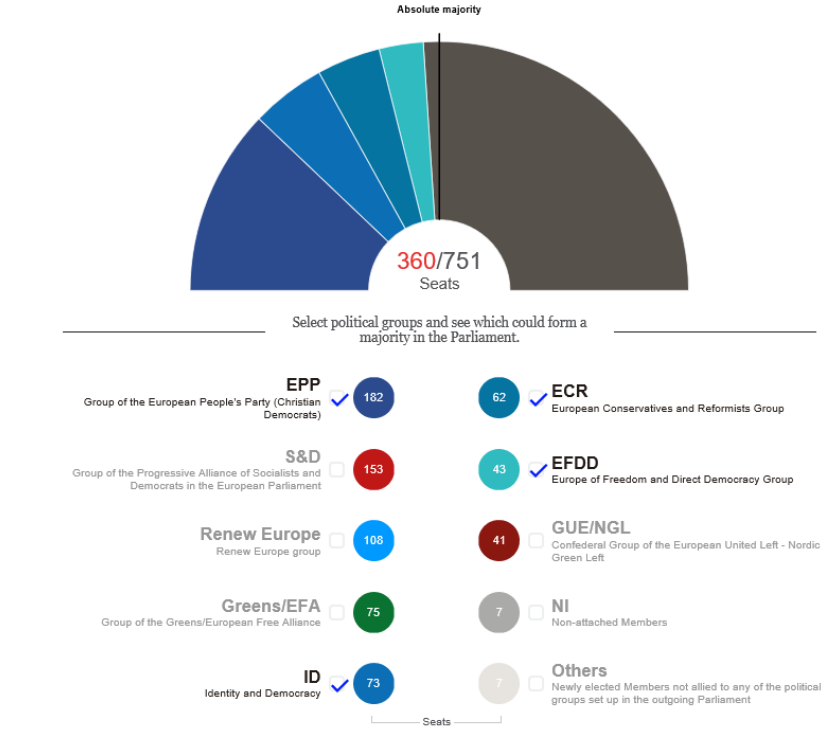

Source: https://www.election-results.eu/tools/majority-calculator/ (last accessed on 25 June 2019)

Therefore, it would appear that the proportion of pro-choice MEPs may have increased slightly, around from 47.73% to 50.20% - having an absolute majority by 1 vote (majority required being 376 MEPs).The anti-choice side would appear to loose 11 MEPs and would not have an absolute majority as they have 360 MEPs (48%) compared to previously 371 MEPs (49.60%). The pro-choice side appears to be in a numerical majority with 377 pro-choice versus 360 anti-choice.

However, this does not take into account three factors:

1. Known or expected voting patterns of certain national delegations within parties or individual MEPs which may go against party position (ie. certain national delegations defy their party whip, namely a few Maltese, Italian or Bulgarian MEPs from S&D and ALDE/Renew Europe have a position to vote anti-choice while most Swedish, Finnish, Danish, Dutch, Belgian, Luxembourgish EPP members will vote pro-choice etc.). Moreover, parts of ECR (namely from the UK) as well as parts of EFDD (namely parts of Italy's 5* movement) used to vote in favour of SRHR.

2. The allocation of the votes of the 14 "NI/new parties/others" MEPs representing 1,86% of the MEPs is still uncertain. These votes are likely to be distributed across a range of different political parties and positions and represent a variety of different possible pro/anti-choice votes/MEPs. How these are distributed may change the strength of the pro/anti-choice factions.

3. Voting patterns for newly composed political groups can be assumed for most, but not yet for all. Moreover, it remains uncertain whether some political groups keep their 'free votes' on SRHR or will rather vote in a block on SRHR in the future.

3. Development, global health, women's rights and SRHR Champion MEPs

Of the 751 MEPs elected, there are a number of champions on development, global health, women's rights and SRHR from the previous parliamentary term who will be returning. The advocacy efforts of the SRHR community at both national and Brussels levels has paid off as a solid group of elected re-elected MEPs can be assumed to remain SRHR champions. MEPs for SRR can count on a core group of at least 12 MEPs from the group who have been re-elected. Other members of the group were either not re-elected or did not stand in the elections.

3.1 SRHR Champions:

A non-exhaustive list includes the following returning SRHR-champion MEPs:

- Marie Arena (S&D, BE)
- Biljana Borzan (S&D, HR)
- Malin Björk (GUE/NGL, SE)
- Ignazio Corrao (EFDD, IT)
- Charles Goerens (Renew Europe, LU)
- Sylvie Guillaume (S&D, FR)
- Heidi Hautala (Greens/EFA, FI)
- Norbert Neuser (S&D, DE)
- Iratxe Garcia Perez (S&D, ES)
- Sirpa Pietikäinen (EPP, FI)
- Terry Reintke (Greens/EFA, DE)
- Ernest Urtasun (Greens/EFA, ES)
- Hilde Vautmans (Renew Europe, BE)
- Sophie in't Veld (Renew Europe, NL)
- Julie Ward (S&D, UK)

3.2 Prospective New Champions

There are also a number of newly elected MEPs who show potential in taking leadership on SRHR, women's rights, global health and development issues, they include:

- Pietro Bartolo (S&D, IT)
- Robert Biedroń (S&D, PL)
- Andreas Glück (Renew Europe, DE)
- Łukasz Kohut (S&D, PL)
- Ville Niinistö (Greens/EFA, FI)
- Maria Eugenia Rodriguez Palop (GUE/NGL, ES)
- Sylwia Spurek (S&D, PL)
- Petra De Sutter (Greens/EFA, BE) – EPF President
- Chrysoula Zacharopoulou (Renew Europe, FR)

3.3 Champions who will be leaving the EP

However, there will be a number of champions on development, global health, women's rights and SRHR who will be leaving the EP, these include:

- Linda McAvan (S&D, UK)
- Anna Maria Corazza Bildt (EPP, SE)
- Ana Maria Gomes (S&D, PT)
- Anna Hedh (S&D, SE)
- Jean Lambert (Greens/EFA, UK)
- Ana Miranda (Greens/EFA, ES)
- Soraya Post (S&D, SE)

4. Anti-choice in the New European Parliament

Main findings:

- Several MEPs who were known for being anti-choice leaders in the EP 2014-19 have left the parliament. A number of known anti-choice MEPs have been re-elected. Several anti-choice leaders from national level in several Member States have been newly elected to the EP. At least 2 Agenda Europe members have been elected.

- Anti-choice in the EP comes from the far-right, the populist right and the mainstream centre-right parties. The vociferous anti-SRR camp has significantly increased, especially among the far-right/fascists (NI), the far-right populists (ID) and the hard-right Euro-sceptics (ECR).

- A new development is that anti-SRR positions were previously held by individual known anti-choice leaders, but not necessarily by entire political groups. However, the locus of contestation against SRR seems to be now within a big majority of the ECR group (European Conservatives and Reformists) who 45 of their 62 MEPs are all adamantly anti-SRR (ie. such as the Spanish VOX). Previously UK Conservatives lead this group, but were not predominantly anti-choice themselves. 88.7% of the ECR now appears to be from anti-choice parties (compared to around 56% previously).

4.1 Anti-choice MEPs – who's coming and going

There is a number of anti-choice MEPs who are not coming back, either because they were not re-elected or they did not stand, these include:

- Nirj Deva, (ECR, UK)
- Arne Gericke (ECR, DE)
- Marek Jurek (ECR, PL)
- Janusz Korwin-Mikke (NI, PL)
- Alojz Peterle (EPP, SV)
- Branislav Skripek (ECR, SK)
- Anna Zaborska (EPP, SK)

There is expected to be a fresh generation of anti-choice MEPs in the incoming EP. From the election results and previous statements by candidates, the following are potential new anti-choice leaders in the in-coming European Parliament:

- Mazaly Aguilar (ECR, ES)
- Jorge Buxade (ECR, ES)
- Lucia Duris Nicholsonova (ECR, SK)
- Eugen Jurzyca (ECR, SK)
- Rob Roos (ECR, NL)
- Rob Rooken (ECR, NL)
- Hermann Tertsch (ECR, ES)

4.2 Anti-choice electoral lists

A number of socially conservative electoral lists appeared in several Member States which feature anti-choice issues as a prominent aspect of their manifestoes. These included:

- Alternative für Deutschland in Germany
- Fidesz in Hungary
- Lega Nord in Italy
- Electoral Action of Poles in Lithuania
- PiS – Law and Justice party from Poland
- VOX in Spain