

European Parliament Elections 2024

Developments in Germany



Outline

- Overview
- European Parliament (EP)
- Electoral System
- Europarties
- German EU Elections
- German Election Dynamics



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Overview

- EU Parliament as transnational assembly
- Date: 6-9 June 2024
- Five-year cycle of elections
- Taking place in 27 countries
- Different voting specificities in countries
- 720 seats to be distributed



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European Parliament (EP)

- Only directly elected body in EU
- Sessions and meetings in Strasbourg and Brussels
- Main tasks
 - Participation in legislation
 - Laws must also be passed by Council of the EU
 - Can not propose legislation (task of EU Commission)
 - Democratic control rights
 - Approval of EU budget



<https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/government-in-ireland/european-government/eu-institutions/european-parliament/>
<https://adamkubina.eu/blog/2016/09/02/how-the-european-parliament-works/>



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Electoral System



- Voting age varying from 16 -21
- MEPs (Members of Parliament) per country: 6 -96
- Thresholds vary between 0 - 5% in countries
- Seat distribution through Proportional Representation:
 - D'Hondt / Largest remainder / Sainte-Laguë / Single transferable
- “Spitzenkandidat“ system (German: “top candidate“)
 - Spitzenkandidat from winning party becomes European Commission President



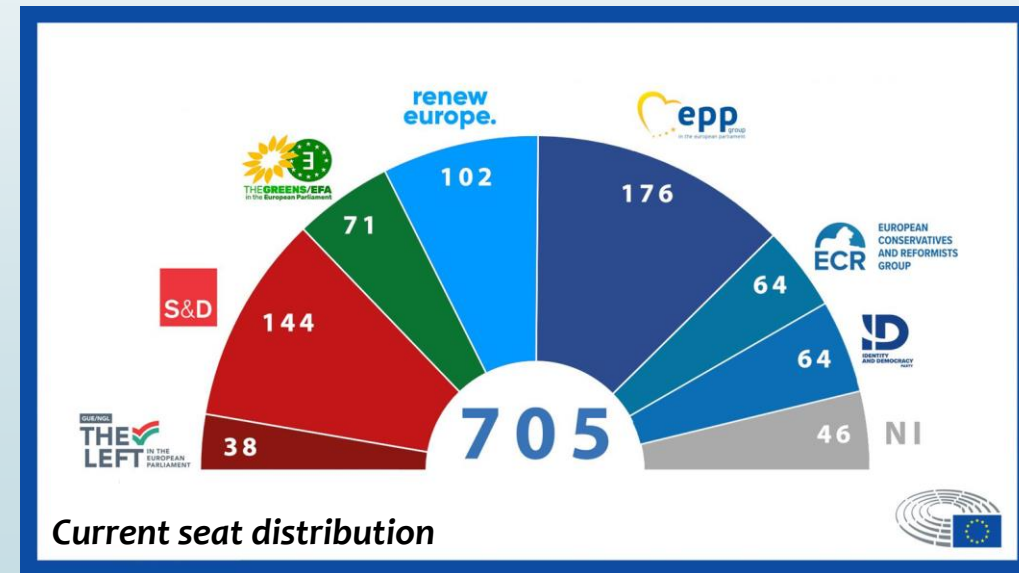
<https://europeelects.eu/2024spitzenkandidaten/>
<https://io.wp.com/eptthinktank.eu/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/10-voting-system-and-number-of-meps.png?ssl=1>
<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/about-parliament/en/organisation-and-rules/organisation/political-groups>



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Europarties

- National parties elected by voters
- Most of them form then EU-wide groups in parliament
 - Currently 7 groups + Non-Inscrits
 - Big ideological varieties
- Dynamical process of parties joining and leaving groups
- Usually coalitions needed to achieve majority
- Parties that oppose EU as well part of the Parliament



German EU Elections



- Entitled for electing 96 seats (biggest number of all countries based on largest population)
- Since 2014 threshold completely removed
 - De-facto 0,7% (=250,000 voters) are needed for one seat
 - 2019 7 parties were elected reaching 1 or 2 seats
 - Plan for introducing 2% threshold in 2029
- Sainte-Laguë method of election
 - Empirically best proportionality behaviour
 - Special mathematical calculation procedures



German Election Dynamics- Interest in Europe and the EU

1. How often do you inform yourselves about Europe and the EU?
2. How interested, if at all, are you in Europe and the EU?

Just under one in four (23 per cent) of all respondents say they inform themselves daily about news on the European Union.

32 percent inform themselves weekly

11 percent monthly

17 percent Less frequently than monthly

8 percent never

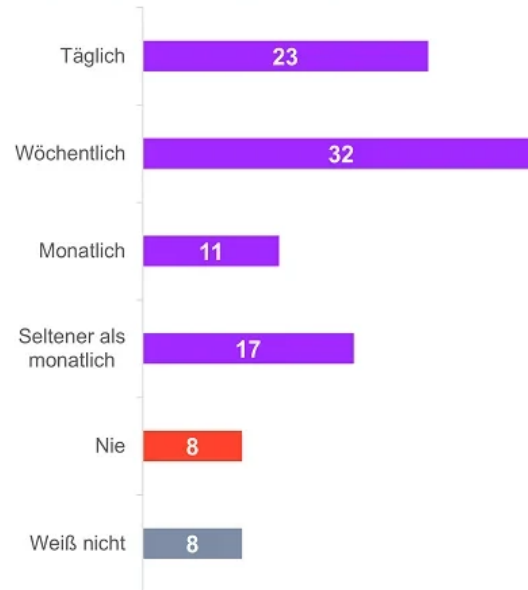
8 percent- don't know



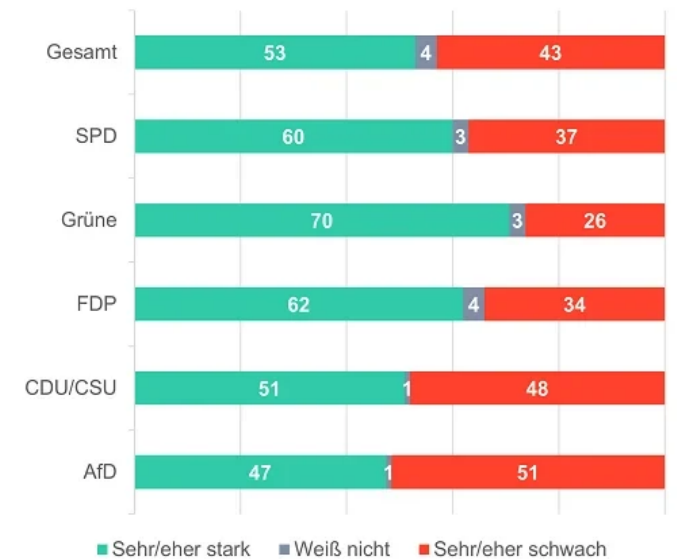
Interesse an Europa und der EU

YouGov

Wie häufig informieren Sie sich über Nachrichten zum Thema Europäische Union? (Befragte in %)



Allgemein gesprochen, wie sehr, wenn überhaupt, interessieren Sie sich für Europa und die EU? (Befragte in %)



Basis: Alle Befragten n= 2.282 Befragung vom 06.-10.10.2023; Die Ergebnisse sind repräsentativ für alle wahlberechtigten Deutschen ab 18 Jahren. LINKE-Wählerinnen und Wähler: n<100. Abweichungen zu 100% aufgrund von Rundungsdifferenzen.

<https://yougov.de/politics/articles/47574-sonntagsfrage-oktober-2023-europawahl-2024>



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German Election Dynamics

On the voting intention of Germans in October 2023 and for the European Election 2024

According to current nationwide surveys, the AfD currently has approval ratings of between 20% and 30% in Germany (cf. Tagesschau).

A refoundation of the EU on the model of a Europe of fatherlands; a radical transformation into a "Fortress Europe" with hard external borders; a turn away from transatlantic cooperation and towards Russia; a halt to all climate protection measures at the European level and instead the promotion of car driving and air travel; a renunciation of the euro



<https://yougov.de/politics/articles/47574-sonntagsfrage-oktober-2023-europawahl-2024>



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EU Projects for young people

„We want to make people understand that the EU has an impact on our daily live.“

Paula Wiede , student

„gemeinsamfuer.eu“

„tEUeday“

„EU-Camp“

The transnational European election campaign of the JEF #EurHope has been running since 9 May 2023. It was sending a clear signal for more Europe and a common European future and are consciously opposing the all populist, extremist and neo-fascist movements in Europe.



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German Election Dynamics

- Without threshold, Germany is sending far more parties to EU parliament than in national one (5% threshold)
 - So small parties focus on EU Elections
 - Usually 3-4 big parties plus ~10 small parties gather seats
- Opinion Polling:
 - Conservatives and right-wing populists with highest rates
 - Behind them Socialists and Green Party
- Former left-wing party member Sahra Wagenknecht about to form new party (Mixture of populism with left- and right-wing ideas)
 - Polls showing potential of 5-15% amongst German voters
 - Party not yet created – future will show how this develops

2019 Elections

All 96 German seats to the European Parliament

Party	Leader	Current seats
CDU/CSU	Manfred Weber	29
Greens	Ska Keller	21
SPD	Katarina Barley	16
AfD	Nicolaus Fest	11
Left	Martin Schirdewan	6
FDP	Nicola Beer	5
Die PARTEI	Martin Sonneborn	2
FW	Ulrike Müller	2
Tierschutzpartei	Martin Buschmann	1
ÖDP	Klaus Buchner	1
Familie	Helmut Geuking	1
Volt	Damian Boeselager	1
Pirates	Patrick Breyer	1

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2024_European_Parliament_election_in_Germany

<https://www.politico.eu/europe-poll-of-polls/>
<https://www.wahlrecht.de/umfragen/europawahl.htm>



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Thank You for your attention!

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