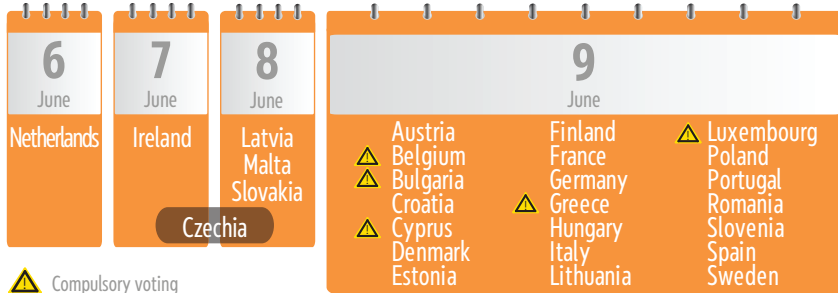


# 2024 European elections: National rules

## Election day

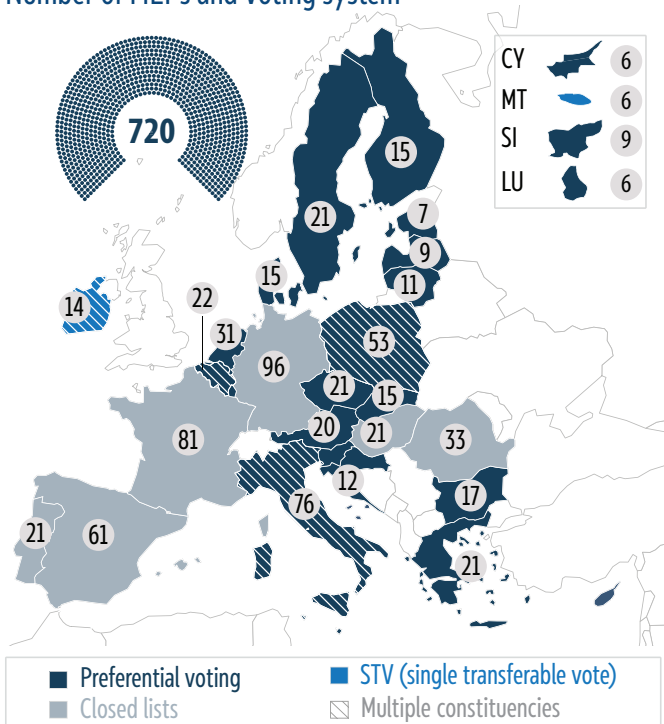


Compulsory voting

Election day following national custom.

NB In a number of countries the day will only be formally confirmed closer to the election.

## Number of MEPs and voting system



### Change in seats from outgoing parliament

FR	+2
ES	+2
NL	+2
PL	+1
BE	+1
AT	+1
DK	+1
FI	+1
SK	+1
IE	+1
LV	+1
SI	+1

## Voting methods for citizens abroad

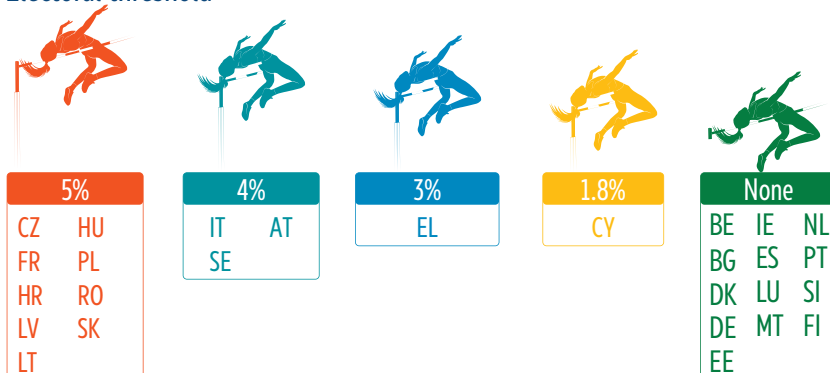
Belgium			
Bulgaria	*		
Czechia		NOT POSSIBLE	
Denmark			
Germany			
Estonia			
Ireland		NOT POSSIBLE	
Greece			
Spain			
France			
Croatia			
Italy	*		
Cyprus			
Latvia			
Lithuania			
Luxembourg			
Hungary			
Malta		NOT POSSIBLE	
Netherlands			
Austria			
Poland			
Portugal			
Romania			
Slovenia			
Slovakia		NOT POSSIBLE	
Finland			
Sweden			

By post Proxy  
 Embassy/consulate E-voting  
 \* Voting from abroad only possible within another EU country.

## Minimum age of candidates



## Electoral threshold



Note: this infographic shows the situation based on information known to the authors as of August 2023. It will be updated in 2024, ahead of the European elections, incorporating any changes to the rules in individual Member States.

For any questions on voting rights in specific individual cases, please refer to the relevant Member State authorities.

## Further information

Item	Data source
Election day	The elections to the European Parliament (EP) will be held in all EU Member States between 6 and 9 June 2024. The precise day of elections is set by each Member State. (Certain French voters overseas go to the polls the day before the majority of the country.) Member States cannot publish election results until after the polls close in the Member State whose voters are the last to vote on Sunday 9 June 2024.
Compulsory voting	Voting is compulsory in only five Member States – BE, BG, LU, CY and EL – where the legal obligation to vote applies to both nationals and registered non-national EU citizens. (In Belgium, voting is not compulsory for voters aged 16 and 17.)
Number of MEPs	At the 2024 European elections, a total of 720 Members will be elected to the European Parliament. This is an increase of 15 from the 705 MEPs in the outgoing Parliament. A total of 751 Members were elected in the 2019 elections (the maximum possible under Article 14(2) TEU). Once the 73 seats occupied by Members elected in the United Kingdom were vacated with that country's withdrawal from the EU, an additional 27 Members took their seats on 1 February 2020, following provision made at the 2019 elections in the 14 Member States concerned.
Voting system	MEPs are elected according to national electoral systems, but these have to observe certain <a href="#">common provisions</a> established by EU law, such as proportional representation. As a general rule, voters can choose between political parties, individual candidates or both. While in some Member States, voters can only vote for a list, without the possibility to change the order of candidates on the list (closed list), in other Member States voters can express their preference for one or more of the candidates (preferential voting). Depending on the degree of freedom voters enjoy when casting their preferential vote, one can distinguish between semi-open lists, where voters can change the position of one or all candidates on a single chosen list, and open lists, where voters can vote for candidates from different lists. Instead of a list system, some Member States use the single transferable vote (STV). Under this system, the voter has one vote but can rank the candidates in order of their first, second, third, etc. choice. To be elected, a candidate needs to receive a minimum number of votes.
Constituencies	Whilst in the majority of Member States the national territory forms a single electoral constituency for the European elections, certain Member States have divided their territories into multiple constituencies. These are: BE, IE, IT and PL.
Voting from abroad	Most Member States allow the possibility to vote from abroad in EP elections, although in two (BG, IT) that right applies only to citizens in another EU Member State. Some Member States require voters to pre-register with their national electoral authorities to be eligible to vote from abroad by post or at an embassy/consulate. For some Member States (e.g. DK), voting at embassies takes place prior to election day; and for some, postal votes may be submitted at embassies/consulates. In some cases, voters resident abroad may vote in person in their Member State of citizenship. In addition, most Member States make special arrangements for diplomats and military personnel serving abroad. <a href="#">Amendments to the 1976 Electoral Act</a> , adopted in 2018 based on a Parliament initiative, but not yet in force pending ratification in one Member State, state that Member States may provide for the possibilities of advance voting, postal voting, and electronic and internet voting in elections to the European Parliament. Where they do so, they shall adopt measures sufficient to ensure in particular the reliability of the result, the secrecy of the vote, and the protection of personal data in accordance with applicable Union law. Member States shall take the necessary measures to ensure that double voting in elections to the European Parliament is subject to effective, proportionate and dissuasive penalties. Finally, Member States may take the necessary measures to allow those of their citizens residing in third countries to vote in elections to the European Parliament.
Electoral threshold	The aforementioned amendments to the 1976 Electoral Act, adopted by Council <a href="#">Decision</a> of 13 July 2018, include a measure on thresholds. The new rules will set an obligatory threshold in certain cases for the allocation of seats. At national level, this threshold may not exceed 5 % of valid votes cast. Moreover, Member States in which the list system is used shall set a minimum threshold for the allocation of seats for constituencies which comprise more than 35 seats. This threshold shall not be lower than 2 %, and shall not exceed 5 % of the valid votes cast in the constituency concerned, including a single-constituency Member State. In practice, this provision concerns only the largest Member States. As the amendments have yet to enter into force, Member States will only have to comply with the obligation on thresholds in time for the Parliament's election in 2029. NB: There is currently <a href="#">no electoral threshold for EP elections in Germany</a> . This is due to a 2014 German Federal Constitutional Court decision that declared the 3 % electoral threshold unconstitutional.
Minimum age of candidates	The minimum age to be eligible to vote and to stand as a candidate in the European elections is established by national law. While the age to be eligible to vote is 18 years in most Member States (except Greece, where the voting age is 17, and Belgium, Germany, Malta and Austria, where the voting age is 16), the minimum age necessary to stand as a candidate in the European elections varies considerably, ranging from 18 to 25 years old.

### Country codes

Belgium (BE), Bulgaria (BG), Czechia (CZ), Denmark (DK), Germany (DE), Estonia (EE), Ireland (IE), Greece (EL), Spain (ES), France (FR), Croatia (HR), Italy (IT), Cyprus (CY), Latvia (LV), Lithuania (LT), Luxembourg (LU), Hungary (HU), Malta (MT), Netherlands (NL), Austria (AT), Poland (PL), Portugal (PT), Romania (RO), Slovenia (SI), Slovakia (SK), Finland (FI) and Sweden (SE).

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