

BRIEFING
PAPER
#108

WHAT HAPPENS IN KEY EU INSTITUTIONS AFTER THE JUNE 2024 EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS?

More than 400 million people were called to vote in the European Parliament elections on 6 - 9 June 2024. These elections, which have consolidated a conservative shift in the European Parliament, also mark the start of intense negotiations to set priorities for the new EU political cycle and redistribute roles in the EU institutions.

This briefing paper outlines the main events taking place after the elections in three of the EU's main institutions – the European Parliament, European Council and European Commission. The process of replacing key roles and bodies in these institutions is complex, but understanding how the EU functions is key to the work of civil society organisations and to advancing their goals and democracy in Europe. This paper aims to break down and explain these processes.





1. WHAT AND WHEN

The European Parliament elections take place every five years. The June 2024 elections was the tenth since the first direct elections in 1979. It was also the first election since Brexit, the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union, which reduced the number of countries in the EU from 28 to 27. This EU election also coincided with national, provincial, and local elections in some EU countries.

A series of key events take place immediately after the vote on 6-9 June and unfold until the end of the year 2024 and beyond. For the sake of simplicity, these key events are presented in chronological order.

Timeline of key events

Month	Date	Event
June	6-9	European Parliamentary elections.
	10 June – mid-July	Election results and confirmation of MEPs-elects by Member States. Formation of EP political groups and appointment of their leaders.
	17	Informal meeting of EU heads of state and government.
	27-28	European Council (EUCO) formal meeting with nomination of the European Commission President.
July	16-19	Constituent plenary sitting of the 10 th parliamentary term. Election of President and Vice-Presidents of the European Parliament and other EP leadership roles. Election of the President of the European Commission.
	22-25	Constituent meetings of parliamentary committees, election of Bureau Chairs and Vice-Chairs of committees.
August	By 31	Nominations by MS of EU Commissioners finalized.
September/ October	16-19	The Commission President assigns responsibilities and portfolios to candidate Commissioners. Formation of intergroups in the EP.
		Defining the European Commission new priorities.
		Start of hearing procedure to appoint the college of 27 Commissioners.
October	TBC	Confirmation of Commissioners-designate (delayed if EC President not yet nominated).
November	1	The European Commission officially begins new term.
December	1	New European Council President takes office.
	16-19	Presentation of the College of Commissioners to the European Parliament. Parliamentary vote on European Commission investiture.
Nov 24 - Jan 25	TBC	Adoption of the EC 2025 Work Programme.
December 2026		Reshuffle of key roles: EP President and Vice-Presidents, Committees 'bureaux.



JUNE 2024

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	10 June – mid-July	Election results and confirmation of MEPs-elects by Member States. Formation of EP political groups and appointment of their leaders.
	17	Informal meeting of EU heads of state and government.
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I. European Parliament elections (6-9 June)

The EP is the EU's legislative branch and one of its seven institutions¹. Elections on 6-9 June elected 720 Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) from all EU countries (from **705 seats** in the previous legislature). The EP's tenth parliamentary term will last five years and begin with the constituent plenary session in Strasbourg on 16 - 19 July 2024.

In the days following the elections, the national authorities of the Member States notify the EP of the names of the elected MEPs, after checking that they do not hold any incompatible mandates or functions. The focus then shifts to the internal organisation of the EP: the formation of political groups, committees and delegations, and the allocation of various roles.

II. Formation of political groups in the European Parliament (10 June – mid-July)

Newly elected MEPs from different countries with similar political views and affiliations formally gather in **transnational political groups**. Groups try to attract and negotiate with "undecided" MEPs. This process starts shortly after the elections and may last until the first plenary in July.

MEPs may belong to one political group only. MEPs can choose to join an existing political group that reflects their views, or they can form new groups if they have enough members (even later in the legislature, but groups have an interest in being recognised before the constituent session). To be created, a new political group must be composed of at least 23 MEPs elected in at least one quarter of the MS (i.e. at least seven). MEPs who decide not to join a political group are known as **Non-Attached Members**.

The EP provides the political groups and non-attached MEPs with funds to cover the administrative and operational costs of their staff, as well as the costs of political and information activities related to the EU's political activities.

There are currently **seven political groups in the EP**:

- [Group of the European People's Party \(EPP Group\)](#)
- [Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament \(S&D Group\)](#)
- [Renew Europe Group](#)
- [Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance \(Greens/EFA Group\)](#)
- [European Conservatives and Reformists Group](#)
- [Identity and Democracy Group](#)
- [The Left group in the European Parliament \(GUE/NGL\)](#)

¹ EU institutions include the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council of the European Union, the European Commission, the Court of Justice of the European Union, the European Central Bank, and the European Court of Auditors.



TIP: Get in touch with newly elected **progressive S&D, Greens/EFA and Left MEPs** from your country, and share your political priorities with them, highlighting your areas of expertise and how you can support them.

National delegations, which bring together MEPs from the same Member State and from the same political party or “side”, play an important role in the negotiations for the constitution of the political groups. Each delegation appoints a **Head of delegation** who then represents the national party, or a delegation made up of several national parties, within a political group. Heads of national delegations within each group meet in June and July 2024 to elect and appoint the following key roles and positions in the group: the President(s) or Chair(s), the Vice-Presidents or Vice-Chairs, the group’s Bureau, and the Group’s Coordinators in Committees (see details in the section The European Parliament in a Glance: Roles and responsibilities of key bodies).

TIP: You may wish to contact new **S&D, Greens-EFA and Left Bureau** members, as they have a leading role in groups, and the coordinators in committees, as they play an important role in policy files, both within their groups and in negotiations with other groups. If a committee coordinated by a progressive MEP is discussing an issue that is relevant to your work, contact them!

III. Meeting of EU leaders and definition of the EU’s Strategic Agenda (17/27-28 June)

Heads of state or government of EU countries meet under the umbrella of the European Council (EUCO), which also includes the president of the European Commission. The European Council defines the EU’s political agenda and priorities.

EU heads of state or government will meet informally in Brussels on 17 June and more formally in the EUCO on 27 and 28 June to discuss the **EU’s Strategic Agenda** and nominations for the roles of President of the European Council, High Representative for Common and Foreign and Security Policy and President of the European Commission.

- **The President of the European Council** is elected by the European Council by qualified majority for a term of two and a half years and will take office on 1 December 2024.
- **The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy**, who shapes and conducts the EU’s common foreign and security policy and is one of the Vice-Presidents of the European Commission (see below), is appointed by the European Council by qualified majority with the agreement of the President of the Commission for a five-year term.
- **The President of the European Commission:** in the months leading up to the elections, all the major European political parties have chosen their **lead candidate** (Spitzenkandidat) for this post. At the time of writing, the Spitzenkandidaten 2024 are:
 - **Socialists & Democrats:** Nicolas Schmit
 - **European People’s Party:** Ursula von der Leyen
 - **Renew Europe:** Valérie Hayer, Sandro Gozi and Marie-Agnes Strack-Zimmermann
 - **The Greens:** Bas Eickhout and Terry Reintke
 - **European Free Alliance:** Raül Romeva and Maylis Roßberg
 - **European Left:** Walter Baier



The candidate for President of the European Commission put forward by national leaders in the EUCO is usually chosen based on their political affiliation and the results of the EP elections, as **they need the support of the majority of MEPs** to be elected. Traditionally, this has meant that candidates have been members of the party that won the EP elections, the EPP (hence Commission Presidents such as Barroso, Juncker and von der Leyen). On 27 and 28 June, the European Council will normally decide on the nomination of the candidate for President of the European Commission voting by qualified majority. It's worth highlighting that in 2019, no agreement was reached during the post-election EUCO, so a special European Council was needed. If the same situation occurs this year, a special summit will be held between the end of June and September 2024.

The European Council's Strategic Agenda:

The Strategic Agenda is a high-level statement setting out the four or five **political priorities of national leaders for the EU** after the elections. As such, this very broad text is crucial as it influences the political and policy direction of the EU and guides the EU institutions on how to deliver on these priorities. Published immediately after the 2019 EP elections, the **2019-23 Council Strategic Agenda**, included "building a climate-neutral, green, fair and social Europe". The current Commission President, Ursula von der Leyen, translated this into her European Green Deal in **her priorities**, stating: *"I want Europe to strive for more by being the first climate-neutral continent."*

Negotiations in the European Council on the priorities for 2024-29 started several months before the EP elections. The informal summit in Granada in October 2023 was the first opportunity for national leaders to discuss their ideas for the future priorities of the Strategic Agenda. The summit concluded with the adoption of the **Granada Declaration**, which included a first set of ideas on defence, agriculture and competitiveness. At the time of writing, a recent leak of the draft Strategic Agenda shows that EU leaders are prioritising **foreign policy, defence, industry, agriculture, competitiveness and migration**. Unfortunately, there is very little in the text on social or climate-related issues. The penholder for the Strategic Agenda is the cabinet of European Council President Charles Michel, whose members work with the teams of heads of state and government.



JULY 2024

July	16-19	Constituent plenary sitting of the 10 th parliamentary term.	Election of President and Vice-Presidents of the European Parliament and other EP leadership roles.	Election of the President of the European Commission.
	22-25	Constituent meetings of parliamentary committees, election of Bureau Chairs and Vice-Chairs of committees.		

I. EP Constituent plenary sitting of the 10th parliamentary term (16-19 July)

o *Election of the President of the European Commission*

The election of the President of the European Commission by the European Parliament should take place on **18 July**, during the constituent plenary session of the 10th parliamentary term, or during the session of **16-19 September**, the first after the summer recess. The final decision on the exact calendar will be taken by the EP's Conference of Presidents once the Parliament has been constituted (More info on the Conference of Presidents in the section *"The European Parliament in a Glance: Roles and responsibilities of key bodies"*)

Upon invitation of the EP President, the candidate for Commission President proposed by the European Council makes a statement and presents their Political Guidelines or priorities (cf. supra and infra) to the EP, followed by a debate. The EP then elects the President of the Commission by a **majority of MEPs** (361, in a Parliament of 720 Members) in a secret ballot. If the candidate does not obtain the required majority, the President will ask the European Council to propose a new candidate for election by the same procedure within one month.

o *Allocation of EP leadership roles: President and Vice-Presidents of the EP and Quaestors*

Right after elections, negotiations take place **between the political groups** to allocate various EP leadership posts to the groups, fostering cooperation and representation across ideological lines: a President, Vice-Presidents, Quaestors and the Committees and Delegations' Chairs and Vice-Chairs. All these positions are elected for a **renewable term of two and a half years**, i.e. half the parliamentary term, with elections at the beginning and halfway through the five-year term.

- Candidates for **President of the EP** can be put forward either by a political group or by 1/20th of the members, i.e. 38 MEPs. Often the "losing" candidates are given a vice-presidency, which also means that each political group gets one or more seats in the EP Bureau (see below). The new EP President will be elected by MEPs in a maximum of four rounds of secret voting on 16 July 2024, on the first day of the constituent plenary session. In 2014, the main political groups agreed to share the EP Presidency: the first two and a half years for an S&D candidate and the second half for an EPP candidate. However, a shift to the right in the new EP could mean that there will be no S&D President next term.



- After electing the EP President, MEPs will elect **14 Vice-Presidents** and **five Quaestors** by secret ballot in a maximum of three rounds (see roles below). Together with the EP President, they form the EP Bureau.

II. Decision on size of EP Committees

Legislative work in the EP is carried out in more than 20 **‘thematic’ committees and subcommittees**, which amend, negotiate, and adopt legislative proposals from the European Commission and Council and prepare own-initiative reports, all of which are then presented, debated, and voted on in plenary sessions. Each committee consists of between 25 and 88 MEPs, reflecting the political make-up of the plenary, and meets once or twice a month in Brussels. Subcommittees and temporary special committees may be set up to deal with specific issues. Committees often set up **Working Groups** on specific subjects within their remit, which meet regularly.

Between the elections and the constituent plenary, political groups engage in complex negotiations over seats on **Parliamentary Committees and Subcommittees**, balancing geographical representation and gender diversity while considering MEPs’ preferences and expertise.

- To appoint MEPs to committees, the secretariat of each political group usually makes a proposal to the national delegations and the group’s bureau as to which MEPs would fit in which Committee, based on experience, preference, geographical and gender balance, and these may request changes.

- On 16-19 July, the first plenary will decide on the “size” (i.e. the number of MEPs) of the EP’s standing committees and subcommittees - marking the start of the new parliamentary term. The composition of the committees is also likely to be announced by the political groups the same day.

- On 22-25 July, EP Committees will hold their respective constituent meetings to elect their **Committee Bureaux**, composed of a Committee Chair and up to four Vice-Chairs elected from among their full members for a two-and-a-half-year mandate. Political groups negotiate these posts among each other.

- The Committees then begin their legislative work and hold ordinary meetings.

MEPs also gather in 45 official groups, called delegations, whose role is to maintain and deepen the EP’s relations with parliaments, regions and organisations of non-EU countries. Delegations also have posts of Chais and Vice-Chairs, which are negotiated among the political groups.

After the EP’s constituent plenary session on 16-19 July and the constituent meetings of the EP’s Committees on 22-25 July, the EP’s legislative work can begin – mainly within the political groups and committees - but only after the summer break, which takes place during the month of August.

TIP: If you work on a specific issue or policy file, you should contact the S&D, Left and Greens-EFA coordinator for the committee responsible, as well as the Committee’ Chair or Vice-Chair.



AUGUST – DECEMBER 2024

August	By 31	Nominations by MS of EU Commissioners finalized.	
September/ October	16-19	The Commission President assigns responsibilities and portfolios to candidate Commissioners.	Formation of intergroups in the EP.
		Defining the European Commission new priorities.	
		Start of hearing procedure to appoint the college of 27 Commissioners.	
October	TBC	Confirmation of Commissioners-designate (delayed if EC President not yet nominated).	
November	1	The European Commission officially begins new term.	
December	1	New European Council President takes office.	
	16-19	Presentation of the College of Commissioners to the European Parliament. Parliamentary vote on European Commission investiture.	
Nov 24 - Jan 25	TBC	Adoption of the EC 2025 Work Programme.	
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I. Defining the European Commission's priorities and appointing Commissioners (16/19 September - tbc)

The European Commission is responsible for drawing up proposals for new European legislation, and it implements the decisions of the European Parliament and the Council of the EU.

The European Commission's current mandate runs until 31 October 2024, with a new five-year mandate starting right after. The EC staff responsible for the day-to-day running of the Commission and organised into Directorates-General (DGs, departments responsible for a specific policy area) does not change from one mandate to the next. The main change will be in the political leadership of the Commission, which will consist of a new President (see details on nomination and election above) and a new group of 27 Commissioners.

A change in political leadership and the start of a new five-year mandate for the Commission means a **change in the EC's political priorities and objectives**. Immediately after being nominated by the European Council, the candidate for Commission President will identify **the priority areas** on which the Commission will focus during that term. These are presented in **the Political Guidelines**, a document which sets out in broad terms the main policies and steps the Commission intends to take to ensure that it achieves its new political objectives. The Commission's 6 priorities for the period 2019-24 were set out in President von der Leyen's **Political Guidelines**.

These priorities are derived from the European Council's Strategic Agenda and discussions with Political Groups. There is, however, no predetermined transition process from one Commission mandate to the next. For example, President Juncker made a point of deriving his political agenda from the European Council's



Strategic Agenda, while President-elect von der Leyen prepared her work programme in cooperation with the political groups in the EP, rather than implementing the political will of the European Council.

Internal discussions within the Commission to define its future priorities start well before the EP elections and the entry into office of a new EC leadership, so the candidate for President doesn't start from scratch when preparing their Political Guidelines. After the elections, a **Transition Team** is set up to help the candidate President finalise the Political Guidelines and to contribute to other processes (Commissioner nominations, work programme, etc.). This Transition Team is made up of a small number of administrators and assistants chosen to form the candidate President's private office until the formal confirmation of the College of Commissioners. Once the Political Guidelines have been finalised and before the President is elected by the European Parliament, the Secretariat General of the EC will make the final adjustments to the text.

The Political Guidelines will be presented by the candidate President to the EP plenary during the vote on their appointment (either 16-19 July or 16-19 September). Once elected by the EP, the new President will adopt them. But until then, **the new European Parliament** plays a key role in influencing the final Political Guidelines. Normally, the candidate President, with the help of the Transition Team, holds bilateral meetings with the leaders of the various political groups to secure their support, and the political groups will be able to exchange their votes for the candidate President's support for certain initiatives. Groups negotiating power with the Commission will largely depend on the outcome of the EP elections.

TIP: While senior officials in the EC play a key role in the months leading to the elections, once the candidate for President is nominated, it is the Transition Team that plays a highly influential role in finalising the Political Guidelines, with limited involvement of the services of the Commission. Ask SOLIDAR who the members of the EC President's transition team are.

II. Formation of intergroups:

Intergroups are **non-official groupings of MEPs who are interested in a particular topic** that does not fall within the scope of the EP's normal work but may be of interest to wider society. Intergroups cannot express an opinion on behalf of the European Parliament. They promote informal exchanges between different political groups and between MEPs and civil society on specific issues.

Each intergroup is made up of MEPs from at least three different political groups. During the 9th parliamentary term there were 27 intergroups. The creation or continuation of an intergroup is proposed at the beginning of each parliamentary term through a request signed by at least three political groups. The Chairs of the political groups then negotiate and agree on a list of Intergroups for the new mandate, and these should become operational around November or December 2024.

TIP: You can propose the creation of a new Intergroup by contacting the groups' Bureau, but remember, Intergroups are only created if they have the support of at least three political groups.



III. Appointing a college of 27 European Commissioners:

Once the new President has been confirmed by the EP, the process of appointing **the 27 new Commissioners**, reflecting the number of MS, begins. The new President and their Transition Team begin preparations, including defining portfolios, drafting mission letters, and holding bilateral visits with the leaders of the MS for the nominations.

- The government of each MS, in consultation with the new EC President, will nominate a **candidate for Commissioner**, usually from the ruling political party. In 2019, von der Leyen insisted that all MS should nominate two candidates, one male and one female, to ensure gender balance, but this suggestion was ignored by several MS. Normally, all nominations should be made by the end of August 2024. The Council of the European Union, by common accord with the President-elect and based on the proposals by the MS, then formally adopts the list of nominees for the College of Commissioners.
- In early September, the new President will interview the candidates and assign responsibilities for specific policy areas, considering their skills, experience and preferences. Candidate Commissioners will then receive a **Mission Letter** outlining their portfolios and giving further insight into the programme of the next Commission. The EP President asks the EC President-elect to inform Parliament of the intended structure and allocation of portfolios in the proposed College of Commissioners.
- Between October and November, Commissioner nominees are **evaluated by the EP committee**

responsible for their portfolio and must respond to **written questions** sent to them by Political groups' Coordinators. The questions focus on the candidate's general competence, European commitment and personal independence, the management of the portfolio and planned cooperation with the Parliament, as well as on issues specific to their portfolio. The candidate responds in writing, with the help of their Transition Team and the DGs for which the candidate will be responsible if appointed. The Committee on Legal Affairs also carries out a full examination of the candidate's declaration of financial interests and possible conflicts of interest.

In addition, each candidate must attend a three-hour public **hearing by the EP committee(s)** responsible for their portfolio. The candidate makes an opening statement to present their vision and priorities for their portfolio, and then answers questions from MEPs. The committee(s) must complete their evaluation of a candidate within 24 hours of the hearing. The committee(s) in charge of the hearing may also ask the candidate Commissioner for further information in writing to answer politically sensitive questions or organise a shorter additional hearing. The Conference of Presidents shall declare the hearings closed after considering the evaluation letters from the committees responsible and the recommendation of the Conference of Committee Chairs (CCC).

Technically, the EP can only approve or reject the College of Commissioners as a whole. However, if a candidate fails to convince their respective parliamentary committee, the plenary is unlikely to approve the entire college. De facto, the committee hearings serve as a **means of**



confirmation (hence their name “confirmation hearings”). Moreover, it is not uncommon for the EP to reject a candidate, which often leads to significant delays. In 2019, the hearings were supposed to last a week but ended up taking a month and a half.

TIP: Contact the coordinator for each committee to include questions in the confirmation hearings on issues that matter to you.

- Considering the results of these hearings and consultations, the Commission President presents the College of Commissioners, the political priorities, and the Work Programme (see below) to a plenary session of the EP. This is most likely to happen in **December** (or earlier if the EC President is elected in July). After a debate, MEPs in plenary vote by a majority to approve or reject the new **College of Commissioners as a whole**, including the President, for a five-year mandate. If necessary, Parliament can postpone the vote until the next sitting.
- At the end of 2024, based on the EP’s approval, the European Council, acting by qualified majority, formally appoints the new European Commission, which takes office shortly afterwards. The Commissioners, led by the President, work together to develop and implement EU policies, propose legislation and represent the EU on the world stage.
- After confirmation, Commissioners recruit members of their Cabinets, which are made up of officials who may come from outside the Commission or from within the Commission services. The EC President also appoints a **new Secretary-General** of the European

Commission to head the Secretariat-General, which is responsible for the overall coherence of the Commission’s work - both in shaping new policies and in steering them through the other EU institutions.

IV. Start of the new mandate

- The new Commission is set to officially begin its new term on **1 November 2024**. But already in September, before the new EC leadership officially takes office, the Secretariat-General and the EC services work to translate the ideas and recommendations contained in the EC Political Guidelines and in the European Council’s Strategic Agenda into a policy agenda and concrete legislative proposals. For example, in December 2019, shortly after the appointment of the von der Leyen Commission, the President issued a Communication announcing the European Green Deal, the flagship initiative of the new mandate.
- Each year, the EC prepares its **annual Work Programme**, which sets out the list of key actions it will undertake in the coming year, in consultation with the EP and the MS. The 2025 Work Programme is expected to be adopted and published by the EC **between November 2024 and January 2025**. In line with the principle of political discontinuity, the Work Programme will also include the list of pending proposals that the new Commission intends to withdraw because they no longer match the Commission’s political objectives.

TIP: Liaise with European Commission officials during the summer and autumn to influence the Work Programme.



Campaigning strategies to influence the new EU mandate:

Results of the EU elections will determine the EU's new priorities and impact our advocacy work. But the EU's agenda is broad, and there are good strategies we can use to influence the next EU mandate and secure more progressive decisions.

- ✓ Set clear advocacy objectives.
 - ✓ Break down complex issues: we need to make things simple for EU policy and lawmakers to address. Asking something clear and achievable works better. Limit brochures and publications which they don't have time to read.
 - ✓ Don't be long, be compelling. Highlight that the work of the EC will also help NGOs ("with this little action, you can make a real difference on the ground").
 - ✓ Prepare a pitch highlighting how our priorities fit in the EU agenda and should therefore be taken onboard.
 - ✓ Participate to Commissioners' hearings to understand their agenda and in which areas we might be able to influence them.
 - ✓ Target old & new MEPs: explain priorities in your manifesto that may appeal to them.
 - ✓ Conduct stakeholder mapping with top 20 tiers MEPs to find the right angle and local connection. Target their staff.
 - ✓ Sustain cross-party engagement to understand the dynamics in political groups.
- ✓ Try to get to know better newly elected MEPs and target progressive and conservative: EP will be bluer than it currently is and finding ways to influence it is key. In addition, conservatives are not a homogeneous group and some of their MEPs may support progressive proposals in certain areas. Getting to know MEPs better is key to securing more progressive EU regulations and policies.
 - ✓ Address political and technical level (policy officers) and check different committees and portfolios.
 - ✓ When meeting Commissioners go in a coalition to get bigger impact (and save them time). Wait until they ask questions before raising issues or offering answers.



2. THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN A GLANCE: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF KEY BODIES

The European Parliament is the legislative branch of the European Union and one of its seven institutions.

EP President: oversees the work of the EP, its bodies and debates in plenary, ensures that Parliament's Rules of Procedure are respected and represents the EP to the outside world and in its relations with the other EU institutions. At the beginning of each European Council meeting, the President of the European Parliament sets out Parliament's position and concerns on the items on the agenda and other matters.

EP 14 Vice-Presidents: chair debates when the President is not in the Chamber and may be delegated other duties by the President.

EP 5 Quaestors: meet in the College of Quaestors and are responsible for administrative and financial matters that directly affect MEPs, such as the provision of general services and equipment.

EP Conference of Presidents consists of the President of the EP and the Presidents/Chairs of all the political groups. A representative of the Non-attached MEPs also has a seat but no voting rights. They usually meet twice a month to organise the EP's business and legislative planning (timetable, plenary agendas, etc.), allocate seats and memberships of committees and delegations, and are responsible for relations with other EU institutions, national parliaments, and non-EU countries.

EP Bureau: usually meets once a month, consists of the EP President, the 14 Vice-Presidents and the five Quaestors, who have an advisory role in the Bureau. It is responsible for all matters relating to the internal functioning of Parliament, including the preparation of the preliminary draft estimates of Parliament's expenditure, the appointment of the Secretary-General, who is responsible for the administration of Parliament, and other decisions relating to the organisation of sessions.

Conference of Committee Chairs: aims to coordinate the work of all standing and temporary committees and to ensure smooth cooperation between them. It is made up of the Chairs of all the EP committees and normally meets once a month during plenary sessions in Strasbourg. A Chair is elected from among its members for a term of two and a half years.

EP Committees' Bureaux: made up of Committee Chair and up to four Vice-Chairs elected from among their full members for a two-and-a-half-year mandate. The number of Vice-Chairs to be elected is proposed by the Conference of Presidents and the Bureaux should reflect the diversity of the Parliament and be gender balanced.

EP National delegations: bring together MEPs from the same MS and from the same political party or "side". For example, there is an Italian delegation of MEPs from the social democratic Partito Democratico, but also an Italian delegation of MEPs from the right-wing Fratelli d'Italia. Each delegation appoints a head of delegation who then represents the national party, or a delegation made up of several national parties, within a political group.

EP Delegations: there are 45 official groups, called delegations, whose role is to maintain and



deepen the EP's relations with parliaments, regions, and organisations of non-EU countries. There are several types of delegations: delegations to formal interparliamentary committees, delegations to multilateral parliamentary assemblies, and delegations for relations with another country or group of countries. Delegations also have Chairs and Vice-Chairs.

The Conference of Delegation Chairs (CDC):

ensures efficient cooperation between the EP's standing delegations and between them and other structures in the EP and is composed of the Chairs of these delegations and of the 3 Committees dealing with international relations. One of the 45 delegation Chairs is elected to chair the conference for a two-and-a-half-year term.

Political Groups:

- **Presidents or Chairs:** lead the work of the group. During the 9th parliamentary term, the Greens/EFA and the GUE/NGL groups had two Co-Presidents, while the other groups had only one President/Chair. All group President(s) or Chairs gather in the Conference of Presidents.
- **Vice-Presidents or Vice-Chairs:** the group's parliamentary secretary in charge of parliamentary affairs, one Vice-President oversees the group's information and communication strategy, and the remaining Vice-Presidents oversee specific EU policy portfolios and oversee cross-committee issues in so-called horizontal Working Groups.
- **A group's Bureau:** coordinates the political activities of the group, including budgetary considerations and preparations for parliamentary plenary sessions, and is usually

composed of a President/Chair and Vice-Presidents/Vice-Chairs, the Treasurer and/or Heads of national delegations. The Bureau is also the highest decision-making body of the group for internal affairs and major decisions throughout the mandate. However, problematic items and/or subjects of high political relevance are discussed in the group meetings, where the MEPs of a group adopt position papers and other group documents.

- **Group Coordinator:** appointed as the political leader of their group in a parliamentary committee. Together with the Committee Chair and Vice-Chairs, organise the work of the committee Coordinates the activities of MEPs from a political group in a committee. Is consulted on the agenda and other aspects of the Committee's work, negotiates, and agrees with Coordinators of the other political groups the allocation of reports between the groups based on a points system reflecting the relative numerical strength of each group.
- **Rapporteurs and Shadow Rapporteurs:** Rapporteurs and shadow rapporteurs play a leading role in the negotiation and adoption of a policy file. They set the timetable, propose amendments and compromises, and are the main point of contact for the EC, Council of the EU, lobbyists, etc. working on the issue. Groups other than the one of the rapporteurs will appoint a shadow rapporteur who follows the report or opinion closely, tabling amendments where necessary and negotiating amendments and compromises with the other groups.



3. USEFUL LINKS

1. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/press-tool-kit/0/european-elections-2024>
2. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20190613IPR54401/after-the-european-parliament-elections-what-happens-next>
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