



**#Ambitious
#EUROPE**



ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2019 OF THE EPP GROUP IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



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¹ On 16 Decembr 2019, the EPP Group Working Group 'Foreign Affairs' was renamed the EPP Group Working Group 'External Policies'





Foreword by the Chairman: Manfred Weber (MEP)

2019 was an exciting year for the EPP Group. Between 23-26 May, over 200 million Europeans voted to elect 751 Members of the European Parliament (MEPs). These Members represent the second-largest electorate in the world – 512 million EU citizens – after the Parliament of India. As with all Parliamentary elections since 1999, the results gave the EPP Group the highest number of seats. With 182 MEPs, the EPP Group is the largest political Group in the 9th legislature of the European Parliament. EPP Group Members represent citizens from 26 EU Member States.

The 2019 European elections were shaped by the significant increase in voter turnout, indicating positive support for the EU and its impact on Europeans. This translates into greater legitimacy for the European Parliament. It empowers the EPP Group, as its largest political force, to create a stronger Europe built on its people.

Throughout the past legislative term, the EPP Group kept its promise to deliver to the people in policies that matter to them. The EPP Group worked hard at national and European level in a number of important areas. Priorities included securing Europe's borders, fighting terrorism, boosting investment and trade, creating jobs, protecting consumers and providing opportunities for young Europeans.

In securing the continent's external borders, the EPP Group led efforts so that Europeans continue to enjoy the freedoms to which they are accustomed. The creation of the **European Border and Coast Guard** (Frontex) ensures an effective EU response to the challenges at its external borders. EPP Group Members also championed an electronic **Entry-Exit System** registering all non-EU citizens arriving in the Schengen area. This allows for the easy identification of criminals with false identities trying to enter European territories.

The EPP Group was the first political force to beef up Europe's security infrastructure to **protect citizens from terrorism**. The updated continent-wide legal framework on terrorism criminalises the planning and financing of terrorist attacks. Travelling abroad for terrorist purposes is also classified as a crime. The EPP Group led the push for **EUROPOL**, the EU's law enforcement agency, to become the hub for the exchange of intelligence and information. This is key to protecting citizens and preventing terrorist attacks. The EPP Group also made terrorists' moves traceable by making sure airlines disclose records of passengers flying into Europe (**Passenger Name Record (PNR)**).

The EPP Group mobilised investment to create new jobs with the **European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI)**. As a result, investment has been boosted and the European economy has been strengthened. In its first two years, the EFSI created over 300,000 jobs. It mobilised €200 billion by 2018, much of which directly supported Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs). EFSI 2.0 plans to mobilise investments worth €500 billion upwards until 2020. Solutions proposed and implemented by the EPP Group to fight the economic crisis have worked.

On trade, the EPP Group is committed to an open, multilateral system of free and fair trade. The landmark 2017 **EU-Canada Trade Deal** cuts tariffs and makes it easier to export goods and services, benefitting people and businesses in the EU.

The EPP Group worked hard to **better protect consumers** in the 2014-2019 legislature, scoring some big wins in the process. Thanks to the EPP Group, consumers can now watch their favourite TV shows when travelling. In 2018, unjustified **geo-blocking was removed** allowing consumers to shop digital music, films and other products without

being discriminated based on their place of residence. Thanks to the **end of roaming charges** in 2017, Europeans travelling within the EU only pay domestic prices for roaming calls, SMS and data.

The EPP Group was successful in increasing European funding to all youth-related policies. Securing extra funding for the **Erasmus +** programme marked a huge triumph for the EPP Group. Championed by the EPP Group, the **DiscoverEU** programme was launched in 2018. The initiative made a substantial investment in young people and in Europe's future by reinforcing the main aim of the EU: to bring people together. **DiscoverEU** has so far enabled over 30,000 young people to travel throughout Europe. The EPP Group will continue its efforts to broaden the initiative to make it a reality for all Europeans turning 18.

Despite these achievements, more work needs to be done. Following the May elections, the EPP Group welcomed the election by the European Parliament of Ursula von der Leyen as President of the European Commission. Under my Chairmanship, the EPP Group will ensure it can push forward its policies in close cooperation with the Commission.

The EPP Group is ready to take up the challenge and achieve results that really matter in the new Parliamentary legislature. It will work to further boost growth and employment, make our continent a safer place, protect the planet against climate change and ensure that Europe speaks with one voice on the international scene. The EPP Group is also committed to improve health. To achieve this, the EPP Group will work closely with Member States to formulate an EU-wide plan. To conclude, the EPP Group in the European Parliament is committed to continue delivering on its top priorities to meet the expectations of EU citizens.

Manfred Weber MEP
Chairman of the EPP Group in the European Parliament
(2 December 2019)





01

The EPP Group

In the aftermath of the Second World War, **Europe's Founding Fathers** – French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman, German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer and Italian Prime Minister Alcide de Gasperi – wanted to rebuild a peaceful Europe. They worked together to take the first crucial step in creating a united Europe, forming the European Coal and Steel Community. The EPP Group, the then Christian-Democratic Group, was founded on 23 June 1953 as a political faction in the Common Assembly of the European Coal and Steel Community.

The following generation set its sights on the European integration needed for Europe's economy to develop into **a single, large marketplace**. Europe's Institutes grew alongside integration, with the European Parliament (EP) holding its first elections in 1979. Following the elections, the EPP Group changed its name to the **Group of the European People's Party**.

Inspired by the idea of reunification following the fall of the Berlin Wall and demise of Communism, the EPP offered its full support to the emerging pluralist democracies. Centre-right non-Communist parties won the support of the people, with the EPP Group becoming, and remaining, the **largest in the EP** after the European elections of July 1999. Following the 2019 European elections, the EPP Group gained 182 seats out of 751.

Over the years the EPP Group has adjusted its political philosophy to take stock of the changing electorate and has welcomed moderate and Conservative political groups from Scandinavia and Central and Eastern Europe. Between 1999 and 2009 the Group changed its name to the Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats, reverting to the **Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats)** in June 2009.

1. The EPP Group Structure

(As of 1 December 2019)

The **Chairman** of the EPP Group is Manfred Weber MEP. He chairs its governing bodies **and speaks for the EPP Group in keynote debates in the EP**.

He is supported by **Vice-Chairs, Coordinators** on each EP Committee and by **Heads of the National Delegations** represented in the EPP Group.

The operational needs of the EPP Group are serviced by a Secretariat, providing policy and organisational support.

The Group runs its own think tank organisation - the **European Ideas Network (EIN)** - which brings together opinion-formers from the world of politics, business, academia and civic society across Europe to discuss major policy issues facing the European Union.

2. How the EPP Group Works

The EPP Group has always played a key role in the construction of Europe. It brings together Centre and Centre-right pro-European political forces from the Member States of the EU. Most of the parties represented in the EPP Group also belong to the **European People's Party (EPP)**. The EPP was the first ever transnational political party to be formed at European-level, and has the strongest representation in the European Council of Ministers. EPP parties came together to advance the goal of a more competitive and democratic Europe closer to all its citizens, based on a Social Market Economy.






















As the largest Political Group in a Parliament where non-Socialist parties now enjoy a majority, the EPP Group is in a stronger position than any other to set that body's political agenda and to win its most critical votes. This strength is reflected in the fact that, since 1999, the EPP Group has been on the winning side of more votes than any other Political Group in the EP monthly Plenary sessions.






Strength in numbers ensures that the EPP Group Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) hold a range of key positions within the EP, including 5 out of 14 Vice-Presidencies, Chairing 8 out of 22 Parliamentary Committees and 2 of its 5 Quaestorship, in charge of administrative and financial matters directly concerning MEPs. Within the EP Committees, EPP Group MEPs are best placed to secure the right to author the EP position on key pieces of draft legislation and other major reports: the EPP Group gets more of these "Rapporteurships" on more important subjects than any other Political Group.

3. Description (as of 2 December 2019)

With **182** MEPs the EPP Group is the largest Political Group in the EP.

Its Membership is made up of:

-  29 Members from **Germany**
-  17 Members from **Poland**
-  14 Members from **Romania**
-  13 Members from **Hungary**
-  12 Members from **Spain**
-  8 Members from **France**
-  8 Members from **Greece**
-  7 Members from **Austria**
-  7 Members from **Bulgaria**
-  7 Members from **Italy**
-  7 Members from **Portugal**
-  6 Members from **the Netherlands**
-  6 Members from **Sweden**
-  5 Members from **Czech Republic**
-  4 Members from **Belgium**
-  4 Members from **Croatia**
-  4 Members from **Ireland**
-  4 Members from **Lithuania**
-  4 Members from **Slovenia**
-  4 Members from **Slovakia**
-  3 Members from **Finland**

-  2 Members from **Latvia**
-  2 Members from **Luxembourg**
-  2 Members from **Malta**
-  2 Members from **Cyprus**
-  1 Member from **Denmark**

3.1 The EPP Group Presidency

The Presidency consists of the **EPP Group Chairman and Vice-Chairs**. The Members of the Presidency agree among themselves on the allocation of tasks, including Group Treasurer and the Chairs of the Standing Working Groups.

3.2 The EPP Group Bureau

The Bureau, the EPP Group political organ, consists of:

- > The EPP Group Presidency
- > The Heads of the EPP Group National Delegations
- > The President and Vice-Presidents of the EP belonging to the EPP Group
- > The Chairs of the Parliamentary Committees belonging to the EPP Group
- > The Coordinators in the Parliamentary Committees belonging to the EPP Group
- > The Chairman and the Secretary-General of the European People's Party (If they are members of the EP)
- > One co-opted Member for every 10 Members of a National Delegation

3.3 The Four EPP Group Standing Working Groups

EPP Group political strategy is formulated in the framework of four Working Groups which coordinate MEPs' Parliamentary work in the 22 Committees and Subcommittees.

EPP Group Working Group 'External Policies'

- > Committee on Foreign Affairs (**AFET**)
- > Subcommittee on Security and Defence (**SEDE**)
- > Subcommittee on Human Rights (**DROI**)
- > Committee on Development (**DEVE**)
- > Committee on International Trade (**INTA**)

Chair: Sandra Kalniete

EPP Group Working Group 'Legal and Home Affairs'

- > Committee on Legal Affairs (**JURI**)
- > Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (**LIBE**)
- > Committee on Constitutional Affairs (**AFCO**)
- > Committee on Petitions (**PETI**)
- > Committee on Culture and Education (**CULT**)
- > Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (**FEMM**)

Chair: Esteban González Pons

EPP Group Working Group 'Economy and Environment'

- > Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (**ECON**)
- > Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (**ENVI**)
- > Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (**IMCO**)
- > Committee on Transport and Tourism (**TRAN**)
- > Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (**EMPL**)
- > Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (**ITRE**)

Chair: Esther de Lange

EPP Group Working Group 'Budget and Structural Policies'

- > Committee on Budgets (**BUDG**)
- > Committee on Budgetary Control (**CONT**)
- > Committee on Regional Development (**REGI**)
- > Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (**AGRI**)
- > Committee on Fisheries (**PECH**)

Chair: Siegfried Mureşan

Size of Political Groups in the EP by Member State (as of 1 April 2019)

	EPP	S&D	Renew Europe	Greens/EFA	ID	ECR	GUE/NGL	NI	Total
DE	29	16	7	25	11	1	6	1	96
FR	8	5	21	12	22		6		74
IT	7	19			28	5		14	73
UK		10	17	11		4	1	30	73
ES	12	20	8	2		3	6	* 51	
PL	17	8				26			51
RO	14	10	8						32
NL	6	6	6	3		4	1		26
BE	4	3	4	3	3	3	1		21
CZ	5		6	3	2	4	1		21
EL	8	2				1	6	4	21
HU	13	5	2					1	21
PT	7	9		1			4		21
SE	6	5	3	2		3	1		20
AT	7	5	1	2	3				18
BG	7	5	3			2			17
DK	1	3	5	2	1		1		13
SK	4	3	2			2		2	13
FI	3	2	3	2	2		1		13
IE	4		1	2			4		11
HR	4	3	1			1		2	11
LT	4	2	2	2		1			11
LV	2	2	1	1		2			8
SI	4	2	2						8
EE		2	3		1				6
CY	2	2					2		6
LU	2	1	2	1					6
MT	2	4							6
	182	154	108	74	73	62	41	54	748
	24.3%	20.6%	14.4%	9.9%	9.8%	8.3%	5.5%	7.2%	100%

* ES: The Spanish authorities have not yet notified Parliament of the Members elected to three seats; therefore the total does not reach the 751 provided for in EU law.

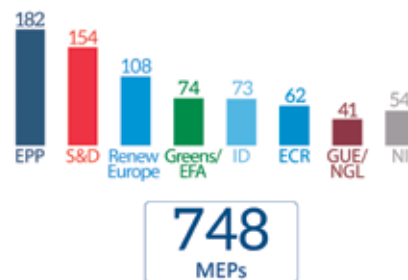
EPRS | European Parliamentary Research Service

Source: European Parliamentary Research Service

European Parliament, 2019-24

Size of the political groups

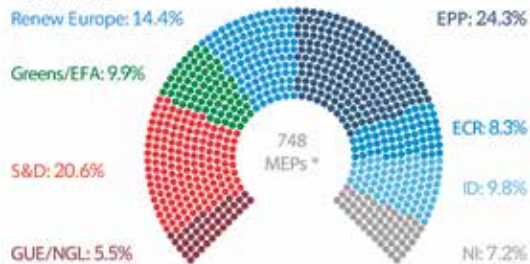
Number of MEPs in each political group as of 1 October 2019.



EPRS | European Parliamentary Research Service

Proportion of Members in each political group

Share by political group of the total 748 Members in the Parliament.



Note: The Spanish authorities have not yet notified the Parliament of the Members elected to three seats; therefore the total does not reach the 751 provided for in EU law.

Source: European Parliamentary Research Service

3.4 The EPP Group Presidency - Members

Manfred WEBER (Germany)

Chairman of the EPP Group in the EP

Esteban GONZÁLEZ PONS (Spain)

Vice-Chair: Responsible for the EPP Group 'Legal and Home Affairs' Working Group

Siegfried MUREȘAN (Romania)

Vice-Chair: Responsible for the EPP Group 'Budget and Structural Policies' Working Group

Esther DE LANGE (The Netherlands)

Vice-Chair: Responsible for the EPP Group 'Economy and the Environment' Working Group

Arnaud DANJEAN (France)

Vice-Chair: Responsible for Relations with Universities, Think Tanks and Foundations

Andrey KOVATCHEV (Bulgaria)

Vice-Chair: Responsible for Enlargement, Western Balkans, Southern Neighbourhood, Euromed

Vangelis MEIMARAKIS (Greece)

Vice-Chair: Responsible for Relations with national Parliaments

Paulo RANGEL (Portugal)

Vice-Chair: Responsible for the Future of Europe, EPP Group Treasurer

Sandra KALNIETE (Latvia)

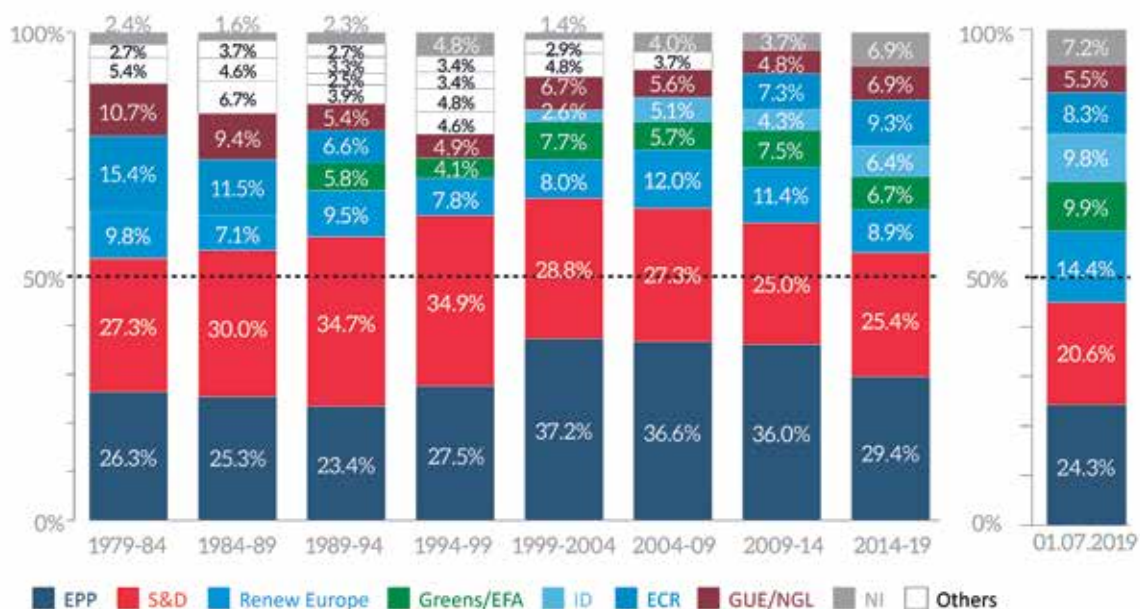
Vice-Chair: Responsible for the EPP Group 'External Policies' Working Group

Jan OLBRYCHT (Poland)

Vice-Chair: Chief Whip, Responsible for Intercultural Dialogue

Strength of the Political Groups in Each Parliamentary Term (As of 1 July 2019)

Strengths of the political groups in each parliamentary term



The relative size of the Political Groups in the EP is shown for each of the eight Parliamentary terms since the first direct elections in 1979.

The data, in percentages of total seats, refer to the consistent session (in July) at the beginning of each Parliamentary term.

The last column on the right shows the composition of the Parliament as of 1 July 2019.

The colours used to denote Political Groups in the current Parliamentary term are also used in previous terms, so that the History of today's Groups can be traced back.

However, it should be understood that the names and constitutions of Political Groups, and indeed their membership, can change frequently.

So, whilst we can often identify substantial continuity between the current Groups and their predecessors, they cannot in all cases be regarded as the same Group with an unbroken history. The category 'others' includes a number of Groups, which no longer exist.

Source: European Parliamentary Research Service

3.5 Heads of the EPP Group National Delegations

Federal Republic of Germany (29 Members)

Daniel Caspary
Angelika Niebler

Poland (17 Members)

Andrzej Halicki
Krzysztof Hetman

Romania (14 Members)

Rares Bogdan

Hungary (13 Members)

Tamás Deutsch
József Szájer

Spain (12 Members)

Dolors Montserrat

France (8 Members)

François-Xavier Bellamy

Greece (8 Members)

Vangelis Meimarakis

Austria (7 Members)

Karoline Edtstadler

Bulgaria (7 Members)

Andrey Kovatchev

Italy (7 Members)

Antonio Tajani
Herbert Dorfmann

Portugal (7 Members)

Paulo Rangel
Nuno Melo

The Netherlands (6 Members)

Esther de Lange

Sweden (6 Members)

Tomas Tobé

Czech Republic (5 Members)

Luděk Niedermayer

Belgium (4 Members)

Kris Peeters

Croatia (4 Members)

Dubravka Šuica²

Ireland (4 Members)

Seán Kelly

Lithuania (4 Members)

Laima Liucija Andrikienė

Slovakia (4 Members)

Ivan Štefanec

Slovenia (4 Members)

Romana Tomc

Finland (3 Members)

Sirpa Pietikäinen

Cyprus (2 Members)

Lefteris Christoforou

Latvia (2 Members)

Sandra Kalniete

Luxembourg (2 Members)

Christophe Hansen

Malta (2 Members) ^{*}

David Casa

Denmark (1 Member)

Pernille Weiss

² Dubravka Šuica was Head of Delegation until 31 October 2019. She assumed the position of European Commission Vice-President for Democracy and Demography on 1 December 2019. A replacement Head of Delegation has yet to be found.

3.6 EPP Group Members of the EP Bureau

Mairead McGuinness (Ireland)
Vice-President of the EP

Rainer Wieland (Germany)
Vice-President of the EP

Othmar Karas (Austria)
Vice-President of the EP

Ewa Kopacz (Poland)
Vice-President of the EP

Livia Járóka (Hungary)
Vice-President of the EP


Anne Sander (France)
Quaestor of the EP

David Casa (Malta)
Quaestor of the EP

How the EP is Elected

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT HOW TO ELECT...

THE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



1 President
A renewable term of two and a half years

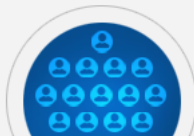
ELECTION PROCEDURE

The candidate who obtains an absolute majority of the votes cast in a secret ballot is elected president. If an absolute majority cannot be obtained after three ballots, the fourth ballot will be confined to the two members who obtained the highest number of votes in the third ballot.

DUTIES

The President directs Parliament's activities, chairs plenary sittings and declares the budget finally adopted. The President represents Parliament in the outside world and in its relations with the other EU institutions.

VICE-PRESIDENTS



14 Vice-Presidents

There are 14 in total, elected on a single ballot.


















DUTIES

When the president is absent, they can replace him or her in the EP. The president can also delegate duties to them, such as representing the Parliament at specific ceremonies or acts.

Source: European Parliamentary Research Service

Main Governing Bodies in the EP Bureau (as of 28 October 2019)

Governing bodies of the EP

David Maria SASSOLI	President	S&D	
Mairead McGUINNESS	Vice-President	EPP	
Pedro SILVA PEREIRA	Vice-President	S&D	
Rainer WIELAND	Vice-President	EPP	
Katarina BARLEY	Vice-President	S&D	
Othmar KARAS	Vice-President	EPP	
Ewa KOPACZ	Vice-President	EPP	
Klára DOBREV	Vice-President	S&D	
Dita CHARANZOVÁ	Vice-President	Renew Europe	
Nicola BEER	Vice-President	Renew Europe	
Livia JÁRÓKA	Vice-President	EPP	
Heidi HAUTALA	Vice-President	Greens/EFA	
Marcel KOLAJA	Vice-President	Greens/EFA	
Dimitrios PAPADIMOULIS	Vice-President	GUE/NGL	
Fabio Massimo CASTALDO	Vice-President	NI	
Anne SANDER	Quaestor	EPP	
Monika BEŇOVÁ	Quaestor	S&D	
David CASA	Quaestor	EPP	
Gilles BOYER	Quaestor	Renew Europe	
Karol KARSKI	Quaestor	ECR	

EPRES | European Parliamentary Research Service

1
President

14
Vice-Presidents

5
Quaestors
(non-voting)

The Bureau is the body responsible for financial, organisational and administrative matters within the Parliament. It is composed of the President and the 14 Vice-Presidents, elected by an absolute majority of the votes in plenary, with the order in which they attained that majority determining their individual order of precedence. The five Quaestors, elected in plenary to manage administrative and financial matters directly concerning Members, also attend the Bureau in an advisory capacity, but cannot vote.

Source: European Parliamentary Research Service

3.7 EPP Group Chairs of the Parliamentary Committees of the EP

About Committees

Committees are responsible for drafting EP positions on new legislative proposals. EP legislative work is carried out by 20 Standing Committees and two Subcommittees, each of which elects a Chair and four Vice-Chairs.

David McAllister (Germany)
Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET)

Antonio Tajani (Italy)
Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO)

Norbert Lins (Germany)
Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI)

Monika Hohlmeier (Germany)
Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT)

Sabine Verheyen (Germany)
Committee on Culture and Education (CULT)

Tomas Tobé (Sweden)
Committee on Development (DEVE)

Cristian-Silviu Buşoi (Romania)
Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE)

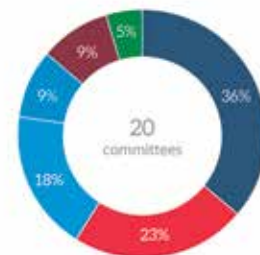
Dolors Montserrat (Spain)
Committee on Petitions (PETI)

Main Governing Bodies in the EP Committees (as of 28 October 2019)

Parliamentary committees

	Number of MEPs	Name of Chair	
Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	76	Pascal CANFIN	Renew Europe
Industry, Research and Energy	72	Adina-Ioana VALEAN	EPP
Foreign Affairs	71	David McALLISTER	EPP
Human Rights	30	Maria ARENA	S&O
Security and Defence	30	Nathalie LOISEAU	Renew Europe
Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs	68	Juan Fernando LÓPEZ AGUILAR	S&O
Economic and Monetary Affairs	60	Irene TINAGLI	S&O
Employment and Social Affairs	55	Lucia DURIŞ NICHOLSONOVÁ	ECR
Transport and Tourism	49	Karima DĚLLJ	Greens/EFA
Agriculture and Rural Development	48	Norbert LINS	EPP
Internal Market and Consumer Protection	45	Petra DE SUTTER	Greens/EFA
Regional Development	43	Younous OMARJEE	GUE/NGL
International Trade	41	Bernd LANGE	S&O
Budgets	41	Johan VAN OVERTVELDT	ECR
Women's Rights and Gender Equality	35	Evelyn REGNER	S&O
Petitions	35	Dolors MONTSERRAT	EPP
Culture and Education	31	Sabine VERHEYEN	EPP
Budgetary Control	30	Monika HOHLMEIER	EPP
Fisheries	28	Chris DAVIES	Renew Europe
Constitutional Affairs	28	Antonio TAJANI	EPP
Development	26	Tomas TOBE	EPP
Legal Affairs	25	Lucy NETHSINGHA	Renew Europe

Share of committee chairs by political group



Source: European Parliamentary Research Service

3.8 EPP Group Coordinators in the Parliamentary Committees of the EP

Role of Coordinators

The EPP Group appoints a Coordinator in every Committee to act as the main spokesperson in that Committee and together with the other Coordinators prepare decisions to be taken by the Committee, especially on the procedure and the appointment of Rapporteurs. They can also mobilise EPP Group MEPs during important votes and can appoint Shadow Rapporteurs.

Danuta Hübner (Poland)
Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO)

Michael Gahler (Germany)
Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET)

Herbert Dorfmann (Italy)
Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI)

José Manuel Fernandes (Portugal)
Committee on Budgets (BUDG)

Tomáš Zdechovský (Czech Republic)
Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT)

Michaela Šojdrová (Czech Republic)
Committee on Culture and Education (CULT)

György Hölvényi (Hungary)
Committee on Development (DEVE)

Isabel Wiseler-Lima (Luxembourg)
Subcommittee on Human Rights (DROI)

Markus Ferber (Germany)
Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON)

Dennis Radtke (Germany)
Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL)

Peter Liese (Germany)
Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI)

Frances Fitzgerald (Ireland)
Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM)

Andreas Schwab (Germany)
Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO)

Christophe Hansen (Luxembourg)
Committee on International Trade (INTA)

Christian Ehler (Germany)
Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE)

Axel Voss (Germany)
Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI)

Roberta Metsola (Malta)
Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE)

Francisco José Millán Mon (Spain)
Committee on Fisheries (PECH)

Peter Jahr (Germany)
Committee on Petitions (PETI)

Andrey Novakov (Bulgaria)
Committee on Regional Development (REGI)

Arnaud Danjean (France)
Subcommittee on Security and Defence (SEDE)

Marian-Jean Marinescu (Romania)
Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN)

3.9 EPP Group Chairs of the EU Joint Parliamentary Assemblies, Joint Parliamentary Cooperation Committees and Parliamentary Delegations of the EP

About Delegations

The EP Delegations maintain relations and exchange information with parliaments in non-EU countries. Through its Delegations, the EP helps to represent the EU externally and to promote in third countries the values on which the EU is founded, namely the principles of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law.

Manolis Kefalogiannis (EL)

Delegation to the EU-Albania Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee 

José Manuel Fernandes (PT)

Delegation for relations with the Federative Republic of Brazil 

Antonio López-Istúriz White (ES)

Delegation for relations with Israel 

Sara Skyttedal (SE)

Delegation for relations with Iraq 

Siegfried Mureşan (RO)


Delegation to the EU-Moldova Parliamentary Association Committee



Vladimír Bilčík (SK)

Delegation to the EU-Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee 

Radosław Sikorski (PO)

Delegation for relations with the United States 

Magdalena Adamowicz (PO)

Delegation for relations with South Africa 

Pilar del Castillo Vera (ES)

Delegation for relations with the countries of the Andean Community



Daniel Caspary (DE)

Delegation for relations Southeast Asia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)



Fulvio Martusciello (IT)

Delegation to the EU-Kazakhstan, EU-Kyrgyzstan, EU-Uzbekistan and EU-Tajikistan Parliamentary Cooperation Committees and for relations with Turkmenistan and Mongolia



Andreas Schwab (DE)

Delegation for Northern cooperation and for relations with Switzerland and Norway and to the EU-Iceland Joint Parliamentary Committee and the European Economic Area (EEA) Joint Parliamentary Committee



Andrius Kubilius (LT)

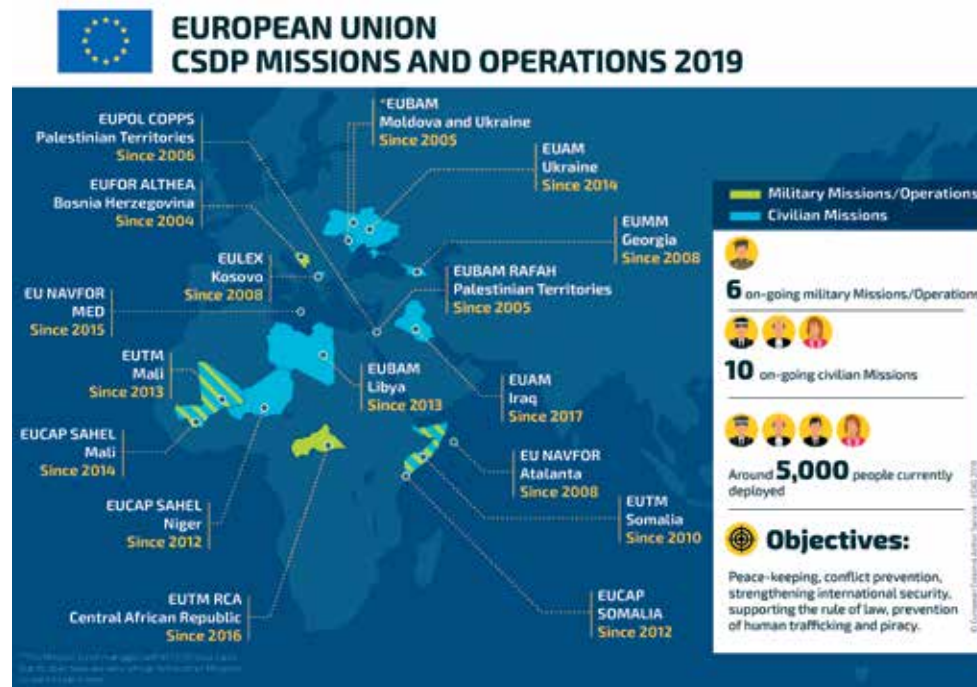
Delegation to the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly

**Karoline Edtstadler (AT)**

Delegation for relations with the Korean Peninsula

**Kris Peeters (BE)**

Delegation for relations with the NATO Parliamentary Assembly

**The EU as a Global Player**

Source: European External Action Service

4. EPP Members of the European Commission

President

Ursula von der LEYEN

President of the European Commission
Germany (CDU)

Vice-Presidents

Valdis DOMBROVSKIS

An Economy that Works for People
Latvia (Unity)

Margaritas SCHINAS

Promoting a European Way of Life
Greece (ND)

Dubravka ŠUICA

Democracy & Demography
Croatia (HDZ)

European Commissioners

Mariya GABRIEL

Innovation, Research, Culture, Education & Youth
Bulgaria (GERB)

Johannes HAHN

Budget and Administration
Austria (ÖVP)

Phil HOGAN

Trade
Ireland (Fine Gael)

Stella KYRIAKIDES

Health and Food Safety
Cyprus (DISY)

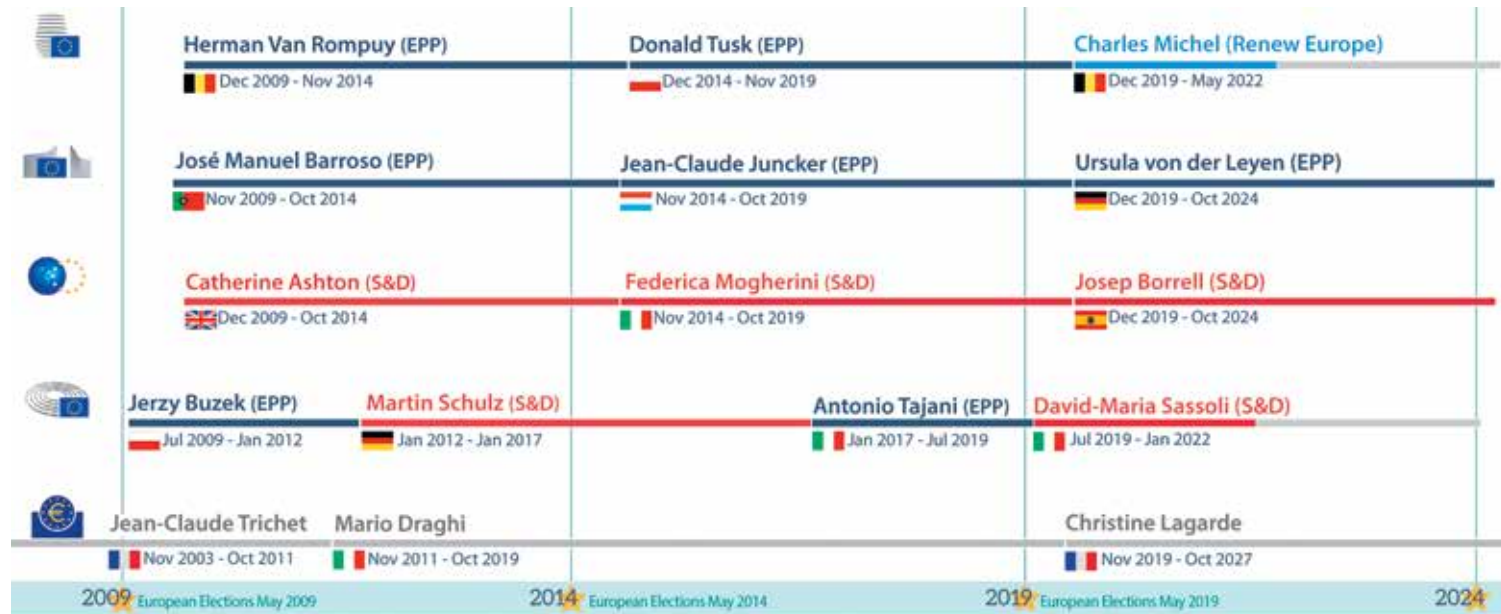
Adina VĂLEAN

Transport
Romania (PNL)

Olivér VÁRHELYI

Neighbourhood and Enlargement
Hungary (Fidesz)

Overview of High-level Office-holders since the 2009 EP Elections



Source: European Parliamentary Research Service

5. Members of the EPP Group – Full Listing (as of 2 December 2019)

GERMANY (29 Members)

BENTELE Hildegard
BERGER Stefan
CASPARY Daniel
DOLESCHAL Christian
DÜPONT Lena
EHLER Christian
FERBER Markus
GAHLER Michael
GIESEKE Jens

HERBST Niclas
HOHLMEIER Monika
JAHR Peter
LIESE Peter
LINS Norbert
McALLISTER David
MORTLER Marlene
NIEBLER Angelika
PIEPER Markus
RADTKE Dennis

SCHNEIDER Christine
SCHULZE Sven
SCHWAB Andreas
SEEKATZ Ralf
SIMON Sven
VERHEYEN Sabine
VOSS Axel
WALSMANN Marion
WEBER Manfred
WIELAND Rainer

ROMANIA (14 Members)

BOGDAN IOAN-RAREȘ
BUȘOI Cristian-Silviu
MUREȘAN Siegfried
BĂSESCU Traian
BUDA Daniel
HAVA Mircea-Gheorghe
MOTREANU Dan-Ștefan
WINKLER Iuliu
MARINESCU Marian-Jean
VINCZE Loránt
BLAGA Vasile
FALCĂ Gheorghe
NISTOR Gheorghe-Vlad
TOMAC Eugen

POLAND (17 Members)

ADAMOWICZ Magdalena
ARŁUKOWICZ Bartosz
BUZEK Jerzy
DUDA Jarosław
FRANKOWSKI Tomasz
HALICKI Andrzej
HETMAN Krzysztof
HÜBNER Danuta Maria
JARUBAS Adam
KALINOWSKI Jarosław
KOPACZ Ewa
LEWANDOWSKI Janusz
OCHOJSKA Janina
OLBRYCHT Jan
SIKORSKI Radosław

THUN UND HOHENSTEIN Róza
ŁUKACIJEWSKA Elżbieta Katarzyna

HUNGARY (13 Members)

BOCSKOR Andrea
DELI Andor
DEUTSCH Tamás
GÁL Kinga
GYŐRI Enikő
GYÜRK András
HIDVÉGHI Balázs
HÖLVÉNYI György
JÁRÓKA Livia
KÓSA Ádám
SZÁJER József
TÓTH Edina
TRÓCSÁNYI László

SPAIN (12 Members)

ARIAS ECHEVERRÍA Pablo
BENJUMEA Isabel
DEL CASTILLO VERA Pilar
ESTARÀS FERRAGUT Rosa
GARCÍA-MARGALLO Y MARFIL José Manuel
LÓPEZ-ISTÚRIZ WHITE Antonio
MILLÁN MON Francisco José
MONTSERRAT Dolors
ZARZALEJOS Javier
ZOIDO ÁLVAREZ Juan Ignacio

FRANCE (8 Members)

BELLAMY François-Xavier
COLIN-OESTERLÉ Nathalie
DANJEAN Arnaud
DIDIER Geoffroy
EVREN Agnès
HORTEFEUX Brice
MORANO Nadine
SANDER Anne

GREECE (8 Members)

ASIMAKOPOULOU Anna- Michelle
KEFALOGIANNIS Manolis
KYMPOUROPOULOS Stelios
KYRTSOS Georgios
MEIMARAKIS Vangelis
SPYRAKI Maria
VOZEMBERG-VRIONIDI Elissavet
ZAGORAKIS Theodoros

ITALY (7 Members)

BERLUSCONI Silvio
DORFMANN Herbert
MARTUSCIELLO Fulvio
MILAZZO Giuseppe
PATRICIELLO Aldo
SALINI Massimiliano
TAJANI Antonio

AUSTRIA (7 Members)

BERNHUBER Alexander
EDTSTADLER Karoline
KARAS Othmar
MANDL Lukas
SCHMIEDTBAUER Simone
THALER Barbara
WINZIG Angelika

PORTUGAL (7 Members)

AMARO Álvaro
CARVALHO Maria de Graça
FERNANDES José Manuel
MONTEIRO DE AGUIAR Cláudia
MELO Nuno
RANGEL Paulo

BULGARIA (7 Members)

ADEMOV Asim
ALEXANDROV YORDANOV Alexander
KANEV Radan
KOVATCHEV Andrey
MAYDELL Eva
NOVAKOV Andrey
RADEV Emil

THE NETHERLANDS (6 Members)

BERENDSEN Tom
DE LANGE Esther
LENAERS Jeroen
MANDERS Antonius
SCHREIJER - PIERIK Annie
VAN DALEN Peter

SWEDEN (6 Members)

KOKALARI Arba
LEGA David
POLFJÄRD Jessica
SKYTTEDEL Sara
TOBÉ Tomas
WARBORN Jörgen

CZECH REPUBLIC (5 Members)

NIEDERMAYER Luděk
POLČÁK Stanislav
ŠOJDROVÁ Michaela
POSPÍŠIL Jiří
ZDECHOVSKÝ Tomáš

SLOVAKIA (4 Members)

BILČÍK Vladimír
ŠTEFANEC Ivan
POLLÁK Peter
WIEZIK Michal

CROATIA (4 Members)

ŠUICA Dubravka
RESSLER Karlo
SOKOL Tomislav
ZOVKO Željana

SLOVENIA (4 Members)

TOMC Romana
BOGOVIČ Franc
NOVAK Ljudmila
ZVER Milan

IRELAND (4 Members)

FITZGERALD Frances
KELLY Seán
McGUINNESS Mairead
WALSH Maria

BELGIUM (4 Members)

ARIMONT Pascal
FRANSEN Cindy
LUTGEN Benoît
PEETERS Kris

FINLAND (3 Members)

PIETIKÄINEN Sirpa
SARVAMAA Petri
VIRKKUNEN Henna

LATVIA (2 Members)

KALNIETE Sandra
VAIDERE Inese

LUXEMBOURG (2 Members)

HANSEN Christophe
WISELER-LIMA Isabel

MALTA (2 Members)

METSOLA Roberta
CASA David

CYPRUS (2 Members)

CHRISTOFOROU Lefteris
FOURLAS Loucas

DENMARK (1 Member)

WEISS Pernille

6. Senior Management of the EPP Group Secretariat (as of 2 December 2019)

Martin Kamp

Secretary-General

Juan Salafranca

Deputy Secretary-General

Director for External Policies - Committees

Natacha Scriban-Cuvelier

Deputy Secretary-General

Director for Parliamentary Work

Harald Kandolf

Director for Internal Organisation

Andrea Laskavá

Director for the Presidency

Pedro López de Pablo

Director for Press and Communications

Beatrice Scarascia Mugnozza

Director for Relations with national Parliaments



02

Directorate for Parliamentary Work

The **Directorate for Parliamentary Work** assists EPP Group MEPs in carrying out their duty in the Parliamentary Committees and in Plenary. It is composed of five units:

- The **Legislative Coordination and Whip Office Unit**, under the responsibility of Jan Olbrycht MEP (PL), Vice-Chair of the EPP Group in the European Parliament (EP)
- The **Standing Working Group 'Economy and Environment,'** under the responsibility of Esther de Lange MEP (NL), Vice-Chair of the EPP Group in the European Parliament (EP)
- The **Standing Working Group 'Budget and Structural Policies,'** under the responsibility of Siegfried Mureşan MEP (RO), Vice-Chair of the EPP Group in the European Parliament (EP)
- The **Standing Working Group 'Legal and Home Affairs,'** under the responsibility of Esteban González Pons MEP (ES), Vice-Chair of the EPP Group in the European Parliament (EP)
- The **Political Strategy/Parliamentary Research Unit and European Ideas Network (EIN)**, under the responsibility of Manfred Weber MEP (DE), Chairman of the EPP Group in the European Parliament, and Paulo Rangel MEP (PT), Vice-Chair of the EPP Group in the European Parliament (EP)

General Activities

A. Major Votes in Plenary

- Vote on Discharge 2017 (52 reports) (26/3)
- Election of the President of the European Commission (16/7)
- Hohlmeier/Gardiazabal Rubial report (A9-0017/2019) - General Budget of the European Union for 2020 - all sections (23/10)
- Election of the European Commission (27/11)
- Hohlmeier/Gardiazabal Rubial (A9-0035/2019) report - 2020 budgetary procedure: joint text (27/11)

B. Sitzings

Formal sittings

- 20th Anniversary of the Euro (15/1)
- International Holocaust Remembrance Day (30/1)
- 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, in the presence of Wolfgang Schäuble, President of the German Bundestag (13/11)
- Oleg Sentsov, Sakharov Prize Laureate 2018 (26/11)
- Commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the Lisbon Treaty and the legally binding Charter of Fundamental Rights (18/12)
- Award of the Sakharov Prize 2019 (18/12)

Other personalities attending the sittings

- Pedro Sánchez Pérez-Castejón, Prime Minister of Spain (16/1)
- Juha Sipilä, Prime Minister of Finland (31/1)
- Giuseppe Conte, Prime Minister of Italy (12/2)
- Peter Pellegrini, Prime Minister of Slovakia, (12/3)
- Stefan Löfven, Prime Minister of Sweden (3/4)
- Krišjānis Kariņš, Prime Minister of the Republic of Latvia (17/4)
- Ursula von der Leyen, candidate for President of the European Commission (16/7, 27/11)
- Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission (22/10)

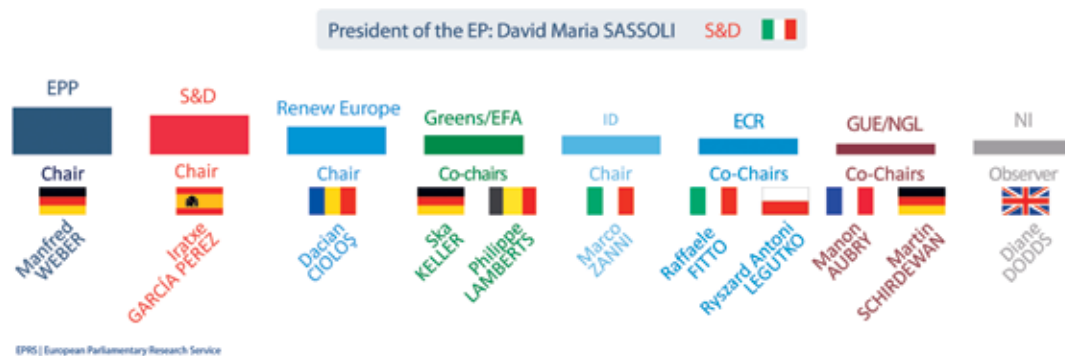
C. Meetings/Activities

- Follow-up of the Secretaries-General meetings and of the Conference of Presidents (CoP), in order to establish the Plenary agenda
- Regular meetings with the EPP Group Chairman, in order to follow-up on Parliamentary work and the policy strategy of the EPP Group
- Plenary session organisation: follow-up of the votes and management of speaking time
- EPP Group meetings
- Management of the Parliamentary Work Directorate

European Parliament Governing Bodies

Governing bodies of the EP

The Conference of Presidents (CoP) - composed of the Parliament's President and the chairs of its seven political groups - sets the agenda of the plenary and determines the general political orientations of the institution. The table below shows the current members of the CoP, ordered by size of the groups, in terms of their seats in the Parliament. Three groups have co-chairs. The non-attached (NI) Members are represented by a non-voting observer.



Source: European Parliamentary Research Service

Legislative Coordination and Whip Office Unit

A. EPP Group Meetings

Personalities attending EPP Group meetings

- Michel Barnier, EU Chief Negotiator for Brexit (15/1, 11/9, 23/10)
- Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, Leader of the German CDU (6/2)
- Dara Murphy, EPP Vice-President and Campaign Director for the 2019 European elections (3/4)
- Richard Balfe, European Parliament Former Members Association, FMA (10/4)
- Krišjānis Kariņš, Prime Minister of the Republic of Latvia (16/4)
- Joseph Daul, President of the European People's Party (5/6, 2/7)
- Ursula von der Leyen, candidate for the President of the European Commission (3/7, 15/7, 17/9, 23/10)
- Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission (17/9)
- Averof Neofytou, President of the Democratic Rally Party in Cyprus (9/10)
- Petteri Orpo (MP) - President of the National Coalition Party, Kokoomus, in Finland (16/10)
- Jewher Ilham, daughter of Ilham Tohti, the 2019 Sakharov Prize laureate (18/12)

Agenda and calendar of EPP Group meetings, Chairman's notes and Early Briefings

- Chairman's notes and files for the EPP Group Presidency and Heads of National Delegations
- Internal briefings related to all items (reports, resolutions, and other points) which will be submitted to a Plenary vote ahead each EPP Group meeting in Brussels and Strasbourg
- Specific and detailed briefings related to all items treated at EPP Group meetings
- EPP Group MEPs' presence list, minutes, and documents to be distributed to EPP Group MEPs

B. Whip Office

The Whip Office is in charge of the follow-up of EPP Group MEPs' attendance and participation regarding votes at Plenary and Committee level, and of the evaluation of the votes in accordance with the agreed EPP Group line.

It has entirely been rationalised and reorganised with the view of improving its efficiency in:

- Reviewing EPP Group MEPs' presence and participation during votes in Committees and Plenary sessions
- Monitoring the unity of the EPP Group in Plenary votes

The EPP Group Chairman, the EPP Group Presidency, the EPP Group Heads of National Delegations, the EPP Group Coordinators and EPP Group MEPs are regularly informed about their participation and presence rates during votes at Plenary and Committee level.

C. Legislative Coordination Unit - Meetings And Activities

European Commission Work Programme (CWP) for 2019

The European Commission decided to put forward a short and future-oriented European Commission Work Programme for 2019 to complement the one adopted last year for 2018-2019.

The EP did not present any resolution; the regular timetable does not apply for Parliament election years coinciding with the end of the European Commission's term of office.

The Plenary debate on the European Commission Work Programme 2019 took place on Tuesday 23 October, in the presence of the European Commission Vice-President, Frans Timmermans. The EPP Group expressed its views.

Hearings of European Commissioners-designate

In order to achieve the best possible result for the EPP Group, the whole process was closely coordinated.

The EPP Group Presidency and the EPP Group Heads of National Delegations as well as the Coordinators and Committee Chairs belonging to the EPP Group were consistently informed, allowing the EPP Group to adjust its political strategy to the state of play in real time at the highest level.

The Legislative Coordination Unit organised a special info-session dedicated to the hearings' process for the Parliamentary Work Directorate staff.

The Legislative Coordination Unit drafted an assessment on the first use of the new Rules of Procedure regarding these hearings within the House.

Conference of the Committee Chairmen (CCC)

The Legislative Coordination Unit prepares and follows the Conference of the Committee Chairs (CCC) and pays special attention to avoid internal and time-consuming conflicts between Committees in the attribution of reports and competences.

Specific EPP Group preparatory meetings are organised monthly in order to inform all EPP Group stakeholders about the issues to be treated at CCC level.

In 2019, the CCC gave specific attention to the modalities of cooperation between the Parliamentary Committees on the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)-related legislative proposals. This exercise allowed the relevant Committees to begin their work swiftly without wasting time and resources in solving conflicts of competences.

In close cooperation with the EPP Group Coordinators, an internal early warning system was established, aimed at identifying possible conflicts of competences before they officially arise, especially between Committees where Chairmanship belong to the EPP Group.

Former European Parliament President and EPP Group MEP (IT) Antonio Tajani was elected Chair of the CCC on 23 July 2019.

Rapporteurship and EPP Group line in Plenary votes

The aim of the EPP Group Presidency is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the EPP Group in Parliamentary Work, both at Committee and Plenary level. Newly appointed EPP Group Rapporteurs in all Parliamentary Committees and comparative charts with the other Groups are regularly submitted to the attention of EPP Group Coordinators, the Presidency and the Heads of National Delegations.

Elections of EPP Group Coordinators

In order to fill the vacancy of the Coordinator post, an election for the ECON Committee EPP Group Coordinator took place in August.

In preparation for constitutive meetings of the Committees that took place in July 2019, the EPP Group elected its Coordinators and Deputy-Coordinators in each Committee on 3 July 2019.

EPP Group Coordinators' meetings

The Unit organised six Coordinators' meetings to deal with horizontal Parliamentary issues. These meetings were enlarged to EPP Group Committees' Chairs, with a view to reinforce the cohesion of the EPP Group and prevent conflicts of competences.

In September and October 2019, special attention was given to the preparation of the European Commissioners-designate hearings. Two extraordinary meetings were held under the leadership of the EPP Group Chairman to inform the EPP Group Coordinators and EPP Group Committee Chairs and to decide on a political strategy during the hearings themselves.

Main topics treated in 2019

- Assessment of the revised Rules of Procedure: entered into force in January 2017
- Brexit: regular state of play
- Transparency and accountability of the European Institutions
- Composition of the European Parliament
- Potential conflicts of competences between Committees
- Attendance in Plenary and Committee votes
- Coordination with the other Political Groups

Cooperation with the other Political Groups and Institutions

Each month, the Legislative Coordination Unit provides the President with updated information regarding the most important forthcoming and pending legislative or non-legislative items for which closer cooperation with the other Political Groups and/or Institutions might be necessary and a political priority might be given.

In order to give a clear overview of the end of term legislative planning, the Legislative Coordination Unit regularly provided the EPP Group Chairman and the Presidency with progress reports on pending Interinstitutional negotiations on the priority legislative files.

This ensured that the conclusion of the first reading agreements were announced to EPP Group MEPs and communicated as political achievements and successes.

Standing Working Group 'Economy and Environment'

The EPP Group Standing Working Group 'Economy and Environment' coordinates the following six Parliamentary Committees and one Temporary Committee:

Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON)

In the area of economic governance, the EPP Group remained committed to the consistent application and enforcement of the Stability and Growth Pact by both the European Commission (EC) and Member States. Beyond those annual operational activities, the EPP Group worked on the proposals for developing the Economic and Monetary Union and making it stronger. This included setting up a new programme to support structural reforms, as well as the proposal on the budgetary instrument for convergence and competitiveness aiming at both sound fiscal policies and incentivising reforms.

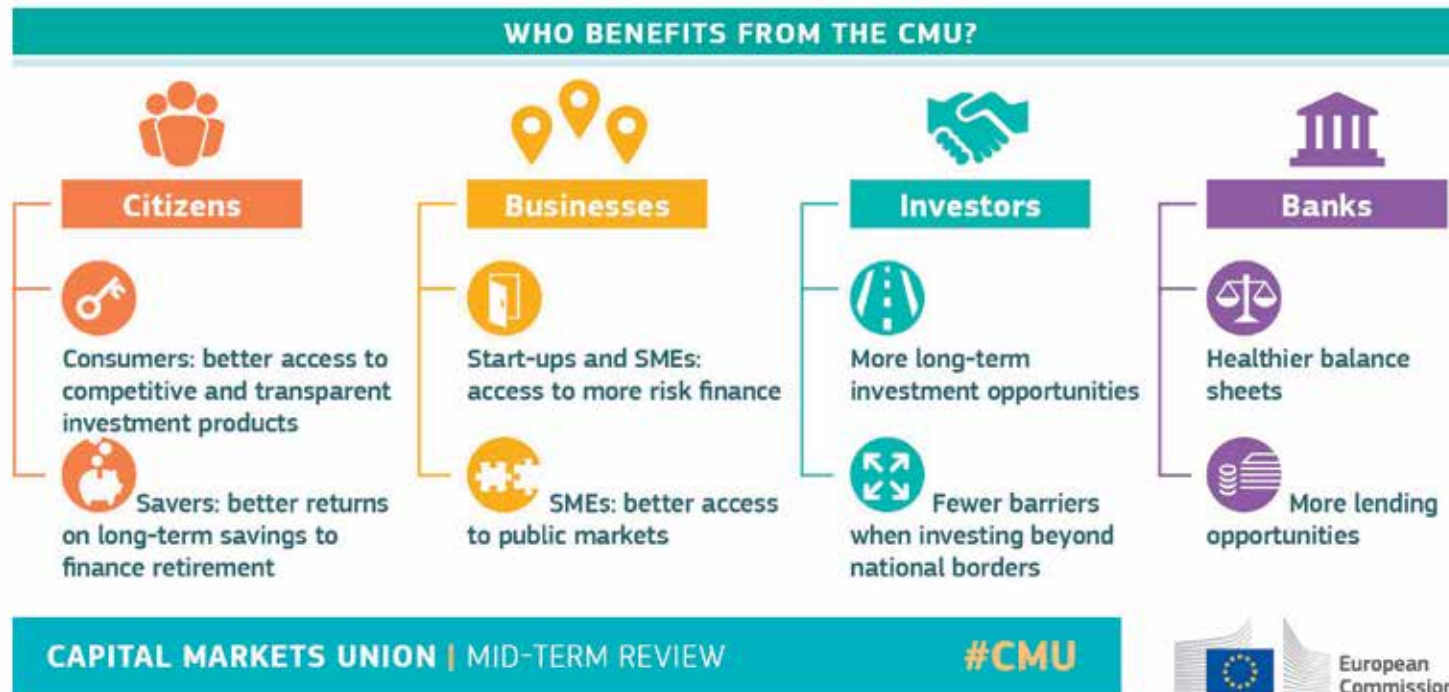
In the area of financial services, important progress has been achieved on the **Capital Markets Union** (CMU) project. The EPP Group seeks to better connect savings to investments with the CMU project to strengthen Europe's financial system by providing alternative sources of financing and more opportunities for consumers and institutional investors. The aim is to increase and improve the funding possibilities of SMEs, which are the backbone of the EU economy.

In 2019, the EP and the Council adopted a legislative package reviewing the 'Bank Recovery and Resolution Directive (BRRD)'; the 'Single Resolution Mechanism Regulation (SRMR)'; the 'Capital Requirements Directive IV (CRDIV)'; and the 'Capital Requirements Regulation (CRR)', with the objective of further reducing remaining risks in the banking sector.

The 'Banking Package' introduces a more robust framework to regulate and supervise banks. This marks a major milestone in the implementation of international standards, and the completion of the post-crisis regulatory agenda. With this package, the EPP Group wants to increase the resilience of EU banks and improve their lending capacity to support the real economy.

Other important measures adopted in 2019 had the aim of reducing the Non-Performing Loans in banks' balance sheets. This reduction of risks will pave the way for the future completion of the Banking Union with the pending adoption of the European Deposit Insurance Scheme and a credible backstop for the Single Resolution Fund.

Capital Markets Union



Source: European Commission

Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL)

The European Labour Authority (ELA) is the new EU body that will ensure the better application and enforcement of European rules on labour mobility. The EPP Group successfully led and closed the negotiations with the Council on February 14, 2019. The ELA will help national authorities to fight fraud and abuse; it will facilitate citizens' mobility and will ensure fairness and trust in the European Single Market.

The EPP Group led the negotiations on the **'Work-life Balance Directive'** immediately prior to the elections, which were successfully concluded, and ensured that European workers gained new rights to balance their working and private lives. The EPP Group made sure that this does not leave a huge burden on businesses, especially SMEs.

Both the ELA and 'Work-life Balance Directive' are achievements of the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR).

Unfortunately, 53% of work-related deaths in Europe are still due to cancer. The EPP Group fought for safer, up to date and binding exposure limits to be applicable at workplace in all Member States. Thus, the EP and Council revised the Carcinogenic and Mutagens Directives (CMD I;II). This limited the exposure of workers to a number of hazardous substances.

In the area of transparent and predictable working conditions in the EU, the revision of the former Written Statement Directive was necessary to include more workers in the scope of the Directive and to adapt legislation to new requirements.

Due to the digitalisation of work, forms of employment diversified and those forms of employment which were rarely used in the past, and which were not covered by the previous Directive, such as short term contracts, on demand contracts or zero hour contracts started to be used on a wider scale. Furthermore, self-employed worker who are operating on digital platforms deserve an appropriate protection and access to information.

The new rules reinforce the types of information provided by employer, shorten the deadline to provide information and provide new material rights - such as right to compensation - when the employer cancels the work assignment after a specific deadline and right to cost-free mandatory training.

Work-life Balance: New Leave Rules for Family Care



Source: European Commission

Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI)

Due to growing ecological awareness, the ENVI Committee has become an even more important forum for EU citizens. The input of the EPP Group (the biggest in the Committee) was yet again decisive in 2019 when it came to endorsing new rules banning **Single-Use Plastics** (such as cutlery, plates, cups) and setting recycle/collection targets for such articles, therefore reducing significantly the environmental damage these products cause, in particular to the oceans and seas.

Another example that highlights EPP Group commitment to protecting health involves the new rules for consumers on the EU Food Safety Risk Assessment. This 'General Food Law' addresses concerns raised on glyphosates by the European Citizens' Initiative and makes the rules more transparent and reliable. Under the lead of the EPP Group, a good balance between transparency and the interest of the applicants was ensured.

Thanks to EPP Group efforts, the EU Civil Protection Capacity will add to national measures of defence mechanism. The RescEU Reserve will be created to respond faster and better to disasters, such as forest fires, storms and floods. In order to further tackle climate change, ambitious, but realistic CO2 reduction targets for cars and vans as well as for trucks were set. The EPP Group also played an instrumental role in sealing the EP's position on taxonomy - provisions to create a uniform and harmonised classification system to determine which activities can be considered sustainable across the EU. This represents an essential step towards fulfilling the Paris Climate Agreement and channels investments into viable actions. The EP mandate obtained during the previous legislature will now form the basis for further negotiations.

Reducing Single-Use Plastics



Source: European Parliamentary Research Service

Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE)

In the past year, the EPP Group successfully closed the last file of the Clean Energy Package: the 'Regulation and the Directive on Electricity Market Design.' An important 'Directive on Internal Market in Natural Gas: Pipelines To and From Third Countries' was adopted after the negotiations led by the EPP Group.

The EPP Group was responsible for a 'Regulation on European Business Statistics' which repealed eleven legislative acts and replaced them with just one. An agreement was also found on the new rules concerning the 'Labelling of Tyres,' under the lead of the EPP Group.

In 2019, the EPP Group negotiated for a 'Regulation on the EU Cybersecurity Agency (ENISA) and Information and Communication Technology Cybersecurity Certification (Cybersecurity Act).'

In the second part of the year, the EPP Group concentrated on the programs and funds included in the 'Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)' for which the ITRE Committee is responsible. The essential part of negotiations is now closed but final budgets are still being discussed.

The EPP Group also worked on the 'Horizon Europe-Framework Programme' and the 'Specific Programme Implementing Horizon Europe Framework Programme for Research and Innovation 2021–2027.' The 'Space Programme' and the 'Connecting Europe Facility' were legislative areas in which the EPP Group was active in 2019.

The EPP Group was also active on other MFF-related files, in particular the '**European Defence Fund**' and the 'Digital Europe Programme.'

European Defence Fund



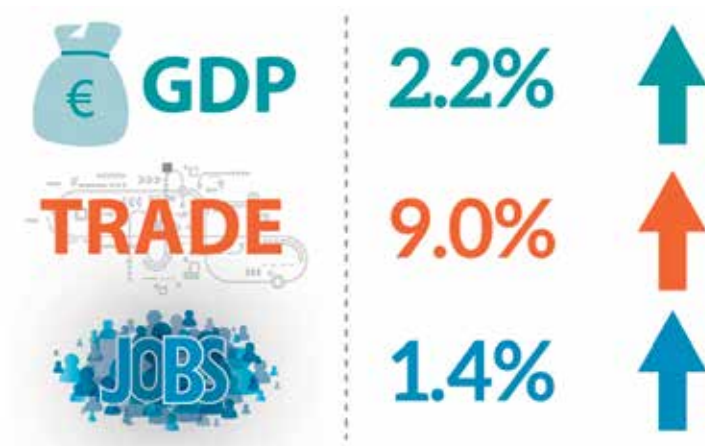
Source: European Commission

Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO)

Ensuring the balance between the interests of consumers and entrepreneurs in a vibrant **Single Market** remains the priority for the EPP Group, with even more challenges ahead meeting new digital realities.

In 2019, the EPP Group contributed to defining the EP's priorities on the completion of the Single Market by proposing and shaping the Resolution on the Single Market Package. The EPP Group stressed that one harmonised rule at EU-level reduces administrative burdens in all Member States as it replaces 28 diverging rules in the Single Market based on the four freedoms.

Main Benefits of the Single Market



Source: European Parliamentary Research Service

The EP adopted legislation on Better Enforcement and Modernisation of EU Consumer Protection Rules. The main points tackled the important issue of 'Dual Quality,' where new provision prohibits any marketing of a good, in one MS, as being identical to the good marketed in another MS.

The EPP Group ensured the strengthening of road safety in the Single Market by steering the new 'Regulation on Road Vehicle Safety and the Protection of Vehicle Occupants and Vulnerable Road Users.' This will require almost 30 different obligatory safety features or systems to be introduced in new vehicles in the interest of safety, including intelligent speed assistants and data recorders.

Under the lead of the EPP Group, Trilogue negotiations successfully ended with an agreement on a new 'European Framework on Market Surveillance.' The new rules will ensure that non-compliant products will not be put on the European market in order not to harm EU consumers. The proposal seeks also to foster more cooperation among national market surveillance authorities, customs authorities and market players.

An agreement has also been found on the new 'Regulation on Platforms to Business,' improving the functioning of the Digital Single Market to safeguard smaller businesses and traders when using online platforms.

Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN)

The EPP Group took the lead in ensuring better funding for transport, especially in the revision of the MFF and the **Connecting Europe Facility**.

The EPP Group is committed to safe, clean, connected and automated mobility, with high social and environmental standards (Mobility Packages I, II and III). It supports the competitiveness and efficiency of the European Maritime and Rail Transport Sectors along with better infrastructure management; the Trans-European Network legislation

update; the interoperability of road toll systems; and combined transport and the civil-military dual use of infrastructure throughout the TEN-T networks.

The EPP Group was at the forefront of preparations of contingency legislation on Brexit, in order to ensure the EU is ready for the challenges likely to arise in aviation, road safety, railways and tourism, after the UK's departure.

Connecting Europe Facility



Source: European Commission

Special Committee on Financial Crimes, Tax Evasion and Tax Avoidance (TAX3)

Following the continued revelations over the last five years (Luxleaks, the Panama Papers, Football leaks and the Paradise Papers), a Special Committee on Financial Crimes, Tax Evasion and Tax Avoidance (TAX3) was established on 1 March 2018 and its mandate expired at the end of February 2019.

The Committee consisted of 45 MEPs, of whom 14 were from the EPP Group. The TAX3 Committee followed up on the work of its predecessors (the TAXE, TAX2 and PANA Committees). In addition, the Committee examined new issues, such as digital taxation, VAT fraud, national citizenship programs (so-called Golden Visas), shell companies and free ports.

TAX3 also placed a special focus on the recent cases of massive money laundering in Denmark and Estonia (Danske Bank), Latvia (ABLV bank), Malta (Pilatus bank) and the Netherlands (ING).

The TAX3 Committee held 34 hearings with experts and exchanges with Commissioners and Ministers. The Committee organised four fact-finding missions (USA, Latvia, the Isle of Man and Denmark/Estonia) to collect evidence. Plenary adopted the final TAX3 report consisting of over 150 pages in Strasbourg in March 2019.

Standing Working Group 'Budget and Structural Policies'

The EPP Group Standing Working Group 'Budget and Structural Policies' coordinates the following five Parliamentary Committees:

Committee on Budgets (BUDG)

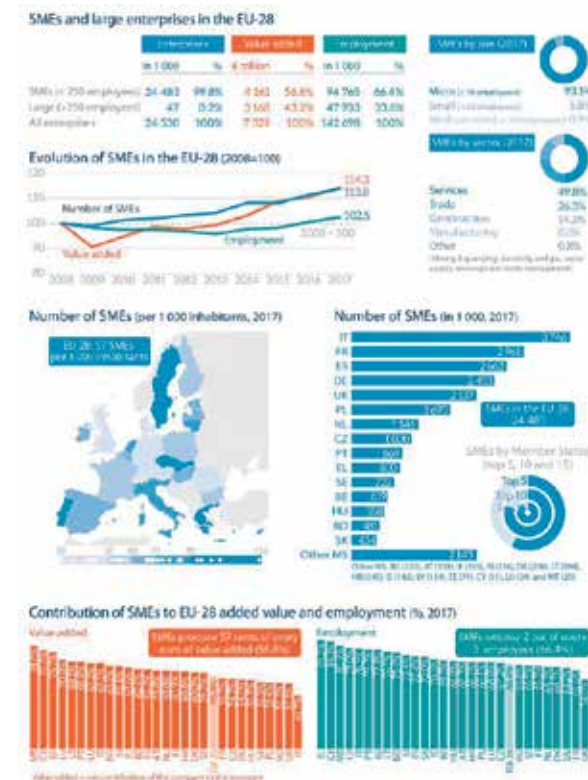
The EPP Group significantly contributed to determining the EP position on the two main pillars of the BUDG Committee's activity: the EU Budget 2020 and the 2021-2017 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and reform of the Own Resources system.

Budget 2020

The EPP Group played a decisive role in securing a strong, credible and ambitious budget. It was successful in ensuring that the EP position gained the overwhelming support of five Political Groups in the EP (October 2019), while reflecting all political priorities of the EPP Group. During the 21-day budgetary conciliation, the EPP Group was instrumental in securing a political agreement with the European Council that was, subsequently, endorsed in Plenary by a large majority.

The final agreement represented an important victory for the EP. In terms of the net increase ('fresh money' of €450 million), this was the best result that the EP had ever managed to obtain in the current MFF. A total of €850 million was granted to finance EP priorities, notably climate-related expenditure, youth, digitalisation, research and **SMEs**. Important increases in key EU programmes were decided in line with EPP Group priorities, notably Horizon 2020 (including a significant allocation for cancer research), the Connecting Europe Facility, Erasmus+, the Youth Employment Initiative, as well as the DiscoverEU programme. The overarching priority was climate, where the EP succeeded in ensuring an additional €500 million.

SMEs in the EU



Source: European Parliamentary Research Service

2021-2027 MFF and Own Resources

On the MFF, the EPP Group participated throughout the year in a structured dialogue with the respective European Council Presidencies and the General Affairs Council, which is in charge of the MFF. These talks were conducted based on the EP MFF Interim report, adopted in November 2018, which outlined its negotiating mandate for the 2021-2027 MFF negotiations.

In October 2019, the EP adopted with a very large majority a resolution that confirms and updates its negotiating mandate. In this context, the EP demanded the immediate launch of negotiations with the European Council and requested that the European Commission (EC) put forward

an MFF contingency plan as a safety net intended to protect the beneficiaries of EU funding programmes. This would allow for the extension of the current MFF – in case the next MFF is not agreed in time.

The EPP Group was in charge of another important legislative dossier, the InvestEU programme, the EU's new investment instrument for the 2021-2027 period. It was successful in building a strong negotiating position for the EP (January 2019) and, subsequently, negotiating a solid partial agreement with the European Council (April 2019), pending a decision on the 2021-2027 MFF for all remaining points.

Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT)

The EPP Group successfully oversaw a further significant improvement in the handling of the EU Budget, ensuring that taxpayers' money does not go down the drain. In 2019, the EPP Group welcomed the efforts of budget controllers to endorse the account management of almost every Institution, including the EP and Agencies, with the exception of the European Council and the European Asylum Support Office.

In addition to its supervisory tasks, in its legislative work, the CONT Committee focused on eliminating other irregularities to guarantee even more protection for EU finances. EPP Group input was decisive in preparing the OLAF reform, which is an important milestone on the path to a stronger anti-fraud policy at EU-level. The EP mandate obtained during the previous legislature thanks to EPP Group engagement will now form the basis for further negotiations, which resumed after the May elections.

The EPP Group played an instrumental role in sealing the EP position on provisions to freeze EU payments to Member States that do not respect the *Acquis Communautaire*. The EPP Group is committed to protecting the financial interests of the EU and ensuring the proper application of customs and agricultural legislation. The negotiations on the EU Anti-Fraud Programme 2021–2027 will continue during the 9th legislature. The EP negotiating team also was also successful regarding the appointment of the first European Public Prosecutor - the Romanian candidate supported by the EPP Group, Laura Codruța Kövesi. In January 2019, the CONT Committee communicated its recommendations, following the fact-finding mission to Slovakia at the end of the previous year. The proposals aim to, amongst other things, help Slovakian farmers with regard to the use of direct agricultural payments and avoiding potential conflicts of interests in public service, in order to protect the rule of law.

Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI)

The EPP Group played a decisive role in ensuring that the EP took a major step towards agreeing a reformed **Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)** through a highly successful vote in the AGRI Committee in April. The Committee vote at the end of previous term is the basis for the work now underway to obtain a mandate from the Plenary to negotiate a new CAP with the European Council and EC.

The CAP Strategic Plans combines under one regulation the CAP's first and second pillars and proposes a new delivery model based on strategic plans to be designed by the Member States within a common EU framework. The EPP Group also took the lead on two other files - the Single Common Market Organisation and the 'Horizontal Regulation.' The EPP Group secured its key priorities amid highly challenging political circumstances.

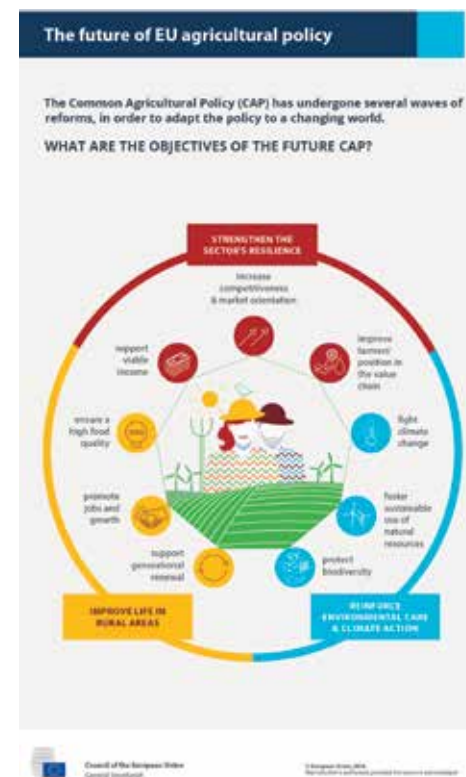
No CAP renationalisation, a budget maintained at its current level as a minimum, genuine simplification for farmers, and a clear respect for the division of competences in agricultural policy within the Member States were the overarching priorities for the EPP Group - and were firmly anchored in the text adopted at Committee stage. Against extreme opposition from the Left, the EPP Group also ensured that at least 60% of direct payments

are reserved to support farmers' basic income and that producers are properly incentivised to deliver on enhanced environmental ambition. The EPP Group was central in ensuring that the Committee also voted for greater transparency in agricultural markets, enhanced market and crisis management tools and a further strengthening of the position of farmers in the food supply chain. It insisted on fairer rules for farmers in terms of sanctions and compliance, with a greater focus on advice before penalisation.

The EPP Group continues its efforts to deliver a reformed CAP that serves the interests of farmers and all EU citizens.

2019 also saw the adoption of a new Directive introducing EU-wide rules to protect suppliers, such as farmers and SMEs, against more powerful players in the food supply chain, such as large retailers. The EPP Group has long-since championed calls for EU action to tackle unfair trading practices.

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)



Source: Council of the European Union

Committee on Regional Development (REGI)

Four Regulations on Cohesion Policy (European Structural and Investment Funds - ESIF) in the 2021-2027 period have been put forward as proposals by the EC. They comprise of EU investment expenditure towards the objectives of economic, social and territorial cohesion. They also provide for economic growth and job creation that will come through the regions of the EU. Throughout 2019, the REGI Committee has considered these regulations.

These regulations are:

1. The 'Common Provisions Regulation'

This is the 'umbrella' regulation for seven shared management funds (without the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)). The proposal is divided between financial rules (applicable to all seven funds) and policy rules (applicable to Cohesion Policy funds and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)).

2. The 'European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Cohesion Fund Regulation'

3. 'Specific provisions for a European Territorial Cooperation Goal (Interreg) Regulation'

4. 'Cross-border Cooperation Mechanism Regulation'

These last three are the fund and instrument-specific Regulations for the ESIF within the Cohesion Policy framework. The first two (especially the Interreg) pertain to important budgetary considerations.

The EP calls for a better focused, more effective and user-friendly Cohesion Policy. To this end, EPP Group objectives are likely to succeed.

In total, the REGI Committee proposed, following the lead of the EPP Group, to raise the next Multiannual Cohesion Policy budget to €373 billion, which represents a 13% rise compared to the EC proposal, including €226 billion for the ERDF (€11 billion for Interreg) and €46 billion for the Cohesion Fund.

The REGI Committee also initiated legislative contingency measures for Brexit. The mandate for negotiations has been achieved in order to make the EU Solidarity Fund available for the regions of the Member States affected by a possible no-deal.

Committee on Fisheries (PECH)

Fisheries is the most integrated EU policy and the challenges ahead are numerous, namely the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) (2021-2027) and the 'Fisheries Control Regulation,' the adoption of Multiannual Management plans, the scrutiny of Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements and the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

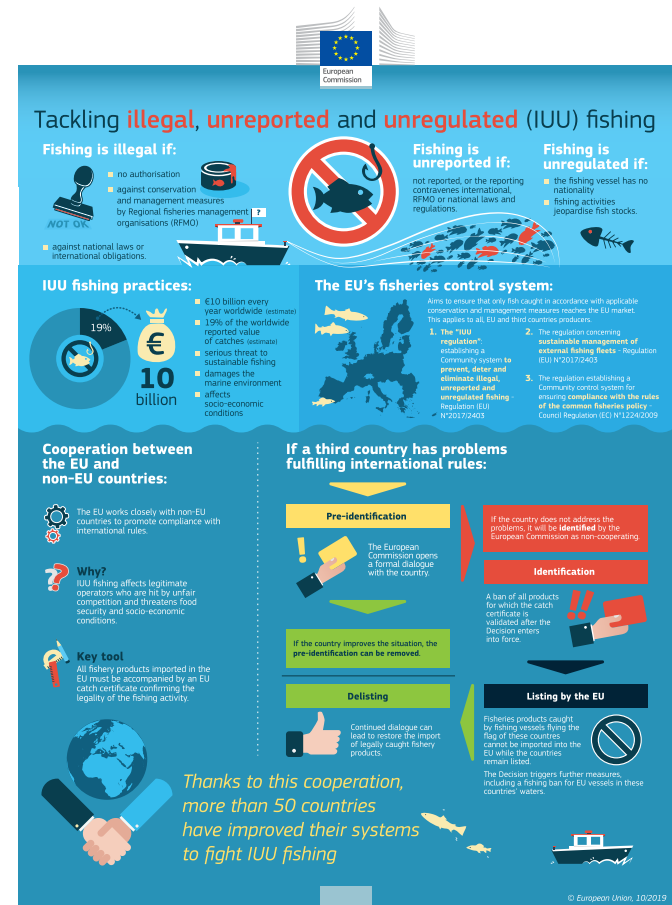
In the first half of 2019, the Fisheries Committee managed to conclude Interinstitutional negotiations on many important legislative files in line with an efficient implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). These included: the Multiannual Plan on Western Waters and the Western Mediterranean Plan. The EPP Group successfully contributed to make these rules simpler and tailor-made for the specificities of each fishery and each sea basin.

During the 8th Parliamentary term, the Report on the future European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) was adopted by a large majority.

The revision of the 'Fisheries Control Regulation' was not concluded before the European elections. Being one of the most important pieces of legislation, and a key part of the CFP, the EPP Group actively contributed to postpone the consideration of the EC's proposal, delivered too late, in order to ensure a satisfactory and balanced result during the new the EP term.

Regarding Brexit, the EPP Group voted in favour of contingency measures proposed by the EC in the field of fisheries, which provide a framework for EU and UK anglers to maintain access to their respective waters in 2020. The aim is to minimise any negative impact that the UK's withdrawal may have in case of a no-deal scenario.

Tackling Illegal Fishing



Source: European Commission

Standing Working Group 'Legal and Home Affairs'

The EPP Group Standing Working Group 'Legal and Home Affairs' coordinates the following six Committees:

Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE)

2019 witnessed the fight against corruption, the financing of terrorism and defence of the rule of law. To this end, the first European Chief Prosecutor, the EP and the European Council appointed Laura Codruta Kövesi. Moreover, a Directive was adopted and the Fundamental Rights, Democracy and Rule of Law Working Group was established within the LIBE Committee on an EPP Group initiative.

The EPP Group was at the forefront of efforts to make Europe a safer place. It managed to conclude the revision of the 'European Border and Coast Guard Regulation' in March 2019. The new regulation provides the EU and its Member States with the necessary reinforced resources (10.000 European border guards by 2021) and the mandate to effectively protect the EU's external borders in the future. The two 'Regulations on Interoperability' were welcomed by the EPP Group and represent the biggest change in EU information systems for security in managing borders, migration, visa processing and asylum, and in fighting crime and terrorism.

European Border and Coast Guard



Source: European Parliament

The EPP Group contributed to the fight against identity fraud by negotiating legislation harmonising identity cards and residence documents across Europe and making them more secure. The EPP Group moreover contributed to the closing of legal gaps frequently exploited by criminals and terrorists. Most importantly, its determination to adopt the 'European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS-TCN) Regulation' paid off. Soon the centralised database allowing national law-enforcement authorities to quickly identify if other Member States hold criminal record information on convicted third-country nationals will be established.

After long negotiations, the EPP Group contributed to the adoption of the new Visa Code. Thanks to EPP Group efforts, the new code will make it easier for legitimate travellers to obtain a visa to come to Europe, facilitating tourism, trade and business, whilst strengthening security. The new rules also link returns of illegal migrants with visa policy towards third countries.

Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM)

The EPP Group is committed to helping parents and carers balance their professional and family life, and did so through the report on the 'Directive on Work-life Balance for Parents and Carers.' The new legislation provides for paid paternity leave, reinforced parental leave and carers leave.

The EPP Group is strongly committed to combatting violence against women. This was reflected through the resolution seeking an opinion from the Court of Justice on EU accession to the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. This was tabled together with the LIBE Committee.

The EPP Group worked towards the Resolution on Policy Challenges and Strategies against Women's Cancers and Related Comorbidities, which called for an EU strategy to secure funds and consider sex specific factors to develop effective policies on awareness raising, cancer prevention and treatment.

On the legislative opinion on the CAP Strategic Plans, the EPP Group also aims to secure EU funds for the empowerment of women in rural areas to improve their working and living conditions.

Committee on Culture and Education (CULT)

The EP adopted the legislative Resolution on Establishing the New Erasmus Programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport. The programme supports the educational, professional and personal development of individuals in the fields of education, training, youth activities and sport through lifelong learning. The EPP Group also specified that the future programme should continue to support projects likely to bring European benefit.

The EPP Group aims to give more importance to inclusion measures by creating a dedicated chapter on this issue. By 30 June 2021, a multi-annual national inclusion strategy will be presented.

While the EC planned to double the budget of the programme, the EPP Group advocates tripling it. Furthermore, in order to maximise the

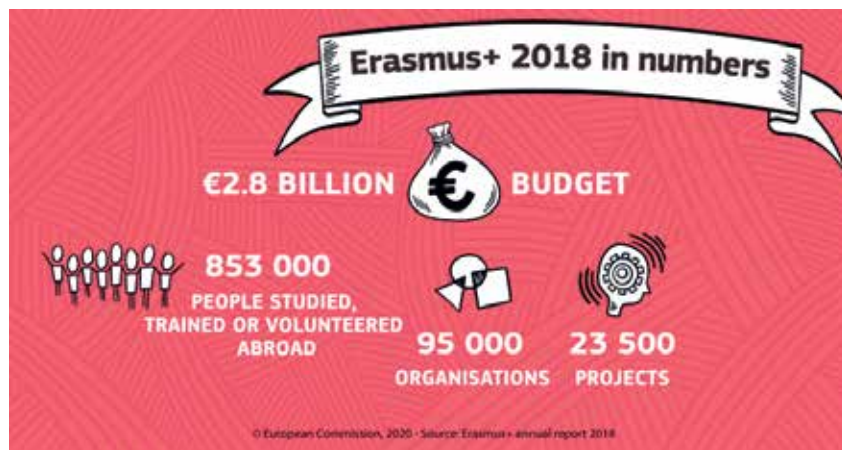
effectiveness of EU funding and policy support, the EPP Group wants to foster synergies with other European funding programs.

The EP also adopted its position on the EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS (ESC), the new EU initiative that creates opportunities for young people to volunteer or work in another EU country, or also in their home country.

The programme will provide opportunities for over 350.000 young participants (aged 18 to 30) between 2021 and 2027. It aims to strengthen the spirit of solidarity among participants and encourage them to continue expressing their solidarity.

The EPP Group worked to ensure that the programme focuses on volunteering, and empowers those with fewer opportunities and that it recognises religious institutions as potential participating organisations.

Erasmus in Numbers 2018

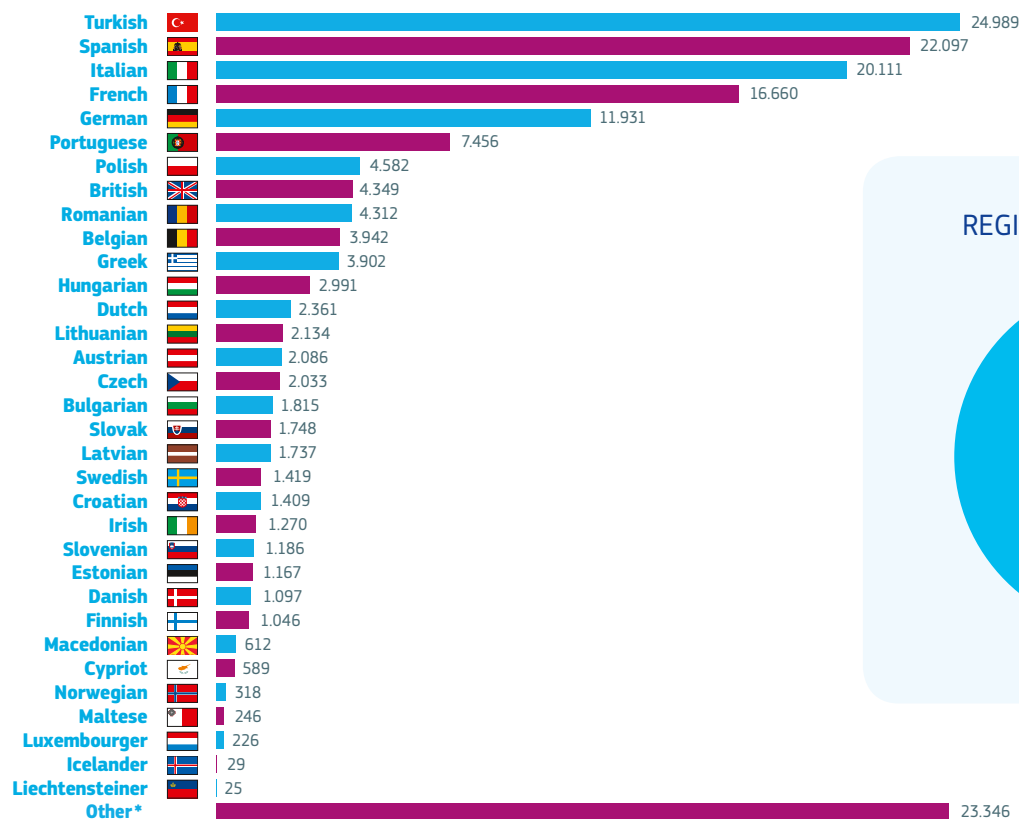


Source: European Commission

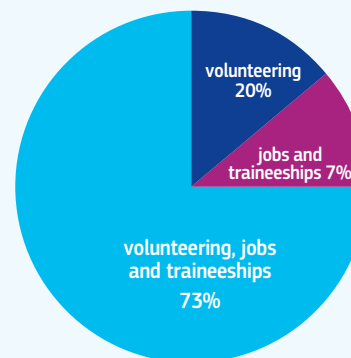
European Solidarity Corps (ESC)

REGISTRATIONS - MORE THAN 175,000 YOUNG PERSONS REGISTERED

EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPUS: REGISTRATIONS BY NATIONALITY



REGISTRATIONS BY STRAND



Source: European Commission

Committee on Petitions (PETI)

The environment, fundamental rights, justice and the Internal Market were some of the main topics of the petitions submitted to the PETI Committee in 2019. The EPP Group was actively involved in ensuring that the petitions were properly treated and solved in due time.

Answering public concerns on discontinuing the seasonal time changes, a text recommending the abolishment of the biannual change of time was adopted. Member States now have the possibility to decide on their own arrangements.

The EPP Group endorsed the recommendations of the European Ombudsman, to ensure the transparency of the legislative decision making process. Moreover, the EPP Group supported the transformation of the European Council into a true legislative Chamber, as part of a bicameral legislative system formed by the European Council and the EP.

The PETI Committee organised a Hearing on the Revaluation of the Wolf Population in the EU, since the EPP Group considers that farmers and large carnivores have to co-exist. The purpose of the hearing was to evaluate the current situation of the wolf population and to discuss if this state of play can lead to a change of legislation regarding the protection of large carnivores in Europe.

European Ombudsman – Strategic Objectives



Source: European Ombudsman

Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI)

The EPP Group worked to conclude negotiations on the ‘Digital Contracts Directive,’ which eliminates key contract law-related barriers hindering cross-border trade.

Another major step forward in addressing the challenges of the Digital Single Market was the adoption of the ‘Directive on Copyright.’

Similarly, by limiting the scope of the ‘SatCab Directive’ to news, current affairs and in-house productions, the EPP Group safeguarded the diversity of the EU creative sector.

The EPP Group led negotiations on the ‘Directive on Restructuring and Insolvency,’ successfully protecting the interests of debtors and creditors.

The EPP Group helped shape a good deal on the legislation surrounding the ‘*Protection of Whistle-blowers*,’ ensuring it prevents reputational damages for companies and contains rules to ease the burden for SMEs.

Thanks to the introduction of a targeted exception to the protection granted by a ‘*Supplementary Protection Certificate*,’ the EPP Group contributed to boosting the competitiveness of EU producers of generics, without jeopardising Europe’s attractiveness as a hub for innovation.

The new rules surrounding the ‘*Company Law Package*’ saves businesses time and money through online registration and allow companies to retain legal personality throughout the procedure.

The EP adopted its first reading position on the ‘*Collective Redress Proposal*.’ The EPP Group negotiated a solid compromise, balancing the interests of consumers with legal certainty for businesses.

External Meetings and Events

- 1. Meetings of the EPP Group Bureau outside the three Working Seats of the European Parliament:** These meetings are organised by the Chairman's Office to elaborate EPP Group positions on selected issues and to deepen relations with Member States and to express support to an EPP member party.
- 2. Study Days:** These meetings are organised by the Chairman's Office in a different Member State each year, as understanding the different national realities allows a better grasp of the political themes that are important at a national level.

- 3. Parliamentary Research and the European Ideas Network (EIN):** The Unit offers a valuable mechanism for further developing the political identity of the EPP Group by increasing the number of forums for debate.

The primary debate forum takes tangible form within the framework of the European Ideas Network (EIN), which represents an open pan-European think-tank designed to promote new thinking on the key challenges facing the European Union.

- 4. EPP Group Hearings, Conferences, Seminars and Events:** EPP Group MEPs organise, host and co-host, together with leading experts and citizens, a series of gatherings focusing on policy priorities.

1 Meetings of the EPP Group Bureau outside the three Working Seats of the European Parliament

Athens, Greece

EPP Group Bureau Meeting: 7-8 February 2019

Discussions focused on:

- Future of Work: Fighting Youth Unemployment
- EPP Group Investment Plan for the EU: Creating Five Million New Jobs
- Common Responsibility for the Mediterranean Region

Warsaw, Poland

EPP Group Bureau Meeting: 7-8 March 2019

Discussions focused on:

- Creating the European Energy Union
- Strong Regions for Better Living Standards
- How to Ensure Security in Europe?

2 EPP Group Study Days

San Sebastian, Spain

EPP Group Study Days: 11-13 June 2019

Discussions focused on:

- Analysis of the Outcome of the European elections 2019
- Digital Campaign - Lessons Learnt from the European Elections 2019
- A Strong EPP Family for the Next Parliamentary Term
- Strategy for the Upcoming Legislative Period 2019-2024
- Building on Successes for the Future

Zagreb, Croatia,

EPP Group Study Days: 20-21 November 2019

Discussions focused on:

- Priorities for the Next European Commission

3 Parliamentary Research and the European Ideas Network (EIN)

In the field of **Parliamentary Research**, in collaboration with the IT Department, the database for vote analysis (EVA Tool) was further developed and used for analysis and research regarding the voting behaviour of all Political Groups. It allows for finding valuable information on voting records right away, defines prevailing trends as well as providing guidance for EPP Group strategy on votes.

In 2019, many reports and analysis were produced on various topics, based on data obtained via the EVA Tool. During the pre-election period, it was highly beneficial for the collection and filtering of necessary data for the campaign because of queries from EPP Group MEPs, also in continuous cooperation with the EPP Party.

The EIN organised a number of different types of activities:

Breakfast Meetings, Food for Thought Lunch-debates and Working Group Seminars

In 2019, the EIN organised an active programme of Breakfast Meetings, Food for Thought Lunch-debates and Working Group Seminars. Special relevance was placed on:

- Protection of Citizens' legal rights
- Fake News and Electoral Campaigns
- Freedom of Movement and the Right to an Equitable Access to Healthcare within the EU
- Smart Tourism in Smart Cities



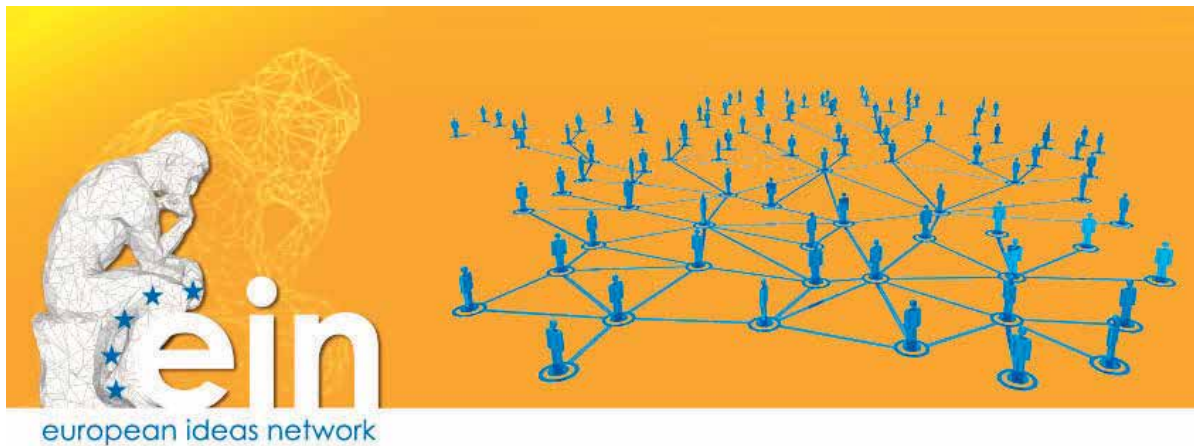
A selection of illustrations detailing EIN events that took place in 2019



Summer University

The 18th EIN Summer University took place in San Sebastian, Spain, between 13 and 14 June, focusing on 'Our Common Future: Challenges and Opportunities.' Debates were held on:

- The EU Area of Justice
- Immigration and Demography: How to Improve Integration and Fight Illegal Migration
- The EU New Architecture: Learning from the Brexit Process
- Economic Growth and Stability in the EU 2030 - How to Boost our Economic Landscape and Job Creation
- Populism, Disinformation and Fake News
- EU Security and Defence - EU Army Capacity and Improvement of Cyber-security
- The Renewal of the Western Partnership



4 EPP Group Hearings, Conference, Seminars and Events

A selection of illustrations detailing EPP Group Hearings, Conferences, Seminars and Events that took place in 2019



European Prostate Cancer Awareness Day 2019
PROSTATE CANCER SCREENING: CALL TO ACTION FOR EUROPE
Hosted by **Dubravka Šuica** MEP
Tuesday 22 January 2019 from 14.00-16.00 hrs
Room JAN 6Q1, European Parliament, Brussels
Please register at epad.uroweb.org

   European Association of Urology



VENEZUELA AND THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT
AFET Meeting
Tuesday 29 January 2019 from 10.00 - 12.30 hrs
Room ASP 5H1
European Parliament Brussels
Hosted by **Luis de Grande Pascual** MEP, Delegation for relations with the countries of the Andean Community, Member of the Delegation to the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly with **Luis Almagro**, Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), Foreign Minister of Uruguay **Tamara Sujó**, Executive Director of the Human Rights Observatory Centro de Estudios para América Latina (CASLA)





ACCESSIBLE ELECTIONS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
Seminar hosted by MEPs **Marek Plura, Helga Stevens, Ádám Kósa** and the European Disability Forum
Wednesday 30 January 2019 from 17.00-19.00 hrs
Members Restaurant, European Parliament, Brussels
Followed by a New Year's Cocktail
The event will be made accessible via International Sign interpretation and captioning

   EUROPEAN CONSERVATIVES AND REFORMISTS GROUP

WOMEN'S OPPORTUNITIES TODAY: DISPELLING MYTHS ABOUT INEQUALITY

Hosted by Marijana Petir MEP

Speakers:

- Neuscha Chesterfield
Institute of Economic Affairs, United Kingdom
- Renee Yakira Kaly
Social Entrepreneur, Former IDF Captain, Israel
- Sarah Ishikuna Mbuyi
Director, African-Asian Family Alliance
- Ruth Daskalopoulou-Isoac
The Shema Institute Brussels

Wednesday 6 March 2019
16.30-18.30 hrs
Room P4B001
European Parliament
Brussels



Delegitimization of Israel: The acceptable face of Anti-Semitism

Traina Bascescu MEP, Anna-Michelle Asimakopoulou MEP and Anna Fotyga MEP

Guests:

- Gilad Erdan, Minister of Public Security and the State of Emergency Affairs, Israel
- Katharina Von Schabertsch
EU Coordinator on Combating Antisemitism
- Elke S. Carr, US Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism
- Ambassador Jan Debruyne, Head of MEA Belgian Delegation
- Radu Rădulescu, President and Chairman of European Jewish Association (EJA)

9 November 2019 from 09.00-10.30 hrs
Room A2P362, European Parliament, Brussels

RSVP by 10 September at info@ejaassociation.eu



ART EXHIBITION ROMANIAN CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS

19-22 March 2019 | Hosted by Mihai Turcanu

Grand Opening
19 March 2019
at 18.00 hrs

Guests:

- Co-Chairman of the EPP Working Group on Intercultural and Religious Dialogue
- Guests: Cornelie Dumbrila, Victor Ionescu, Carmen Moris, George Petre, Sabina Dumbrila, Doina Acamariu and Octavian Florica



The next day in Syria: A path towards the resilience of Syrian people

Hosted by MEPs György Holvényi and Jan Olbrycht
Co-Chairmen of the EPP Working Group on Intercultural and Religious Dialogue

Wednesday 3 April 2019 from 16.30-18.30 hrs
Room JAN 6121, European Parliament, Brussels

Registration: CE.FREN.IT
Registration: EPP-InterReligion@ep.europa.eu



Constituent meeting of the informal group European Union-United Arab Emirates Parliamentary Friendship Group for the 9th legislative term

Thursday 9 November 2019
from 17.00 to 18.00 hrs
Room 5A01, European Parliament, Brussels

Followed by a Cocktail Reception in JAN 10 area

Guests:

- by the President of European Union-United Arab Emirates Parliamentary Friendship Group
- António López-Herrera, MEP
- Guests: Gopalakrishnan, HSE Excellency Mohamed Abulhabib, UAE Ambassador to the EU



COMMON EUROPEAN ROOTS

HOSTED BY ALLOUÏ PETERLE MEP & ROLAND REES MVRP OF STRASBOURG

TUESDAY 19 MARCH AT 14.00 HRS
JANUARY (PARIS) DE FORTANIERES



Protection of Citizens Legal Rights

Hosted by Paulo Rangel MEP

Wednesday 9 April 2019
15.00-18.00 hrs
Room ASP 541-1
European Parliament, Brussels

Registration: www.ein.eu



Freedom of movement and the right to an equitable access to healthcare within the EU

Hosted by Paulo Rangel MEP

Wednesday 20 February 2019
15.00-18.00 hrs
Room ASP 541-1
European Parliament, Brussels




Ethics & Human Dignity in Politics

Hosted by MEPs:

- Miroslav MIKOLÁŠIK, Marijana PETIR, Alojz PETERLE, Tünde KELAM, György HOLVÉNYI, Pavel SVOBODA, Andrzej GRZYB, Peter LIÈSE, Laima ANDRIKĖNĖ, Lukas MANDL, Jan OLBRYCHT, Michaela ŠOJDOVÁ and other Members

with H.E. Prof. Herman VAN ROMPUY (Belgium)
Former Prime Minister of Belgium and first President of the European Council
Mrs Oluwajuwa Bileocha (Nigeria)
Founder of "Culture of Life Africa"

Registration until 9 March 2019 at: epg-social@europarl.europa.eu



PROMOTING RECONCILIATION PROCESS IN THE WESTERN BALKANS: YOUTH PERSPECTIVE

Hosted by Andrey KOVATCHEV MEP, Vice-Chair of the EPP Group responsible for Enlargement and Mediterranean Policy
Livia JÁRÓKA MEP, Vice-President of the European Parliament responsible for Western Balkans
Dubravka ŠUICA MEP, Vice-Chair of the European Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs
Eduard KUKAN MEP, Chair of AFET Working Group for the Western Balkans
Cristian Dan PREDA, EPP Group Coordinator for Foreign Affairs.
With the participation of the main European youth organisations' representatives.

Tuesday 5 March 2019 from 14.30-17.15 hrs
Room 60-1, European Parliament, Brussels



Interpretation: FR DE IT EN ES PT CS HU LV PL SK BG HR



Consiliul Concurenței organizează conferința Orientat spre economie competitivă prin: ■ cercetare ■ inovare ■ digitalizare

Joi, 21 martie, ora 14.00
Sala JAN 6Q1, Parlamentul European, Bruxelles

Parteneri:

- Mihai Turcanu, Member of the European Parliament
- Serviciul de Telecomunicații Speciale (STS)
- Autoritatea Națională pentru Administrare și Reglementare în Comunicații (ANCOM)
- Universitatea București
- Serviciul Național de Poliție și Administrare (SNPA)

Colaboratori:

- Ministerul Fondurilor Europene
- Ministerul Mediului



EPP GROUP INTERCULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE SEMINAR:

THE ROLE OF CHURCHES AND RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES IN THE PROCESS OF PEACE BUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION

Welcome by **Mairead McGuinness**, First Vice-president of the EP, Responsible for the Parliament's dialogue with churches, religions and non-confessional organisations (Article 17 TFEU), **Rasa Juknevičienė** MEP, Vice-Chair of the South Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia) Delegation with Representatives of Georgian Orthodox Church and other religious communities from Georgia

Tuesday 19 November 2019 from 08.30-11.00 hrs
Room ASP 5H1, European Parliament, Brussels

RSVP to EPP-Interreligious@ep.europa.eu

Interpretation:
Georgian – English

Tuesday 2 April 2019 from 15.00-16.00 hrs
Room JAN621, European Parliament Brussels

Overcoming the war economy in Libya

Policy recommendations for EU action

Hosted by **Cristian Dan Preda** MEP with **Stephanie Williams**, Deputy Special Representative (DSR)

Wednesday 6 March 2019
15.00-18.00 hrs
Room ASP 5H1
European Parliament, Brussels

EIN seminar
Fake news and Electoral Campaigns
Hosted by **Paulo Rangel** MEP

Wednesday 6 March 2019
15.00-18.00 hrs
Room ASP 5H1
European Parliament, Brussels

Young Members Network Annual Meeting

19-20 November 2019, Zagreb

Welcome by **Eva Maydell** MRS, Coordinator of the EPP Young Members Network

Dr. Jolanta Katarzyna
Vice-President designate for Democracy and Democracy for Europe

Dr. Jolanta Katarzyna
Vice-President designate for Democracy and Democracy for Europe

Dr. Jolanta Katarzyna
Vice-President designate for Democracy and Democracy for Europe

Bringing equity in brain health to the top of the European Agenda: regional challenges & shared priorities

Hosted by **Marian-Jean Marinescu** MEP

Tuesday 5 March 2019 from 13.00-15.00 hrs
Room ASE-3, European Parliament, Brussels

Ayurveda Day 2019

Ancient Ayurvedic Pulse Diagnosis for detecting imbalances and diseases in the premature stage

Hosted by **Alajz Peterle** MEP (EPP Group, Slovenia) and **Jo Leinen** MEP (S&D Group, Germany)

Tuesday 26 February 2019 from 09.00-12.00 hrs
Room JAN 4Q1, European Parliament, Brussels

REMEMBERING 30 YEARS OF FREEDOM IN CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE

With the participation of **Mairead McGuinness** MEP and **Boris Vitol** MEP, Vice-President of the EP

Hosted by **Michaela Šojdrová** MEP and **Ivan Štefanec** MEP

12.00 hrs
Celebration of 30 Years of Freedom
The anniversary of the European Union by MEP Chair (Chair Report)

14.00-16.00 hrs
12.00 hrs: Introduction of Religious Dialogue Seminar
Role of Churches in Central Europe 30 years ago and now
The role of Churches in Central Europe 30 years ago and now

12.00 hrs
Thanksgiving Holy Mass
Thanksgiving 30 years of freedom in Central and Eastern Europe
The anniversary of 30th anniversary of celebration of Saint Agnes of Bohemia
Mass (Mass celebrated in Slovakia)
Mass (Mass celebrated in Slovakia)

BOSANCI

WAR IN URBAN IS TERROR: ROBERTO HAI IN BUCOVINA

Delegata Romaniei in PPE
Eveniment co-organizat cu FC Romania Bruxelles

3 decembrie la ora 18.00
Nahudi Memnun Mezzanin

30TH SUMMIT OF CHAIRMEN

of EPP Parliamentary Groups in the National Parliaments of the EU and the European Parliament

Monday 9 December 2019
11.00 - 18.00 hrs
Room SAS009
European Parliament, Brussels

TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS: FIVE YEARS AFTER THE JOINT DECLARATION OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS AGAINST "MODERN SLAVERY"

Hosted by **Javier Zarzalejos** MEP (EPP Group) with the participation of **Pietro Bartolo** MEP (PSE Group), **José Luis Balse**, Legal Advisor, CDMCE, **Renato Curia**, Executive Secretary, Don Bosco International

Monday 2 December 2019 from 11.00-12.00 hrs
Room ASP ASE3, European Parliament, Brussels

XXII ANNUAL EPP GROUP INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE WITH CHURCHES AND RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

HUMAN FRATERNITY FOR WORLD PEACE AND LIVING TOGETHER

Declaration signed by His Holiness Pope Francis and the Grand Imam of al-Azhar on 4 February 2019 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Thursday 12 December 2019
Lebanese Maronite Monastery Saint Charbel, Belgium

LANGUAGES:
EN / FR / IT / AR

AGENDA 2030: CHALLENGES FOR THE PROMOTION OF A COMPETITIVE AND SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS IN EUROPE

Hosted by **Isabel Benjumes** MEP

Tuesday 3 December 2019 from 16.30-18.30 hrs
Room ASP ASE3, European Parliament, Brussels

Wednesday 17 April 2019
from 20.30–22.00 hrs
Strasbourg Cathedral



END OF MANDATE EASTER CONCERT

Hosted by **Annie Schreijer-Pierik** MEP
Under patronage of **Antonio Tajani**,
President of the European Parliament

Rijssens Mannenkoor (NL)
Conducted by **Jaap Kramer**

epp group
in the european parliament

**RIJSSENS
MANNENKOOR**

epp **renew europe.**

WEDNESDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2019 18.30-21.00 HRS
20TH FLOOR CATERINA PIKE BUILDING, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, BRUSSELS



EU AVIATION NIGHT IN PARLIAMENT

NETWORKING RECEPTION HOSTED BY MEPS MARILYN JEAN MARINESCU (EPP GROUP),
BRIGITTE LEBLANC (LIBERALISM), TOSCA GRIFFIO (PSE), AND CHRISTOPHER BELLER (THE NEW EUROPE)

FEATURING LEADERS FROM:

A.E. era **ERA** **ERA** **ERA** **ERA** **ERA**

Fernando Ruas MEP has the pleasure
to invite you to the event

Singing the "Janeiras" New Year Carols

Tuesday 8 January 2019 at 18.30 hrs
Espace Yehudi Menuhin
European Parliament, Brussels

epp **European Parliament**

CONFERENCE

THE ADOPTION OF SUSTAINABLE & SMART POLICIES IN RURAL & INSULAR AREAS FOR A PROSPEROUS FUTURE IN EUROPE

Hosted by **Stelios Kypouropoulos** MEP

Tuesday 19 November 2019
from 09.00–12.00 hrs
Room ASP AS63
European Parliament, Brussels

epp **Interpretation
EL, EN**

EPP GROUP INTERRELIGIOUS AND INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

WHITE RIGHT: MEETING THE ENEMY

FILM SCREENING (PREMIERE) OF THE MOVIE:
**WHITE RIGHT:
MEETING THE ENEMY**

Co-Chairman of the Working Group
on Intercultural Activities and Religious Dialogue
Roberto José Suarez,
Director of the European Jewish Community Centre (EJCC)

Father Krystian Sowa O.S.B., Director of the Chapel for Europe
Tuesday 26 January 2019, 14.30–16.00 hrs
Room ASP-2, European Parliament, Brussels

epp **European Parliament**

THE PERVERSE CHARM OF POPULISM

Hosted by **Sandra Kalniete** MEP, Vice-Chair of the EPP Group
Keynote Speaker: **Ivan Krastev**, Chairman of the Centre for Liberal Strategies
in Sofia and Permanent Fellow at the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna
With prominent panelists and participation of:
Dubravka Šuica, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs
Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso, Vice President of the European Parliament

Tuesday 5 February 2019
from 14.30–17.15 hrs
Room JAN 6Q1
European Parliament, Brussels

epp group
in the european parliament



03

Directorate for the Presidency

1. Organisation of the Meetings of the Governing Bodies of the EPP Group and the EPP Group Constitutive Processes

The **Directorate for the Presidency** fulfilled its traditional responsibility of preparing the meetings of the governing bodies of the EPP Group (Presidency and Heads of National Delegations).

Until April 2019, the governing bodies of the EPP Group were focusing on concluding the work of the legislative term and on the preparations for the 2019 European elections.

Following the elections, the Directorate organised the constitutive processes inside the EPP Group (e.g. EPP Group constitutive session, elections of the EPP Group leadership, attribution of the seats in Committees and Interparliamentary Delegations to MEPs, distribution of the posts of responsibility and the election of EPP Group candidates for the European Parliament (EP) leadership posts).

The Directorate for the Presidency additionally contributed to a better flow of information between the EPP Party Headquarters and the EPP Group.

2. Coordination of Political Groups

The Directorate took over the coordination of the Political Groups on 1 November 2018 and handed it over to the Renew Europe Group on 1 November 2019. The main task of the coordination in an election year is to prepare the constitutive processes of the EP and its governing bodies, and Committees and Interparliamentary Delegations. This culminated in the investiture of the new European Commission (EC).

The constitutive processes were conducted smoothly despite the political challenges following the elections and notwithstanding the unpredictability of the Brexit process and its implications on the EP working methods.

In the framework of the 2019 European elections, the Taskforce 'Welcome & Departure of Members' was created by the EP (from July 2018 to September 2019) to deal with all matters related to both outgoing and newly elected MEPs. The Directorate coordinated the preparations for the 'Welcome & Departure of Members' both internally (the EPP Group participated with its own stand), among the Political Groups and with the EP Administration.

3. Preparation for the Meetings of the EP Governing Bodies

a) Conference of Presidents (CoP)

The Directorate prepares the meetings of the Conference of Presidents with the Secretaries-General of the Political Groups and with the EP Administration. The Chairman is briefed by the Presidency Directorate before each meeting of the Conference of Presidents (CoP). After the meetings, the relevant Directorates and Units of the EPP Group are debriefed on the decisions taken by the CoP.

In 2019, the debates within the CoP focused, amongst others issues, on:

- The Preparations/follow-up of the European Council Meetings
- The Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)
- Brexit
- The Evaluation of the Progress Achieved in the Interinstitutional Negotiations of the Transparency Register
- The Facebook/Cambridge-Analytica Scandal and its Impact on the European Elections Online Campaigning
- The Sakharov Prize
- The Conference on the Future of Europe

The CoP continued with its tradition of external meetings with the representatives of the incoming Council Presidencies and visited Finland and Croatia.

The European Parliament After Brexit

Number of seats



Source: European Parliamentary Research Service

b) Bureau of the European Parliament and Quaestors

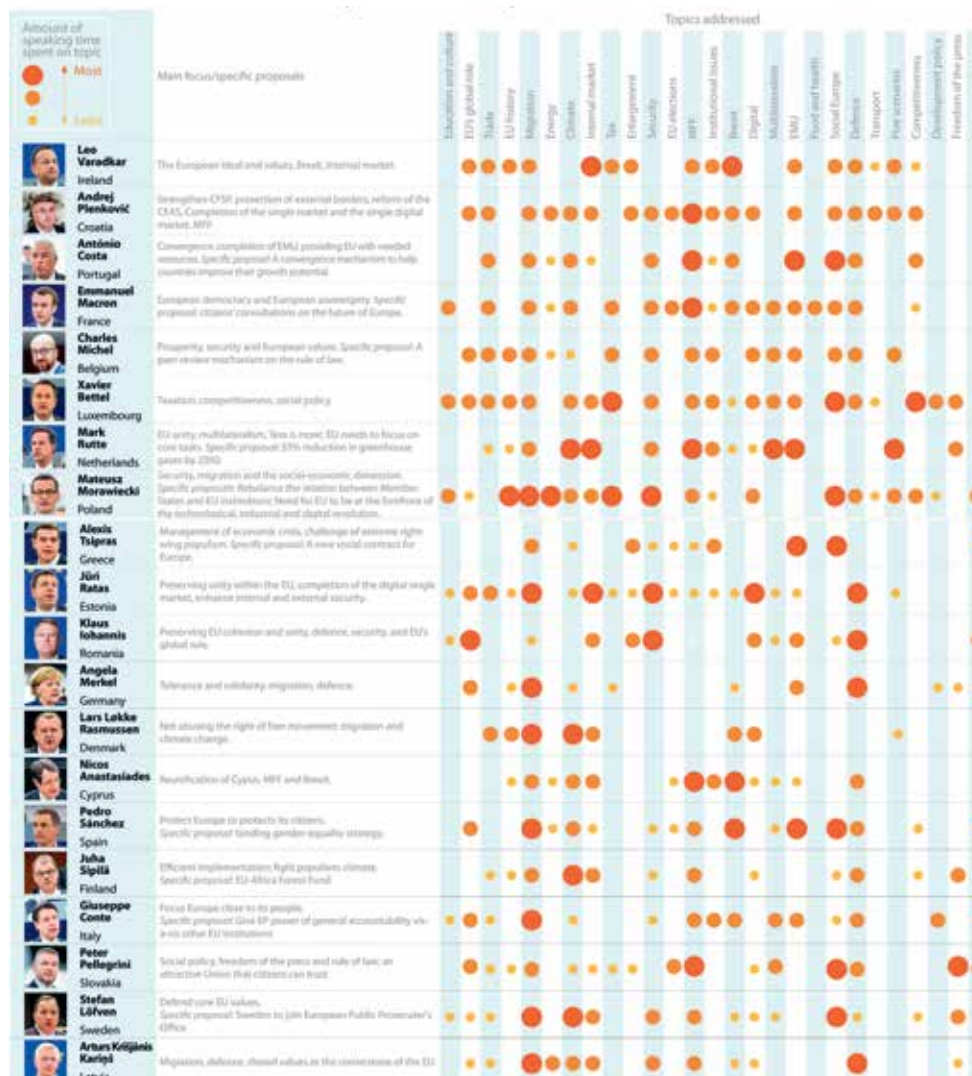
For the 9th Parliamentary term, the team of the EP Bureau Members (1st half 2019-2021) was elected at the Plenary session in July 2019. The allocation of Vice-President and Quaestors portfolios was issued at an extraordinary meeting of the Bureau in July 2019. Apart from the regular meetings, the Bureau is currently running different working groups chaired by the Vice-Presidents in view of their respective portfolios and composed of both the Vice-Presidents and the Quaestors. The purpose of the Bureau Working Groups is to prepare recommendations for the Bureau's consideration and final decisions. The EPP Group position inside these structures is coordinated by the Directorate staff.

As a well-established practice to prepare and coordinate the EPP Group position, an EPP Group background note on the positions of the EPP Group is prepared for the EPP Group Members of the Bureau, after a thorough consultation on contentious political points. A brief summary of the decisions taken at Bureau level is distributed internally. The same practice as that adopted for the Bureau meetings is used for the monthly meetings of the Quaestors.

Weekly meetings with the assistants of Vice-Presidents and Quaestors continue to be organised by the Directorate. Once a month an extra meeting is organised in Brussels for the Vice-Presidents and the Quaestors in order to better coordinate the position of the EPP Group in the Bureau. In Strasbourg, on a regular basis, the EPP Group Vice-Presidents and Quaestors meet before the Bureau meeting with the view to debate and agree for the final EPP Group line.

The Directorate organised informal meetings between the Chairman, the Vice-Presidents and the Quaestors for a discussion on political issues on an ad hoc basis.

As in previous years, a list of the EP Bureau activity planning for 2019/2020 (EPP Group items) was presented to the Heads of National Delegations in 2019, which served as a work plan for the EP Bureau Members of the EPP Group.



Future of Europe Debates

Overview of Topics Addressed by Each Head of State or Government

Source: European Parliamentary Research Service

4. Archives Unit

The management of the archives of the EPP Group, the EPP Group website, the library, including photo-documentation, progressed well in 2019. The digitalisation of EPP Group documents - kept at the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) - continued. In 2019, the archives received a new block of digitalised documents (19.000 pages).

The excellent collaboration that the Unit has promoted over the years with the 'Historical Archives of European Union (HAEU)' and 'European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS)' has progressed. The role of the Unit received considerable recognition in 2019 thanks to the success of three projects aimed at highlighting the role played by the EPP Group in the process of the creation and construction of the European Union. These are:

- The 'HAEU project': the fundamental assistance and support that the Unit gave in the search for the material - paper and digital - stored in the archives, together with the coordination for requests addressed to KAS and EPRS, was immense. The success of its work and commitment was highlighted during the conference organised by HAEU in Florence presenting the results of the academic study on the 'Impact of the EPP Group on the European Integration Process,' especially since the first European elections in 1979.
- The 'EPRS project': the role of the Unit was decisive. Upon the initiative of the EPP Group Secretary-General, Martin Kamp, and supported by all other Political Groups, the EPRS delivered the study on 'The Political Groups in the European Parliament since 1979 - Keys Facts and Figures.' The study demonstrated that the EPP Group is the only Group in the EP that has complete documentation for the realisation of this research.
- The 'Oral history project': Mechthild Roos (PhD researcher and academic assistant) conducted interviews with, among others, the former Chairs of the EPP Group - Hans-Gert Pöttering and Joseph Daul, and with the former EPP Group Secretaries-Generals. The Unit provided assistance in material research and in establishing contacts with the people requested. Mechthild Roos delivered the transcript of the interviews in its original language (German) and the Unit dealt with the translation into English.

5. Legal Adviser

Due to the changes in the internal structures of the EPP Group, the post of the Legal Adviser remained vacant throughout 2019.

6. External Offices of the EPP Group

The External Offices of the EPP Group played an active link between the work of the EPP Group within the EP and the EPP political family in the Member States, in particular in the period before the European elections, within the limits stipulated by the applicable rules. Following the elections, the External Offices acted as facilitators in developing the contacts with the newly elected MEPs. However, the election results had to mirror EPP Group internal structures, resulting in the closure of the Paris and Rome offices.

7. Protocol

Within the Directorate, the colleague responsible for Protocol matters assisted with the organisation of high-level events involving the Chairman, the EPP Group Presidency and the EPP Group Members of the EP Bureau. Support was also provided to external meetings and the events linked to the end of the Parliamentary term. As of May 2019, Protocol matters have been transferred to the Directorate for Internal Organisation.



04

Directorate for External Policies – Committees

The **Directorate for External Policies – Committees** coordinates the following Committees/Subcommittees:

- **Foreign Affairs (AFET)**
- **Security and Defence (DROI)**
- **Human Rights (SEDE)**
- **Development (DEVE)**
- **International Trade (INTA)**

The Directorate works closely with all EPP Group Directorates, especially with the Parliamentary Working Groups belonging to the Parliamentary Work Directorate and the External Policies – Regions Directorate.

The main tasks of the Directorate concern:

- > The EP Committees' current activities
- > The preparation of work for the Plenary relating to foreign policy
- > The urgencies relating to the violation of Human Rights around the world
- > The promotion of democracy
- > The following of the Election Observation Mission Group: This relates to coordinating, in close cooperation with the European External Action Service (EEAS), the sending of Parliamentary Delegations abroad to observe third-country elections and promote democracy worldwide.

Standing Working Group ‘External Policies’

Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET), Subcommittee on Human Rights (SEDE) and Subcommittee on Security and Defence (DROI)

Vietnam

The *EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and Investment Protection Agreements (IPA)* with Vietnam marks an important relationship milestone. It serves as a useful stepping-stone for closer relations with the ASEAN region. Vietnam is a crucial partner of the EU in climate change negotiations, good governance, sustainable development and the fight against terrorism. The EPP Group believe that the FTA provides us with leverage that must be used to improve the human rights situation in Vietnam.

Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

In March, MEPs adopted the *Report on the Post-Arab Spring: Way Forward for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region*. While recognising positive developments in countries such as Tunisia, it expressed concern that most of the ambitious aspirations of the peaceful protesters had not been met. MEPs welcomed continued EU efforts to support reforms (in budgetary and political terms) and promote the important nexus between democracy and sustainable security. In spite of this, the EU has not been able to gain substantive leverage and its impact remains limited. Therefore, future programmes should focus more on the interests and realities of the partner countries, who must simultaneously assume greater ownership of EU partnership priorities.

EU-Switzerland

In March, the EP adopted its position on the *EU-Switzerland Institutional Framework Agreement*. Switzerland's current relationship with the EU is based on a complex set of some 20 sectoral bilateral agreements and around 100 other agreements. MEPs welcomed the agreement by the negotiators on the final text and called on the Swiss Federal Council to ratify the agreement. Furthermore, MEPs called on Switzerland to shorten the period of application of transitional measures concerning workers from Croatia and criticised the controversial ‘flanking measures’ by the Swiss Government.

European Peace Facility (EPF)

This instrument is a new off-budget fund with a budget of €10.5 billion for 7 years designed to prevent conflict, preserve peace and strengthen international security. It will fund and increase the scope of common costs of military operations under the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), contribute to the financing of military peace support operations led by other international actors and provide support to armed forces of third countries. The EP underlines the need for the activities funded by the EPF to be consistent with all aspects of EU external action.

The European Peace Facility (EPF)

#EUDefence

EUROPEAN PEACE FACILITY

WHAT IS IT?
A proposed EU off-budget funding mechanism for actions with military or defence implications

WHY WE NEED IT
The security environment calls for the enhanced engagement of the EU

THE EPF AIMS AT ENABLING THE EU

- ✓ to react more rapidly
- ✓ to prevent conflicts
- ✓ to build peace
- ✓ to strengthen international security

THE EPF WOULD LEAD TO

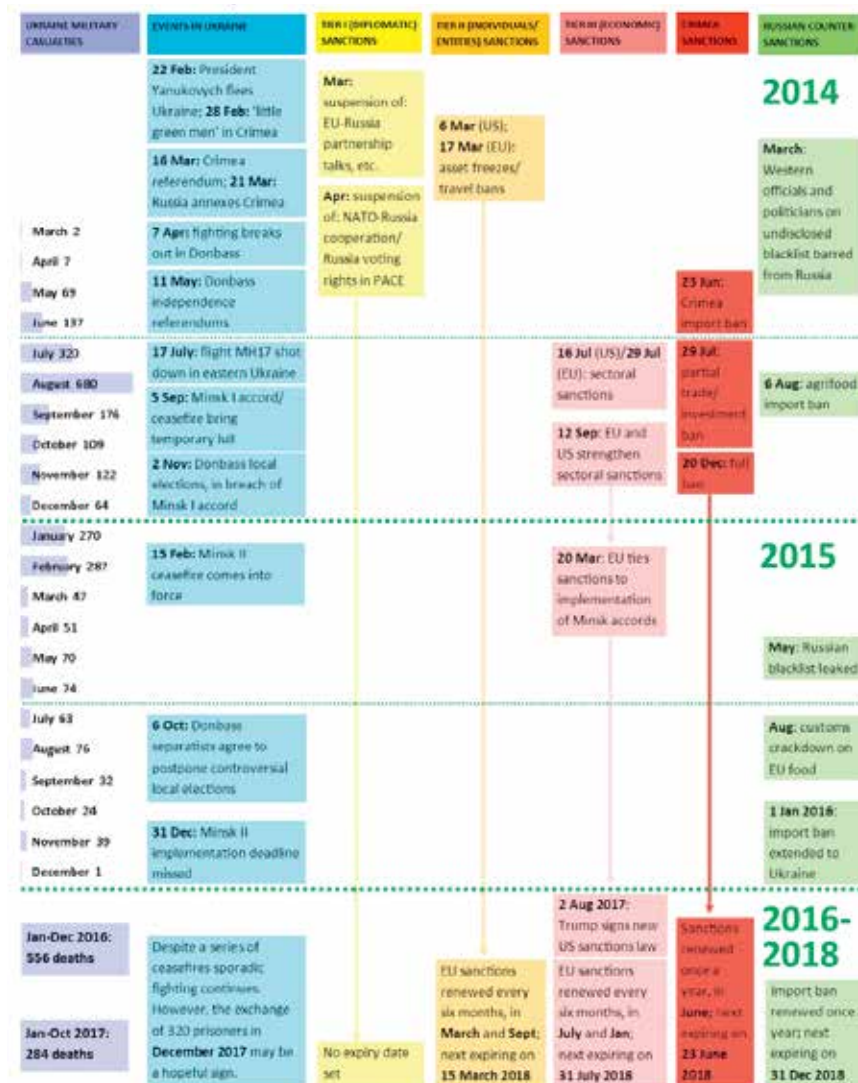
- more flexible financial assistance to our partners in peace support operations e.g. GS Sahel
- stronger engagement e.g. providing training, infrastructure or equipment of a military nature
- more effective financing for CSDP military missions and operations

Source: European External Action Service

Consent was given to the *Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA)* between the EU and its Member States and Singapore. The PCA will provide a legal framework for the long-standing bilateral relations and commitment to strengthening and widening cooperation in regional and international forums, and in areas such as environmental protection, international stability, justice, security and development.

The *Report on the State of EU-Russia Political Relations* stresses that the EU cannot envisage a gradual return to 'business as usual' until Russia fully implements the Minsk Agreement and restores the territorial integrity of Ukraine. Any framework for EU-Russia relations should be based on the full respect of international law, the Helsinki OSCE principles, democratic principles, human rights and the rule of law and allow for dialogue on managing global challenges, the strengthening of global governance and ensuring enforcement of international rules.

Russia: Sanctions Timeline 2014-2018



Source: Council of the EU, US Department of State

Human Rights

The 2018 Sakharov Prize was awarded to the Ukrainian film director Oleg Sentsov, who was proposed by the EPP Group. In 2019, he was released from a Russian prison where he served a long sentence for opposing the Russian annexation of Crimea and received the prize in person in the hemicycle in Strasbourg. In 2019, the Prize was awarded to Ilham Tohti, an advocate for the rights of the Uyghur minority in China. As initiated by the EPP Group, the EP paid particular attention to human rights around the world via its annual report in the Subcommittee on Human Rights (SEDE). The deteriorating humanitarian crisis in Venezuela was addressed via three resolutions adopted by the EP in 2019.

MEPs actively participated in Election Observation Missions (EOM) in the following countries: Ukraine, Moldova, Mozambique, Tunisia, Kosovo and Sri Lanka.

Sakharov Prize



Source: European Parliamentary Research Service

Committee on International Trade (INTA)

2019 was marked by increased protectionism worldwide, the WTO crisis and continued trade tensions between the United States and China and the USA and EU. This has negatively affected trade flows globally. Notwithstanding, the EPP Group has pursued an ambitious EU trade policy.

At multilateral level, the EPP Group continues to advocate the WTO's leading role at the heart of a multilateral rules-based world system and supports the current modernisation reform. The EPP Group welcomes the ongoing plurilateral negotiations on E-Commerce, domestic regulations and investment facilitation. The EPP Group demands the prompt functioning of the Dispute Settlement Body and strives for a successful 12th Ministerial Conference in June 2020.

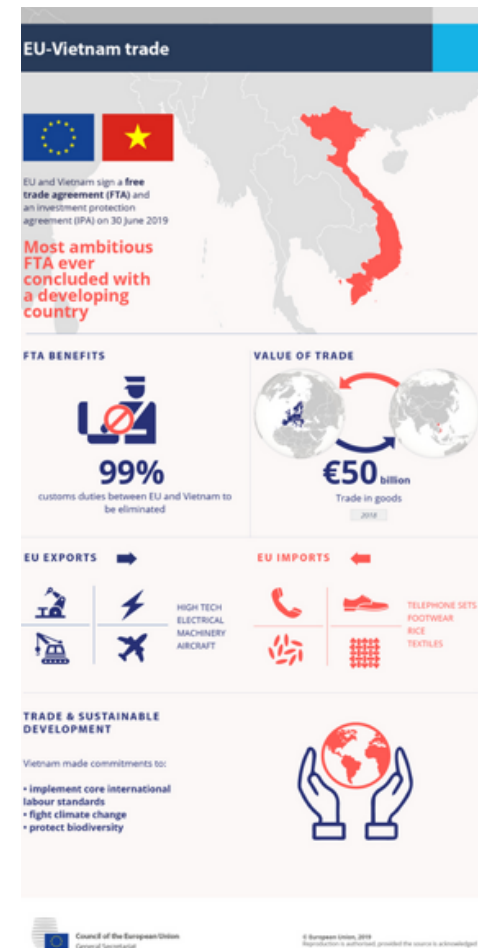
The EPP Group has welcomed the EC's launch of negotiations with the United States and supported its request for a Council mandate to start negotiations of a limited trade agreement on industrial goods and conformity assessments. The EPP Group considers the endorsement of the agreement on the 'High Quality Beef' as a key positive signal to try and restore a positive dynamic amidst a number of ongoing tensions (unilateral tariffs' measures).

The EPP Group welcomes the conclusion of the negotiations for an *Association Agreement between the European Union and Mercosur* (full members include Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay), which could bring significant opportunities for companies, farmers and consumers.

On the Asian continent, the ratification of the biggest bilateral trade agreement ever - the *Economic Trade Agreement between the European Union and Japan (JEPA)* - was an EPP Group success story and a blueprint for future trade agreements in the Pacific.

The conclusion of the *Free Trade and Investment Protection Agreements with Singapore* was another major achievement and could boost cooperation between the EU and the Southeast Asia region. The EPP Group endeavors to ratify the Free Trade and Investment Partnership Agreements with Vietnam and hopes to conclude agreements with countries such as Australia and New Zealand, bringing better access for European companies and eliminating non-tariff barriers.

EU-Vietnam Trade

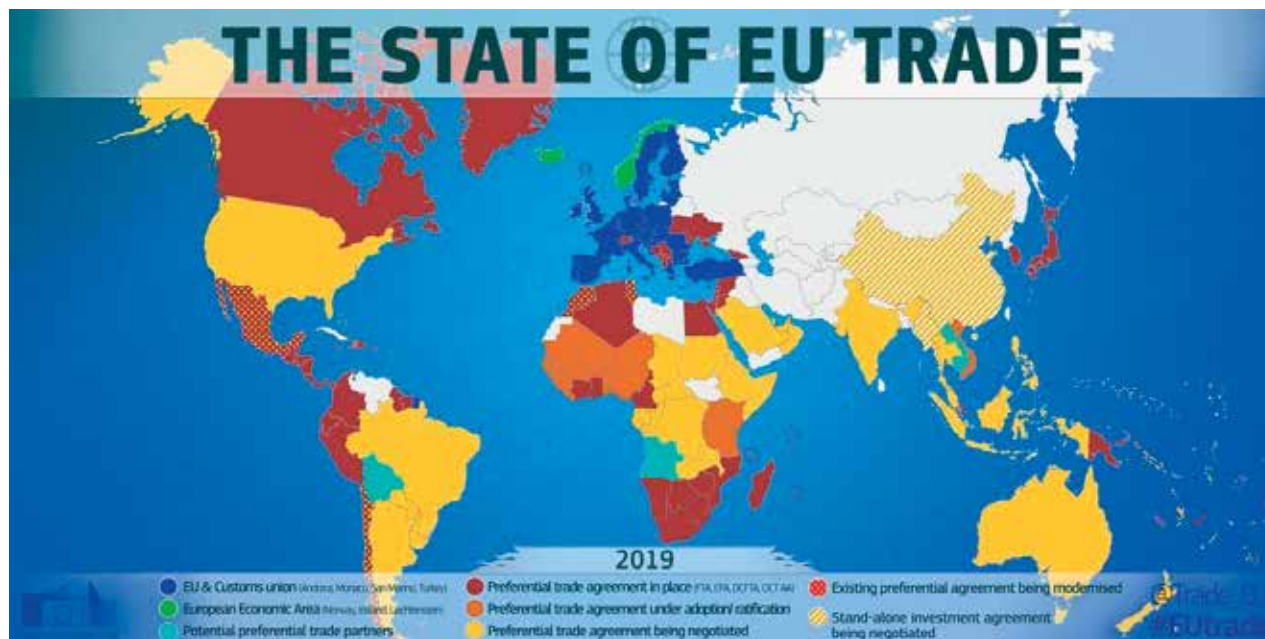


Source: Council of the European Union

For the EPP Group, international trade is a powerful tool to secure jobs and growth and to stimulate competition and innovation. The EPP Group demands tougher trade defence measures to gain leverage in negotiations with China, a tougher EU investment screening mechanism and public procurement reciprocity. It will fight for trade based on EU values, principles and standards. The EPP Group further vows to fight social and environmental dumping and unfair subsidies by third countries.

With regard to trade legislation, informal trilogue negotiations were launched under the Finnish Presidency on the Dual Use Regulation. The aim is to make EU controls for the export, transit and brokering of dual-use items more efficient and contribute to international peace and security.

The State of EU Trade



Source: European Commission

Committee on Development (DEVE)

In the perspective of the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and the aim to align EU spending with its political priorities and objectives, the EPP Group led the negotiations on the future Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI). This new instrument will be the EU's main tool to contribute to eradicating poverty and promoting sustainable development, prosperity, peace and stability.

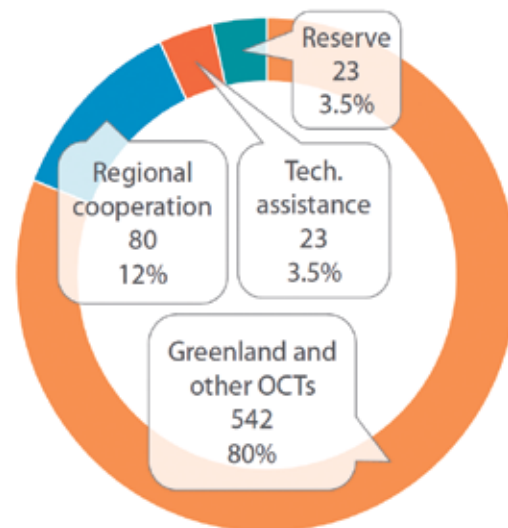
In January 2019, the EP adopted the **Report on Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs)**, thereby approving the decision to integrate all OCT-related funds into a single budgetary instrument and ensuring more effectiveness, coherence and visibility on their association with the EU.

The EPP Group has continued to advocate for the strong leadership of the EP and the EU on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In March 2019, it put forward a resolution on the topic, highlighting the need for an overarching strategy and a clear roadmap towards their achievement. The EPP Group has worked to ensure that SDGs are at the core of the EU's external action, including development policy, as well as an integral part of the EU's cooperation with key international partners. EPP Group MEPs co-chaired the EP Delegation to the UN SDGs Summit in September 2019 in New York.

On the initiative of the EPP Group, the DEVE Committee sent a Delegation to Ethiopia in October 2019. Priorities in the region and the main challenges to be addressed by the Committees in this new legislature - peace and security, rule of law and good governance, migration, and sustainable growth and development - were highlighted.

In this context of rethinking EU development action, and funding and partnerships, the EPP Group proposed and initiated a *Report on Development Effectiveness and Aid Efficiency* supported by a public hearing in December 2019.

EP's Proposed Distribution of Budgetary Allocations to OCTs



Data source: European Parliament, [P8-TA\(2019\)0053](#).

Million euros, current prices,
% of €669 million (total proposed
allocation for OCTs)

Source: European Parliamentary Research Service



05

Directorate for External Policies – Regions

Interparliamentary Delegations and Parliamentary Assemblies and Intercultural and Religious Dialogue

1. Interparliamentary Delegations and Parliamentary Assemblies

As the European elections took place in 2019, the activity of the **Directorate for External Policies – Regions** ran until the end of March, just before the start of the electoral campaign, and resumed in September with Delegation and Assembly constitutive meetings. The EPP Group secured fifteen Chairs along with strong representation in each Interparliamentary body. Consistency and continuity underpinned efforts to promote EPP Group priorities and values through Delegations, the best tool available to promote Parliamentary diplomacy.

To this end, the Directorate organised various hearings and conferences attended by high-level politicians and civil society representatives from neighbourhood countries. The Directorate set up regular meetings with Commissioner Johannes Hahn, who was responsible for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, thus allowing EPP Group MEPs to discuss EU policy of particular importance to regions relevant to the Commissioner's portfolio while keeping MEPs fully informed on all-important developments.

The EPP Group organised ad hoc missions giving MEPs the opportunity to acquire information and engage with various stakeholders first-hand on various political, social or economic developments in the EU Neighbourhood and candidate countries (or those that soon will be).


EPP Group Working Group on Enlargement

Despite the failure of the October Council's meeting to open membership talks with Albania and North Macedonia, EPP Group commitment to the EU perspective of the six Western Balkans countries is stronger than ever. The EPP Group will continue to organise activities and events dedicated to the region, such as Working Breakfasts with Ambassadors. Two such meetings were organised in 2019, the first on 29 January and the second on 13 November.

On 5 March, the EPP Group organised a conference on, *'Promoting the Reconciliation Process in the Western Balkans: Youth Perspective.'* The first panel held a discussion on, 'How to Restore Trust Among Western Balkans Countries: Youth's Contribution': and the second panel addressed 'The Role of the European Union Supporting Regional Cooperation and the Reconciliation Process.'

At the EPP Party Congress in Zagreb, various meetings were held with EPP Group sister parties from the Western Balkans conveying a message of support and strong encouragement to continue the path of reforms for steady progress on the EU accession path.


EPP Group Chairman Manfred Weber MEP led an EPP Group Delegation on a visit to Serbia, North Macedonia and Kosovo at the beginning of December.



EPP GROUP CONFERENCE
**PROMOTING RECONCILIATION PROCESS
 IN THE WESTERN BALKANS:
 YOUTH PERSPECTIVE**

Hosted by **Andrey KOVATCHEV** MEP, Vice-Chair of the EPP Group responsible for Enlargement and Mediterranean Policy
Livia JÁRÓKA MEP, Vice-President of the European Parliament responsible for Western Balkans
Dubravka ŠUICA MEP, Vice-Chair of the European Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs
Eduard KUKAN MEP Chair of AFET Working Group for the Western Balkans
Cristian Dan PREDA, EPP Group Coordinator for Foreign Affairs,
 With the participation of the main European youth organisations' representatives.

Tuesday 5 March 2019 from 14.30-17.15 hrs
Room 6Q-1, European Parliament, Brussels

 **epp**
 group
 in the european parliament

Interpretation:
 FR | DE | IT | EN | ES | PT
 CS | HU | LV | PL | SK | BG | HR

EPP Group Working Group on Mediterranean Policy

The Mediterranean region continues to be at the forefront of EPP Group external policy. Developments in Southern neighbouring countries show that 2019 was a year marked by turmoil. With the migration crisis still in the spotlight, conflicts in Syria and Libya are far from over. Algeria and Lebanon are countries seeking change that has yet to be delivered. Corruption, lack of trust in governing elites and the breakdown of basic services have marked the year.

Compelled by the idea that it is in the mutual interest to work for a dynamic and prosperous Mediterranean region that enjoys peace, security and sustainable growth, the EPP Group Working Group on Mediterranean Policy conducted conferences, missions and strategic/thematic meetings in order to deepen the relationship with southern Mediterranean partners.

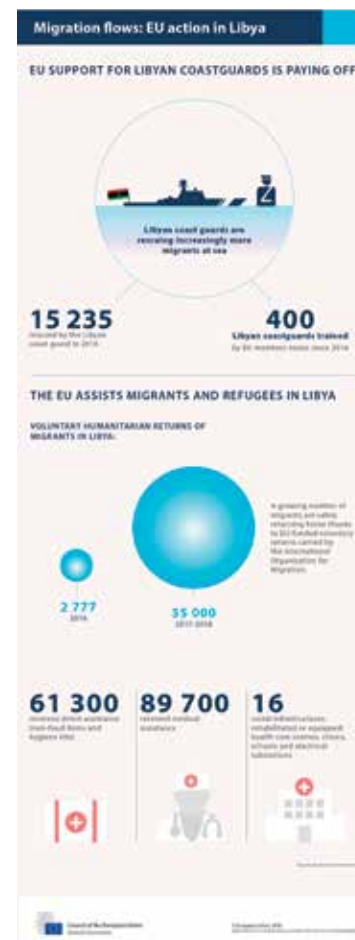
Concrete examples included missions to the Headquarters of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) in Barcelona on 29 and 30 January, and the follow-up trip to the first Euro-Mediterranean University in Fez, Morocco, from 18 to 20 March. The EPP Group Delegation met with Secretary-General, Nasser Kamel, and other high-ranking representatives from different policy areas (climate, education, energy and economic development) while studying possible ways to strengthen cooperation. Two months later, EPP Group MEPs visited the Euromed University of Fez, where they met Nizar Baraka,

President of the Istiqlal Party (EPP partner); the President of the Fez-Meknes Region; the Mayor of Fez; and the EU Director at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The EPP Group Delegation discussed Morocco's anti-radicalisation strategy, migration, foreign policy and trade. Further to the visit of the university, the EPP Group Secretariat awarded an internship to a political science alumnus and committed to developing a European Youth Event (EYE) type event for Southern Mediterranean youth.

The themes of the meetings and conferences were decided ad hoc, depending on developments in the region and the EU. For example, the 27 March meeting with Christos Stylianides, European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, followed the Brussels III Conference on Syria, and set out to acquire first-hand information on the outcome of the conference.

Other examples included the different exchanges of views with EPP partners from Lebanon, such as in April with Kataeb Party President, Samy Gemayel, to assess the economic burden of Syrian and Palestinian refugees (around 1.5 million out of 6.8 million and approximately 500,000 respectively); the challenges faced by Christians in the MENA region; and the influence of Hezbollah. Meetings took place at the EPP Congress in Zagreb in November 2019 with the Lebanese Forces and leaders from the Istiqlal and RNI parties of Morocco.

Migration Flows: EU Action in Libya

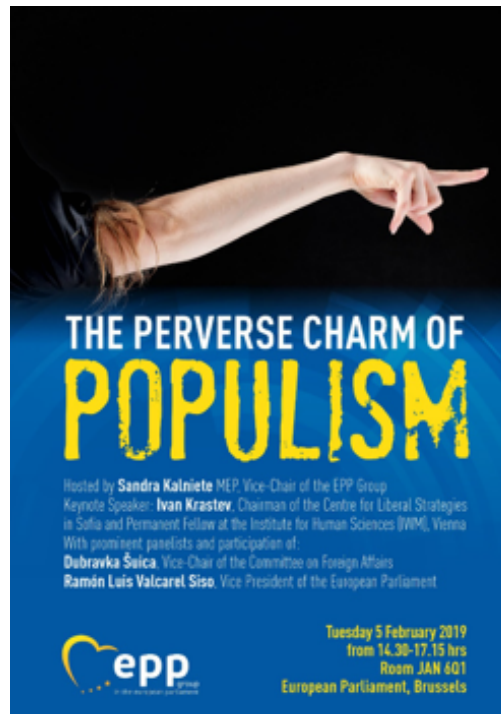


Source: The European Commission

Eastern Neighbourhood

On 5 February, an EPP Group conference on *The Perverse Charm of Populism* took place with keynote speaker Ivan Krastev, Chairperson of the Centre for Liberal Strategies, in Sofia. The objective of this event was to foster a genuine exchange of views between academics and politicians to deepen understanding of a trend currently faced by Europe and the rest of the world. Moreover, representatives examined how Europe and the EPP political family can more efficiently counter the populist narrative by addressing people's fears and needs.

During the EPP Congress in Zagreb, a resolution on the 10th anniversary of the **Eastern Partnership (EaP)** and its future was adopted. It supported the idea of establishing the *Trio Strategy 2030*, which will establish deeper integration instruments between the EU and the three EaP associated states (Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine) based on the successful 'Berlin Process' for the Western Balkans. The idea was further embraced at the 8th Ordinary Euronest Parliamentary Assembly held in Tbilisi from 8 to 10 December 2019; the EPP Group proposal on the Trio Strategy being successfully adopted by the plenary.



The Eastern Partnership



Source: Council of the European Union

The Americas

In view of the policies and politics of the current US Administration, the EPP Group attaches great importance to the role of parliamentary diplomacy. The close contacts between the EP and the US Congress grew in importance in 2019 and fostered a common understanding between legislators of shared concerns on trade, security, multilateralism and common threats - based on a close relationship.

In Latin America, the bilateral agenda was dominated by the political and social turmoil in countries such as Venezuela, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador and Chile, the conclusion of **EU-Mercosur Association Agreement** negotiations, along with the new Mexican Government led by populist Andrés Manuel López Obrador.

EPP Group MEPs were very active in the EuroLat Assembly held on 27-28 February in Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Bolivia) that included a stopover from 1 to 2 March 2019 in Peru to assess first-hand the Venezuelan exodus that is heavily affecting the region. An enlarged Executive Bureau was held in Strasbourg on 23-24 October.

The 12th EuroLat Plenary Session took place on 12 and 13 December 2019 in Panama City, Panama. Debates focused on how to increase transparency and the legislative scrutiny of trade negotiations; improving the international cooperation on criminal justice; and regulatory challenges caused by the expansion of digital platforms. The situation in Venezuela was strongly highlighted.

The Mercosur Delegation held its constituent meeting for the 9th legislative term on 26 September. The conclusion of longstanding negotiations for an Association Agreement between the European Union and Mercosur countries sent a very positive signal this year. The EPP Group strongly believes that, when in force, the agreement will unleash the full potential of our economic and political relationship.

EU-Mercosur Trade Agreement



Source: European Commission

Asia/Pacific

The EPP Group values deepening and extending its relationship with the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)**. This partnership brings great potential benefits to both actors.

Due to ongoing disputes over the Renewable Energy Directive (RED II) and palm oil, Indonesia and Malaysia unfortunately blocked the upgrade (that had already been agreed to in principle) of ASEAN-EU relations to a 'strategic partnership' - which would have been a symbol of the longstanding and comprehensive cooperation between the two regions.

As ASEAN member states are potential trading partners and markets for the European Union and industry, the EPP Group is closely following the negotiations on bilateral agreements and supports a region-to-region Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Nevertheless, the ASEAN Delegation made clear during meetings with ASEAN member state government representatives that the EP, as budget and trade co-legislator, would only deliver further help and support to ASEAN countries once progress is made - especially with regards to democratisation, human rights and religious freedom.

The 39th **EU-Japan** Interparliamentary meeting was held in Strasbourg on 27 November 2019. During two working sessions, MEPs and the National Diet of Japan exchanged views on political, economic and social developments in the European Union and Japan; the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA); the Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA); deepening Interparliamentary cooperation; climate change and COP 25; as well as regional issues. MEPs welcomed the strong relations and strategic partnership between the EU and Japan and the sharing of values such as the rule of law, democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The importance of the EPA and the SPA were highlighted by both Delegations. The EPA and SPA are landmark agreements. The implementation of the latter will be closely monitored. The Delegations are furthermore committed to strengthening the Interparliamentary partnership.

EU-Japan Trade



African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP)

In the context of post-Cotonou Agreement negotiations, the **ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA)** insisted on reiterating the commitments made under the current EU-ACP partnership while assessing the challenges and opportunities for renewed and more effective cooperation.

EPP Group MEPs took part in fact-finding missions in the Cameroon (28 February to 2 March) and Togo (from 31 March to 2 April). The 17th ACP-EU JPA regional meeting, which was held from 28 February to 2 March in Paramaribo (Suriname), was an opportunity for the EPP Group to reaffirm its priorities in terms of regional integration and cooperation in the Caribbean region, with an emphasis on trade, energy, investment and the private sector.

The 37th Session of the ACP-EU JPA was held in Bucharest (Romania) from 16 to 20 March 2019. Three reports were debated and voted upon. They included one on the strategic significance and dimension of the ACP-EU partnership, and another on reducing the global number of out-of-school children, adolescents and youth in ACP countries. With a Co-Rapporteur from the EPP Group, MEPs also discussed how renewable energy could bring sustainable economic development to ACP countries, particularly in remote areas. Both negotiations on urgency resolutions were chaired by the EPP Group, which allowed the final texts to effectively reflect EPP Group priorities.

The 38th Session of the ACP-EU JPA was held in Kigali (Rwanda) from 17 to 21 November 2019. Members discussed the impact of social media on the participation of young citizens in public life and at COP25. At the request of the EPP Group, the JPA also debated sustainable industrialisation and digitalisation in ACP countries.

EU-ACP Relations



Source: Council of the European Union

2. Intercultural and Religious Dialogue Unit

Overview

The EPP Group **Intercultural and Religious Dialogue Unit** aims to promote mutual understanding and an active sense of European citizenship to foster peaceful coexistence. Decision-makers are called upon to provide answers to a complex set of crises that have political, economic, religious and cultural implications for Europe.


‘Intercultural and Religious Dialogue’ does not mean theological discussions in the European Parliament (EP). It is about listening to people from the sphere of religion and exchanging views with representatives of academia, governments and the European Institutions on issues of common interest or concern and in connection to religion and intercultural relations.

The EPP Group organises a wide range of events on regular basis:

- EPP Group Annual Dialogue with religions and cultures
- Monthly Working Group meetings
- Thematic Working Breakfasts with Ambassadors from Muslim (OIC) Countries
- Visit of religious leaders from the Middle East, Africa and Asia
- Conferences on current affairs related to religion (including religious radicalisation and persecution of religious minorities)
- Seminars on relevant topics with the participation of experts from the EU and non-EU countries.

2019 Events Overview

A selection of illustrations detailing the EPP Group Working Group (WG) on Intercultural and Religious Dialogue events that took place in 2019



EPP GROUP INTERCULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE CONFERENCE




The next day in Syria: A path towards the resilience of Syrian people


Hosted by MEPs György Hálgyéni and Jan Olbrycht
Co-Chairmen of the EPP Working Group
on Intercultural and Religious Dialogue

Wednesday 3 April 2019 from 16.30-18.30 hrs
Room JAN 6Q1, European Parliament, Brussels

Interpretation: DE FR EN IT

Registration: EPP-Interreligious@ep.europa.eu




EPP GROUP INTERCULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE SEMINAR

THE ROLE OF CHURCHES AND RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES IN THE PROCESS OF PEACE BUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION

Welcome by **Malread McGuinness** First Vice-President of the EP,
Responsible for the Parliament's dialogue with churches,
religions and non-confessional organisations (Article 17 TFEU),
Rasa Juknevičienė MEP Vice-Chair of the South Caucasus
(Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia) Delegation
with
Representatives of Georgian Orthodox Church
and other religious communities from Georgia

Tuesday 19 November 2019 from 08.30-11.00 hrs
Room ASP 5H1, European Parliament, Brussels

RSVP to EPP-Interreligious@ep.europa.eu

 Interpretation:
Georgian - English


EPP GROUP INTERRELIGIOUS AND INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE



FILM SCREENING (PREMIERE) OF THE MOVIE:
**WHITE RIGHT:
MEETING THE ENEMY**

Hosted by György Hálgyéni and Jan Olbrycht MEPs,
Co-Chairmen of the Working Group
on Intercultural Activities and Religious Dialogue
Rabbi Avi Tzoref,
Director of the European Jewish Community Centre (EJCC)
Father Krystian Sowa SJ, Director of the Chapel for Europe

Tuesday 29 January 2019, 16.30-20.00 hrs
Room A3E-2, European Parliament, Brussels

    Chapel for Europe
Head of the Mission



26th NOVth REMEMBERING 30 YEARS OF FREEDOM IN CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE

With the participation of **Malread McGuinness** MEP
and **Rainer Wieland** MEP, Vice-Presidents of the EP
Hosted by **Michaela Šojdrová** MEP and **Ivan Štefanec** MEP

13.00 hrs
(after the votes) **Celebration of 30 Years of Freedom**
Live performance of the European Anthem by **SBV Choir** (Czech Republic)
+ Flower Carpet Bar (LDW building), European Parliament, Strasbourg

14.00-16.00 hrs **EPP WG on Intercultural & Religious Dialogue Seminar:
Role of Churches in Central Europe: 30 years ago and now**
+ Room: LDW K3.4, European Parliament, Strasbourg


17.00 hrs **Thanksgiving Holy Mass**
Thanksgiving for 30 years of freedom in Central and Eastern Europe,
the celebration of 30th anniversary of canonisation of Saint Agnes
of Bohemia
+ Notre-Dame Cathedral in Strasbourg
EPP: interreligious@ep.europa.eu




XXII ANNUAL EPP GROUP INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE
WITH CHURCHES AND RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

HUMAN FRATERNITY FOR WORLD PEACE AND LIVING TOGETHER

Declaration signed by His Holiness Pope Francis
and the Grand Imam of al-Azhar
on 4 February 2019 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates



Thursday 12 December 2019
Lebanese Maronite Monastery
Saint Charbel, Belgium

 LANGUAGES:
EN FR IT AR

EPP Group Working Group (WG) on Intercultural and Religious Dialogue: Meetings

In 2019, the EPP Group Working Group (WG) on Intercultural and Religious Dialogue developed and defended concrete political actions, which served to strengthen links with political and religious representatives, civil society and other relevant personalities from the cultural, economic and academic fields.

> Meeting with representatives of the Salzburg Syriac Institute

The meeting focused on the significance of Syriac heritage and focused on Christian persecution. One in 10 Christians are being prosecuted today. In over two-thirds of the world's countries, Christians are experiencing harassment. The main point was to address these topics, identify means to protect individuals, help them on a legal ground and prevent volatile situations from arising.

More concrete efforts to help those affected is essential. The Middle East is the cradle of Christianity; thus, the presence of Christians in the region must be ensured.

> Meeting with Reverend Andrew Bennett, Religious Freedom Institute in Washington

Reverend Bennet presented the International Religious Freedom Policy (IRFP) Landscape Report.

> Film screening (premiere) of the movie 'White Right: Meeting the Enemy' with the cooperation of the Chapelle for Europe and the European Jewish Community Centre (EJCC)

Synopsis:

"When Deeyah Khan was six, her father took her to her first anti-racism rally. A Pakistani immigrant to Norway, he promised her that things would get better and that the skinhead gangs that terrorised their family and families like them would soon find themselves relics of past prejudices that bigotry belonged in history, that tomorrow would be a more tolerant time.

Following the lauded jihad – in which she spoke to radicalised British Muslims who had fought in the name of jihad on the battlefields of Afghanistan, Iraq, Bosnia and Chechnya and now found themselves full of regret – Deeyah joins the frontline of the race wars in America. She sits face-to-face with Fascists, racists and the proponents of the "alt-right" ideologies. Deeyah's need to find the deeper human causes of horrific social forces opens a different possibility for connection and solutions. Rather than dismiss these men as monsters, she is determined to discover the men behind the masks."

> Meeting with the NGO 'Open Doors' on 'The Situation of Christian Communities Worldwide: The Christian Persecution World Watch List 2019'

The Director of Open Doors Michael Varton presented the 2019 annual report.

> Conference 'The Next Day in Syria,' in collaboration with COMECE, CEC and CROCEU

Christian Churches are concerned about the fate of the Syrian people and their future, and share a common understanding that the right to return to daily life should be made effective without further delay.

Overall attention should be paid, not only to short term-goals, but also to expand into long term-goals, including the reconstruction of the country (infrastructure, healthcare, education services and economic life) and ensuring a safe, attractive and viable environment for returnees. In order to achieve this, stakeholders need to come up with practical solutions.

The event was held, for the first time, in cooperation with the three most relevant and Brussels-based organisations of the Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant Churches: the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the EU (COMECE); the Committee of the Representatives of Orthodox Churches to the European Union (CROCEU); and the Conference of European Churches (CEC).

The aim of this seminar was to exchange views about the current situation of people in Syria and to reflect on possible solutions (including legal ones) to promote the future normalisation of their lives. As, for a variety of reasons, humanitarian aid provided to Syria does not always reach all intended targets, one of the major points of interest was to find the best way to fairly distribute resources to aid the Syrian people.

> **Working Group Meeting on 'Legislative Work Opportunities: 'Dreams and Realities'**

Exchange of views with José-Luis Bazán, Legal Advisor of COMECE.

> **Working Group Meeting on 'Philosophy, Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue': Presentation and exchange of views with MEP and philosopher François Xavier Bellamy**

> **Presentations by Christian University Students from the Middle East, Asia and Africa**

In 2017, the Government of Hungary launched the special programme 'Scholarship for Christian Young People' to provide university scholarships for young people from Christian families from all over the world, in order to facilitate their access to high-quality university education. The programme provides university studies with full board in Hungary. Christian university students are enabled to use their European-level knowledge to help rebuild their countries, which have been ravaged by civil war or genocide - including Syria and Iraq. The scholarship's most important goal is to enable Christians who are persecuted or suffer discrimination to remain in the land of their birth.

> **Meeting with Media Representatives**

> **'Remembering 30 Years of Religious Freedom in Central and Eastern Europe'**

Discussions focused on the role of the Church and religious freedom in Central Europe 30 years ago in comparison to today, and challenges in this regard.

> **Working Group Meeting with Rev. Barrios Prieto, appointed new Secretary-General of COMECE**

Meetings with High-level Religious and Political Leaders and Academic Experts

- > **Meeting with Gabriela Frey, Representative to the EU and Council of Europe of the European Buddhist Union (EBU)**
- > **Meeting with Mgr. Paolo Rudelli, Special Envoy and Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the Council of Europe**

This marked a follow-up to the visit by a selection of EPP Group MEPs to Rome in December 2018. An exchange of views was held on the Abu-Dhabi Declaration - signed on 4 February - by H.H. Pope Francis and the Grand Imam of al-Azhar

- > **Meeting with Ambassador Irakli Giviashvili, Permanent Representative of Georgia to the Council of Europe as a follow-up to the June 2018 visit in Tbilisi**
- > **Meeting with His Holiness Pope Tawadros II, Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the Coptic Orthodox Church**

An exchange of views was held on the situation of Coptic Christians in Egypt.

- > **Seminar on 'The Role of Churches and Religious Communities in the Process of Peace-building and Conflict Prevention' with representatives of the Georgian Orthodox Church and other religious communities from Georgia**

A high-level religious Delegation from Georgia with representatives from the Georgian Orthodox Church, the Muslim Community (Shia and Sunni), the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church and the Jewish Community exchanged views in the seminar with MEPs. Issues deliberated upon included:

- The Role of Religion in Politics and Society
- The Occupation (annexation) of 20% of Georgian Territory by Russia
- The Creeping Process of 'Borderisation'
- The Ban on Visiting Family Graves in South Ossetia and Abkhazia
- The Autocephaly of the Ukrainian Church, LGBT Rights, Child Marriages and Mixed Marriages

It was the first time ever that such a delegation composed of all major Churches and religious communities came together in Brussels.

Visits

> **Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina 'On the way of Reconciliation and Life in a Multi-ethnic Society'**

Mostar, Medjugorje (Bosnia-Herzegovina)

A six-strong MEP Delegation visited Bosnia and Herzegovina from 28-31 March.

Bosnia-Herzegovina with its ethnic differences and complex political arrangements more than 20 years after the war has recently been the focus of the EU, both in terms of possible future enlargement and as regards fostering peace and stability in the region.

Since the Dayton Agreement of 1992, and proclamation of independence, the country is divided and faces ethnic, political and other problems. With its ethnic diversity affecting the political system, the country is unique in the Western Balkans but also in the larger scale. These current political crises relate to the rule of law (electoral law) and do not contribute to the stabilisation of the country, nor its aspiration to join the EU. The process of reconciliation is important for finding a common ground for political stability, ethnic understanding and diversity, as well as economic development.

The aim of this visit was to try to facilitate intercultural and religious dialogue, and also reach a solution to the Election Law, which has been debated by political parties from competing nationalities for many years.

The delegation held separate meetings with high-level religious Catholic, Orthodox, Muslim and Jewish representatives in order to better understand the complexity of the situation and to exchange views on possible future prospects. The meetings with civil society, members from academia and NGOs focused on the everyday life of citizens, their needs and possible solutions for the current situation, and future opportunities.

The delegation visited the pilgrimage site of Medjugorje and held an exchange of views with Archbishop Mgr Hoser, the Pope's Apostolic Visitor to this place of high spirituality.

> **XIX International Krakow Conference 'Challenges for a New Europe'**

'Challenges for a New Europe' was the theme of the XIX International Conference on 'The Role of the Catholic Church in the Process of European Integration,' held on 11-12 October in Krakow, Poland.

The event was organised by the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow; the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Poland; and the Robert Schuman Foundation in Luxembourg. Additional organisational support was provided by the EPP Group; the Polish Delegation of the EPP Group in the EP; the European People's Party (Christian Democrats); the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union (COMECE); and the Publishing House 'Wokół nas' in Gliwice.

Discussions and debates were fruitful and covered religious freedom, Brexit and populism, amongst other subjects. A mix of EU and national politicians, Church leaders, experts and academics addressed the large public. These included Card. Stanisław Dziwisz, Honorary Chairman of the Organising Committee; Prof. Grzegorz Ryś, Metropolitan of Łódź; Rev. Manuel Barrios Prieto, Secretary-General of COMECE; Jan Tombiński, EU Ambassador to the Holy See and a number of EPP Group MEPs.

Participants expressed their hope that the European project has a future in spite of all its problems. Therefore, interactions between politicians and Church representatives are essential to master the challenges collectively through more cooperation and coherent actions.

XX11 Annual EPP Group Intercultural Dialogue with Churches and Religious Institutions

The EPP Group held its annual **Intercultural Dialogue with Churches and Religious Institutions** on 12 December in the Lebanese Maronite monastery in Saint Charbel, Belgium.

The international conference was dedicated to an historical milestone declaration that occurred in 2019. The *Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together* is a joint statement signed by Pope Francis of the Catholic Church and Sheikh Ahmed el-Tayeb, Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, on 4 February 2019 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. It was born of a fraternal open discussion between Francis and Tayeb, and it is meant to be a guide on advancing a 'culture of mutual respect.' It recognises the dignity of all human beings and affirms that good relations between different cultures are necessary to protect the religious and civil rights of citizens.

The EPP Group noted that religions must undertake joint efforts to represent universal values. As the common declaration underlines, similarities exist, despite differences between the two religious traditions. One major shared value is "the family as a community of man and woman and the child as a member of this community."

MEPs had the unique opportunity to exchange views with experts and high-ranking religious representatives and reflect on how interreligious relations between Christians, Muslims and Jews have changed in the 21st century and how they could evolve in the European Union.

Guest keynote speakers included Cardinal Miguel Ángel Ayuso Guixot, President of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, and Omar Ghobash, Assistant Minister for Cultural Affairs at the United Arab Emirates Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.



06

Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments

The **Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments** advises the EPP Group and its MEPs on institutional cooperation and legislative dialogue with national Parliaments, and is responsible for facilitating and developing dialogue with sister parliamentary groups and EPP Group MEPs. The EPP Group, over the course of 2019, facilitated this process by tailoring the programmes of its usual annual activities to focus on the subject matters closest to the hearts and minds of EU citizens and their elected representatives.

EPP Group Study Days Event: Bridging the Gap: Cooperation between the European Parliament and national Parliaments, 11 June 2019, San Sebastian, Spain

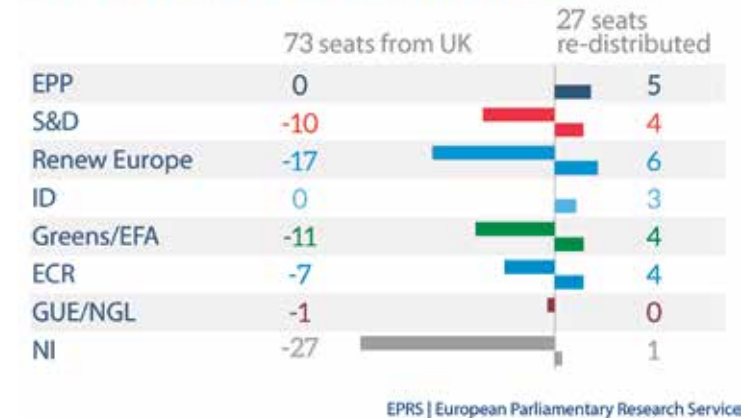
This event covered two central topics:

- EU Political Challenges for 2019-2024
- The Future Relationship between the European Union and the United Kingdom

Following the European elections, this meeting offered an excellent opportunity to bring together members of national Parliaments with MEPs for a frank and open discussion on how to enhance cooperation and maintain the EPP Group's voice in shaping the European agenda during the new legislature. It also served as an exchange of views on the perceptions and plans within each Member State with respect to **Brexit**. The EPP Group emphasised the importance of regular meetings between national Parliaments and the European Parliament (EP). The main takeaways from the European elections, it was noted, were fragmentation and polarisation. The focal point for the EPP Party going forward is the Spitzenkandidaten process. Keynote speaker, Joseph Daul, President of the EPP Party, reiterated the importance of the Spitzenkandidaten process and the EPP Party's role in it. Martin Heydon, TD, Chairman of Fine Gael Parliamentary Party, reminded all present that a close relationship between the EU and the UK is in everyone's interest and the future partnership as well as trade and economic cooperation should be deeper and more ambitious than with any other third country. Jürgen Hardt, Foreign Policy Spokesperson of the CDU/CSU Parliamentary Group, Germany, stressed that during the electoral campaign the EPP Group did not manage to reach young voters on subjects like copyright and climate policy and more work in this direction should be done in the future.

Brexit: Redistribution of Seats in the European Parliament

Seats vacant and re-distributed after Brexit



Source: European Parliamentary Research Service

Meeting of the European Affairs Network, 11 November 2019

The programme of the **European Affairs Network** featured debates on:

- The Future of Europe: State of Play of Negotiations with the United Kingdom
- The Future Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) - 2021-2027

The EPP Group opened the discussion by stating that it must strengthen its position and cooperate with the other Political Groups if it is to overcome the many challenges ahead. The importance of creating a vision for the next five years was reiterated, as was the upcoming **Conference on the Future of Europe** as a means to connect with EU citizens.

On the UK, the financial and legal implications that Brexit will have were discussed. So too were the issues with regards to Ireland and the protection of citizen rights, as well as the need to prepare for future complications related to employment and the circulation of products that are not up to European safety standards.

On the MFF, it was noted that the budget needs to be modernised to better correspond with new challenges. To this end, Europe needs to maintain its level of ambition. This requires an increase of at least 1%. It was pointed out that the budget must not be reduced at the expense of traditional policy areas, such as the CAP.

The EPP Group focused on the methodology in order to achieve the agreement for the next MFF and the important role that the EP plays in these negotiations. It was noted that it is unnecessary to distinguish between net contributors and net receivers. The EU was moreover defended on its administrative spending.

Participants in Future of Europe Debates in the European Parliament (2018-2019)



Following the UK's decision to withdraw from the EU, the President of the EP, Antonio Tajani, announced his intention to host a series of Future of Europe debates during Plenary sessions over the year and a half leading to the May 2019 European elections. He would invite Heads of State or Government and other leading European figures to express their vision in a democratic and open forum, starting early 2018. This process was unprecedented in Parliament's institutional life and came at a moment where all contributions and ideas were valuable to restore stability and clarity to the European project.

The Future of Europe debates hosted the majority of EU Heads of State or Government. Some 20 Heads of State or Government accepted the invitation and gave their views in speeches, followed by a debate with Members during Parliament Plenary sessions. Initially intended to run for the year 2018, the debates continued until the last Plenary session in April 2019. They offered a precious opportunity to reflect on the future of the EU and to raise awareness of citizens and politicians alike.

Source: European Parliamentary Research Service

30th Summit of Chairmen of EPP Parliamentary Groups in the national Parliaments of the EU and the European Parliament, 9 December 2019, Brussels

The 30th Summit covered two subjects:

- New Challenges for the von der Leyen Commission
- New President of the EPP Party, Donald Tusk, on Future Priorities

The key speaker, President of the Commission Ursula von der Leyen, said that the three major priorities of her new mandate are the European Green Deal, Digitalisation and the European Union as a Geopolitical Union. She mentioned the importance of reducing CO2 emissions, improved data sharing and better cooperation with EU neighbours.

Guest Speaker and newly elected President of the EPP Party, Donald Tusk, spoke about the importance of maintaining the rule of law. He touched on the current problems in Western countries and the EU's duty to continue supporting Ukraine and pursue accession negotiations with North Macedonia and Albania. European leaders should also work towards protecting Transatlantic ties. The EPP Group expressed the need to create stronger links with national Parliaments and religious organisation in the context of the Conference on the Future of Europe.

Vice-President of the Commission responsible for Promoting our European way of Life, Margaritis Schinas, highlighted the need to work on a European Migration Management plan to efficiently identify who is eligible for asylum protection. Vice-President of the Commission responsible for Democracy and Demography, Dubravka Šuica, said that the Green Deal and the Conference on the Future of Europe are opportunities to show citizens that their views are being taken into account to improve their lives through practical and tangible solutions. European Commissioner responsible for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, Mariya Gabriel, will focus on the opportunities and challenges in the area of innovation and research, combined with education, culture and sport, it was noted.

Deputy Chair of the CDU/CSU Parliamentary Group, Katja Leikert, spoke on the need for a real progressive EU Budget with regards to the MFF. Vice-Chair of the Parliamentary Group of the National Liberal Party in Romania, Victor-Paul Dobre, highlighted the importance of working on issues related to agriculture and education and correcting disparities and inequalities within the European Union. It was added that a European approach on defence should be developed - such as the creation of a European army. The EPP Group Young Members Network (YMN) reported on the success of its Annual Meeting in Zagreb, and the Young MP Erasmus Program.

EPP Young Members Network (YMN)

The EPP Group Young Members Network (YMN) consists of members of national Parliaments coming from the EPP political family and EPP Group MEPs, up to the age of forty at the time of their election. Currently, over 350 members from national Parliaments and 27 MEPs from the EPP Group are part of this network.

EPP Group Young MP Erasmus Programme

The Young MP Erasmus is a one-week exchange programme for young MPs from EU Member States - from the EPP political family - whereby MPs gain an insider view of how policy-making in the EP and the EPP Group works. In 2019, five MPs from five EU Member States (DE, GR, FI, ES, SE) took part in the programme, which will continue in 2020.

EPP Group Young Members Network Meets EPP Group Chairman, Manfred Weber

On 19 June, EPP Group Chairman Manfred Weber met the newly elected young MEPs from the YMN. At their first meeting of the 9th legislature, the 27 MEPs of the YMN were encouraged by Manfred Weber to identify the subjects they want to see debated within the EPP Group over the current mandate of the EP. The Chairman said that the EP is the place where an individual MEP can change a lot, and this applies especially to the young Members.

EPP Group Young Members Network Meets Michel Barnier

The YMN met with Brexit Chief Negotiator Michel Barnier on 23 October 2019 in Brussels to discuss the many consequences of the UK's exit from the EU. The meeting took place following the decision to establish a 'Task Force for Relations with the United Kingdom.'

Age of all MEPs by Member State



The average age of MEPs is 50 years old; national averages vary between 44 and 60. The youngest MEP is from Denmark (21 years old) and the oldest from Italy (82 years old).

Data source: Members' Administrations Unit | EPRS | European Parliamentary Research Service

Source: European Parliamentary Research Service

12th Annual Meeting of the EPP Young Members Network – ‘Is the EU Ready to Face 2030 Challenges,’ 19 November, Zagreb

The 12th Annual Meeting of the YMN took an in-depth look at the many challenges facing the EU as the UK prepares to leave the EU and as a new Commission and EP take up their mandates. The keynote speaker, Andrej Plenković, Prime Minister of Croatia, contributed to the debate, outlining the priorities of the Croatia Presidency. Other high-level speakers included: Commissioner Dubravka Šuica, Vice-President designate for Democracy and Demography; Margaritis Schinas, Vice-President designate for Promoting the European Way of Life; Johannes Hahn, Commissioner-designate for Budget and Administration; Jyrki Katainen; Vice-President and Commissioner for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness; and Marko Pavić, Minister for Regional Development and EU Funds, Croatian Government.

During the second day, an EPP Congress side-event entitled ‘Three Ideas for Europe’ was organised with Krišjānis Kariņš, Prime Minister of Latvia; Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic; and Alexander Stubb, Vice-President of the European Investment Bank.

2019 European Parliamentary Week, 18-19 February, Brussels

The European Parliamentary Week (EPW) 2019 consisted of, as in previous years, two conferences, namely the European Semester Conference and the Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union (IPC SECG). The event was co-hosted by the EP and the Romanian Parliament. Guest speakers included, Valdis Dombrovskis; Marianne Thyssen; and Günther Oettinger as well as other high-level speakers such as President of the Eurogroup, Mário Centeno; Vice-President of the ECB Luis de Guindos; and President of the EIB, Werner Hoyer. On Tuesday, at the end of the ‘Euro@20’ session, EP President Antonio Tajani delivered the key address.

Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC)

The meeting of the Chairpersons of the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs (COSAC) took place in Bucharest on 20 and 21 January and served to open a series of events in the context of the Romanian Presidency. During the panel on ‘Increasing Cohesion and Ensuring Convergence through the Multiannual Financial Framework Instruments,’ a number of speakers gave their views on the forthcoming MFF, the financing of the Cohesion Policy and its role to enhance convergence at EU level.

LXI COSAC Meeting (23-25 June)

The LXI COSAC took place in Bucharest. The main points on the agenda were the achievements of the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union; prospects for EU international trade relations; and the future of relations between the European Union and the UK in the context of Brexit. Other sessions covered European education as a driving factor for reshaping and strengthening the Single Market; an economy based on innovation and technological progress; and the role of national Parliaments in fostering the 'New Economy' of the EU.

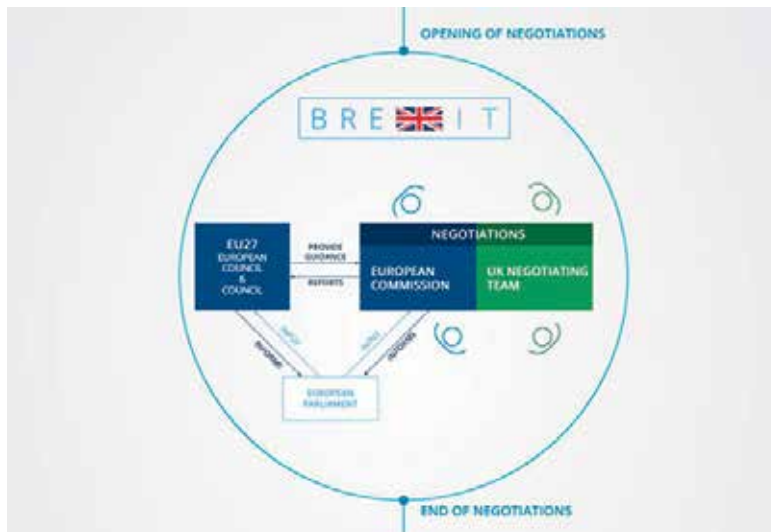
Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC)

The Finnish Presidency hosted a meeting of the Chairpersons of COSAC in July to reflect upon the Presidency's priorities and the MFF.

LXII COSAC Meeting (1-3 December)

The LXII COSAC took place in Helsinki. Three topics were discussed; a climate strategy for Europe; **UK-EU Relations** - with an intervention from Brexit Chief Negotiator Michel Barnier, who argued for a fair and balanced deal with the UK; and promoting the rule of law and fundamental rights. The EPP Group highlighted the importance for parliamentary cooperation to prepare for the challenges ahead.

EU-UK Relationship



Source: European Commission



07

Directorate for Press and Communications

The **Directorate for Press and Communications** ensures the dissemination to the media and the general public of EPP Group political priorities using the most advanced communication techniques.

The Directorate includes a team of press officers and press assistants who communicate in the 24 official languages of the EU, an Internet and Social Media Unit, EPP TV and a Publications Unit.

The Directorate for Press and Communications also manages several programmes aimed to help MEP communications, such as the 'Meet your MEP' Programme, Media Training and Social Media support, Newsletters and activity report publications and communication projects for National Delegations.

In demonstrating the work of the Directorate for Press and Communications, the following provides an example of an EPP Group joint communication campaign and presents an overview of the work carried out by the Units of the Directorate in 2019.

Browse the latest news - your daily go-to for learning on EPP Group news and activities as well as reaction to and comment on news and events both inside and outside the European Parliament (EP):

<https://www.eppgroup.eu/newsroom>

EPP Group Joint Communication Campaign 2019

The EPP Group: Working for an Ambitious Europe



In 2019, the EPP Group continued promoting its **#AmbitiousEurope** campaign (launched in 2018) to outline how Europe needs to be more ambitious in shaping better opportunities for every European.

For the 2019 Parliamentary elections, under the **#AmbitiousEurope** campaign, the EPP Group successfully communicated across all media channels its achievements in the 8th legislative term. To this end, the EPP Group worked hard to make a better Europe: in securing EU borders, boosting job creation, slashing roaming fees, protecting citizens' data, promoting innovation, farming, fair trade, battling climate change, to name but some policy priorities.

#AmbitiousEurope EPP Group Achievements:

<https://www.eppgroup.eu/what-we-stand-for/campaigns/eu-elections-2019/achievements>

The **#AmbitiousEurope** campaign also communicated EPP Group commitments for the forthcoming legislative term. A joint media campaign actively alerted and engaged citizens, fostering interest and involvement in the most pertinent issues facing Europe in the future.

#AmbitiousEurope EPP Group Commitments:

<https://www.eppgroup.eu/what-we-stand-for/campaigns/eu-elections-2019/commitments>

Successfully communicated across all channels the EPP Group **#AmbitiousEurope** umbrella campaign demonstrated how the EPP Group is committed to deliver a protected, proud, confident, and future-oriented Europe.

For more information, follow the EPP Group on its website:

<https://www.eppgroup.eu/>

Follow the #AmbitiousEurope campaign:

<https://www.eppgroup.eu/what-we-stand-for/campaigns/ambitious-europe>

EPP Group Internet and Social Media Unit

Social Media

Social Media plays an essential role in delivering EPP Group priorities and political activities in an accessible way to its European citizens. In 2019, the EPP Group improved its communications strategy by mixing various styles, content and format across different platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube and LinkedIn to speak to a wider audience.

In 2019, the EPP Group led several successful Social Media campaigns. The most notable included:

- #AmbitiousEurope campaign (In the context of the 2019 Parliamentary elections)
- #DiscoverEU Campaign
- #Internationalwomensday campaign
- #EPHearings2019

How the EPP Group covered the 2019 Commissioners-designate Hearings

Before the European Parliament voted the new European Commission into office, Parliamentary Committees assessed the suitability of the Commissioners-designate.

The EPP Group attached great importance to the Hearings as selecting a suitable College of Commissioners is paramount to ensuring that Europe is able to deliver in the interests of European citizens over the next five years.

To this end, the Directorate for Press and Communications was particularly active in reporting live on the Hearings. Live tweeting and live short videos with EPP Group MEPs published on Twitter massively increased the profile of the EPP Group on Social Media. It furthermore increased engagement with both EPP Group Twitter followers, journalists and media outlets, directly highlighting EPP Group key reactions and analysis.



Follow the EPP Group on **Facebook** at:
<https://www.facebook.com/EPPGroup>



Follow the EPP Group on **Twitter** at:
<https://twitter.com/EPPGroup>



Follow the EPP Group on **Instagram** at:
<https://www.instagram.com/eppgroup>



Follow the EPP Group on **LinkedIn** at:
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/epp-group-in-the-european-parliament/>

How the EP Votes the European Commission into Office



Source: European Parliamentary Research Service

EPP TV



EPP TV continued to produce high-quality, professional videos documenting EPP Group activity. More than 100 videos detailing news and events - as well as 30 videos for different MEPs - were filmed during the year. Statements were also filmed at the request of the EPP Group Chairman.

In 2019, EPP TV produced 14 'Success Story' videos published during the 'European Elections Information Campaign.' These were shared via Social Media, the EPP Group website and the professional Newsmarket platform.

EPP TV also produced interviews for Social Media campaigns, such as 'MEPs meet MEPs.' At the end of 2019, EPP TV started filming interviews as part of the #EUCanBeatCancer campaign.

Follow EPP TV at: <https://www.eppgroup.eu/newsroom/videos>

Access EPP Group videos from The Newsmarket:
<http://epp.synapticdigital.com>

EPP Group 'Meet your MEP Programme' (MYMEP)

Launched and managed by the EPP Group Directorate for Press and Communications, the 'Meet your MEP Programme' showcases the daily work and activities of EPP Group MEPs. It allows EPP Group MEPs to invite regional journalists, young people, people with disabilities and staffers of EPP sister parties in the national Parliaments to see them at work. Since its inception in 2010, the programme has accommodated more than 20,000 visitors in Brussels and Strasbourg.

Information and Promotional Material

Responding to the ever-increasing numbers coming to meet EPP Group MEPs in Brussels and Strasbourg involves ensuring that all visitors receive leaflets, brochures and supplementary material to inform and help them understand the day-to-day activities of the EPP Group. The quality and origin of the material distributed is of utmost importance: as a principle, the EPP Group uses renewable material and European production for its promotional material. At present, over 85% of the items the EPP Group distributes are sourced in Europe. Detailed certification that all material complies with employment and environmental directives is required from suppliers.

Europe Day

Europe Day held on 9 May every year celebrates peace and unity in Europe. The date marks the anniversary of the historical ‘Schuman Declaration.’ At a speech in Paris in 1950, Robert Schuman, the then French Foreign Minister, set out his idea for a new form of political cooperation in Europe, which would make war between Europe’s nations unthinkable.

His vision was to create a European Institution that would pool and manage coal and steel production. A treaty creating such a body was signed just under a year later. Schuman’s proposal is considered to be the beginning of what is now the European Union.

Europe Day - EP Open Days

To Celebrate Europe Day 2019, the European Institutions opened its doors in Brussels on 4 May, in Luxembourg on 9 May and in Strasbourg on 19 May. Local EU offices in Europe and all over the world also organised a variety of activities and events for all ages.

In Brussels and Strasbourg, the theme centred on ‘Our Future’ in relation to the 2019 European elections.

In the EP, the EPP Group treated visitors to exhibitions, information and interactive stands as well as informal debates with MEPs so that citizens had the opportunity to discover how the work of the EPP Group in the EP directly impacts on their daily lives.



EPP Group Publications Unit

In 2019, the Publications Unit produced, coordinated and distributed a large print and online publishing catalogue to bring EPP Group policies and activities closer to European citizens and targeted professional circles.

Where can you find EPP Group publications?

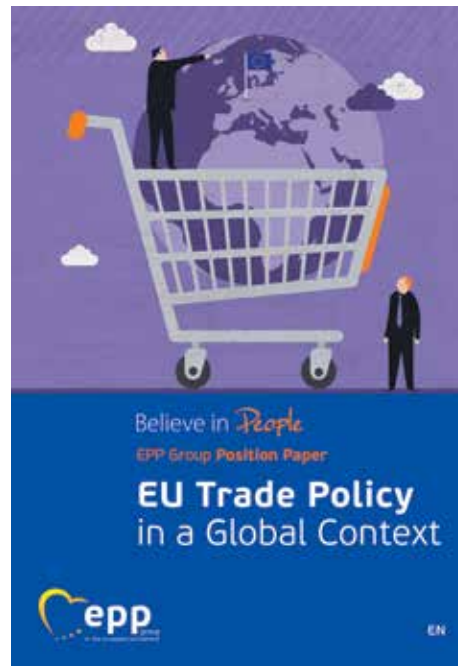
View and download all publications on the EPP Group website: www.eppgroup.eu/publications

View and download a selection of interactive eBook publications from the EPP Group shelf on the Issuu digital publishing platform: <https://issuu.com/eppgroup>

The EPP Group presence on the Issuu publishing platform, managed by the Publications Unit, continued to grow in 2019. By December, 320 interactive publications had received almost 495.000 Impressions.

EPP Group publications are integrated with the EPP Group Social Media channels. Relevant Facebook and Twitter posts are frequently supported by publications, as are EPP Group Press Releases.

A selection of EPP Group publications published in 2019



EPP Group Position Paper on International Trade



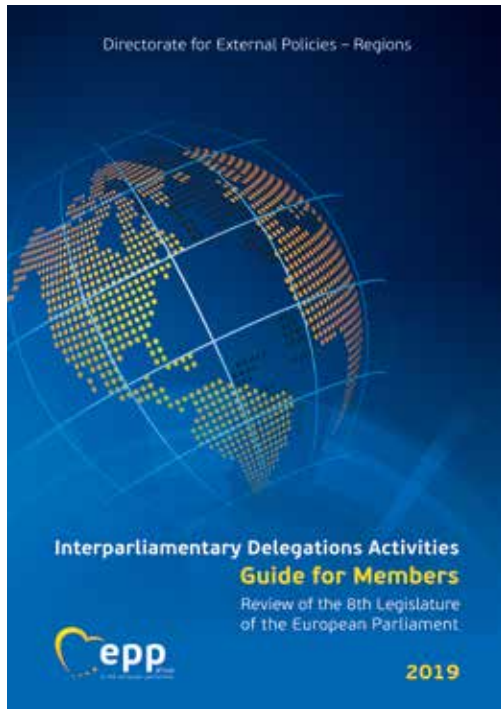
EPP Group Position Paper on Cancer



EPP Group on EU Gender Equality Policy



EPP Group Achievements 2014-2019



**EPP Group Interparliamentary Delegations
Activities - Guide for Members**



Alcide De Gasperi - Christian, Democrat, European

08 The European People's Party (EPP)



Overview

The European People's Party (EPP) is the political family of the Centre-right, whose roots run deep in the history and civilisation of the European continent, and which has pioneered the European project from its inception. Tracing back its roots to Europe's Founding Fathers – **Robert Schuman, Alcide De Gasperi**, and **Konrad Adenauer** – the EPP is committed to a strong Europe that relies on the principle of Subsidiarity.

Founded in 1976, the EPP is a party of values, based on the Christian view of mankind and the Christian Democratic concept of society. The EPP strives for a democratic, transparent and efficient Europe that is close to its citizens. Through the promotion of the Social Market Economy, the EPP aspires to achieve a prosperous Europe. The EPP is the largest political Party in Europe, currently with 84 Member Parties and Partners from 43 countries, 12 Heads of State and Government (9 EU and 3 non-EU), the European Commission President, 9 European Commissioners, and the largest Group in the European Parliament (EP) - with 182 MEPs.

Structure

The European People's Party is horizontally engaged with all the main EU Institutions including the European Council, Council of the EU, European Commission and the EP. In addition to the EP, the EPP has Groups in the Committee of the Regions, in the Parliamentary Assemblies of the Council of Europe, the OSCE, NATO and EuroNest. Internally, the EPP has three levels of decision making: the Presidency, Political Assembly and Congress.

Presidency

The EPP is led by the Presidency, an executive body. It decides on the general political guidelines of the Party and presides over the Political Assembly. The Presidency is composed of:

- (i) The President of the EPP
- (ii) The President of the European Commission, the President of the European Council, the High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy and the President of the EP (if these persons are affiliated with the EPP)
- (iii) The Chairman of the EPP Group in the European Parliament
- (iv) The Honorary President(s)
- (v) Ten Vice-Presidents
- (vi) The Treasurer
- (vii) The Secretary-General

The composition of the EPP Presidency as of 1 December 2019 is as follows:

President

Donald TUSK

Poland (Platforma Obywatelska – PO)

Vice-Presidents (alphabetical order by surname)

Mariya GABRIEL

Bulgaria (GERB)

Treasurer

Christian SCHMIDT

Germany (CSU)

Secretary-General

Antonio LÓPEZ-ISTÚRIZ

Spain (PP)

Johannes HAHN

Austria (ÖVP)

Honorary President

Sauli NIINISTÖ

Finland (Kokoomus)

Ex Officio Vice-Presidents

Ursula von der LEYEN

Germany (CDU)

David McALLISTER

Germany (CDU)

Helen McENTEE

Ireland (Fine Gael)

Manfred WEBER

Germany (CSU)

Siegfried MUREȘAN

Romania (PNL)

Petteri ORPO

Finland (Kokoomus)

Franck PROUST

France (Les Républicains)

Paulo RANGEL

Portugal (PSD)

Antonio TAJANI

Italy (Forza Italia)



Political Assembly

The Political Assembly defines the positions of the Party between each Congress, decides on membership applications and finalises political guidelines. The Political Assembly also decides on the budget and safeguards the political presence of the EPP between Congress meetings. The Political Assembly is composed of designated delegates from EPP Member and Associate Member Parties, Member Associations and Groups, and guests of Observer Member Parties. The number of delegates for each party is linked to the election result in the last European election so that parties are weighted according to their strength. This allows the taking of decisions by majority. The Political Assembly meets at least four times per year and defines the mandate of the Working Groups, which prepare the Party's policy documents and recommendations.

Congress

The Congress is the highest decision-making body of the Party. It is composed of delegates from EPP Member and Associate Member Parties, Member Associations and Parliamentary Groups, as well as representatives from observer Member Parties. The EPP Congress meets statutorily once every three years and elects the EPP Presidency. The Congress, attended by EPP Heads of State and Government and party leaders, decides on the main policy documents and electoral programmes.



EU Heads of State and Government of the EPP

(As of 1 December 2019, in alphabetical order by surname)

President

Nicos ANASTASIADES

Cyprus (DISY)

Prime Minister

Boyko BORISOV

Bulgaria (GERB)

President

Klaus IOHANNIS

Romania (PNL)

Prime Minister

Krišjānis KARIŅŠ

Latvia (Unity)

Chancellor

Angela MERKEL

Germany (CDU)

Prime Minister

Kyriakos MITSOTAKIS

Greece (ND)

Prime Minister

Viktor ORBÁN

Hungary (Fidesz)

Prime Minister

Andrej PLENKOVIĆ

Croatia (HDZ)

Taoiseach

Leo VARADKAR

Ireland (Fine Gael)

Non-EU Heads of State and Government of the EPP

(As of 1 December 2019, in alphabetical order by surname)

Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Šefik DŽAFEROVIĆ

Bosnia and Herzegovina (SDA BiH)

Prime Minister

Erna SOLBERG

Norway (Høyre)

President

Aleksandar VUČIĆ

Serbia (SNS)

The European Council

(As of 11 December 2019)



EPP Members of the European Commission

President

Ursula von der LEYEN

President of the European Commission
Germany (CDU)

Vice-Presidents

Valdis DOMBROVSKIS

An Economy that Works for People
Latvia (Unity)

Margaritas SCHINAS

Promoting a European Way of Life
Greece (ND)

Dubravka ŠUICA

Democracy & Demography
Croatia (HDZ)

European Commissioners

Mariya GABRIEL

Innovation, Research, Culture, Education & Youth
Bulgaria (GERB)

Johannes HAHN

Budget and Administration
Austria (ÖVP)

Phil HOGAN

Trade
Ireland (Fine Gael)

Stella KYRIAKIDES

Health and Food Safety
Cyprus (DISY)

Adina VĂLEAN

Transport
Romania (PNL)

Olivér VÁRHELYI

Neighbourhood and Enlargement
Hungary (Fidesz)

The European Commission

(As of 27 November 2019)



Source:
European Parliamentary
Research Service

How the European Commission is Elected

EUROPEAN COMMISSION HOW TO ELECT...

THE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Taking into account the results of the European elections, the president of the European Council consults with the EP on a possible candidate for the presidency of the Commission.



Following the consultation, the President of the European Council proposes a candidate to the European Council.



The European Council decides on its proposal for candidate by qualified majority.



Election of the Commission President by the European Parliament by a majority of its component members (at least 376)

DUTIES

- Gives political guidance to the Commission
- Calls and chairs meetings of the college of the Commissioners
- Leads the Commission's work in implementing EU policies

Source: European Parliamentary Research Service

Summits

EPP Heads of State and Government, party leaders in coalition governments and/or in opposition, the EPP Presidency and the President of the European Commission meet for EPP Summits prior to the European Council meetings. These important closed-door sessions offer EPP leaders an informal setting to seek consensus within the EPP family in an effort to develop common positions at the European Council.

Ministerial Meetings

In 2007, the EPP inaugurated a new political process with the first **EPP Foreign Affairs Ministers meeting** in order to discuss the foreign policy priorities on the EU Ministers' agenda. Following this successful model, the EPP then launched informal meetings with the EPP Ecofin Ministers in 2008, and again expanded the concept in 2010. The current list of meetings includes: Foreign Affairs, Economic and Financial Affairs, Defence, Agriculture, Environment, Energy, Justice and Home Affairs, Trade and General Affairs.

Working Groups

Working Groups are the backbone of the EPP's political work, where representatives from the EPP Member Parties develop common positions and strategies on major policy areas and submit specific recommendations to the Political Assembly for final approval.

Working Group 1: European Policy

The European Policy Working Group has the task of preparing the EPP's most vital policy papers and Congress documents on European issues.

Working Group 2: Economic and Social Policy

This Working Group is focused on responding to the current economic and financial challenges facing Europe, social and demographic issues, as well as research and development.

Working Group 3: EPP Membership

This Working Group promotes and facilitates the accession of new ordinary EPP Members, Associate, Observer Member Parties and Partner parties. When a party from an EU country is accepted into the EPP, its elected representatives automatically join the EPP Group in the EP, and all other EPP Groups and organisations.

Campaign Managers Meeting

This Committee coordinates with Member Parties to plan campaigns. The exchange of experiences in past election campaigns, as well as the long-term preparation of European issues and the campaigns for the EP elections, brings added value to the Member Parties and to the EPP.

EPP Ethics Committee

This year the EPP Ethics Committee set out a Code of Conduct for the EPP and its Members to affirm the central principles of the party and to ensure the EPP takes a clear stance against corruption and conflicts of interest on all levels.

Ad hoc Working and Expert Groups

On topics such as climate change, agriculture, migration, digital technologies or budget, the EPP organises on an ad hoc basis meetings to bring experts, academics and representatives of our Member Parties together.

Associations

Youth of the European People's Party (YEPP)

YEPP, led by President **Lidia Pereira** MEP (PT), is the EPP's official youth organisation. YEPP's members are national party-political youth organisations. The purpose of all 58 Member Organisations, as well as for YEPP, is to provide young people with a channel to influence the shaping of their societies with democratic means and Centre-right, Christian Democratic and Conservative ideas. YEPP brings together more than one million young people in 39 countries of Europe, making it the largest party-political youth organisation in Europe.



European Democrat Students (EDS)

EDS is the official students' organisation of the EPP. Founded in 1961, EDS brings together students and young political leaders from all over Europe to promote a political pro-European exchange. Led by Chairman Carlo Giacomo Angrisano Girauta, EDS has 39 Member Organisations from 33 countries, representing over a million students and youngsters.



European Seniors' Union (ESU)

Since 1995, the ESU is a growing network of seniors' associations from all over Europe. Today, it consists of 35 Member Organisations in 27 countries. Led by President **An Hermans**, the ESU is dedicated to the advancement of the rights of senior citizens and their engagement in society, and to respond to the challenges of demographic changes.

European Union of Christian Democratic Workers (EUCDW)

The EUCDW is the voice and official association of Christian Democratic workers in the EPP, with 22 Member Organisations. Led by **Elmar Brok**, EUCDW represents workers' interests in EU policy-making, promotes Christian-social principles and policies in the EPP and provides ground for training, discussion and cooperation to prepare European workers' organisations to build tomorrow's Europe.



Small and Medium Entrepreneurs of Europe (SME Europe)

SME Europe, led by **Ivan Štefanec** MEP (SK) is the EPP organisation for small and medium entrepreneurs, shaping EU policies in a SME-friendly way. As a proactive organisation within the political networks of Christian Democrats and Conservatives, SME Europe brings a new spirit and a fresh entrepreneurial wind into the political debate.



Women of the European People's Party (EPP Women)

EPP Women is an official association dedicated to the advancement of women in the European Union. The association consists of members of likeminded European parties and is led by its President, **Doris Pack**. EPP Women is composed of over 60 Member Organisations from EPP political parties which are members of the EPP in the European Union and non-EU countries. All Member Organisations are women's organisations from political parties.



Think Tanks, Foundations

Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies



Founded in 2007 as the Centre for European Studies and renamed in 2014 in honour of the late EPP President, the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies (Martens Centre) is the official think tank of the EPP. Led by President **Mikuláš Dzurinda**, the Martens Centre serves as a common European framework for national foundations and think tanks recognised by EPP Member Parties. It is governed under the revised 2007 'EU Regulation on political parties at European level and rules regarding their funding.'

The core activities of the Martens Centre are its research and study projects, which are complemented and supported by conferences, seminars, workshops and publications, many of which are executed in conjunction with its member organisations. The aim of the foundation is to contribute both to the public awareness of European citizens on the development of European integration and to help decision-makers, such as EPP Heads of State and Government and EPP party leaders, to formulate new and effective policy options.

Robert Schuman Institute

The 'Union of the Robert Schuman Institute for Developing Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe' (RSI) has been operating as the European level training centre for politicians and parties of the EPP family since 1995 in Budapest. The RSI organises international courses for youth and women leaders, newly elected politicians, staff and officials of the EPP sister and co-operating parties of the developing democracies in the region. Since the 2004 EU Enlargement, the Institute has focused mostly on eastern and south-eastern European countries. The President of RSI is **Doris Pack**.







Notes

Follow us



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