

The 2019 European Union Election



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POL 147C: French Politics

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UCDAVIS
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

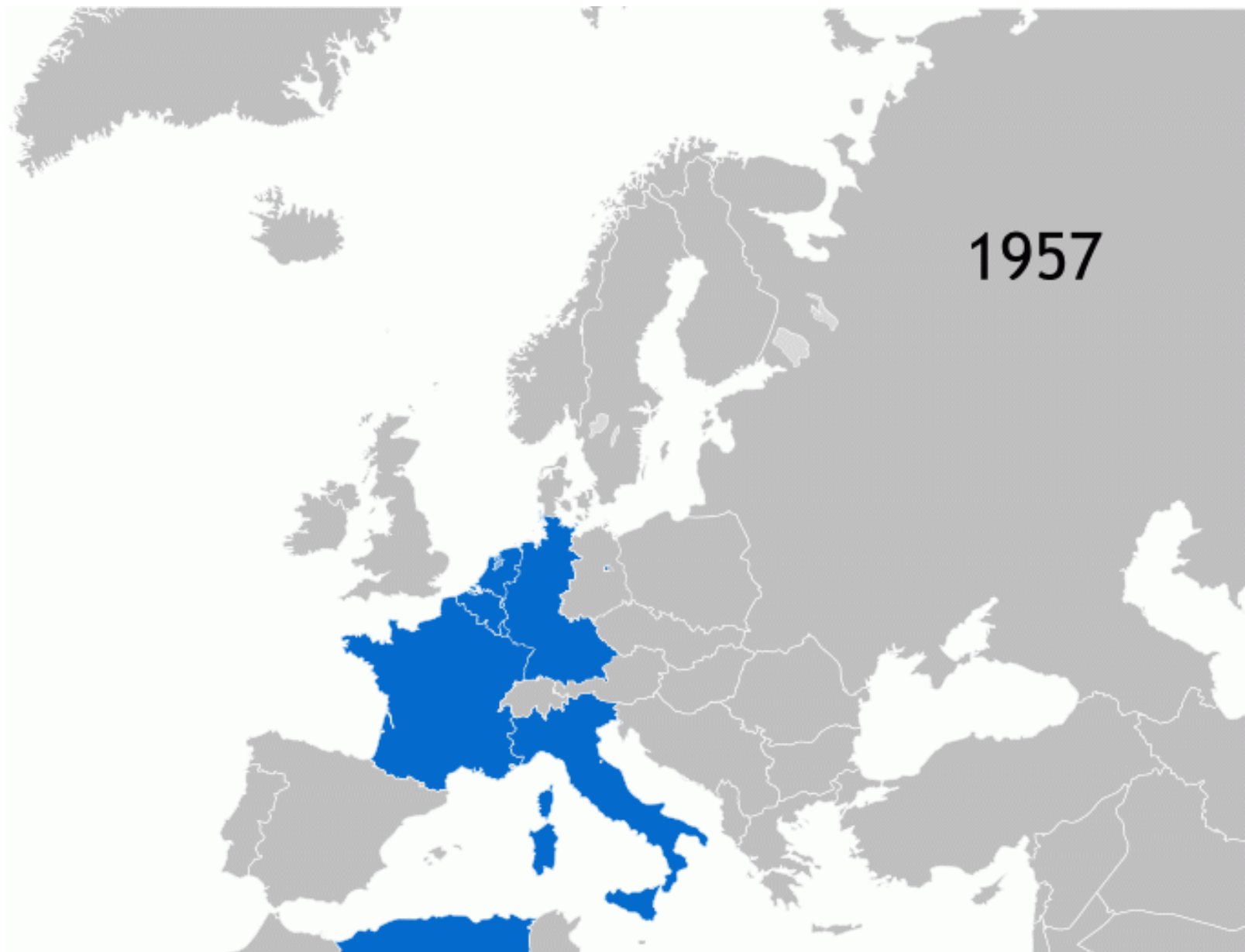
Outline

1. What is the EU?
2. EU Election Basics
3. EU Election 2019
4. The EU Election & French Politics

What is the EU?

A Little Bit of History

- Following two world wars, Europe was devastated
- The Council of Europe was founded in 1949 to unite Europe
- An early version of the EU began in 1957 with the Treaty of Rome
- Over time countries were added
- Today the EU consists of 28 member states



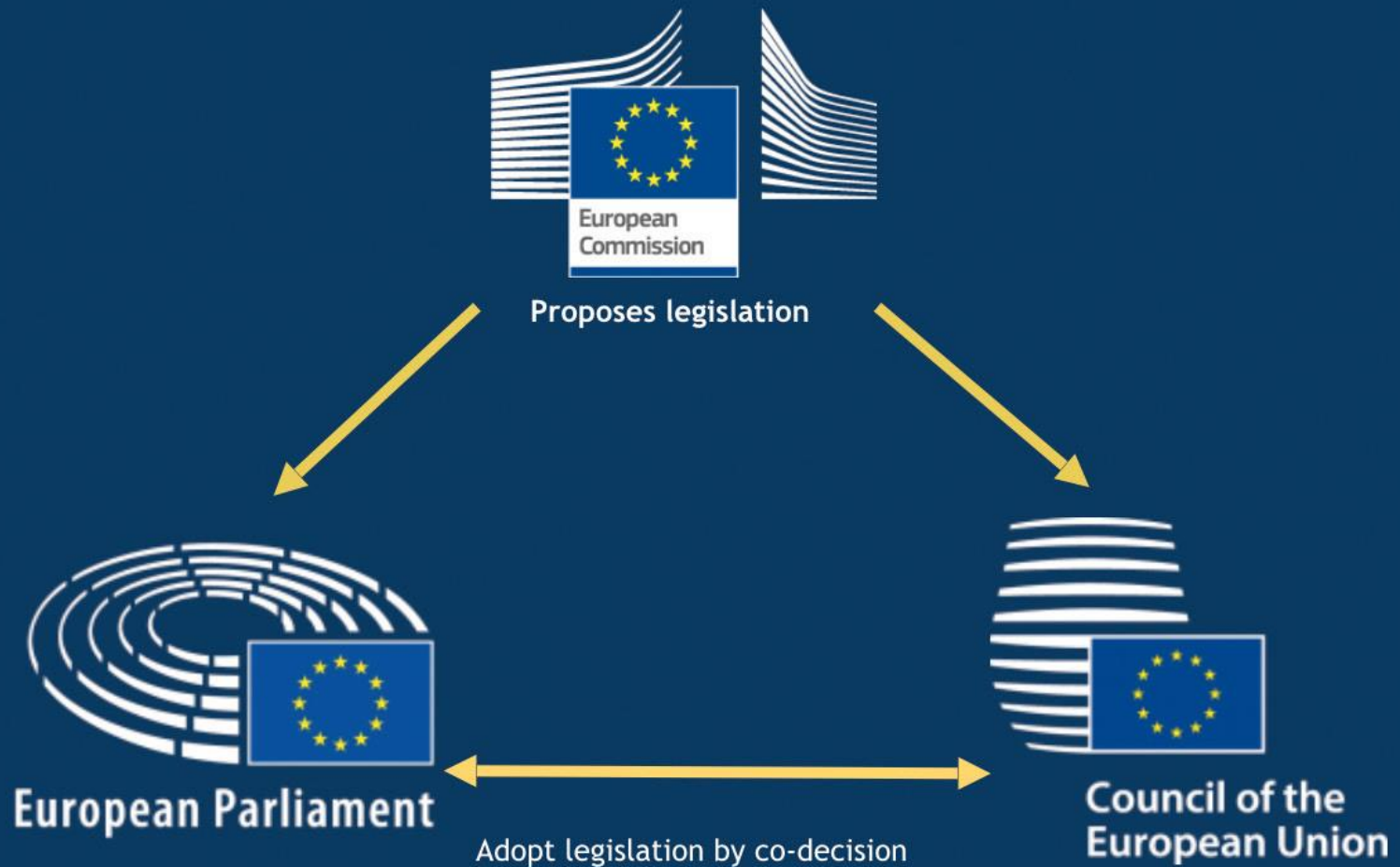
Core Elements of EU Membership

- A single internal market
- A customs union
- Freedom of movement
- United front in foreign relations
- 18/28 countries are in the Eurozone
- Preventing intra-EU military conflict

War & Peace



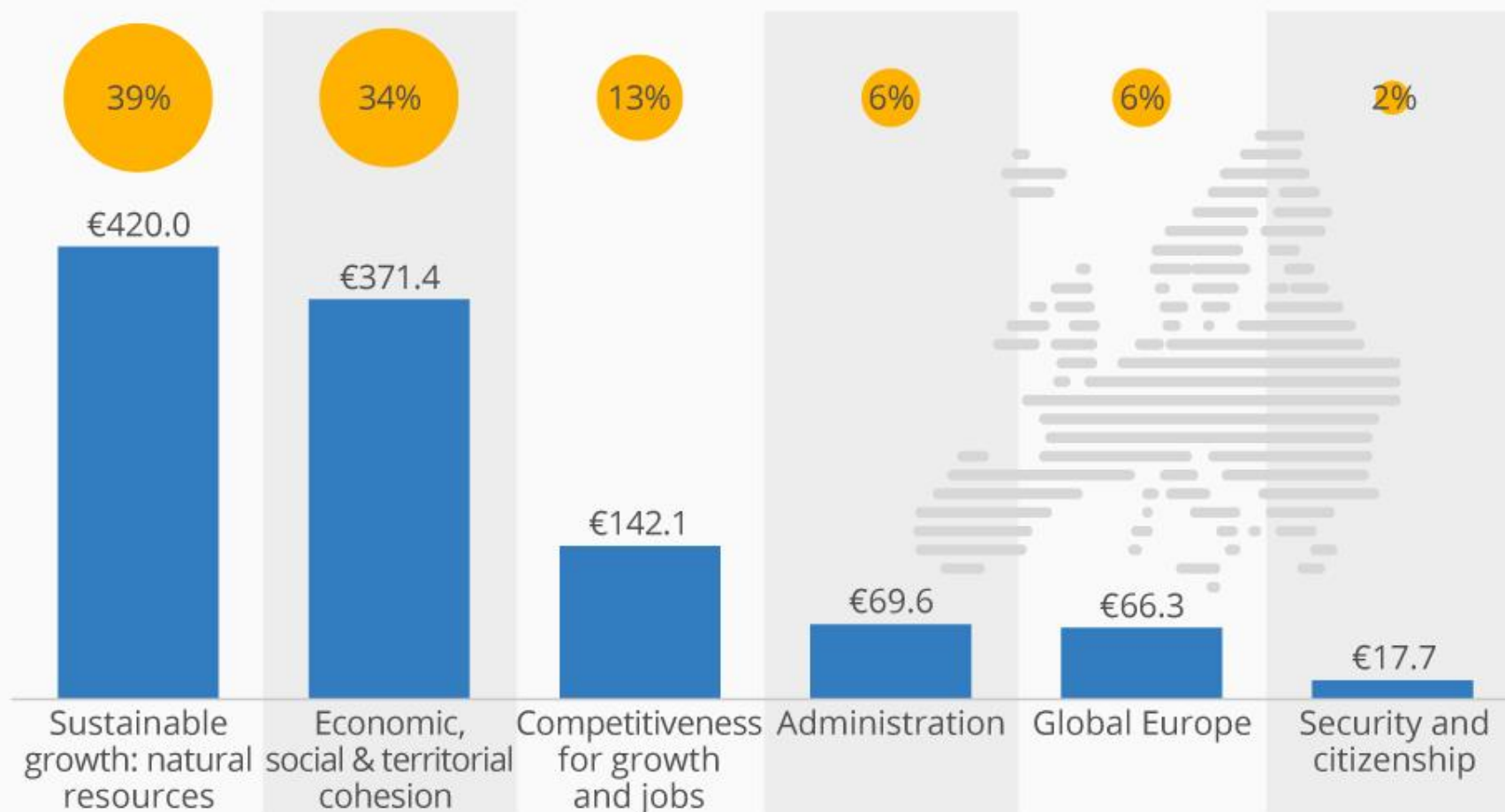
The Legislative Process





EU Budget: Where The Money Goes

Long term EU budget 2014–2020 (in billion euro and percentage)



Election Context

8 Party Groups of the EU

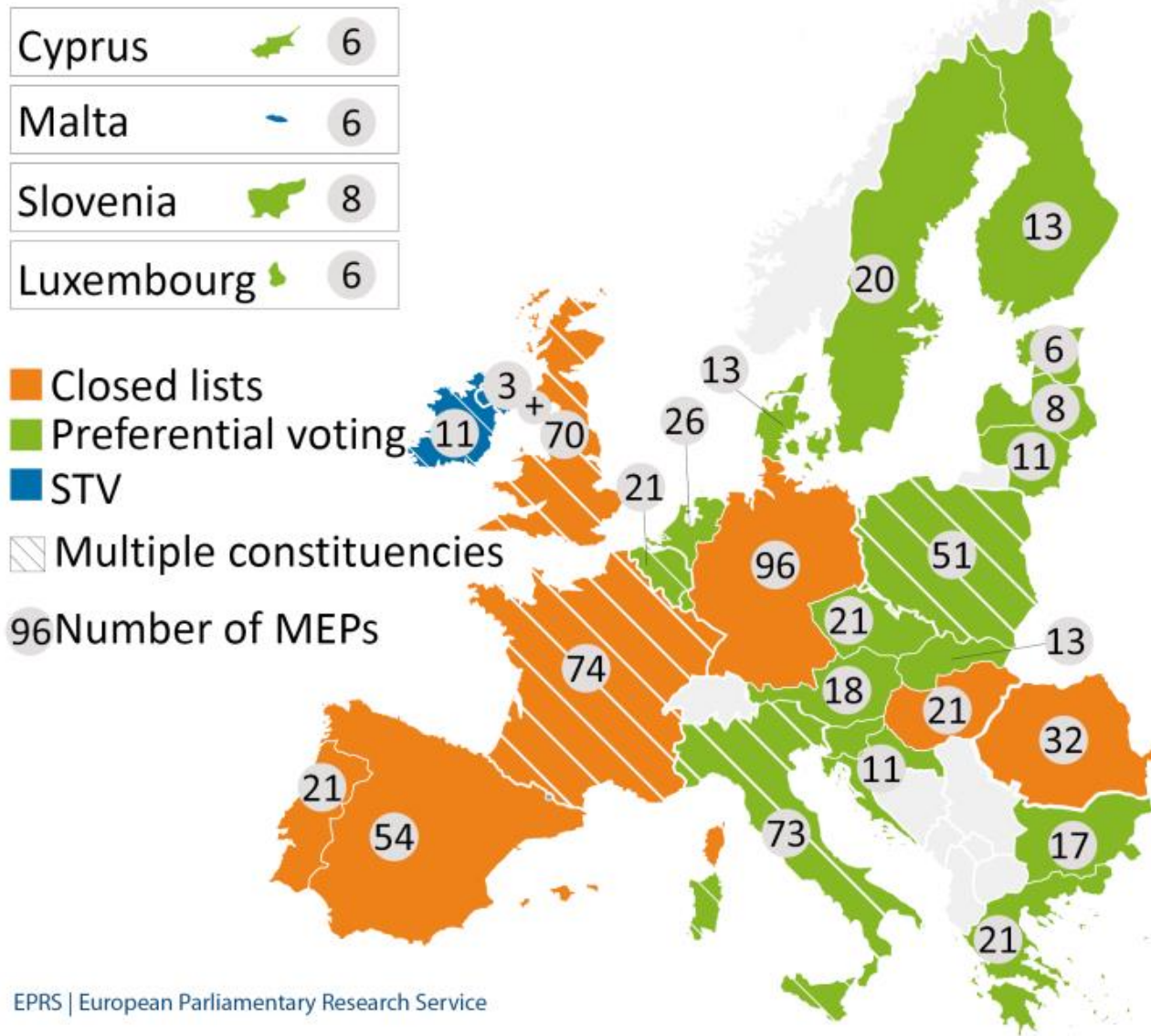




								
EUROPEAN INTEGRATION	●	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	✗	✗
EURO	●	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	✗	●
SAME-SEX MARRIAGE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
NATO	✗	●	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	✗
MANDATORY RELOCATION OF REFUGEES WITHIN THE EU	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
QUICK TRANSITION TO RENEWABLE ENERGIES	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	●	✗
FREE TRADE	✗	✗	●	✓	✓	✓	●	✗
JUNCKER COMMISSION	✗	●	✓	✓	✓	●	✗	✗
PUTIN	●	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	●	✓
STATEHOOD OF PALESTINE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	●

THE POSITION OF THE GROUP IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT REFLECTS THE VOTING BEHAVIOUR OF A MAJORITY OF THE MEPS IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT 2014-19 IN EACH EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT GROUP


Voting system and number of MEPs



What Is Proportional Representation (PR)?

- France, and many other countries, use PR to pick their Members of the European Parliament (MEPs)
- Votes are made for **party lists**. These lists can be either **closed** or **open**.
- Proportional representation can be national ($M=S$), as in Spain or Germany in EU elections
- Often PR is districted, as in France or the UK
- Electoral formulas are used to allocate seats proportionally

Election of Members of the European Parliament for the [insert name of Region, e.g. 'North-West Region']

Vote **only once** by putting a cross  in the box next to your choice

Conservative Party

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Arthur John Briggs | 6. Christopher Malcolm Browne |
| 2. Derek Trentham | 7. Flora Mabel Strand |
| 3. Brahm Malik | 8. George Gerald Markham |
| 4. Nigel Hackett | 9. Anita Patel |
| 5. Edith Curling | 10. Brian Jerome Edwards |



Conservatives

☐

Green Party

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. James Earl Barton | 6. Benjamin West |
| 2. Olivia Latham | 7. Denis Verity |
| 3. Francis Pine | 8. Devone La Fayette |
| 4. Roger Donald Stock | 9. Gillian Bridgenorth |
| 5. Jane Deborah Powell | 10. Paul Leslie Hyde |



Green Party

☐

Labour Party

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Hugh John Turnbull | 6. Keith Upshott |
| 2. Diane Valerie Tate | 7. Gareth Tudor-Monnmouth |
| 3. Edward Hampstead | 8. Gemma Sparrowleap |
| 4. Geoff Maine | 9. Reginald Shoeness |
| 5. Hedley Stamp | 10. Roy Cammell |



Labour

☐

Liberal Democrat Party

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Andrew Palmer | 6. Kathleen O'Connell |
| 2. Russell Chand Valley | 7. Brinsley Stewart Croft |
| 3. Lucy Jennifer Brindle | 8. Francesca Seaton |
| 4. Geraldine Letts | 9. Jim Proudfoot |
| 5. Sunita Kendall-Singh | 10. Ian David Wanslead |


☐

United Kingdom Independence Party

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. William Gibbs | 6. Samuel Brickwell |
| 2. Janet Wheelwright | 7. Kenneth Sturgeon |
| 3. Donald Geoffrey Beach | 8. Joyce Brenda Fennell |
| 4. Gordon Arthur Burnett | 9. Carlos Cavalleros |
| 5. Victor Hedges | 10. Philippa Stewart |


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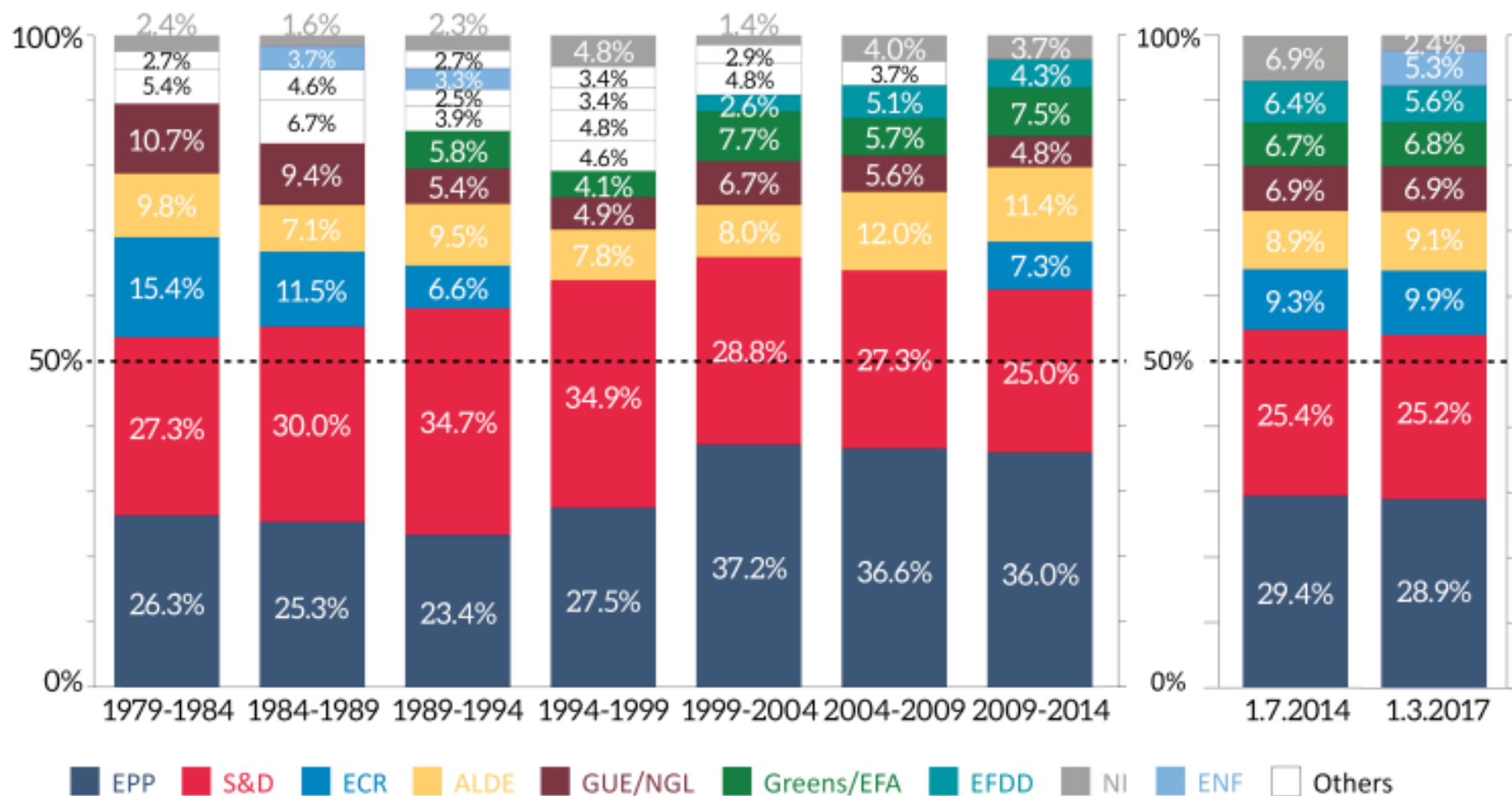
Barker, Greenwood Hulme

Independent

☐

European Parliament, 1979-2014

Strengths of the political groups in each parliamentary term

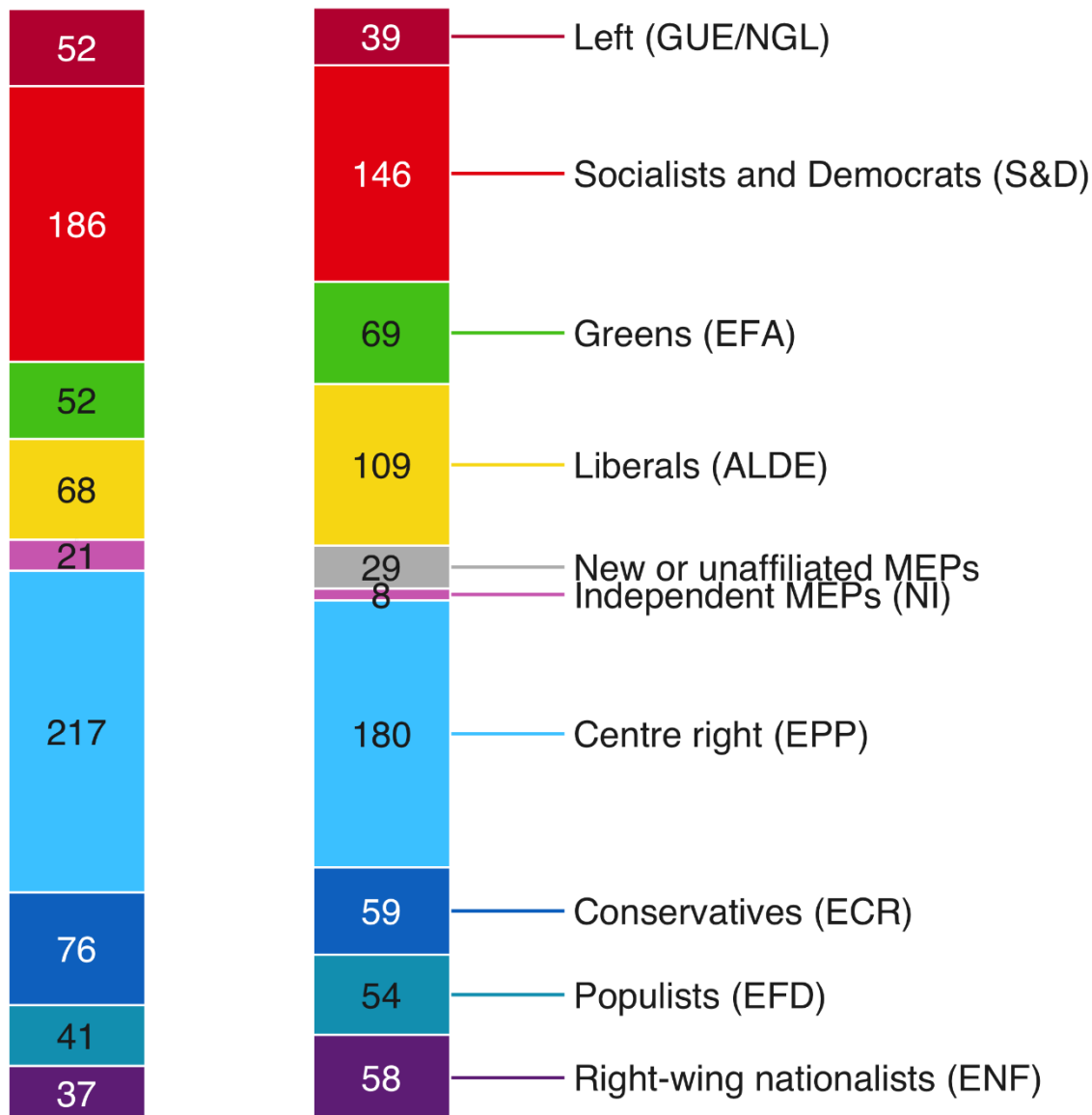


EU Election 2019

The two biggest parties have lost their majority

Seats before
election

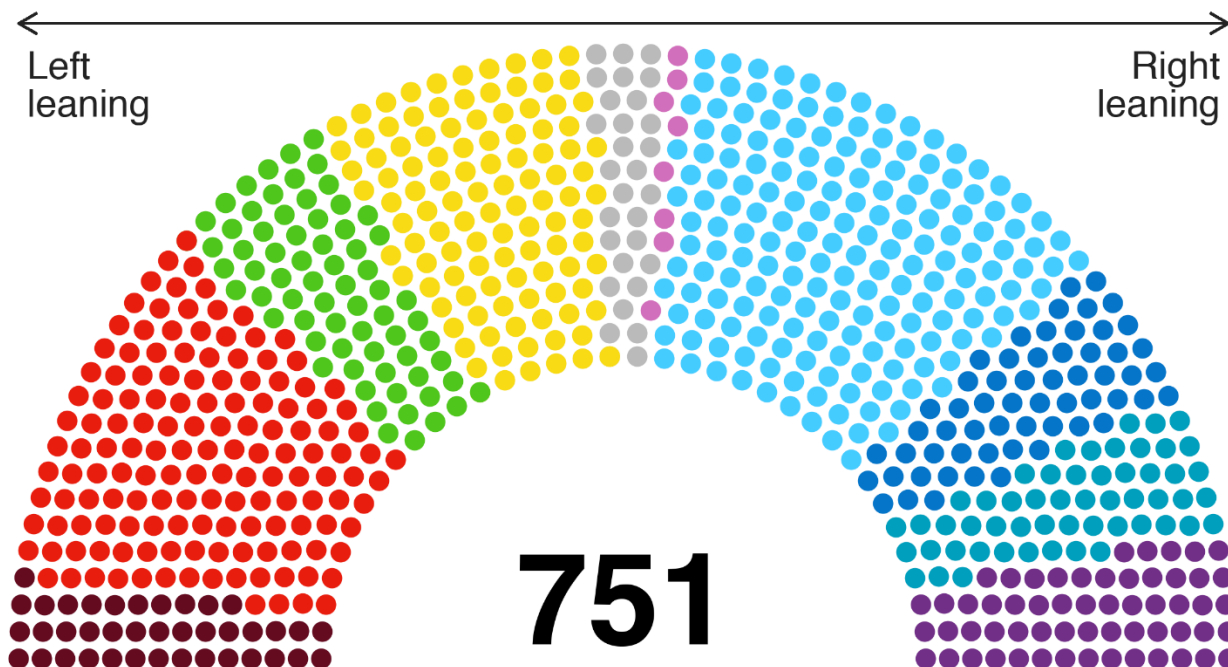
2019
results



EU election results

Seats by party group

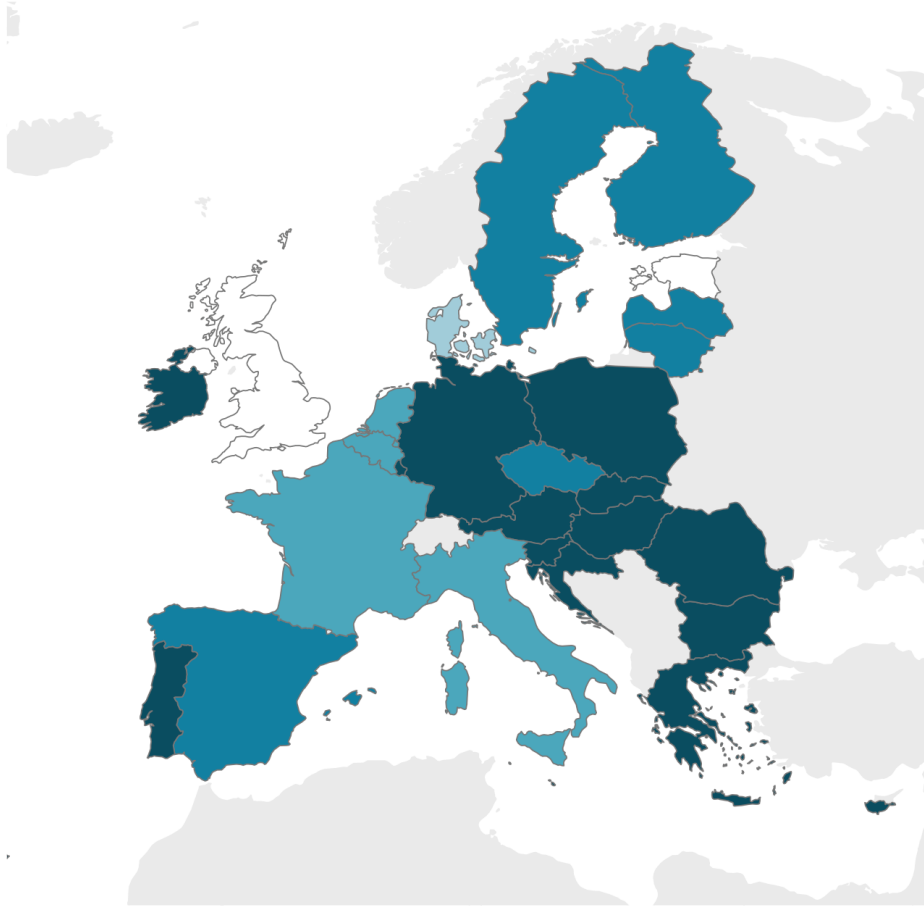
- Left (GUE/NGL): 39
- Socialists and Democrats (S&D): 146
- Greens (EFA): 69
- Liberals (ALDE): 109
- Others: 29
- Independent MEPs: 8
- Centre-right (EPP): 180
- Conservatives (ECR): 59
- Populists (EFD): 54
- Right-wing nationalists (ENF): 58



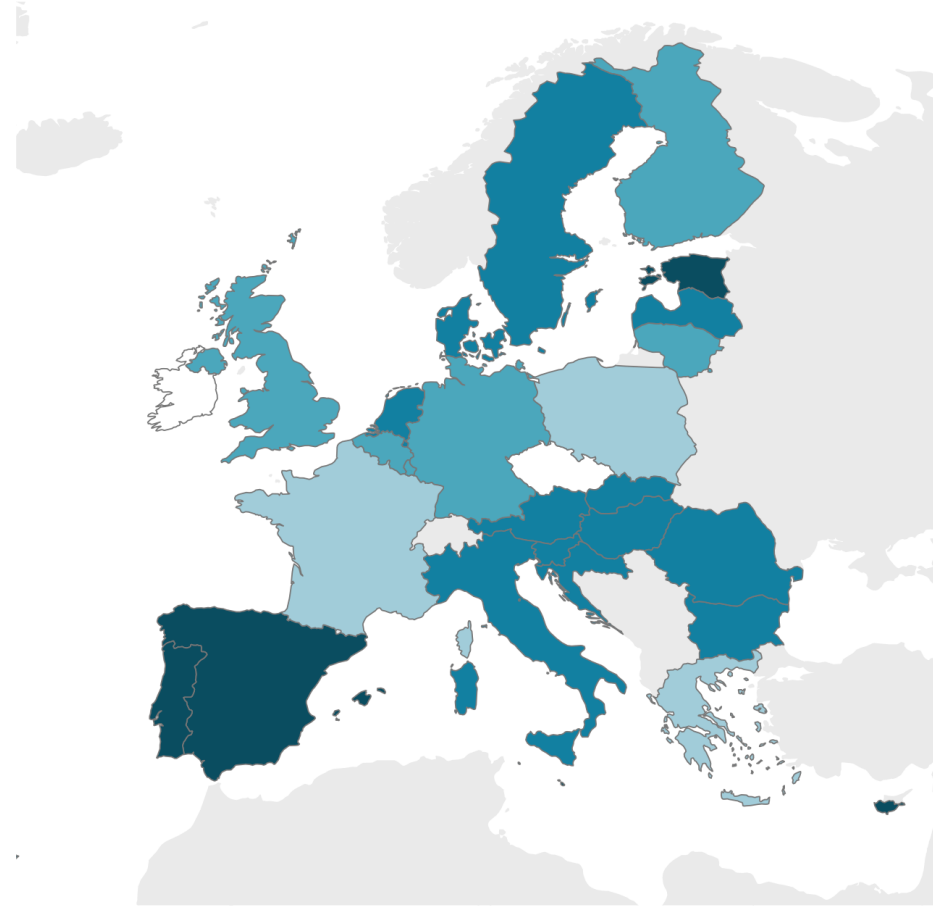
The two biggest parties have lost their majority

Share of seats:  0%  <10%  10-20%  20-30%  >30%

**Centre right (EPP):
180 seats**



**Socialists and Democrats
(S&D): 145 seats**



Source: EP. N.B. Combination of provisional, projected and final results

The right-wing and populist groups did best in Italy, France and the UK

Share of seats: 0% <10% 10-20% 20-30% >30%

**Right-wing nationalists
(ENF): 58 seats**



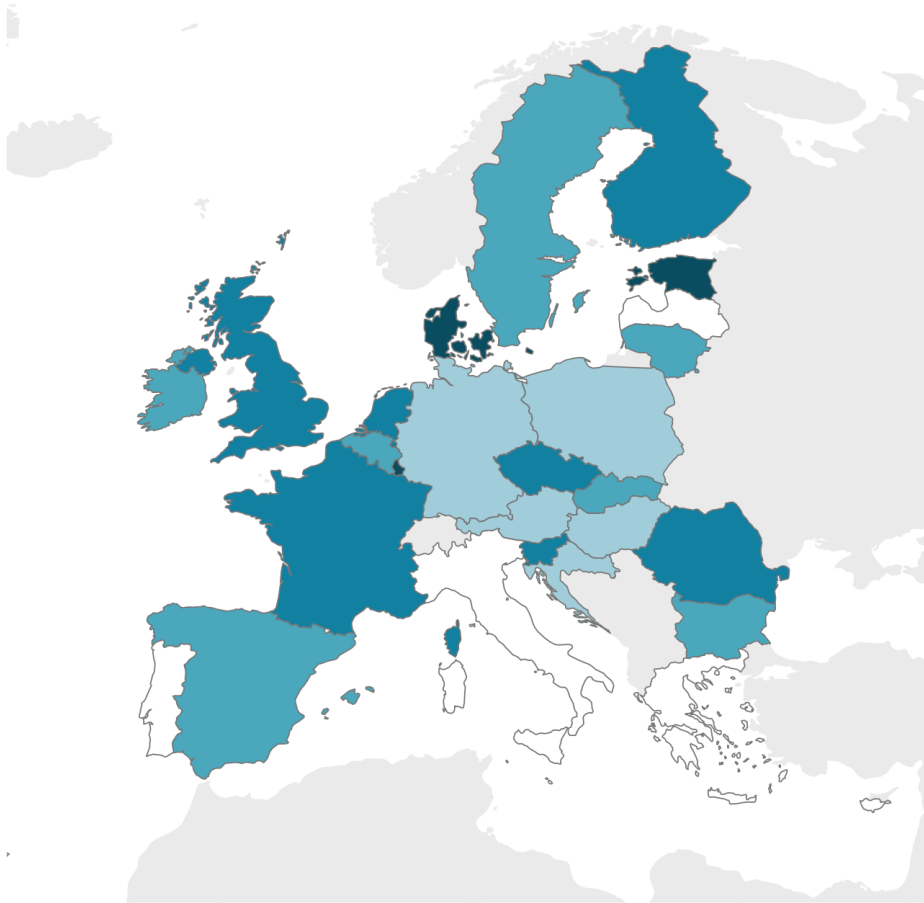
Populists (EFD): 54 seats



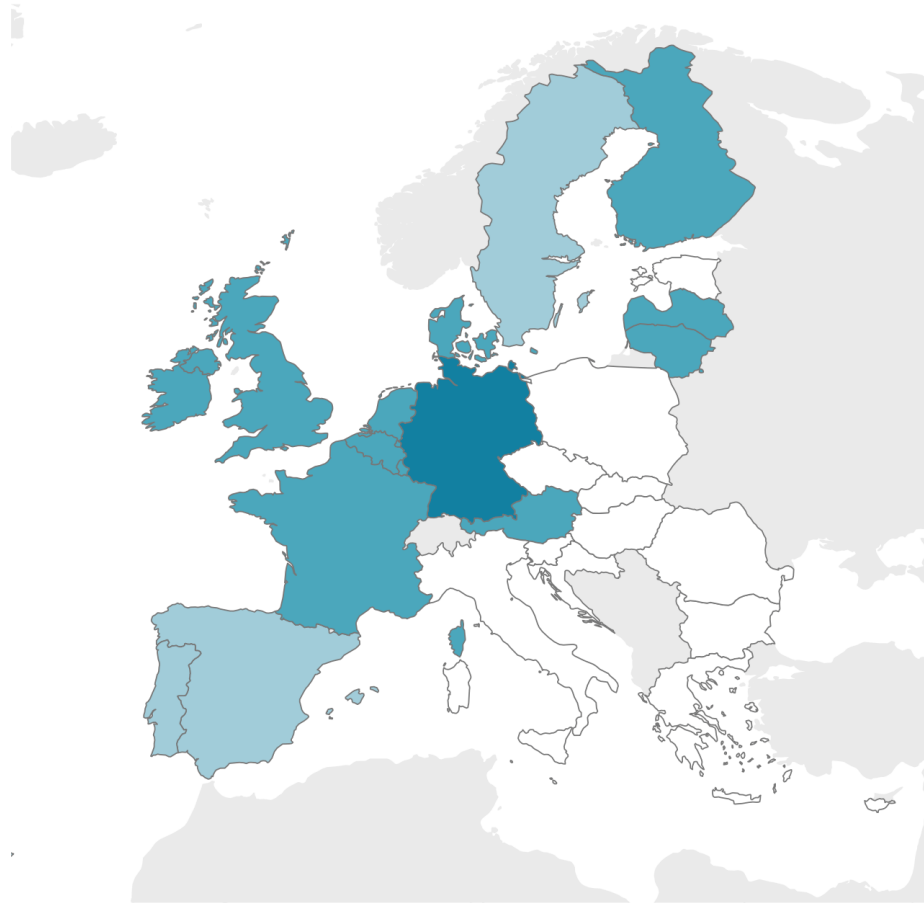
The Liberals and Greens both made gains

Share of seats:  0%  <10%  10-20%  20-30%  >30%

Liberals (ALDE):
109 seats



Greens (EFA):
69 seats



Takeaways

- The EPP + the S&D lost their combined majority for the first time
 - A realignment in EU politics?
- It was a good election for:
 - The far-right
 - The center (ALDE)
 - The Greens
- Why did the ALDE do well? Largely due to an infusion of new votes from Macron's new party!

France & the EU Election

The French Election Results

- France's story is like the rest of the EU:
 - The traditional center-right and center-left are collapsing
 - The far-right, the center, and greens are taking their place
- Macron is tremendously unpopular
 - Surveys place him between -36% and -47% approval
 - For comparison, polls put Trump's approval between -7 and -19%

What Changed?

National Party	2017 FR vote %	2019 EU vote %	Vote Swing
RN (Le Pen)	13	23	+10
REM (Macron)	32	22	-10
Green	4	13	+9
Republican	22	8	-13
Socialist	10	6	-3
LF (Mélenchon)	11	6	-5

Can We Compare These Elections?

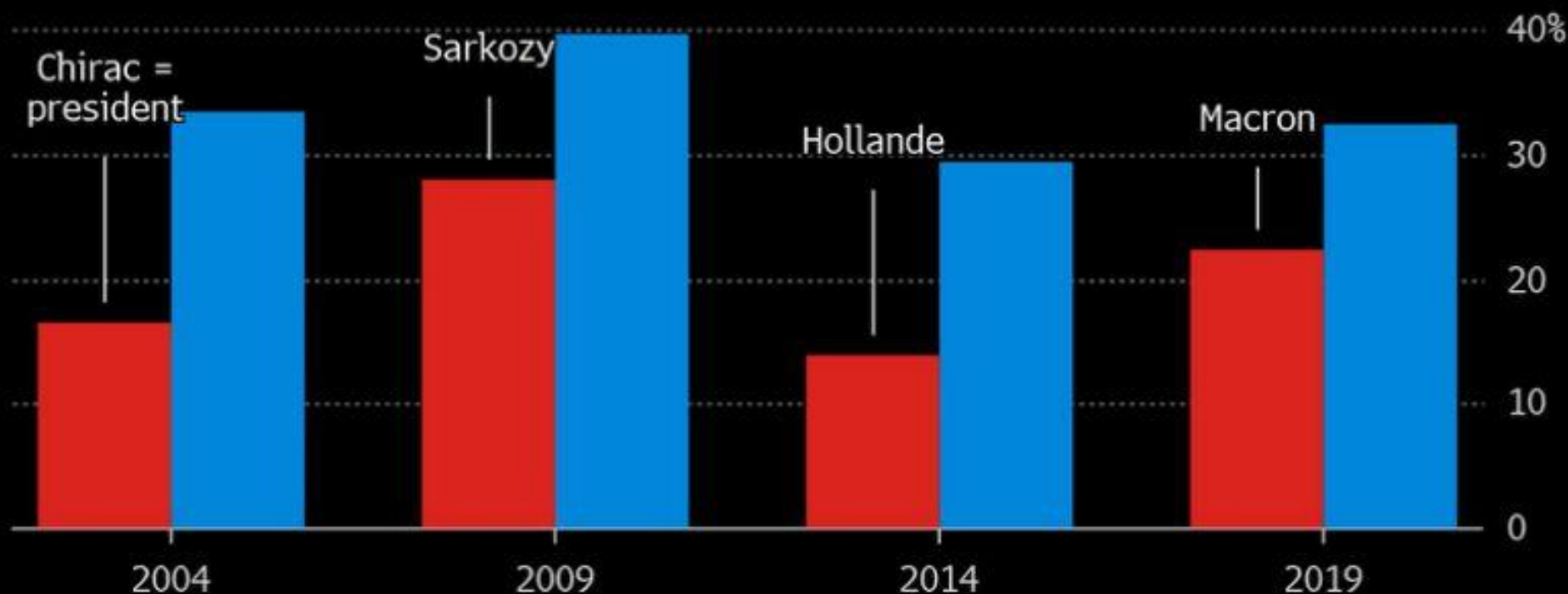
- YES: they have the same main parties
- YES: the EU and immigration were at the center of both elections
- NO: they use different electoral systems
- NO: the legislative bodies & issue areas are too different

French Fallout

Voters typically punish the ruling party at European Parliament elections

■ French ruling party's EU election result

■ Result in parliamentary elections two years earlier*



Note: * = first round; 2019 = projection

Source: Bloomberg

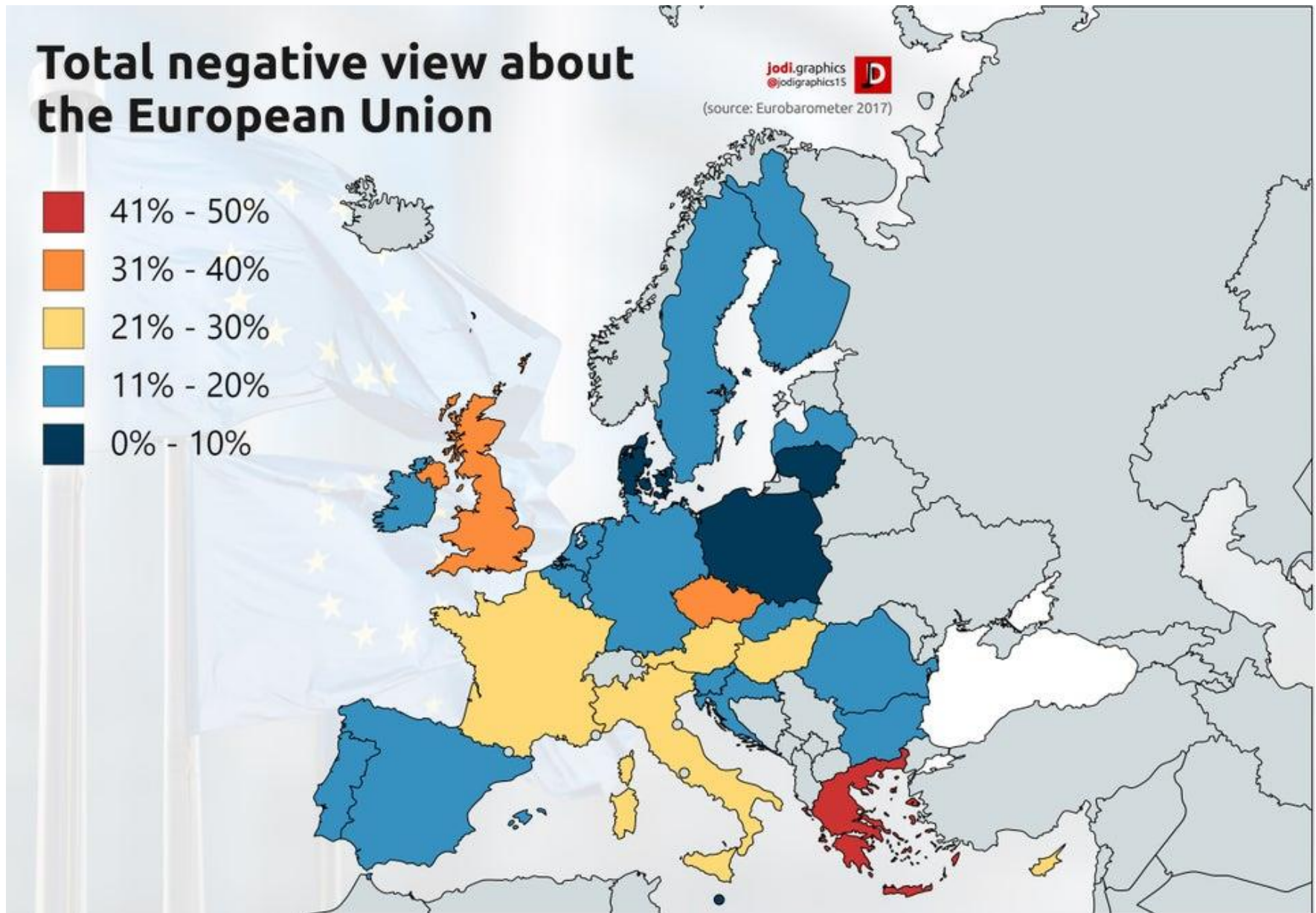
Bloomberg

A Different Comparison

National Party	2014 EU vote %	2019 EU vote %	Vote Swing
RN (Le Pen)	25	23	-2
ALDE (Macron)	10	22	+12
Green	9	13	+4
Republican	21	8	-13
Socialist	14	6	-8
LF (Mélenchon)	7	6	0

The Backlash to the EU

- Why is the EU so controversial now? It's not new!
- Eurosceptics (like Le Pen) make many critiques
- Loss of national sovereignty
 - Consider: Greek crisis
- Opposition to neoliberal politics of governing parties
- Opposition to freedom of movement/immigration



It Could Be More Chaotic!

The EU Election in the UK

National Party	2014 EU vote %	2019 EU vote %	Vote Swing
Brexit	27	31	+4
Liberal Democrat	7	20	+13
Labour	25	14	-9
Green	8	12	+4
Conservative	23	9	-14
SNP	2	4	+1

Q&A