

BEYOND RHETORIC

A closer look at the work of the
Members of the European Parliament

LEGISLATIVE PERIOD 2019-2024

PUBLISHED MAY 2024



ABOUT EU WATCH

EU Watch is an independent watchdog organization that monitors EU policies, promotes transparency, and ensures accountability. Its mission is to uphold the values and principles of the European Union, analyze EU policy-making with respect to effectiveness, transparency, and fairness, and scrutinize key EU actions, notably in the fields of foreign affairs, migration, good governance, and respect for fundamental rights. Furthermore, it aims to foster better communication between citizens and EU institutions, thereby bringing the EU closer to its citizens.

FOREWORD

Dear Reader,

It is my distinct honor to present EU Watch's report, "Beyond Rhetoric: A Closer Look at the Work of the Members of the European Parliament." This report examines the activities of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) over the past legislative period from 2019 to 2024.

As we approach the end of this legislative era in the European Union, we reflect on the tumultuous past five years. Pivotal moments include Brexit and its aftermath, the COVID-19 pandemic with its profound and enduring impact on every citizen, and Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, which necessitated a reorientation in regard to security, defence, and immigration. Events beyond the borders of the European Union, such as the 'Women, Life, Freedom' movement in the Islamic Republic of Iran, protests and Hamas' attack on Israel on October 7th, 2023, as well as the ensuing war, reverberate in our society.

Amidst all this, the MEPs stood at the crossroads of history, their decisions resonating far beyond the hemicycle. Despite the significant responsibility that lies in the hands of the MEPs, the majority of EU citizens remain unaware of how the EU truly operates. The EU is often criticized for the perceived lack of accessibility, transparency, and accountability. This criticism motivated EU Watch to bring the European Parliament closer to its citizens by shedding light on the activities of MEPs and the procedures of the European Parliament. As such, EU Watch has meticulously analyzed the involvement of over 200 MEPs, providing a panoramic view of their commitment to the European project.

While taking a closer look at the achievements (or lack thereof) of the MEPs, let us also recognize the power vested in each ballot cast. The upcoming elections represent a crucial moment when citizens exercise their right to shape the future - domestically, EU-wide, and globally. Hence, I want to reiterate: Your vote matters. It is the heartbeat of our shared democracy.

I thank the EU Watch team and supporters for the effort and faith they invested in this report. Further, I wish you a meaningful read and hope it will successfully introduce you to one part of the diverse and complex microcosm we call the European Parliament.



Avital Grinberg

General Manager EU Watch



Image 1: Avital Grinberg

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1 INTRODUCTION

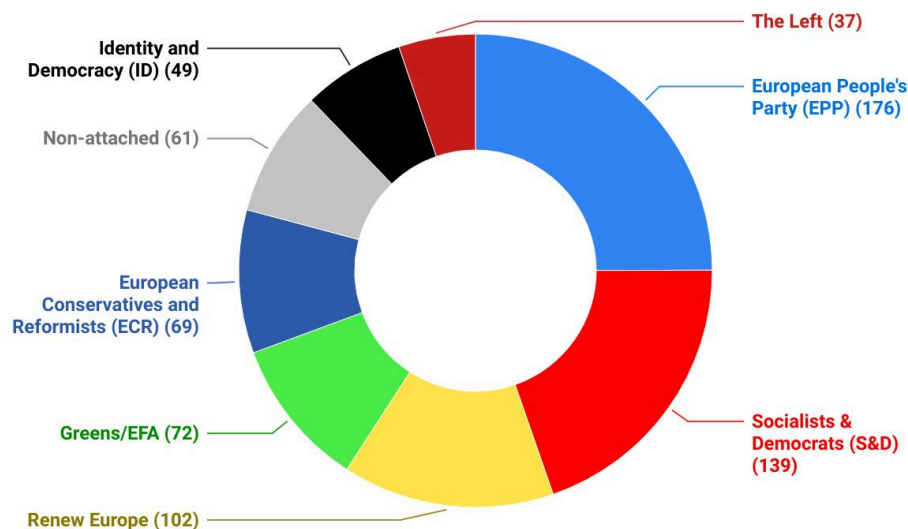
The Report “Beyond Rhetoric: A Closer Look at the Work of the Members of the European Parliament” is a comprehensive examination of the activities of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) during the legislative period from 2019 to 2024 and an active attempt to demystify the role of MEPs, their activities, and foster transparency and understanding.

The concept of a European Union (EU) was conceived in the aftermath of the Second World War and was ultimately established in 1993 as a supranational political and economic union. Today, it encompasses 27 member states, each represented by national delegates. Within the EU, the European Parliament (EP) serves as its directly elected legislative body. The EP, consisting of 720 elected MEPs, is where diverse perspectives converge, policies are forged, and the aspirations of 445 million EU citizens find expression. Its responsibilities include shaping legislation, approving the EU budget, and overseeing the European Commission.

However, each MEP is an individual with a unique agenda, values, and background, shaped by their political party, country of origin, gender, age, and more. Just as one thread contributes to a grand tapestry, one MEP contributes to the actions of the EP that ultimately impact our everyday lives - from environmental regulations to security. By scrutinizing their work, we can assess their impact and hold them accountable for their actions individually.

Composition of the European Parliament 2019-2024

This graphic details the composition of the European Parliament for the 9th legislative term (2019-2024). It shows the political groups and the number of seats (MEPs) they have.



9th legislature of the European Parliament, 2019-2024

Chart: EU Watch • Source: European Parliament • Created with Datawrapper

Each MEP belongs to a transnational, European political group, such as:

The European People's Party (EPP), is the largest political group in the European Parliament and represents Christian-democratic, liberal-conservative, and conservative values.

The Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D) is the second-largest political group and regroups members from leftist national parties, and it includes parties standing up for social democracy, progressivism, and pro-European values.

Renew Europe (Renew) was founded in 2019, replacing the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE). The group promotes liberal and pro-European ideas, standing for the defence of the fundamental principles of the EU: the Rule of Law, democracy, peace, and justice.

The Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance (Greens/EFA) regroups Greens as well as regionalist parties. The group actively advocates for an ecological transition, the respect of human rights, and democracy.

The European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR) gathers Eurosceptic, anti-federalist MEPs. It bases its work on a specific set of principles and values such as the importance of family as the bedrock of society and controlled immigration.

The Identity and Democracy Group (ID) was formed in 2019 as a far-right Eurosceptic group centered around the idea of national identity, sovereignty (the EU should not interfere with internal affairs), and tackling illegal migration.

The Left is the smallest group and describes itself as standing up “for workers”, the environment, feminism, peace & human rights. The vision of a European Union that defends people and the planet, a Europe of equality, sustainability, and solidarity unites us.”

Alternatively, MEPs may remain Independent (NI).

Almost 40% of the MEPs are female and the average age of all MEPs is 56 years.

Roberta Metsola (EPP/Malta) is the current President of the EP. The EP is structured around a system of Committees that focus on a specific policy area and are responsible for scrutinizing EU legislation, policies, and other EU bodies and institutions on that topic. This report follows the same structure and examines, with the help of four indicators, the Parliamentarians according to the Committees. For this reason, the report concludes with cross-referencing the Committees and ranking the MEPs.

This research has used solely publicly accessible data, mainly provided by the European Parliament itself. However, the enormous effort of data collection and analysis needs to be acknowledged and understood as part of a systematic problem at the EU: A lack of transparency and accessibility that contributes to a sentiment of distance and disregard between the European institutions and European Union citizens. May EU Watch's report contribute to overcoming this ongoing struggle.



Image 2: Aerial photo of the European Parliament.

2 THE COMMITTEES

This report focuses on 204 members part of the following four committees: Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) and Foreign Affairs (AFET) with the sub-committees Security and Defence (SEDE) and Human Rights (DROI). To assess how activity is expressed, we focus on four indicators: Attendance, speeches, reports, shadow-reports, and written questions. Diverse in effort and outcome, they cover the main day-to-day tasks of MEPs and highlight mechanisms of how change is being made.

2.1. The Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET)

The Committee on Foreign Affairs of the European Parliament (AFET) is responsible for the promotion, implementation, and monitoring of the Union's foreign policy. This includes the common foreign and security policy, issues concerning human rights and democratic values in third countries, and the initiation and conclusion of negotiations concerning accession to the EU, among other responsibilities. In this capacity, the Committee is assisted by two subcommittees: Human Rights (DROI) and Security and Defence (SEDE).

Composition by Age and Gender - AFET Committee

Number of MEPs according to gender and age

presence
low high

Age range	Male	Female	Total
18-29	0	0	0
30-39	4	3	7
40-49	18	2	20
50-59	11	11	22
60-69	14	4	18
70-79	11	1	12

9th legislature of the European Parliament, 2019-2024



Image 3: David McAllister

AFET is composed of 79 members and is chaired by David McAllister (EPP/Germany). Within it, the EPP, as the largest group in the Parliament, has 19 members, followed by S&D with 16 members, and Renew with 11 members. The division of seats closely mirrors the overall composition of the European Parliament by political groups.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, older men form the majority of the Committee. Out of 79 members, 58 are male, while only 21 are female, resulting in a noticeable gender imbalance. The average age of an MEP at AFET is 57 years old. Out of the 79 members, over 65% are older than 50 years. This is not surprising, considering that foreign affairs have traditionally been considered an “experienced area” and many of its members join as former members of their national parliaments, or as former ministers.

Sergei Stanishev (S&D/Bulgaria) is the former Prime Minister of Bulgaria. Having been involved in scandals accusing him of bribery, conflict of interest and deliberately losing documents, he has been a controversial figure in Bulgaria as well as at the European Parliament.



Image 4: Sergei Stanishev



Andrius Kubilius (EPP/Lithuania) has been involved in Lithuanian politics throughout the independence movement from the Soviet Union. He served as Prime Minister twice (from 1999 to 2000, and again from 2008 to 2012). Since being elected as an MEP in 2019, he has been mostly working on Foreign Affairs with a particular focus on Russia.

Image 5: Andrius Kubilius

Spain and France boast the highest number of members in AFET, with 9 and 8 representatives respectively. Poland with 7 members and Germany with 6 members follow closely. **Over 70% of AFET members are serving their first term in the European Parliament, while 18% are in their second term.** A notable mention is Michael Gahler, who is concluding his 6th Parliamentary mandate (since 1999), making him the longest-serving MEP in the AFET Committee. This diversity in tenure underscores the blend of fresh perspectives and seasoned experience within the Committee.

AFET Members' Presence at Committee Meetings

Just as teachers take note of their class attendance, so does the European Parliament for its members. The data below is extracted from the public minutes of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

From the 117 documents detailing attendance, the **Chair of AFET, David McAllister, has attended the most Committee meetings** – 105 in total. The Vice-Chairs of AFET, apart from McAllister's party colleague Željana Zovko (EPP/Croatia) who has attended 80 meetings, have attended considerably fewer meetings: Witold Waszczykowski (ECR/Poland) attended 50 meetings, Urmas Paet attended 43 meetings (Renew/Estonia), and Sergei Stanishev attended 35 meetings (S&D/Bulgaria).

Overall, the average attendance at AFET is 42%. This becomes more significant when considering the averages of political parties and countries. The members of the largest political group in the European Parliament, the centre-right EPP, seem to be more present vis-à-vis their political competitors when it comes to joining the meetings – with an attendance rate of 51%, closely trailed by S&D with an average of 49%.

On both extremes of the political spectrum, **'the Left' and 'Identity & Democracy (ID)' members attend the fewest meetings, with 20 out of 117 meetings for the Left, and 31 out of 117 meetings for Identity & Democracy (26%).**

Andreas Vistisen, who is ranked lowest, represented ID in the pre-election debates of the 2024 European elections, sharing the podium with Ursula von der Leyen, the current President of the European Commission and lead candidate of the EPP for the 2024 elections.













Image 6: Andreas Vistisen












Attendance of Committee Meetings - AFET

The number of Committee meetings attended by MEPs who are part of the Foreign Affairs Committee (AFET). Number of total meetings: 117

Top 10

	Political Group	MEP Name	Attendance out of 117
1	EPP	David McAllister 	105
2	EPP	Michael Gahler 	94
3	S&D	Tonino Picula 	94
4	EPP	Alexander Yordanov 	88
5	EPP	Francisco Millán Mon 	85
6	S&D	Nacho Sánchez Amor 	83
7	Renew	Petras Auštrevičius 	82
8	EPP	Andrius Kubilius 	82
9	EPP	Željana Zovko 	80
10	S&D	Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz 	79

Bottom 10

	Political Group	MEP Name	Attendance out of 117
69	ECR	Karol Karski 	24
70	ID	Jaak Madison 	22
71	ID	Jean-Lin Lacapella 	20
72	The Left	Idoia Villanueva Ruiz 	20
73	EPP	Tomáš Zdechovský 	18
74	ID	Harald Vilimsky 	17
75	Non-attached	Balázs Hidvéghi 	14
76	S&D	Claudiu Manda 	14
77	The Left	Marisa Matias 	12
78	The Left	Stelios Kouloglou 	11
79	ID	Anders Vistisen 	4

AFET at Plenary Sessions

On average, AFET members delivered 88 speeches during plenary sessions. This figure represents the overall number of speeches of MEPs. Surprisingly, the AFET member most frequently on the podium is not a member of any political group. Fabio Castaldo from Italy, an independent (so-called 'non-attached' member), delivered 333 speeches during the plenary sessions. In second place, with almost half as many speeches as Castaldo, is the Croatian MEP Tonino Picula (S&D) with 182 speeches. His party colleague, Isabel Santos, occupies the third spot in the ranking with 174 speeches. Only one MEP who is part of AFET didn't give a single speech during plenary sessions in the last five years: Claudiu Manda (S&D/Romania). Former Bulgarian Prime Minister, Sergei Stanishev (S&D), has only given 6 speeches, two fewer than the Spaniard Javier Nart (Renew).

Written Questions

MEPs frequently write public letters to other EU institutions and key figures, namely the European Commission, the Council of the EU, and the High Representative for Foreign Affairs. This gives them the opportunity to ask critical questions and hold other EU institutions accountable.

The average AFET member has posed 68 written questions. Contrary to the findings relating to attendance, the parties on both ends of the political spectrum – the Left and ID – have been more active in questioning the relevant bodies.

Amount of written questions of average MEP - AFET

The table represents the number of written questions from an average MEP part of a political group.

	Political group	Average MEP/Number of written questions ▼
1	The Left	137
2	ID	118
3	Greens/EFA	88
4	Renew	62
5	S&D	54
6	EPP	46
7	ECR	41

9th legislature of the European Parliament, 2019-2024

Table: EU Watch • Source: European Parliament • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

Manu Pineda (Left/Spain), who serves as Chair of the European Parliament's Delegation for Relations with Palestine, has been the most active in questioning the executives, with 197 written questions. He is followed by far-right members **Bernhard Zimniok with 184 (ID/Germany)** and **Harald Vilimsky with 182 (ID/Austria)**.

The previously mentioned **Claudiu Manda (S&D/Romania)** has written **one question**, as well as **Sandra Kalniete (EPP/Latvia)**, the former foreign minister of Latvia.

Rapporteurs and their shadows

MEPs who are elected by their colleagues to draft a report on a legislative proposal whenever a Committee is assigned to report on a particular topic are called rapporteurs. Moreover, the political groups in the European Parliament bid for a report like an auction, according to their size. It is easier to propose and win with a candidate who is a recognized specialist in the field of the proposed regulation.

The rapporteur's key task is to analyse the project, consult with specialists in the particular field and with those who could be affected, discuss with other members within the committee and recommend the political 'line' to be followed.¹ Finally, the report would be presented and approved by a majority of MEPs during a plenary session.

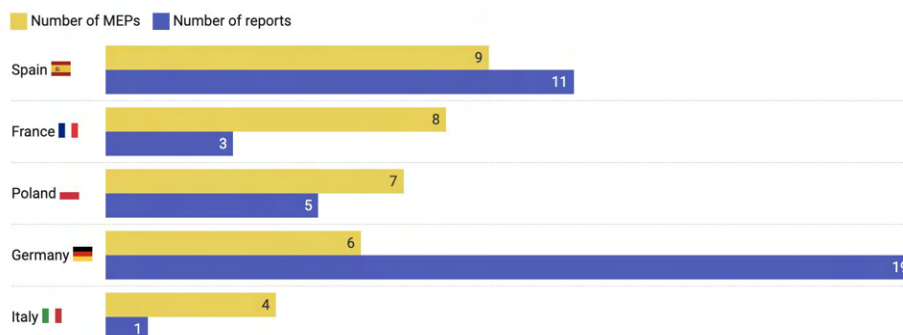
So, who is the leader in drafting reports for AFET? In total, the regular members of the Foreign Affairs Committee drafted 97 reports that received approval in plenary sessions. Tonino Picula (S&D/Croatia) has the most reports for AFET – 9, followed by the chair of AFET, David McAllister (EPP/Germany), and Michael Gahler (EPP/Germany) with 7 reports each.

The members of the political group 'Identity & Democracy' (ID) have zero reports. This is due to the rule of 'cordon sanitaire', which means isolating or refusing to cooperate at all with parties that are deemed extremist.

Although there are 8 French MEPs on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, they have prepared only 3 reports, all of them from a single MEP. All of them by a single MEP - Nathalie Loiseau (Renew/France). Loiseau is the Chair of the Subcommittee on Security & Defence, whose parent Committee is the Committee on Foreign Affairs. As a comparison, there are only six German MEPs on AFET, but they've done 19 reports.

Amount of MEPs and reports by country - AFET

The table provides an overview of the countries with the largest number of members in the Foreign Affairs Committee and the number of reports they have done.



9th legislature of the European Parliament, 2019-2024

Chart: EU Watch • Source: European Parliament • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

¹ A "rapporteur" - the person who presents reports to Parliament, Info sheet of Directorate for Media, European Parliament

2.2. Subcommittee on Human Rights (DROI)

Image 7: Udo Bullmann



The Subcommittee on Human Rights is one of the two subcommittees of the Foreign Affairs Committee. It is responsible for ensuring respect for fundamental rights, democracy, and the rule of law in the EU's external and internal relations. The subcommittee is composed of 30 members and has been chaired by **Udo Bullmann (S&D/Germany)** since January 2023.

This change came about due to the revelation of the so-called Qatargate corruption scandal, which deeply impacted current and former members of the European Parliament. In December 2022, several MEPs were accused of accepting money from Qatar, Mauritania, and Morocco in exchange for influencing the European Parliament's decisions in their favor.

The Vice-President of the Parliament, **Eva Kaili (S&D/Greece)**, and a former MEP, **Antonio Panzeri (S&D/Italy)**, were caught with €1.5 million in cash by the police. In the wake of this scandal, the home and office of **Maria Arena (S&D/Belgium)** were searched due to suspicions of her involvement. She resigned as the Chair of the Human Rights Committee, and **Udo Bullmann (S&D/Germany)** replaced her in January 2023.



Image 8: Eva Kaili



Image 9: Antonio Panzerini



Image 10: Maria Arena

As noted for AFET, older men form the majority of this Subcommittee. Among the 30 members, 11 MEPs are women, while 19 are men. Compared to AFET (26%) and SEDE (24%), DROI has the highest proportion of women, who make up 37% of the Committee. **In DROI, the average age is 56 years.**

Out of the 30 members of DROI, most of them are from Spain (4), Germany (4), and France (4), followed closely by Belgium (3). Eighteen MEPs are serving in the European Parliament for the first time. For Udo Bullmann, the Committee Chair, and Heidi Hautala (Greens/ALE/Finland) however, it is their fifth mandate as a Member of the European Parliament. Lastly, Charles Goerens (EPP/Luxembourg) is the most experienced, as he is serving his sixth mandate in Parliament. Goerens was also part of the 1st parliamentary term of the European Parliament.

DROI Members' Attendance at Meetings

On average, DROI members have attended 31 out of 76 meetings, or 41%. However, contrary to AFET, the Chair, Udo Bullmann, is not the MEP attending the most meetings: out of 76 meetings, he attended only 15. The member with the highest attendance is Nacho Sanchez Amor (S&D/Spain), who attended 64 meetings, missing only 12.

The Chair is accompanied by four Vice-Chairs, among whom Hannah Neumann (Greens/ALE/Germany) and Bernard Guetta (Renew/France) attended 56 and 54 meetings respectively, while the MEPs from the two largest political groups, Raphaël Glucksmann (S&D/France) and Christian Sagartz (EPP/Austria), attended 32 and 20 meetings respectively.

MEPs from the Greens have, on average, attended the most meetings: 46, compared to ECR and ID who rank the lowest on a group level – 16 and 22 respectively, which is significantly lower than the average of the whole subcommittee and of the other political groups.

At the bottom, we find Anja Haga (EPP/Netherlands, joined in 2023) with only 4 attended meetings, Greek MEP Kostas Papadakis (Independent, joined in 2023) with only 5 meetings, and ID's Maximilian Krah with 7 meetings.

In April 2024, **Maximilian Krah's** (ID/Germany) European office in Brussels was searched by Belgian police in connection with a case involving the German MEP's assistant. The latter is accused of spying for China within the European Union. The MEP, who is currently campaigning for re-election on the Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) list, is also embroiled in a more recent scandal over Waffen-SS comments. In an interview for the Italian newspaper La Repubblica, the German politician said he would never "say that anyone who wore an SS uniform was automatically a criminal". He was later removed from the AfD's board and stopped campaigning for the EU elections, while remaining on the party's top candidate list. Several MEPs from ID refused to sit with him, such as the Rassemblement National (France), and Anders Vistisen (ID/Denmark).



Image 11: Maximilian Krah

Speeches

Members of the DROI subcommittee have delivered on average 106 speeches during plenary sessions. The MEP with the highest number of speeches is **Heidi Hautala (Greens/ALE/Finland)**, who has given **534 speeches**. She also ranks among the top 10 MEPs for attendance. In second place, with significantly fewer speeches, is Eugen Tomac (EPP/Romania) who has delivered 248 speeches in plenary sessions. Christian Sagartz (EPP/Austria) who is also one of the Vice-Chairs of the subcommittee delivered only 14 speeches and Anja Haga (EPP/Netherlands), who has joined the EP in September 2023, has given only 4 speeches.

Written Questions

On average, DROI members have posed 72 questions to either the European Commission, the European Council, or the High Representative. Members of the Left have written an average of 142 questions. Contrary to its attendance rate, ID is second with an average of 107 questions. At the very bottom is ECR with an average of 25 written questions.

The Renew MEP Salima Yenbou (France) has been the most active in posing questions, with a total of 191 written questions. This is significantly more than her attendance rate at the meetings, with 10 meetings attended out of 76. The second-ranking Filip de Man (ID/Belgium) and Kostas Papadakis (Independent/Greece), posed 163 questions.

Last, Ryszard Czarnecki has posed the fewest written questions – only 4. Following him are Udo Bullman (S&D/Germany), Christian Sagartz (EPP/Austria), one of the Vice-Chairs, and Karol Karski (ECR/Poland), each with 6 questions.

2.3. Subcommittee on Security & Defence (SEDE)

“The remit of the Subcommittee on Security and Defence is to provide a forum for thorough public debate on, and detailed parliamentary scrutiny of, all EU action in the area of the CSDP, whether it concerns institutions, capabilities or operations.”, as defined by its Chair. It is one of the two supporting pillars of AFET, alongside the Human Rights Subcommittee (DROI).²



Image 2: Nathalie Loiseau

SEDE comprises 29 members and is chaired by French MEP Nathalie Loiseau (Renew). The Vice-Chairs are Nikos Papandreou (S&D/Greece), Rasa Juknevičienė (EPP/Lithuania), Özlem Demirel (the Left/Germany), and Lukas Mandl (EPP/Austria). Members of Subcommittees are chosen from its parent Committee, including the substitute members.

SEDE Members' Presence at Committee Meetings

The data below is extracted from the minutes of the Security and Defence subcommittee. In total, we have identified 70 documents containing a list of attendance.

The Chair of SEDE, Nathalie Loiseau (Renew/France), has attended (and chaired) most Committee meetings – 69, missing only one. Her political colleague Petras Auštrevičius (Renew/Lithuania), together with Arnaud Danjean (EPP/France) and Mick Wallace (the Left/Ireland), follow closely with 60 attended meetings.

² About section, Subcommittee on Security & Defense, European Parliament <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/sede/about>

Overall, the average attendance is 28 meetings out of 70, or 40% - equal with the attendance of AFET. However, all Vice-Chairs (four of them) rank lower than the average for the whole committee - Özlem Demirel, Rasa Juknevičienė, and Lukas Mandl with 23 attended meetings, while Nikos Papandreu attended only 5 out of 70. Papandreu is the son of former Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu, and his brother George Papandreu also served as a Prime Minister.

The far-right's only MEPs, Jean-Lin Lacapelle (ID/France) and Maximilian Krah (ID/Germany), rank at the very bottom – with Lacapelle attending only 1 out of 70 meetings, while Krah did not attend a single meeting of SEDE.

Speaking up at the hemicycle

Since many SEDE members are also part of AFET, in this part we are going to highlight those that are not part of AFET.

Mick Wallace (Ireland), a controversial far-left MEP, has taken the podium on EP's plenary sessions the most with 587 speeches. The socialist Javi Lopez (Spain) follows with 133 speeches, closely trailed by Tom Vandenkendelaere (EPP/Belgium) with 131.

The Irish MEP **Mick Wallace**, from the Left, is known together with his acolyte **Clare Daly** (Ireland) for his foreign policy positions. Specifically, towards authoritarian regimes such as Russia, Belarus, China, Venezuela or even Syria and Ecuador. For instance, he declared that the Bashar al-Assad's regime was wrongly accused of the Douma chemical attack in 2018. He further claimed that the Syrian regime protected its population against genocidal threat. Concerning the war in Ukraine, Wallace stated that Russia was only trying to defend itself from NATO's threats. On several occasions, the MEP voted against EU sanctions against Russia, and against several aid packages for Ukraine. He voted against the EP's resolution condemning Russian invasion of Ukraine, sparking disagreements in the Left group. In 2021, amidst the revelations about China's treatment of Uighurs, the Irish Left MEP declared that the numbers were exaggerated. He also called for a softer EU policy towards the country.



Image 13: Mick Wallace

Image 14: Clare Daly

At the very bottom, of MEPs not addressing the plenary, are Attila Ara-Kovács (S&D/Hungary) with only 8 speeches and Nikos Papandreu (S&D/Greece) with only 13 speeches. Krzysztof Brejza (EPP/Poland) who became an MEP at the beginning of 2024 has also only delivered 4 speeches, which given his limited time is understandable.

Written Questions

Whether driven by curiosity or criticism, members of SEDE also address the President of the European Commission, the European Council, or the High Representative for Foreign Affairs with questions. Collectively, SEDE members have posed 54 written questions on average, fourteen fewer than those posed by AFET members. The 'most curious or critical MEP,' Özlem Demirel (the Left/Germany), sent 230 questions to the relevant leaders. Similar to AFET, members of radical parties are more inclined to send out written questions.

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

The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, or LIBE, is responsible for the “majority of EU legislation and oversight of policies that enable the EU to offer its citizens an area of freedom, security and justice”. This encompasses various common challenges, such as the “protection of the rule of law and fundamental rights, ensuring data protection and privacy, developing a common asylum and migration policy, the fight against international crime and terrorism, and, combating all forms of discrimination.”³ The Committee is chaired by the Spanish Socialist Juan Fernando Lopez Aguilar and is composed of 69 permanent members.



Contrary to what was observed in the previous Committees and Subcommittees, women form a slight majority in this Committee, with 35 members, accounting for 51% of the committee. More specifically, women between the ages of 60 and 69 years are the dominant group, as they account for 20% of all LIBE members.

Composition by Age and Gender- LIBE Committee

Number of MEPs according to gender and age. The Committee is composed of 69 members.

presence

low high

Age range	Male	Female	Total
18-29	0	0	0
30-39	7	4	11
40-49	11	9	20
50-59	7	7	14
60-69	9	14	23
70-79	0	1	1

9th legislature of the European Parliament, 2019-2024

Table: EU Watch • Source: European Parliament • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

For 70% of the LIBE Committee members, it is their first time serving in the European Parliament, while 23% are finishing their second term. The Chair of the Committee, Juan Fernando Lopez Aguilar (S&D/Spain), is in his third term as a Member of the European Parliament. Sophia In't Veld (Renew/Netherlands) is the most experienced in the LIBE Committee, as she is in her fourth term in the Parliament.

³ About section, Subcommittee on Civil Liberties, Justice, and Home Affairs, European Parliament <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/libe/about>

Attendance

For the LIBE Committee, we found 81 committee meeting documents containing a list of attendance.











As with AFET and SEDE, the Chair of the Committee, Juan Fernando Lopez Aguilar, is the MEP with the highest attendance rate: out of the 81 meetings, he attended 70. The Chair is supported by four Vice-Chairs. Two of them are in the top 10 MEPs with the highest attendance rate, while the other two are trailing behind. As such, Pierre Bartolo (S&D/Italy) has attended 58 meetings, and Maite Pagazaurtundua (Renew/Spain) 55. On the other hand, Andrzej Halicki (EPP/Poland) only attended 30 meetings, while Emil Radev (EPP/Bulgaria) attended 35.

The average attendance of the LIBE Committee is 34 meetings out of 81, or 42%, similar to AFET, DROI, and SEDE. MEPs from the Socialists & Democrats (S&D) have attended the most meetings on average - 41 meetings. As for the DROI subcommittee, it is the parties further on the left that have the highest attendance. In contrast, at the bottom, we find the far-right ID group, with the lowest attendance rate of 27%, meaning MEPs from the ID only attended 22 meetings on average out of 81.












Attendance of Committee Meetings - LIBE

The number of Committee meetings attended by MEPs who are part of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE). Number of meetings: 81.

Top 10

	Political Group	MEP Name	Attendance out of 81
1	S&D	Juan Fernando Lopez Aguilar 	70
2	S&D	Birgit Sippel 	68
3	S&D	Evin Incir 	59
4	S&D	Pietro Bartolo 	58
5	Renew	Maite Pagazaurtundua 	55
6	Renew	Sofia In't veld 	55
7	EPP	Jeroen Lenaers 	52
8	S&D	Javier Moreno Sanchez 	52
9	Greens/EFA	Tineke Strik 	52
10	EPP	Lena Düpont 	51

Bottom 10

	Political Group	MEP Name	Attendance out of 81
59	EPP	Ioan- Rares Bogdan 	18
60	ID	Annika Bruna 	18
61	EPP	Elissat Vozemberg- Vrionidi 	18
62	EPP	Nuno Melo 	17
63	ECR	Vincenzo Sofo 	17
64	Renew	Anna Julia Donath 	15
65	ECR	Joachim Stanislaw Brudzinski 	14
66	ID	Jean- Paul Garraud 	9
67	Non-attached	Martin Sonneborn 	9
68	S&D	Pina Picierno 	6
69	ID	Anders Vistisen 	1

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Table: EU Watch • Source: European Parliament • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

Out of the 18 countries represented in the LIBE Committee, the MEPs from the Netherlands attended the most meetings, with an average of 49 out of 81 meetings. Spain is second with 47 meetings on average. Then, we find Sweden and Belgium, with 38 meetings each. Lastly, at the bottom, we can see Austria with 26 meetings, followed by Italy with 25 and at last, Greece, with only 24 meetings.

Frequency of LIBE Members Speaking in Plenary Sessions

On average, members of the LIBE Committee have delivered 98 speeches during plenary sessions. Clare Daly (Ireland), from the Left, is the MEP with the highest number of speeches, having delivered 518 speeches since 2019. She is followed by the Vice-President of the European Parliament from Germany, Katarina Barley (S&D), with 395 speeches. Trailing closely is the Chair of LIBE, Juan Fernando Lopez Aguilar, with 341 speeches.

The MEP with the fewest speeches is Vasile Blaga (EPP/Romania), a former President of the Senate in Romania, with only one speech. Just above him is Nadine Morano (EPP/France), with only 5 speeches, and in third position is another MEP from EPP, Karolin Braunsberger-Reinhold (Germany), who has given 7 speeches in plenary sessions.

The MEPs from the S&D, the Left, and ECR group have been the most active in taking the podium during plenary sessions. In contrast, members of the largest political group in the European Parliament, the Christian Democrats (EPP), score much lower, with 30% fewer speeches (64) than the average of 98 speeches. At the bottom are the MEPs from the ID group with 55 speeches, almost 50% fewer than the average rate.

Written Questions

On average, LIBE members have written 75 questions to the European Institutions. Members of the Left, as for DROI, wrote the most with an average of 138 questions. In fact, Clare Daly (Ireland) and Cornelia Ernst (Germany), both from the Left, are among the top 10 MEPs asking 157 and 162 questions each. The Greens follow with an average of 114 questions. Lastly, ID closes these top three, with 104 questions. While Jean-Paul Garraud (ID/France) asked 285 questions, making him first, his attendance rate is among the lowest with 9 meetings out of 81. He is followed by Annika Bruna (ID/France), with 215 questions and a low attendance of 18 meetings.

3 CROSS-COMMITTEE EXAMINATION OF MEPS

After scrutinizing MEPs from the four committees, this section examines the indicators across these committees. The goal is to get one step closer to a ranking that would demonstrate the active (or inactive) involvement of MEPs and to crystallize a pattern across all 204 MEPs.

Attendance

The liberal Renew group has, on average, the highest attendance of all the political groups across the four committees analyzed: 48% of all meetings attended, while S&D and EPP have 45% and 43% respectively. The political groups that clearly stand out from the rest are ID with an average of 27%, and the ECR Group with 33% on average across all committees.

This is not surprising since in each committee, an MEP from the ID group ranked the lowest in attendance except for the Human Rights Committee:

Anders Vistisen (ID/Denmark) in the Foreign Affairs Committee attended only 4 out of 117 meetings; and again at the Civil Liberties Committee 1 out of 81 meetings.

Maximilian Krah (ID/Germany) at the Security & Defence subcommittee with 0 out of 70 meetings; while in the DROI subcommittee, he had a few more, namely 7 out of 76 meetings.

The low attendance rate can also be seen as an indicator for their lack of collaboration and dialogue.

Speeches

Here it is worth highlighting the clear extremes: there are MEPs with hundreds of speeches, while there are MEPs with zero or just a handful of speeches. The data becomes interesting when looking at the MEPs' party affiliation. The average Left MEP has 154 speeches, mostly thanks to their 'stars' Mick Wallace and Clare Daly, two of the most visible MEPs from the Left. Except for the ECR group, both EPP (centre-right) and ID (far-right) rank at the very bottom.

There are only five people with more than three hundred speeches:

Mick Wallace (Ireland/the Left) 587 speeches, Heidi Hautala (VP of EP, Greens/Finland) 534 speeches, Clare Daly (Ireland/the Left) 518 speeches, Katarina Barley (VP of EP, S&D/Germany) 395 speeches, Fabio Castaldo (Independent/Italy) 333 speeches, Juan Fernando Lopez Aguilar (S&D/Spain) 341 speeches.

On the other side, we would see:

Claudiu Manda (S&D/Romania) without any speeches, Vasile Blaga (EPP/Romania) with one speech, Krystof Brejza and Anja Haga with 4 speeches (who however both joined later) and Nadine Morano (EPP/France) delivering 5 speeches in 5 years.

Female MEPs hold on average 25 speeches more than their male colleagues (110 to 85 speeches). While women are still underrepresented in the European Parliament as MEPs, this way they are increasing female visibility and paving the way for a more gender-balanced Parliament.

Number of speeches of an average MEP

The table represents the average number of speeches by an MEP per political group.

	Political group	Average MEP/Number of speeches ▼
1	The Left	154
2	Greens/EFA	110
3	ECR	108
4	S&D	105
5	Renew	85
6	ID	72
7	EPP	71

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Table: EU Watch • Source: European Parliament • Created with Datawrapper

This is an interesting gap which merits further research: why do some MEPs feel compelled to address the plenary so frequently while others shy away and stay on their bench? Is it popularity, passion, or PR strategy? And how many of these speeches are in fact memorable, or relevant?

As an example: In autumn 2022, Abir Al-Sahlani (Renew/Sweden) delivered a speech supporting the Iranian Revolutionary Movement “Women, Life, Freedom”, where she cut a hair strand in solidarity with the women of Iran. This speech ended up going viral and was covered on all major European news outlets. However, all in all, she has spoken only 59 times, far less than many other MEPs. What we can conclude from this example is that while speeches prove involvement, they do not necessarily lead to impact.

Reports and shadow reports

MEPs after all are still part of multiple Committees. While we try to find patterns it's still about individuals and the recognition they receive from their fellow colleagues as ‘experts’ or as someone who can bridge the different negotiation positions of the political groups.

We would like to highlight the top performers of the analyzed Committees, who have taken the hard task of drafting and negotiating a report, a time-consuming and laborious work on behalf of their Committees: Juan Fernando Lopez Aguilar (S&D/Spain) with 15 reports, Tonino Picula (S&D/Croatia) with 9 reports, and David McAllister (EPP/Germany) and Michael Gahler (EPP), each with 7 reports.

It comes as a given that important reports that are drafted on foreign affairs, human rights, security and defence, civil liberties are entrusted to MEPs from the centre-left, S&D, and the centre-right EPP.

Concerning shadow reports, the controversial Irish MEP Clare Daly (the Left) has done 35 of them, showcasing her standing among the Left Party, and her preferred *modus operandi*. Anna Fotyga, a former foreign minister of Poland, has been in charge of ‘shadowing’ for her ECR Group 26 times, as has Cornelia Ernst (the Left/Germany) with 26.

However, the number of reports the analyzed MEPs have worked on, regardless of the Committee, differs highly: MEP Ryszard Czarnecki (ECR/Poland) is almost like an 'undisputable champion' with 69 reports overall, followed by the Czech Tomáš Zdechovský (EPP) with 36 reports and another Polish MEP - Joachim Stanislaw Brudziński (ECR) with 27 reports. Almost all of these reports have been done on behalf of the Committee on Budget Control, which shows also the different nature of each Committee.

Also on shadow reports, MEP Czarnecki is on the lead with a total of 129, followed by MEP Katalin Cseh (Renew/Hungary) with 60 - one more than the Irish MEP Clare Daly (the Left).

Written questions

The data clearly shows that the parties on the extremes of the political spectrum – on the left and right, use the instrument of written questions significantly more than the other parties. This poses the question whether they are far more critical in general than the rest, or this is their preferred modus operandi of holding the institutions accountable. Another assumption could be their low representation among Parliamentarians and powerful positions and their consequential lack of inner-party information flow.

Consequently, we see the following results in written questions across the political groups.

Amount of written questions by an average MEP

The table represents the number of written questions from an average MEP per political group

	Political group	Average MEP/Number of written questions ▼
1	ID	144
2	The Left	141
3	Greens/EFA	88
4	Renew	66
5	S&D	54
6	ECR	50
7	EPP	42

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Table: EU Watch • Source: European Parliament • Created with Datawrapper

4 MEP-RANKING

A major goal of this report was it to create a system how to judge and rank the activities of the MEPs in a way that would provide readers with an understandable and comprehensive overview. This ranking showcases if and how our elected representatives are active and assists in gaining a deeper understanding of how different tasks of MEPs translate into involvement and consequently in lasting change.

For this reason, we converted the indicators into points, based on the relevance and workload. Since being on the lead of writing reports is the most time-consuming, laborious and tangible work, it is awarded with the most points (12). For the same reason but a smaller burden of responsibility and time, it is followed by being a shadow-rapporteurs with 6 points. While a speech is often short (around a minute), the preparation time and public relevance brings it to 2 points. Speeches are closely followed by attendance with 1,5 points as they build the base line of involvement and presence. Lastly, we have the submitted written questions with 1 point.

Most Active 5 MEPs

Ryszard Czarnecki (Poland) / The Rapporteur

You want a report done? Call MEP Czarnecki, boasting 69 reports and being a shadow rapporteur for 129 times for his ECR Group. While not being the guy who attends a lot of Human Rights Committee meetings, he enjoys great recognition when it comes to delivering reports.

Image 16: Ryszard Czarnecki

1.



2.

Clare Daly (Ireland) / The Anti-West critic

With more than 500 speeches on the podium, many of them highly critical of the EU and its partners. MEP Daly takes the second place as she has been also a highly active shadow rapporteur for the Left group.

Image 14: Clare Daly



3.

Mick Wallace (Ireland) / The Talker

MEP Wallace has the most speeches of all MEPs we analysed, and as with his colleague Daly, they follow the same anti-West line. Other than that, his attendance rate and written questions are average, with the exception of shadow reports.

Image 13: Mick Wallace



4.

Heidi Hautala (Greens/EFA/Finland) / Number One Vice-President

Finnish MEP Hautala, a Vice-President of the European Parliament is the most active among them: 534 speeches during plenary sessions and a solid track of reports and shadow reports: 10 and 23 respectively.

Image 17: Heidi Hautala



5.

Tomáš Zdechovský (EPP/Czechia) / The Budget Controller

While MEP Zdechovský might not be the person that really is into attending long Committee meetings, or speaking in front of the entire European Parliament during plenary sessions he is very CONTENT with checking the EU budget: a whopping 36 reports, followed by 46 shadow reports for his EPP group and more than 140 written questions to the leaders of EU institutions.

Image 18: Tomáš Zdechovský



Least Active 5 MEPs



1. Martin Sonneborn (NI/Germany)

Sonneborn has had an impressive career as co-founder of the satirical political party Die PARTEI and journalist. His achievements at the European Parliament, however, are less impressive.

Image 19: Martin Sonneborn

Nadine Morano (EPP/France)

Who?



Image 20: Nadine Morano



3. Vasile Blaga (EPP/Romania)

Experienced three-time-minister from Romania made it on place 3! Wrong podium though.

Image 21: Vasile Blaga

Christian Sagartz (EPP/Austria)

If he had just written one report....



Image 22: Christian Sagartz



5. Sergei Stanishev (S&D/Bulgaria)

Stanishev was charged by a court in Bulgaria for allegedly losing 7 classified documents. Now, not documents but he himself seems to be lost somewhere in Brussels. P.S A few years later he was acquitted (for the documents, not his inactivity).

Image 4: Sergei Stanishev

Anja Haga (EPP/Netherlands), Krzysztof Brejza (EPP/Poland) and Nicos Papandreu (S&D/Greece) would technically include the bottom ranking, however due to them having joined recently (~1 year), their data on activity is not expressive to feature for the bottom ranking.

Full list of analysed MEPs according to their ranking

Check on your MEP - Final Ranking

Ranking of all analysed MEPs according to a points system.



	Political Group	Age	Gender	Country	MEP	Points
1	ECR	61	M	Poland 🇵🇱	Ryszard Czarnecki	100
2	The Left	56	F	Ireland 🇮🇪	Clare Daly	88
3	The Left	69	F	Ireland 🇮🇪	Mick Wallace	79
4	Greens/EFA	69	M	Finland 🇫🇮	Heidi Hautala	77
5	EPP	45	F	Czech Republic 🇨🇪	Tomáš Zdechovský	56
6	S&D	63	F	Spain 🇪🇸	Juan Fernando Lopez Aguilar	55
7	S&D	70	F	Romania 🇷🇴	Maria Grapini	55
8	ECR	56	F	Poland 🇵🇱	Joachim Stanislaw Brudzinski	50
9	Non-attached	39	F	Italy 🇮🇹	Fabio Castaldo	49
10	S&D	56	M	Germany 🇩🇪	Katarina Barley	48
11	Renew	36	F	Hungary 🇭🇺	Katalin Cseh	47
12	Greens/EFA	54	M	Germany 🇩🇪	Viola von Cramon-Taubadel	40
13	Renew	61	M	Netherlands 🇳🇱	Sofia In't veld	39
14	S&D	63	M	Croatia 🇭🇷	Tonino Picula	38
15	Renew	45	F	Romania 🇷🇴	Ramona Strugariu	38
16	S&D	56	M	Portugal 🇵🇹	Isabel Santos	37
17	Greens/EFA	63	M	Netherlands 🇳🇱	Tineke Strik	37
18	S&D	43	M	Italy 🇮🇹	Pina Picierno	36
19	EPP	56	M	Portugal 🇵🇹	Paulo Rangel	36
20	ECR	67	M	Poland 🇵🇱	Anna Fotyga	34
21	ID	66	M	France 🇫🇷	Thierry Mariani	34

22	<i>The Left</i>	44	M	Spain 	Miguel Urban Crespo	34
23	<i>EPP</i>	43	M	Romania 	Eugen Tomac	33
24	<i>S&D</i>	40	F	Sweden 	Evin Incir	33
25	<i>Greens/EFA</i>	48	F	Spain 	Jordi Solé	32
26	<i>ECR</i>	49	M	Spain 	Jorge Buxadé Villalba	32
27	<i>Renew</i>	61	M	Lithuania 	Petras Auštrevičius	31
28	<i>The Left</i>	68	F	Germany 	Cornelia Ernst	31
29	<i>S&D</i>	42	M	Poland 	Lukasz Kohut	31
30	<i>EPP</i>	40	M	Netherlands 	Jeroen Lenaers	31
31	<i>ECR</i>	61	M	Poland 	Jadwiga Wisniewska	31
32	<i>EPP</i>	53	M	Germany 	David McAllister	29
33	<i>ECR</i>	42	M	Sweden 	Charlie Weimers	29
34	<i>ECR</i>	44	M	Belgium 	Assita Kanko	29
35	<i>EPP</i>	54	F	Croatia 	Željana Zovko	28
36	<i>S&D</i>	48	F	Portugal 	Pedro Marques	28
37	<i>EPP</i>	69	F	Estonia 	Francisco Millán Mon	28
38	<i>The Left</i>	59	M	Spain 	Manu Pineda	28
39	<i>Renew</i>	52	M	Belgium 	Hilde Vautmans	28
40	<i>Greens/EFA</i>	39	M	Belgium 	Saskia Bricmont	28
41	<i>Renew</i>	34	F	Germany 	Moritz Körner	28
42	<i>Greens/EFA</i>	49	F	Spain 	Diana Riba I Giner	28
43	<i>S&D</i>	58	M	Belgium 	Maria Arena	27
44	<i>Greens/EFA</i>	71	M	Germany 	Reinhard Bütikofer	27
45	<i>EPP</i>	64	F	Germany 	Michael Gahler	27
46	<i>S&D</i>	64	F	Spain 	Nacho Sánchez Amor	27
47	<i>The Left</i>	40	M	Germany 	Özlem Demirel	27
48	<i>EPP</i>	52	F	Slovakia 	Miriam Lexmann	26
49	<i>The Left</i>	48	M	Portugal 	Marisa Matias	26
50	<i>ECR</i>	66	M	Spain 	Hermann Tertsch	26
51	<i>ID</i>	71	M	Germany 	Bernhard Zimniok	26
52	<i>ECR</i>	39	F	Poland 	Patryk Jaki	26
53	<i>Renew</i>	39	M	Bulgaria 	Ilhan Kyuchyuk	25
54	<i>Renew</i>	60	M	France 	Nathalie Loiseau	25
55	<i>EPP</i>	45	M	Austria 	Lukas Mandl	25
56	<i>Renew</i>	53	F	France 	Salima Yenbou	25

57	Non-attached	41	M	Italy 🇮🇹	Laura Ferrara	25
58	ID	62	M	Germany 🇩🇪	Nicolaus Fest	25
59	EPP	35	F	Croatia 🇭🇷	Karlo Ressler	25
60	EPP	40	M	Belgium 🇧🇪	Tom Vandenkendelaere	24
61	Renew	60	M	Spain 🇪🇸	Maite Pagazaurtundua	24
62	ID	68	F	France 🇫🇷	Jean- Paul Garraud	24
63	Greens/EFA	53	M	Sweden 🇸🇪	Alice Kuhnke	24
64	ID	62	M	Italy 🇮🇹	Anna Bonfrisco	23
65	ID	37	M	Italy 🇮🇹	Susanna Ceccardi	23
66	Renew	48	M	Slovenia 🇸🇮	Klemen Grošelj	23
67	Non-attached	49	M	Greece 🇬🇷	Kostas Papadakis	23
68	Renew	65	M	France 🇫🇷	Fabienne Keller	23
69	S&D	50	M	Netherlands 🇳🇱	Thijs Reuten	22
70	ID	58	F	Austria 🇦🇹	Harald Vilimsky	22
71	S&D	39	M	Spain 🇪🇸	Javi Lopez	22
72	ECR	63	M	Czech Republic 🇨🇪	Alexandr Vondra	22
73	The Left	60	M	Greece 🇬🇷	Konstantinos Arvantis	22
74	The Left	52	M	Sweden 🇸🇪	Malin Björk	22
75	Renew	50	M	Estonia 🇪🇪	Urmas Paet	21
76	EPP	68	M	Lithuania 🇱🇹	Andrius Kubilius	21
77	S&D	55	M	Austria 🇦🇹	Andreas Schieder	21
78	Greens/EFA	51	F	Austria 🇦🇹	Thomas Waitz	21
79	The Left	44	M	Spain 🇪🇸	Idoia Villanueva Ruiz	21
80	EPP	63	M	Poland 🇵🇱	Andrzej Hilicki	21
81	EPP	49	F	Slovakia 🇸🇰	Vladimir Bilcik	21
82	Greens/EFA	37	M	Germany 🇩🇪	Erik Marquardt	21
83	ID	45	M	Italy 🇮🇹	Annalisa Tardino	21
84	S&D	49	M	Romania 🇷🇴	Claudiu Manda	20

85	Greens/EFA	40	M	Germany 	Hannah Neumann	20
86	EPP	56	M	Croatia 	Sunčana Glavak	19
87	The Left	71	M	Greece 	Stelious Kouloglou	19
88	Greens/EFA	49	M	France 	Mounir Satouri	19
89	Greens/EFA	47	F	Germany 	Patrick Breyer	19
90	S&D	45	M	France 	Raphaël Glucksmann	18
91	ID	33	M	Estonia 	Jaak Madison	18
92	Renew	49	M	Romania 	Dragoș Tudorache	18
93	EPP	63	M	Luxembourg 	Isabel Wiseler-Santos Lima	18
94	Renew	72	F	Luxembourg 	Charles Goerens	18
95	EPP	69	M	Poland 	Janina Ochojska	18
96	S&D	68	M	Italy 	Pietro Bartolo	18
97	S&D	64	F	Germany 	Birgit Sippel	18
98	EPP	38	M	Sweden 	Sara Skyttedal	18
99	EPP	64	M	Spain 	Javier Zarzalejos	18
100	ID	47	F	Germany 	Maximilien Krah	17
101	ID	68	M	France 	Annika Bruna	17
102	Greens/EFA	71	F	France 	François Alfonsi	16
103	Non-attached	54	M	Hungary 	Kinga Gal	16
104	The Left	61	F	Cyprus 	Giorgos Georgiou	16
105	S&D	67	M	Germany 	Dietmar Köster	16
106	EPP	54	M	Spain 	Antonio López-Istúriz White	16
107	S&D	51	M	Estonia 	Sven Mikser	16
108	S&D	44	M	Slovenia 	Matjaž Nemec	16
109	ID	69	M	Belgium 	Filip de Man	16
110	Greens/EFA	31	M	Czech Republic 	Markéta Gregorova	16
111	Greens/EFA	64	F	France 	Damien Carême	16
112	S&D	62	F	France 	Sylvie Guillaume	16

113	S&D	59	F	Spain 🇪🇸	Javier Moreno Sanchez	16
114	ECR	67	M	Poland 🇵🇱	Witold Waszczykowski	15
115	ECR	58	M	Poland 🇵🇱	Karol Karski	15
116	ID	57	M	France 🇫🇷	Jean-Lin Lacapella	15
117	S&D	51	M	Italy 🇮🇹	Alessandra Moretti	15
118	EPP	51	F	Poland 🇵🇱	Magdalena Adamowicz	15
119	Renew	48	F	Netherlands 🇳🇱	Malik Azmani	15
120	EPP	38	F	Germany 🇩🇪	Lena Düpont	15
121	Renew	58	M	Estonia 🇪🇪	Jana Toom	15
122	Non-attached	40	M	Slovakia 🇸🇰	Milan Uhrík	15
123	ID	46	F	Belgium 🇧🇪	Tom Vandendriessche	15
124	EPP	68	F	Greece 🇬🇷	Elissavet Vozemberg- Vrionidi	15
125	Renew	73	M	France 🇫🇷	Bernard Guetta	14
126	EPP	72	M	Latvia 🇱🇻	Sandra Kalniete	14
127	EPP	51	F	Sweden 🇸🇪	David Lega	14
128	EPP	46	F	Sweden 🇸🇪	Tomas Tobé	14
129	Non-attached	54	F	Hungary 🇭🇺	Balázs Hidvéghi	13
130	EPP	80	M	Spain 🇪🇸	Leopoldo López Gil	13
131	S&D	58	M	Cyprus 🇨🇾	Demetris Papadakis	13
132	EPP	53	F	Bulgaria 🇧🇬	Emil Radev	13
133	Renew	48	M	Sweden 🇸🇪	Abir al- Sahlani	13
134	EPP	72	M	Bulgaria 🇧🇬	Alexander Yordanov	12
135	EPP	73	F	Romania 🇷🇴	Traian Băsescu	12
136	S&D	74	F	Poland 🇵🇱	Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz	12
137	Renew	37	F	Hungary 🇭🇺	Anna Julia Donath	12
138	Renew	48	F	Slovakia 🇸🇰	Lucia Duris Nicholsonova	12
139	S&D	62	F	Estonia 🇪🇪	Marina Kaljurand	12
140	ECR	38	M	Italy 🇮🇹	Vincenzo Sofo	12

141	Greens/EFA	32	M	Finland 	Alviina Alametsä	11
142	EPP	62	F	Hungary 	György Hölvényi	11
143	EPP	66	F	Lithuania 	Rasa Juknevičienė	11
144	S&D	60	M	Bulgaria 	Elena Yoncheva	11
145	Non-attached	47	M	Hungary 	Márton Gyöngyösi	10
146	EPP	71	M	Greece 	Vangelis Meimarakis	10
147	ECR	76	M	Poland 	Jacek Saryusz-Wolski	10
148	ECR	45	M	Poland 	Dominik Tarczyński	10
149	EPP	53	F	France 	Arnaud Danjean	10
150	EPP	50	F	Romania 	Ioan- Rares Bogdan	10
151	EPP	58	F	Portugal 	Nuno Melo	9
152	Renew	77	M	Spain 	Javier Nart	8
153	ID	37	F	Denmark 	Anders Vistisen	8
154	S&D	68	F	Germany 	Udo Bullman	8
155	ID	61	F	France 	Patricia Chagnon	8
156	EPP	70	M	Romania 	Gheorghe-Vlad Nistor	7
157	S&D	40	F	Austria 	Theresa Bielowski	6
158	S&D	71	M	Hungary 	Attila Ara- Kovacs	5
159	EPP	38	M	Germany 	Karolin Braunsberger- Reinhold	5
160	S&D	58	F	Bulgaria 	Sergei Stanishev	4
161	EPP	43	M	Austria 	Christian Sagartz	4
162	EPP	68	M	Romania 	Vasile Blaga	4
163	EPP	61	M	France 	Nadine Morano	4
164	Non-attached	59	F	Germany 	Martin Sonneborn	3
165	EPP	48	F	Netherlands 	Anja Haga	2
166	S&D	68	F	Greece 	Nikos Papandreou	2
167	EPP	41	M	Poland 	Krzysztof Brejza	0

5 CONCLUSION

This report has given its readers an insight into who is behind the EU's foreign affairs, human rights, civil liberties and security and defence policies as well as how they conduct their work. The approach taken was to offer a snapshot and underscore the complexity and breadth of parliamentary work, which involves over 700 MEPs and a vast array of activities. However, a handful of indicators will not be able to break down the complex system of the EP to its fullest. Nevertheless, it highlights the need for innovative methods of capturing and understanding these less tangible aspects of parliamentary work.

The main take away is the evidently different operational approach of the far right and far left within the Parliament compared to more centrist parties. While it also opens up opportunities for further investigation, it is indicative of broader political trends and dynamics within the Parliament and potentially within European society. So how can the European Union function in an even more polarized Europe?

Being a good MEP involves more than just delivering speeches and asking questions. It requires a deep commitment to the European cause and a dedication to working towards a just, equal, and stable EU. It requires dialogue, collaboration and dedication to overcome challenges together as a strong union. To the readers, this shall be a reminder of the ideals and values at the heart of the European project. And to the MEPs, this shall serve as a reminder of their responsibility towards the over 445 million people they represent. The MEPs were entrusted with the task of representing EU citizens' interests in the best way they see fit. That being said, we commend those MEPs who have taken their mandate seriously.

With this report, we want to affirm the citizens' right to know what their elected MEPs are doing. This is a fundamental principle of democracy. By providing insights into MEPs' activities, EU Watch contributes to the broader effort to enhance understanding, transparency, and accountability in the EU. At the same time, it is the EU institutions' responsibility to provide accessible data. This is a critical aspect of transparency and accountability. By making data more accessible, EU institutions can empower citizens to engage more fully with the EU. It is a call to action for MEPs, EU institutions, and citizens alike, and a testament to the power of transparency, accountability, and democratic engagement in shaping the future of the EU.



Image 23: EP Plenary Session

6 SOURCES

Reference 1: A "rapporteur" - the person who presents reports to Parliament, Info sheet of Directorate for Media, European Parliament

Reference 2: About section, Subcommittee on Security & Defense, European Parliament <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/sede/about>

Reference 3: About section, Subcommittee on Civil Liberties, Justice, and Home Affairs, European Parliament <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/libe/about>

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7 LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

EU – the European Union

EP – the European Parliament

EC – the European Commission

MEP – member of the European Parliament

AFET – Committee on Foreign Affairs

LIBE – Committee on Civil Liberties

SEDE – Subcommittee on Security & Defence

DROI - Subcommittee on Human Rights

EPP - European People's Party

S&D - Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats

ECR - European Conservatives and Reformists

ID – Identity & Democracy

NI – non-inscrit (Independent)

VP – Vice-President of the European Parliament



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