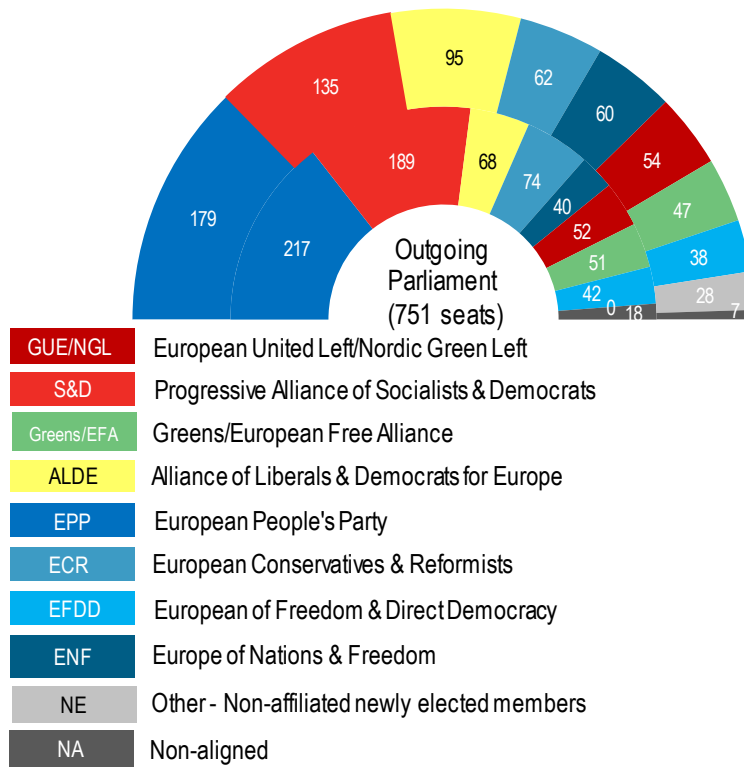




Next European Parliament projection (705 seats, 7 January 2019 estimates)



Source: Poll of Polls, European Commission

The European parliamentary elections in May 2019 will mark the start of a major process of renewal for European institutions. After Brexit, the European parliament will have only 705 seats, from 751 at present.

Aggregating national polls can help produce projections for the make-up of the new parliament, although naturally these need to be treated with some caution. According to current projection by Poll of Polls, a weakening position for the dominant conservative and social-democrat groupings may be on a sufficient scale to prevent the PPE and S&D alliances from taking a majority in the European parliament. The liberal/centrist ALDE group, if its rising poll numbers feed through into the ballot boxes, hopes therefore to become a supportive force able to forge compromises. Under the current projections, groups housing members from Eurosceptic, sovereigntists and nationalist parties will see a bump in their numbers, increasing their influence. Thus, the nationalist ENF group, which includes in particular members from the Italian Lega and the French RN (formerly Front National), will be neck and neck with the European Conservatives and Reformists (PiS, Debout la France, N-VA, etc.). However, they will still fall far short of a majority.