

The harmonisation of the electoral procedure features in article 138 of the Rome Treaty 1957 but it has never been accepted by the European Council (a majority vote by Parliament and a unanimous vote on the part of the Council are vital for the adoption of a uniform mode of election). There is only one common element to the European elections: since 1999 they all take place according to a proportional list system. However, the day of the vote, the number of constituencies, and the access threshold to list representation, the vote distribution system and the attribution of seats differ from one Member State to another. The table and notes below summarize the main electoral rules in application amongst the 27 during the elections on 4th and 7th June next.

Member State	Deadline for deposit of lists	Deadline for registration the electoral rolls	Campaign start date	No. of constituencies	Voting method	Method for attributing seats	Minimum eligibility age	Election date
Germany				1	Closed list	Sainte-Laguë/ Shepers Method	18 years	25 May
Austria				1	Preferential vote	D'Hondt Method	18 years	25 May
Belgium				4	Preferential vote	D'Hondt Method	21 years	25 May
Bulgaria				1	Preferential vote		21 years	25 May
Cyprus				1	Preferential vote		25 years	24 May
Croatia				1	Preferential vote		18 years	
Denmark				1	Preferential vote	D'Hondt Method	18 years	25 May
Spain				1	Closed list	D'Hondt Method	18 years	25 May
Estonia				1		D'Hondt Method	21 years	25 May
Finland				1	Preferential vote	D'Hondt Method	18 years	25 May

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France				8	Closed list	D'Hondt Method	23 years	24 et 25 May
Greece				1	Closed list		25 years	25 May
Hungary				1		D'Hondt Method	18 years	
Ireland					Single transferable vote	First past the post preferential with vote transfer (VUT- Droop's Quotient).	21 years	23 May
Italy					Preferential vote	Whole shares and highest remainder	25 years	24 et 25 May
Latvia				1				24 May
Lithuania				1				25 May
Luxembourg				1	Mixed list voting		18 years	25 May
Malta				1	Single transferable vote	First past the post preferential vote with transfer (VUT- Droop's quotient).	18 years	24 May
Netherlands				1	Preferential vote	D'Hondt Method	18 years	22 May
Poland				1			21 years	25 May
Portugal				1	Closed list	D'Hondt Method	18 years	25 May

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Czech Republic				1		D'Hondt Method		23 et 24 May
Roumania				1		D'Hondt Method	23 years	25 May
United Kingdom				12	Closed list	D'Hondt Method		22 May
Ireland du Nord				1	Single transferable vote		18 years	
Slovakia				1			21 years	24 May
Slovenia				1		D'Hondt Method	18 years	25 May
Sweden				1	Preferential vote		18 years	25 May

Countries where it is obligatory to vote

Belgium, Cyprus (no sanction), Greece (no sanction), Luxembourg (except for the 75's and over).

Candidates

In France, the lists must include twice the number of candidates as there are seats available. In Romania each list must include 10 candidates more than the number of seats available.

Voters

In Austria, the right to vote starts when someone turns 16.

In the UK, Commonwealth citizens are allowed to vote.

Other elections

Six Member States will be voting for other purpose on the same day as the European Elections.

Germany: Regional and local by-elections

Denmark: Referendum on the order of succession to the throne

Ireland: Local elections

Italy: Provincial and local by-elections

Belgium: Regional elections

Latvia: Local elections

Luxembourg: General elections

Lithuania: (possibly) 2nd round of the presidential election

Malta: Local by-elections

UK: Local by-elections

Specific electoral measures

Belgium: Male/female parity on the lists. In addition to this the two leading candidates on each list cannot be of the same sex.

Spain: The lists cannot include more than 60% of the same sex.

France: Male/female parity (lists must comprise alternately a candidate of each sex).

Italy: The lists must include at least one third of the least represented sex.

Portugal: Each list must include at least one third of women.

Slovenia: The lists cannot include more than 60% of candidates of the same sex.

Each list must include a representative of each sex in an eligible position.

Distribution of seats

Germany and Italy have systems whereby the national and regional administrative constituencies are mixed (candidates lists can be put together either on a regional or national level).

POLITICAL INCOMPATIBILITY OF BEING AN MEP

Germany

None.

Austria

Yes, with the mandate of national Senator or MP.

Belgium

Yes, with the mandate of national Senator or MP, member of a council (of a community, a region or a province) or the mandate of mayor of a town with over 50,000 inhabitants.

Bulgaria

None.

Cyprus

Yes, with the mandate of mayor and town councillor.

Denmark

Yes, with the mandate of national MP and town councillor.

Spain

Yes, with the mandate of national MP and town councillor.

Estonia

Yes, with the mandate of national MP.

Finland

None.

France

Yes, with the mandate of Regional Councillor, Councillor in the Corsican Assembly, General Councillor, Paris Councillor or town councillor in a community with at least 3,500 inhabitants.

Greece

Yes, with the mandate of national MP.

Hungary

Yes, with the mandate of national MP.

Ireland

Yes, with the mandate of national Senator or MP.

Italy

Yes, with the mandate of national Senator or MP, president of a region or province, regional council or mayor of a town with over 15,000 inhabitants.

Latvia

Yes, with the mandate of national MP and town councillor.

Lithuania

Yes, with the mandate of national MP.

Luxembourg

None.

Malta

Yes, with the mandate of national MP and town councillor.

The Netherlands

None.

Poland

Yes, with the mandate of national Senator or MP.

Portugal

Yes, with the mandate of national MP.

Czech Republic

Yes, with the mandate of national Senator or MP.

Romania

Yes, with the mandate of national Senator or MP.

UK

None.

Slovakia

Yes, with the mandate of national MP.

Slovenia

Yes, with the mandate of national MP.

Sweden

None.