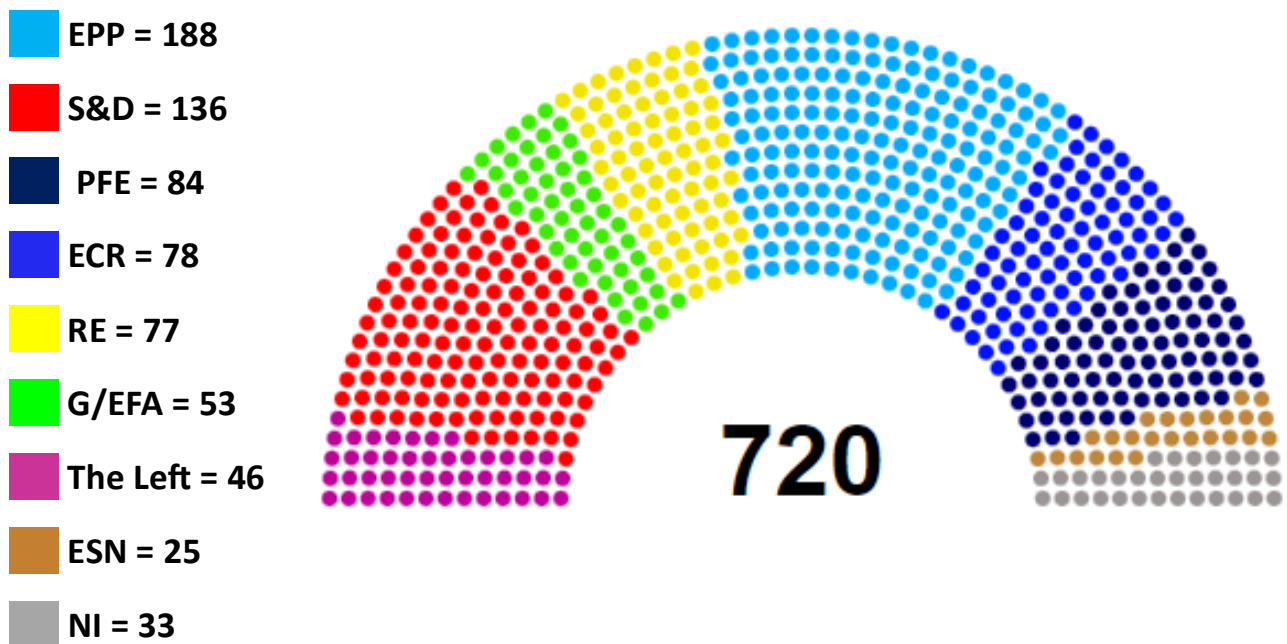




# The European Parliament begins its tenth term

## European Parliament – Final Groups’ Composition

### European Commissions’ President Ursula von der Leyen announces first ever EU Affordable Housing Plan



#### European People’s Party (EPP)

The EPP remains the largest group within the new European Parliament with 188 MEPs. Among the new members of the new legislature are the Liberal Alliance from Denmark and TISZA from Hungary. The French-speaking Belgian party Les Engagés has instead left the group to join Renew Europe. **Manfred Weber** has been confirmed as the president of the group. The EPP obtained 7 committee and 1 subcommittee chair: Foreign Affairs (AFET); Budgetary Control (CONT); Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE); Transport and Tourism (TRAN); Fisheries (PECH); Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE); Constitutional Affairs (AFCO).

#### Socialists and Democrats (S&D)

The S&D group is the second largest political group, counting on 136 MEPs. After the elections no new member has joined the party, although the group has regained representation in Ireland after 10 years because of the election of 1 MEP from the Irish Labour Party. After the

veto of the Italian Democratic Party, the group has confirmed the exclusion of SMER – Social Democracy and HLAS from Slovakia from its ranks. Despite the Italian delegation being the largest, **Iratxe Garcia** from PSOE (Spain) has been confirmed as president of the group. The S&Ds obtained 5 committee chairs: International Trade (INTA); Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON); Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI); Regional Development (REGI); Womens' Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM).

### **Patriots for Europe (Pfe)**

The new party was launched by Viktor Orban's FIDESZ (Hungary), former Renew Europe member ANO from Czech Republic and Austrian FPÖ. The group has largely formed on the ashes of Identity and Democracy group, which has therefore disappeared, with all but one of the members of ID joining the new group. Spanish far-right Vox has joined the group leaving ECR, while Greek Voice of Reason and Latvia First have joined the group from the non-Inscrits. The president of the group is **Jordan Bardella** from Rassemblement National (France), while the first vice president is **Kinga Gál** from Orban's party. Due to the *cordon sanitaire* Patriots for Europe didn't get any committee chair or vice-chair.

### **European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR)**

ECR group is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest party with 78 MEPs. After the defection of Spanish Vox, the group lost its position as the third largest parliamentary group in the European Parliament considerably weakening the position of Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni in the negotiations for the EU top jobs. Among new member parties of the group there are Bulgarian "There is such a People" (ITN), 4 MEPs from France elected with Reconquête and Romanian AUR Alliance with 6 MEPs. The two co-chairs of the group are **Nicola Procaccini** from Fratelli d'Italia and **Joachim Brudziński** from Polish Law and Justice (PiS). The ECR obtained 3 committee chairs: Budgets (BUDG); Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI); Petitions (PETI).

### **Renew Europe (RE)**

The liberals, having lost considerable ground with respect to the 2019 Elections, are only the 5<sup>th</sup> group with 77 MEPs. Among the new member there is Bulgarian We Continue to Change (PP), Belgian Les Engagés, Poland 2050, Portuguese Liberal Initiative (IL) and Independent Ireland. The abandon of former Czech prime minister Andrej Babis' party (ANO) caused the group to lose 7 MEPs and prevented it to take the third position back. The president of the group is **Valerie Hayer** from French Ensemble! Party. Renew Europe Obtained 2 committee and 1 subcommittee chairs: Development (DEVE); Legal Affairs (JURI); and Security and Defence (SEDE).

### **The Greens – European Free Alliance (G/EFA)**

G/EFA can count on 53 MEPs from 17 member states. Among the new members there is Romanian independent Nicolae Ștefănuță, Slovenian Vesna – Green party, Latvian

Progressives and Croatian Možemo. After a vote from the members Volt Europe and its 5 MEPs (3 from Germany and 2 from Netherlands) decided to join the Greens. The group elected **Bas Eickhout** from Dutch GroenLinks and **Terry Reintke** from German Bündnis 90/Die Grünen as co-presidents. For the European Free Alliance, **Diana Riba** from Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya was elected delegation president. The Greens/EFA obtained 2 committee and 1 subcommittee chair: Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO); Culture and Education (CULT); Human Rights (DROI).

### **The Left in the European Parliament**

The Left is composed of 46 MEPs from 13 member states. Among the new members of the group there are 8 MEPs from Movimento 5 Stelle, 2 from Sinistra Italiana and 1 from Spanish Sumar movement. However, the group has decided to expel Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia from its ranks after growing pressure from Portuguese Bloco de Esquerda and Spanish Podemos. **Martin Schirdewan** from die Linke and **Manon Aubry** from la France Insoumise have been re-elected as co-presidents of the Group. The Left obtained 1 committee and 1 subcommittee chairs: Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL); Tax Matters (FISC).

### **Europe of Sovereign Nations (ESN)**

ESN is a new Far-right group, composed by 25 MEPs from 8 member states it barely meets the requirement to form a political Group in the European parliament (23 MEPs from at least 7 member states). It was founded by Alternative for Deutschland after its exclusion from Identity and Democracy and its de facto successor Patriots for Europe. It is composed of far-right parties from Bulgaria, Poland, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Lithuania and France. The co-chairs of the Groups are **René Aust** from Germany and **Stanisław Tyszka** from Poland. Due to the *cordon sanitaire* ESN did not obtain any committee chair or vice-chair.

### **Strasbourg Plenary**

- Election of the president of the European Parliament: **Roberta Metsola, EPP from Malta**, was re-elected president of the Parliament with 562 votes, well ahead of the other candidate **Irene Montero, The Left from Spain**, who got 61 votes. The majority needed was 312.
- 14 Vice-presidents were elected: **Sabine Werheyen (EPP, DE)**; **Ewa Kopacz (EPP, PL)**; **Esteban González Pons (EPP, ES)**; **Katarina Barley (S&D, DE)**; **Pina Picierno (S&D, IT)**; **Victor Negrescu (S&D, RO)**; **Martin Hojsík (RE, SK)**; **Christel Schaldemose (S&D, DK)**; **Javi Lopez (S&D, ES)**; **Sophie Wilmès (RE, BE)**; **Nicolae Ștefănuță (G/EFA, RO)**; **Roberts Zīle (ECR, LV)**; **Antonella Sberna (ECR, IT)**; **Younous Omarjee (The Left, FR)**.

- 5 Quaestors: **Andrey Kovatchev (EPP, BG); Marc Angel (S&D, LU); Miriam Lexmann (EPP, SK); Fabienne Keller (RE, FR); Kosma Złotowski (ECR, PL)**

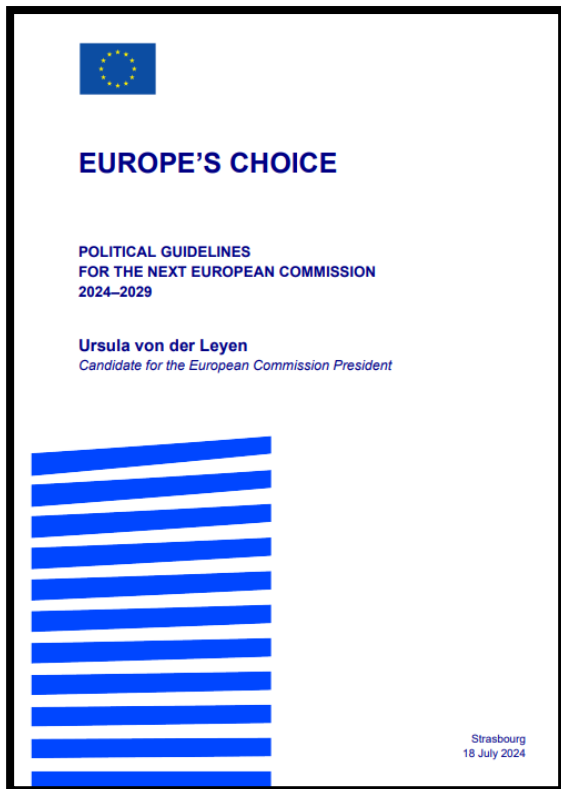
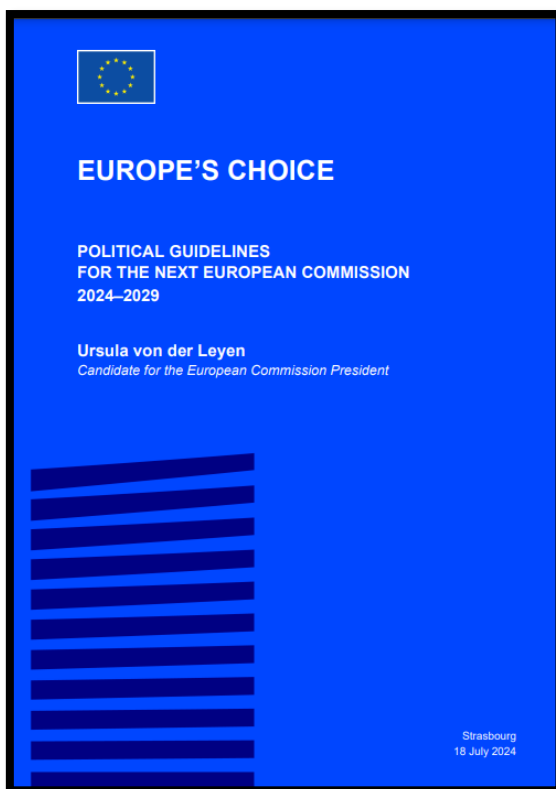
**EC President Ursula von der Leyen announces first ever EU Affordable Housing Plan**

With 401 votes in favour, 284 against and 15 abstentions, Ursula von der Leyen was re-elected president of the European Commission for a second term with the support of the EPP, S&Ds, Renew and the Greens.

In her speech in front of the plenary, von der Leyen stated:

“We will address those issues that Europeans feel the most in their daily lives. Take housing. Europe faces a housing crisis, with people of all ages and families of all sizes affected. Prices and rents are soaring. People are struggling to find affordable homes. This is why, for the first time, I will appoint a commissioner with direct responsibility for housing. We will develop a **European Affordable Housing Plan**, to look at all the drivers of the crisis and to help unlock the private and public investment needed. Typically, housing is not seen as a European issue. Some might say we should not get involved. But I want this Commission to support people where it matters the most. If it matters to Europeans, it matters to Europe.”

[https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/news/statement-european-parliament-plenary-president-ursula-von-der-leyen-candidate-second-mandate-2024-2024-07-18\\_en](https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/news/statement-european-parliament-plenary-president-ursula-von-der-leyen-candidate-second-mandate-2024-2024-07-18_en)



## Affordable Housing Plan in the Guidelines of the new European Commission 2024-2029

“We urgently need to address the housing crisis facing millions of families and young people. The percentage of household income spent on housing has risen dramatically. Rents and house prices are soaring. There is also significant and growing investment gap in social and affordable housing. To support Member States in addressing these issues, I will appoint a commissioner whose responsibilities will include housing, and I will put forward a **first-ever European Affordable Housing Plan**. This will address structural drivers, develop a strategy for housing construction, offer technical assistance to cities and Member States and focus on investment. We will work with the European Investment Bank on a pan-European investment platform for affordable and sustainable housing to attract more private and public investment. As an immediate first step, we will propose to inject liquidity into the market by allowing Member States to double the planned cohesion policy investments in affordable housing. We will also revise our state aid rules to enable housing support measures, especially for affordable energy-efficient and social housing. Central to this will be a swift and effective roll-out of the Social Climate Fund, which will notably help with renovations and access to affordable and energy-efficient housing. Four years ago, I launched the New European Bauhaus, bringing sustainability together with inclusion and affordability, creativity with innovation. And we will now enlarge this community.”

[https://commission.europa.eu/about-european-commission/political-guidelines-2024-2029\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/about-european-commission/political-guidelines-2024-2029_en)

Together with German Tenants Organisation Deutscher Mieterbund, the IUT welcomes the announcement to place the issue of affordable housing prominently on the EU policy agenda

[German Tenants Organization welcomes guidelines of the new EU Commission](#)



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