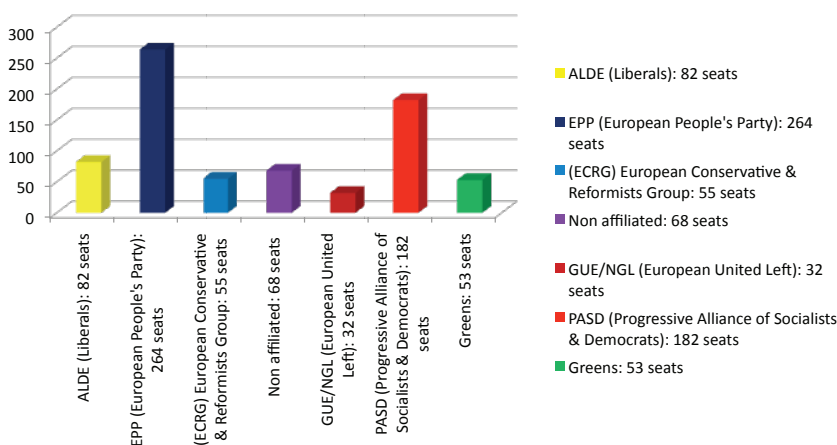
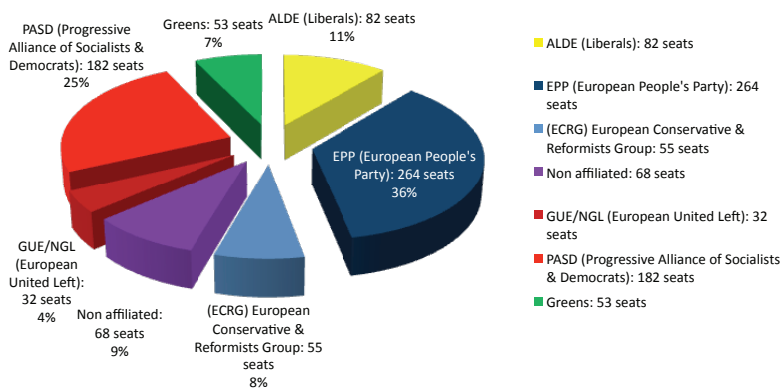


Following ELDR's 1st liberal bulletin on the results of the European elections, the ELDR Party keeps you up to date with the latest information and makeup of the new European Parliament.

Latest developments include the formation of two new political groups calling themselves European Conservative and Reformist Group (ECRG) and Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (PASD).

...reformists AND conservative...progressive AND socialist..?!

Preliminary make up of European Parliament 09-14



Liberals in the Parliament will ensure the liberal character of European legislation and prevent conservative or socialist stains on it.

The Italian Democratic Party chose to sit with the socialists. The current group of non-affiliated MEPs includes a number of eurosceptic and nationalist parties such as the French Front National, the UK Independence Party, and the Italian Lega Nord. It seems likely that they will form a group that may be based on the previous groups Union for Europe of the Nations (UEN) and Independence & Democracy (IND/DEM). A parliamentary rule states that in order to form a new Parliamentary Group one needs 25 Members from 7 states: given that the non-affiliated members are in the number of 68, it is likely that they will find enough members from this heterogenic group to establish a formal Parliamentary Group.

The liberal group (ALDE) will elect its new leader next week (30 June 2009). In the meantime the socialists re-elected their previous group leader, German SPD MEP Martin Schulz with 88%, while the European People's Party re-elected French UMP MEP Joseph Daul with 98%.

Led by the British Conservative Party the ECRG comprises an awkward mix of political parties. United by a political outlook which is mainly national-focused, this group's political spectrum ranges from the most conservative Catholics in Poland to the most conservative Calvinists in the Netherlands; from newly greened British to Czech deniers of climate change. While they seem to follow liberal economic ideas such as free and fair trade, competition and the idea of a lean state, they have often called for protectionist measures as solutions to the economic crisis. At the same time, this group accepts some members that have homophobic beliefs and encourages assaults on the gay community in their home country.

The **liberal group** in the European Parliament, like **ELDR member parties** across Europe, is the only force to combine in its political work the **respect of all fundamental freedoms** in the EU with a firm conviction in a **competitive business environment** and a **further extension** of the European **Single Market**. As the **guardians of freedom**, liberals will make sure in the next European Parliament that the rights of European citizens will be defended against all attempts of interference by the paternalistic left and nationalist right.

Stay tuned!

ELDR will keep you up to date with the latest news on the formation of political groups, new political alliances and the election of a new Commission.