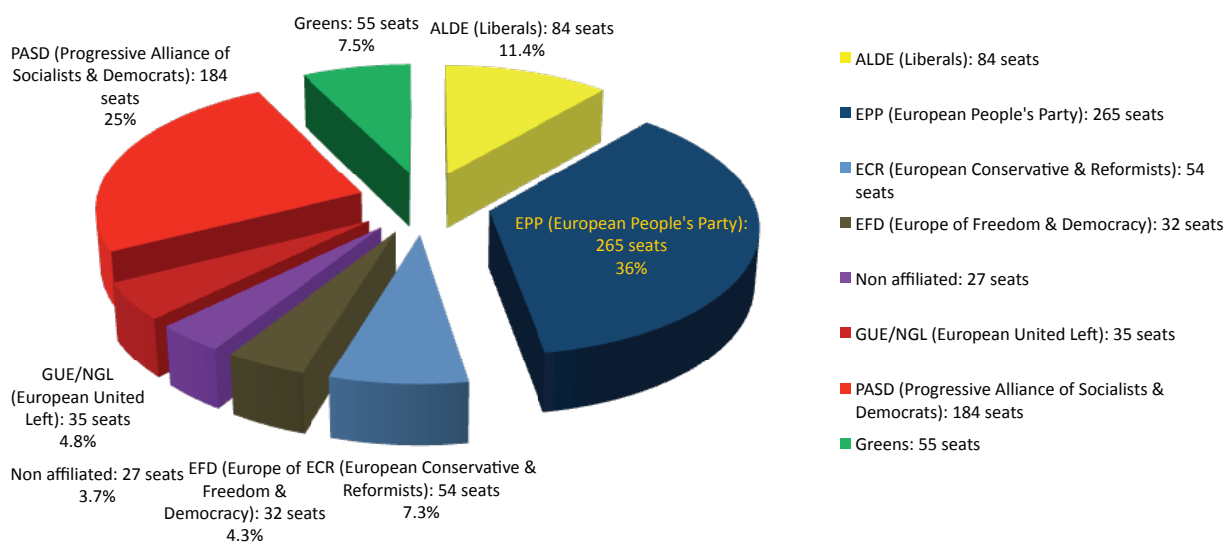


With the 5th liberal bulletin the ELDR Party keeps you up to date with the latest developments and makeup of the new European Parliament.

The new European Parliament convened for its inaugural session last week in Strasbourg.


The constitutive parliamentary session not only saw the election of Polish Conservative Jerzy Buzek as the first Central-Eastern European President of the European Parliament but also the election of **two liberal Vice Presidents** of the Parliament: Silvana Koch-Mehrin, FDP Germany and Diana Wallis, Liberal Democrats UK.

Make up of European Parliament 09-14
as of 16 July 2009



The European Liberals welcome the **increased influence of our liberal group, ALDE**, in the European Parliament.

- ELDR Vice President and British MEP **Sharon Bowles** will chair the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee, arguably one of the most influential committees in Parliament. Its work is absolutely essential for the recovery of Europe's economy.
- **Luigi de Magistris**, MEP of ELDR's member party Italia dei Valori will chair the Budgetary Control Committee controlling and defining the European Commission's expenditure priorities.
- **Wolf Klinz**, MEP of the German FDP will chair a special Committee on the financial crisis issuing crucial lesson to learn from the ramifications of the crisis.
- **Bill Newton Dunn**, MEP of the British LibDems was elected as one of five Quaestors (a kind of "Council of Elders" responsible for financial and administrative matters of direct concern to the MEPs. In their capacity they advise the Parliament's bureau made up of the President of the Parliament and his 14 Vice Presidents)



Meanwhile the liberal parliamentary group discussed and adopted its political priorities that the liberals want to see implemented by the next European Commission. ALDE group leader Guy Verhofstadt underlined the importance of a political debate on specific policy proposals and not personalities over the Commission presidency.

[Read here](#) to find the details of the **liberal priorities** that were sent to the candidate for the Commission Presidency, José Manuel Barroso.

Liberals will not be pressured to agree to holding the vote on the Commission President in September if the candidate fails to present a concrete and liberal programme. “The decision to support the re-election of Barroso will depend on his programme and responses to the liberal demands”, Guy Verhofstadt told the press.

Ratification process of the Lisbon Treaty

After the German constitutional court ruled that the Lisbon Treaty complies with the German constitution, the Irish ratification looks to remain the biggest challenge (also the Czech Republic and Poland have not yet formally completed the ratification process).

ELDR member and ruling party of Ireland, Fianna Fail, announced that a second referendum on the treaty will take place on 2nd October. European Liberals are discussing with their Irish counterparts how to best support a successful campaign.

Impact on the European Parliament

The Nice treaty, which currently applies, stipulated a reduction of the number of elected MEPs. The key figures are:

June 2009 election: 736 MEPs (down from 785 in the 2004-2009 parliament)

Post-Lisbon entry into force: 754 MEPs with a number of member states gaining the additional MEPs promised under the Lisbon Treaty, and Germany retaining the extra three MEPs that were elected under the Nice rules. This outcome was approved by the December 2008 meeting of the European Council.

2014 (under Lisbon): 751 MEPs with Germany’s delegation being reduced from 99 MEPs to 96.

Stay tuned!

ELDR will keep you up to date if the European Parliament will vote on Barroso in September and when Parliament will begin its political day-to-day work that will shape to a great extent the daily lives of European citizens.

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