

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin - KOSMOS Workshop 2016
“Gendering the European Parliament: Structures, Policies and Practices”

Panel III: Gender Equality in internal EP affairs
“Keep Calm and Carry On”
Agenda-Setting and the Work of Femm

Tuesday, March 1, 2016

Markus Warasin
European Parliament
Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

Overview:

I. European Parliament committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM) - What it is and what it does

II. The political context of agenda setting and the work of FEMM

III. Key factors which influence the decision making in FEMM dossiers

IV. Some examples

V. Conclusions

I.
**The European Parliament
committee on Women's Rights
and Gender Equality (FEMM) -
What it is and what it does**



EP committees

- **In order to do the preparatory work for Parliament's plenary sittings, the Members are divided up among a number of specialised standing committees.**
- **The committees draw up, amend and adopt legislative proposals and own-initiative reports. They consider Commission and Council proposals and, where necessary, draw up reports to be presented to the plenary assembly.**
- **The parliamentary committees meet once or twice a month in Brussels**

- **The debates are held in public.**
- **A committee consists of between 25 and 71 MEPs, and has a chair, a bureau and a secretariat.**
- **The political make-up of the committees reflects “in theory” that of the plenary assembly.**
- **There are 20 parliamentary**

20

**Foreign Affairs (+ 2 sub-committees: Human Rights + Se
Development
International Trade
Budgets
Budgetary Control
Economic and Monetary Affairs
Employment and Social Affairs
Environment, Public Health and Food Safety
Industry, Research and Energy
Internal Market and Consumer Protection
Transport and Tourism
Regional Development
Agriculture and Rural Development
Fisheries
Culture and Education
Legal Affairs
Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs
Constitutional Affairs
Women's Rights and Gender Equality
Petitions**

Responsibilities	
1 Equality promotion	▪ The definition, promotion and protection of women's rights in the Union and related Union measures
2 Third countries	▪ The promotion of women's rights in third countries
3 Equal opportunities	▪ Equal opportunities policy, including the promotion of equality between men and women with regard to labour market opportunities and treatment at work
4 Gender discrimination	▪ The removal of all forms of violence and discrimination based on sex
5 Gender mainstreaming	▪ The implementation and further development of gender mainstreaming in all policy sectors
6 International presence	▪ The follow-up and implementation of international agreements and conventions involving the rights of women
7 Information	▪ Encouraging awareness of women's rights

FEMM committee

1 Chair



4 Vice Chairs



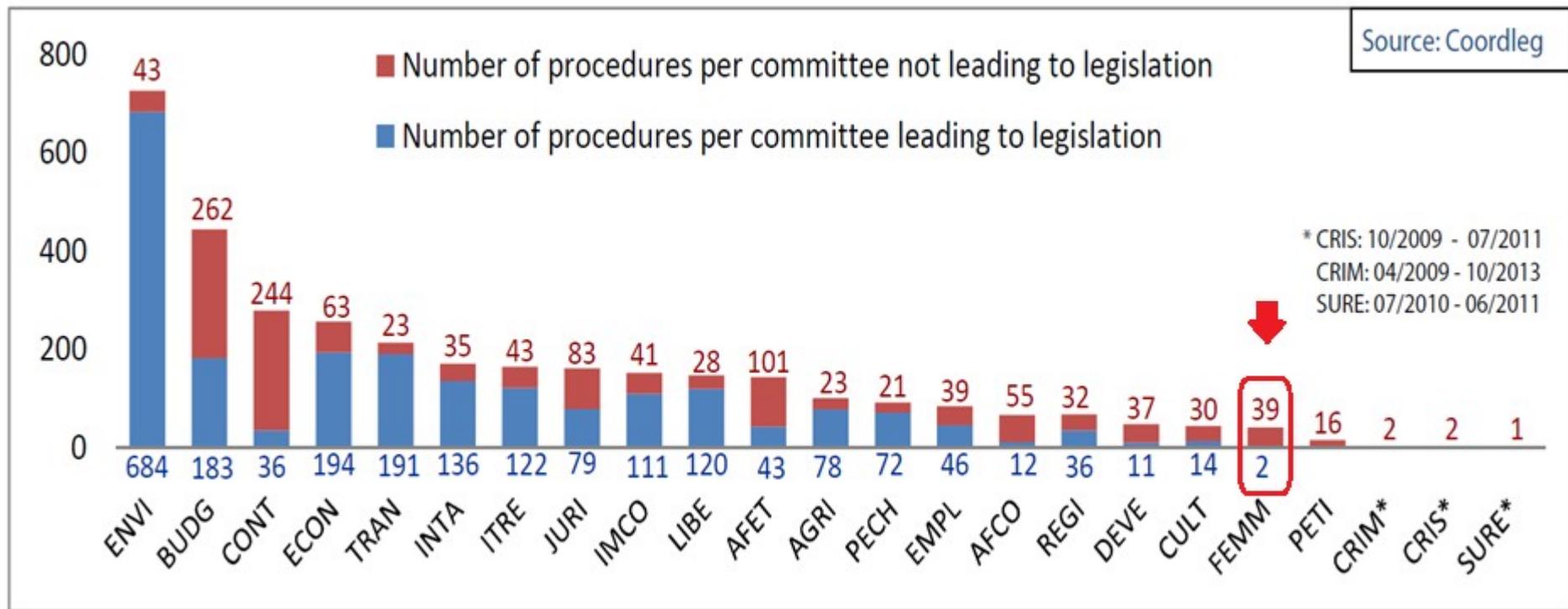
30 Members



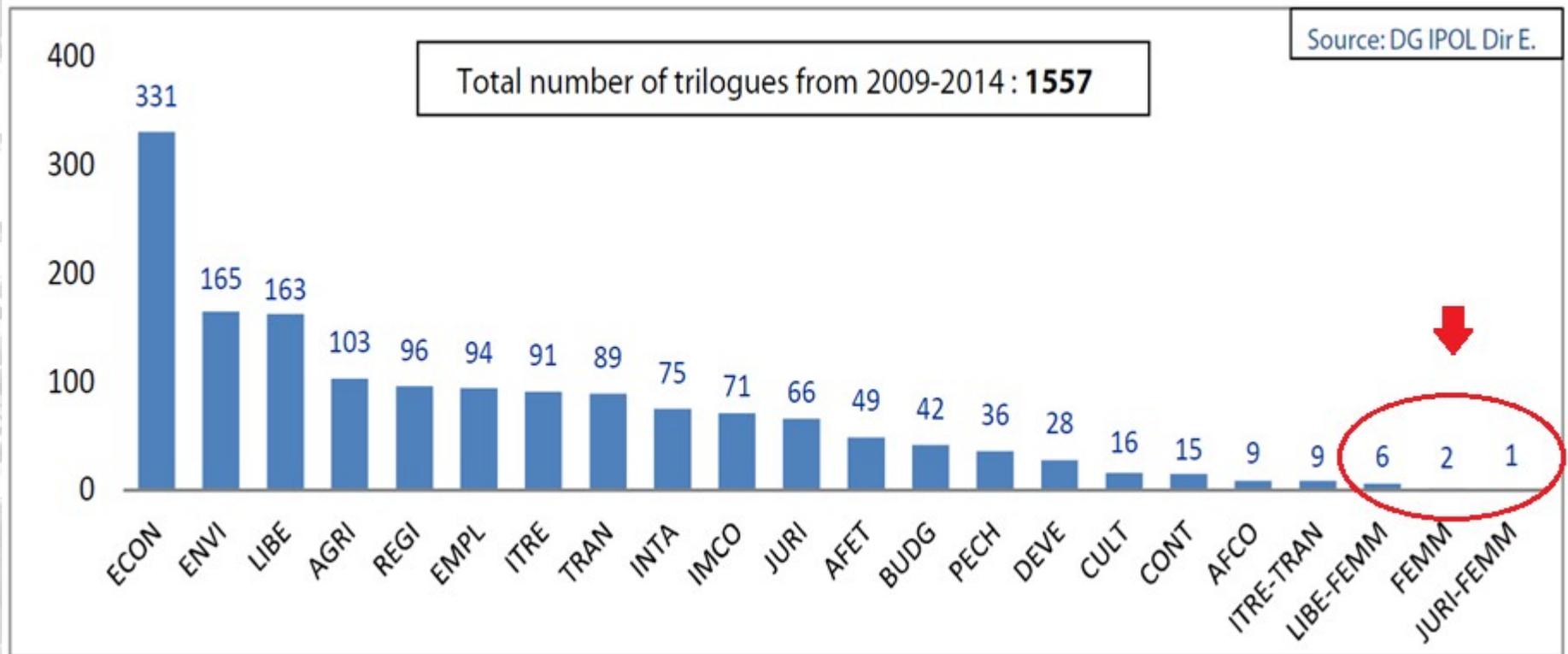
33 Substitutes



Number of procedures



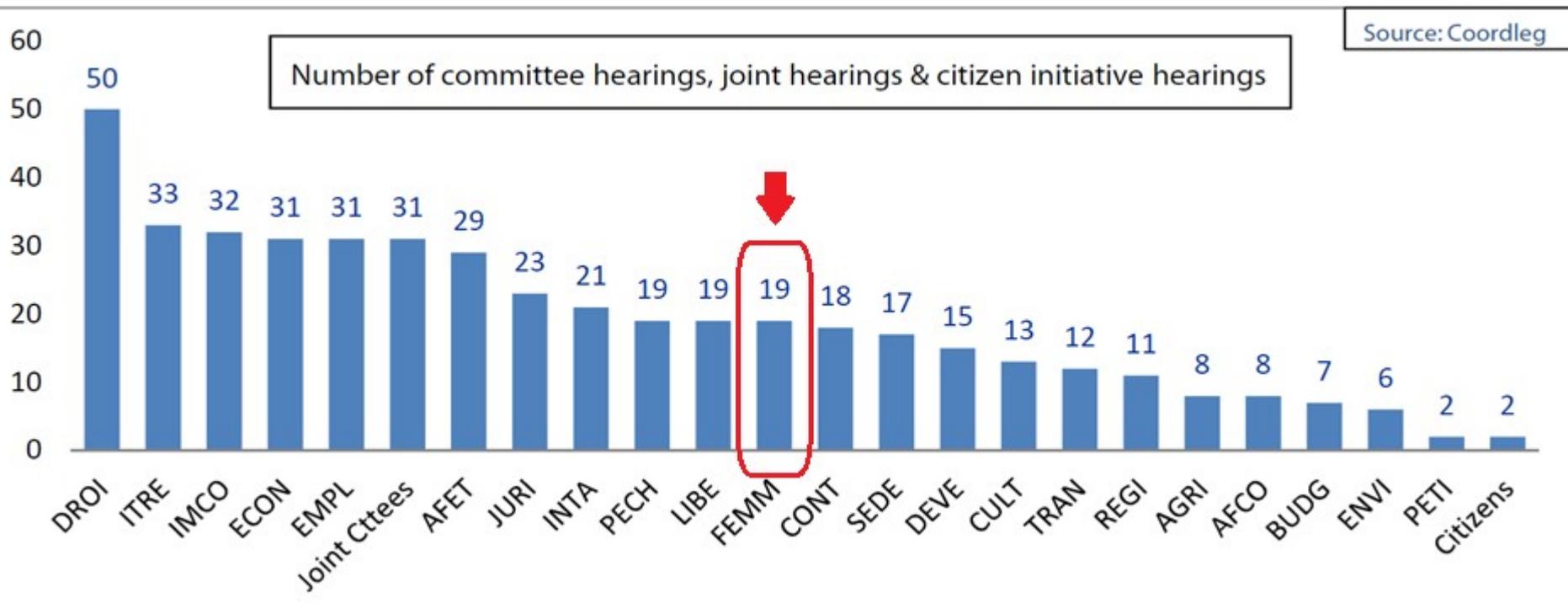
Number of trilogues per committee



Own-initiative reports and legislative own-initiative reports



Number of hearings



Upcoming work in FEMM

The working methodology of the Committee sets a couple of framework-rules:

We can have 6 INI's in parallel, organise hearings (annual quota: 16 paid experts), go on committee missions (annual quota: 25 MEPs) and ad-hoc delegations, request studies or workshops. But the topics of the reports and hearings, the experts to be invited and consulted, or the destinations of the missions are highly politicized choices.

Determining factors are

- the sizes of the political groups
- the intra-group cohesion and
- the inter-group coalition

Only as a last resort “technical” tools are used, such as the d'Hondt method for mission, points systems for the allocation of reports and opinion, or more unconventional tools like roulette...

Own-initiative reports

- The need for a EU strategy to prevent the **gender pension gap**;
- Differences between women and men in **work, care and leisure time**;
- **Women's Rights in the Eastern Partnership States and other neighbouring countries**;
- **EU funds** for gender equality;
- Promoting gender equality in **mental health and clinical research**;
- **Women and their roles in rural areas**;
- **Gender equality in EU trade agreements**;
- **Women, Gender Equality and Climate Justice**;
- **Gender equality and Taxation policies in the EU**.

FEMM Committee Missions - 1st half 2016 - dates

Women & girls refugees centres in Germany	Munich	5 Members	week 6	10-12 February
UN CSW 60th session of the Commission on the Status of the Women	New York	9 Members	week 11	14-17 March
Women & girls refugees centres in Belgium	place: tbc	5 Members	week 20	18-19 May
Global Summit of Women in Poland	Warsaw	5 Members	week 23	9-10 June

II. The political context of agenda setting and the work of FEMM

- **During the 2014 European elections more than 17.000 candidates from 524 political parties campaigned for a seat in the EP.**
- **Once elected, the 751 MEPs caucus according to transnational groups based on political ideology, rather than by nationality.**
- **The 8th EP has 8 political groups - containing 191 individual political parties - plus a number of “non-attached” or independent members.**
- **The first Assembly in 1952 was not elected (no elections, no lists, no**

III.

Key factors which influence the decision making in FEMM dossiers:

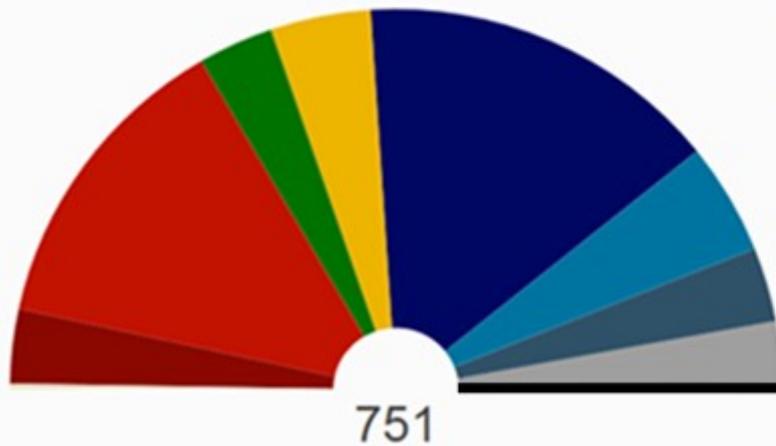
- 1. Number of seats of each of the European political groups**
- 2. Intra-group Cohesion**
- 3. Inter-groups Coalition**



European Parliament

1. Number of seats of each of the European political groups

EP distribution of seats/ 8th term



		EPP Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats)	217		28,9%
		S&D Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament	190		25.3%
		ECR European Conservatives and Reformists	74		9.6%
		ALDE Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe	70		9.3%
		GUE/NGL European United Left/Nordic Green Left	52		6.9%
		Greens/EFA The Greens/European Free Alliance	50		6.6%
		EFDD Europe of freedom and democracy Group	45		6,0%
		ENF Europe of Nations and Freedom Group	39		5.2%
		NI Non-attached Members – Members not belonging to any political group	14		1.9%

										TOTAL
	4	4	4	6		2		1		21
	7	4	2	4						17
	7	4	2	4	3		1			21
	1	3	4	3	1	1				13
	34	27	8	4	8	13			2	96
	1	1		3		1				6
	4	1	1	1	4					11
	5	4	1		6				5	21
	17	14		8	11	4				54
	20	13		7	4	6	1	20	3	74
	5	2	1	2		1				11
	15	31	2		3		17	5		73
	2	2			2					6
	4	1	1	1		1				8
	2	2	1	4		1	1			11
	3	1		1		1				6
	12	4				2			3	21
	3	3								6
	5	3	2	7	3	2		4		26
	5	5		1		3		4		18
	23	5	19				1	2	1	51
	7	8		2	4					21
	12	15	1	3				1		32
	5	1		1		1				8
	6	4	3							13
	3	2	2	4	1	1				13
	4	6		3	1	4	2			20
		20	21	1	1	6	22	1	1	73
TOTAL										TOTAL
	216	190	75	70	52	50	45	38	15	751





European Parliament



EPP - 217

Chair - Manfred Weber (DE)

S&D - 190

Chair - Gianni Pittella (IT)

ECR - 74

Chair - Syed Kamal (UK)

ALDE - 70

Chair - Guy Verhofstadt (BE)

GUE/NGL - 52

Chair - Gabi Zimmer (DE)

Greens/EFA - 50

Co-chairs - Rebecca Harms (DE) and

Philippe Lamberts (BE)

EFDD* - 45

Co-chairs - Nigel Farage (UK) and

David Borrelli (IT)

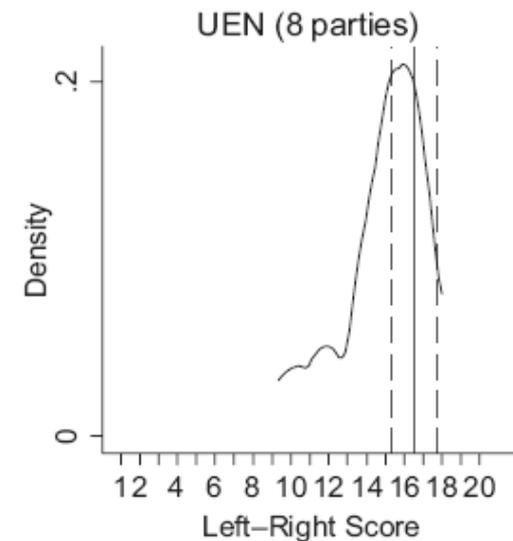
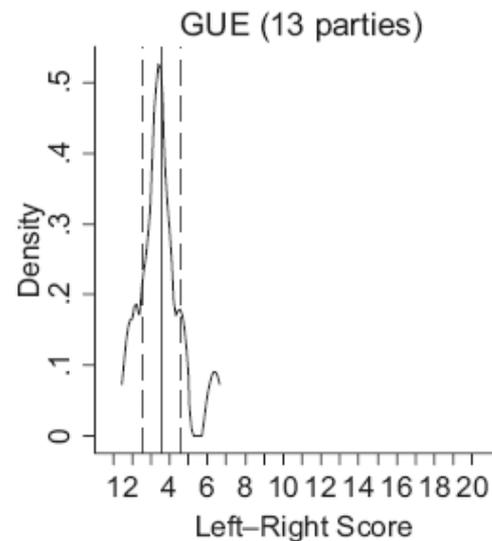
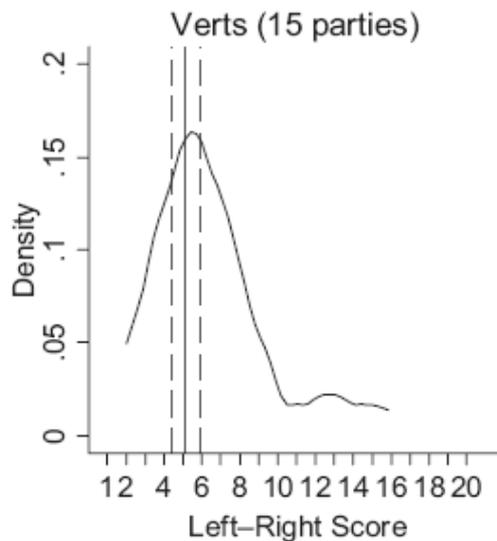
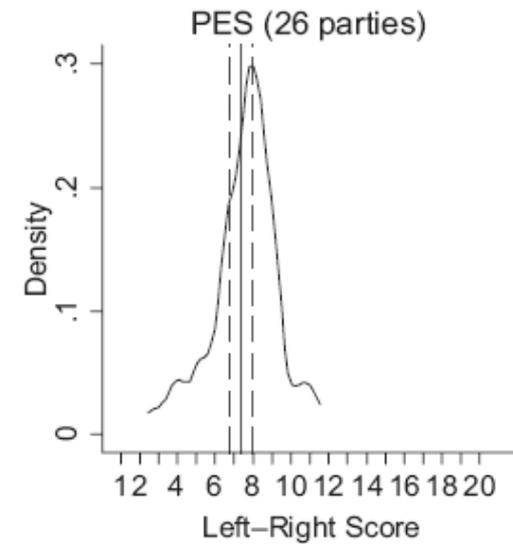
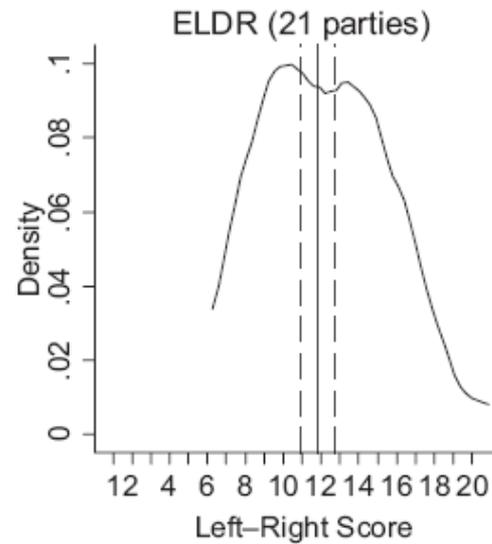
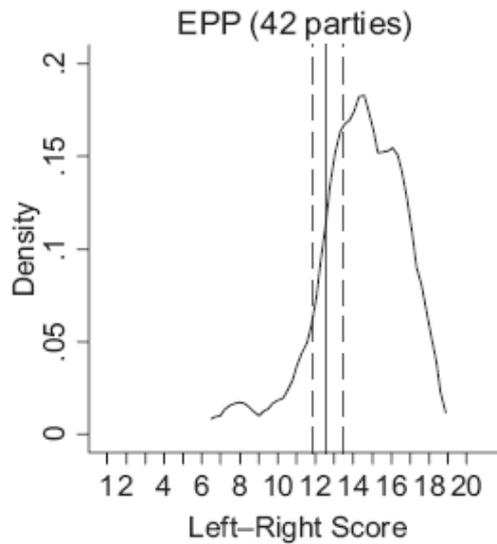
EFN - 39

Chair: Marine Le Pen (FR)



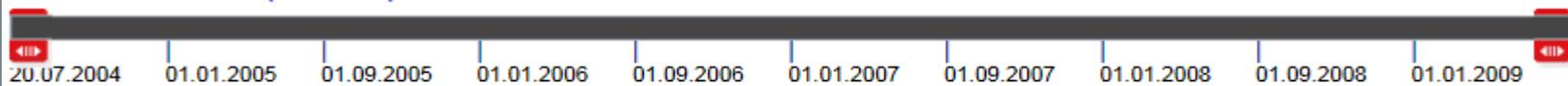
2. Intra-group Cohesion

(6th term)



European Parliament

Cohesion rates (6th term)



i Cohesion measures the extent in which the members of a European Party Group vote as a block or not. The highest the score, the more cohesive a European Group is.

European Party Groups Cohesion Rates

Policy Area	PPE-DE	PSE	ALDE/ADLE	UEN	Greens/EFA	GUE-NGL	IND/DEM	NI
Overall cohesion rates	0.88	0.91	0.89	0.76	0.91	0.85	0.47	0.44
Agriculture	0.81	0.83	0.85	0.80	0.87	0.77	0.40	0.49
Budget	0.88	0.93	0.90	0.77	0.94	0.84	0.54	0.45
Budgetary control	0.84	0.94	0.94	0.82	0.94	0.84	0.51	0.25
Civil liberties, justice & home affairs	0.84	0.95	0.88	0.75	0.92	0.86	0.46	0.48
Constitutional and inter-institutional affairs	0.87	0.87	0.90	0.68	0.87	0.77	0.58	0.46
Culture & education	0.86	0.93	0.93	0.76	0.91	0.74	0.56	0.41
Development	0.85	0.99	0.96	0.85	0.94	0.94	0.45	0.48
Economic & monetary affairs	0.90	0.90	0.91	0.73	0.89	0.84	0.54	0.43
Employment & social affairs	0.86	0.92	0.86	0.75	0.90	0.94	0.47	0.39
Environment & public health	0.88	0.90	0.87	0.77	0.93	0.92	0.43	0.43
Fisheries	0.91	0.89	0.87	0.78	0.89	0.76	0.43	0.49
Foreign & security policy	0.88	0.92	0.88	0.74	0.90	0.82	0.48	0.45
Gender equality	0.81	0.97	0.87	0.72	0.92	0.92	0.44	0.45
Industry, research & energy	0.89	0.90	0.86	0.79	0.92	0.76	0.43	0.44
Internal market & consumer protection	0.90	0.88	0.80	0.75	0.94	0.94	0.45	0.39
Internal regulations of the EP	0.66	0.71	0.65	0.51	0.68	0.40	0.41	0.37
International trade	0.96	0.92	0.95	0.88	0.93	0.93	0.39	0.38
Juridical affairs	0.92	0.91	0.91	0.83	0.93	0.86	0.37	0.42
Petitions	0.86	0.92	0.88	0.77	0.93	0.91	0.52	0.46
Regional development	0.90	0.92	0.93	0.76	0.93	0.86	0.50	0.40
Transport & tourism	0.88	0.88	0.91	0.80	0.90	0.89	0.45	0.46

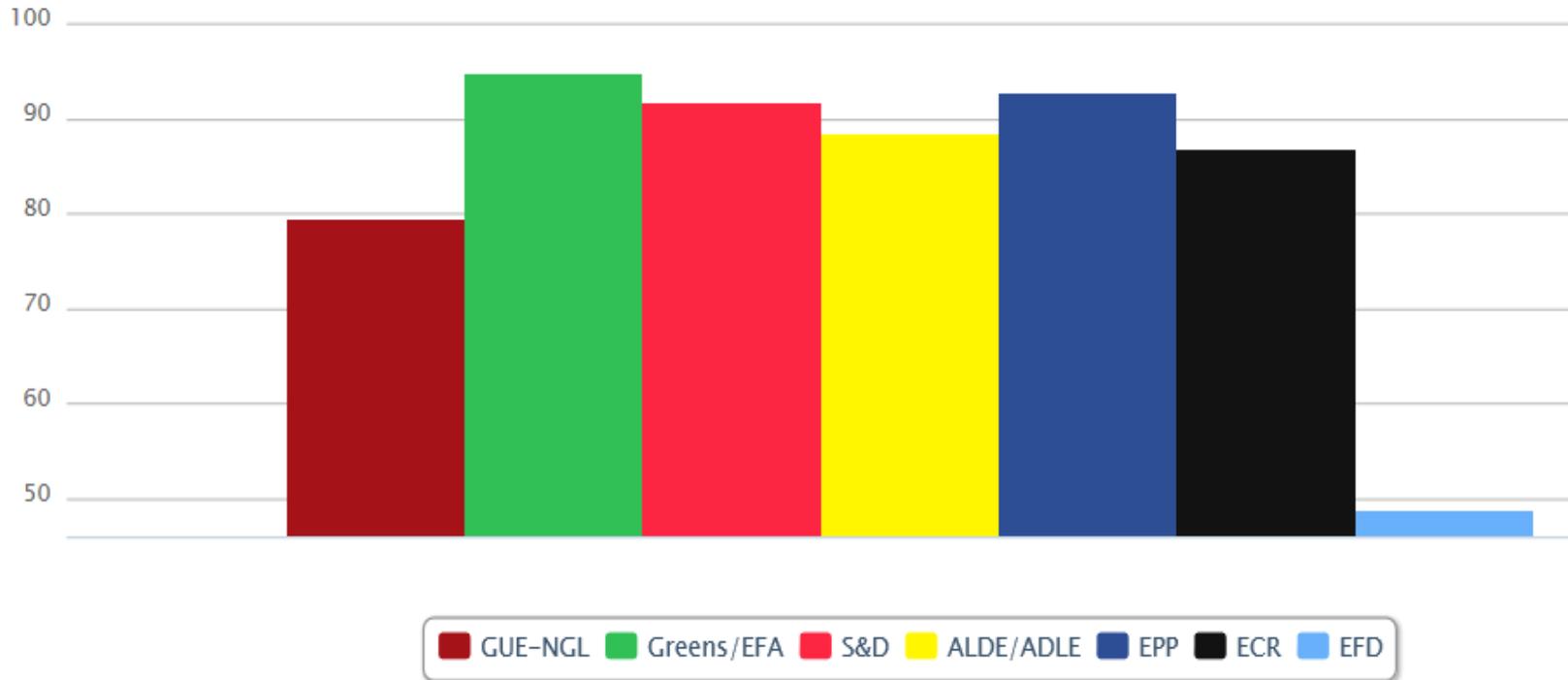


European Parliament

Intra-group Cohesion

(7th term, specific policy areas)

European political groups cohesion rates on All policy areas (14.07.2009 - 17.04.2014)





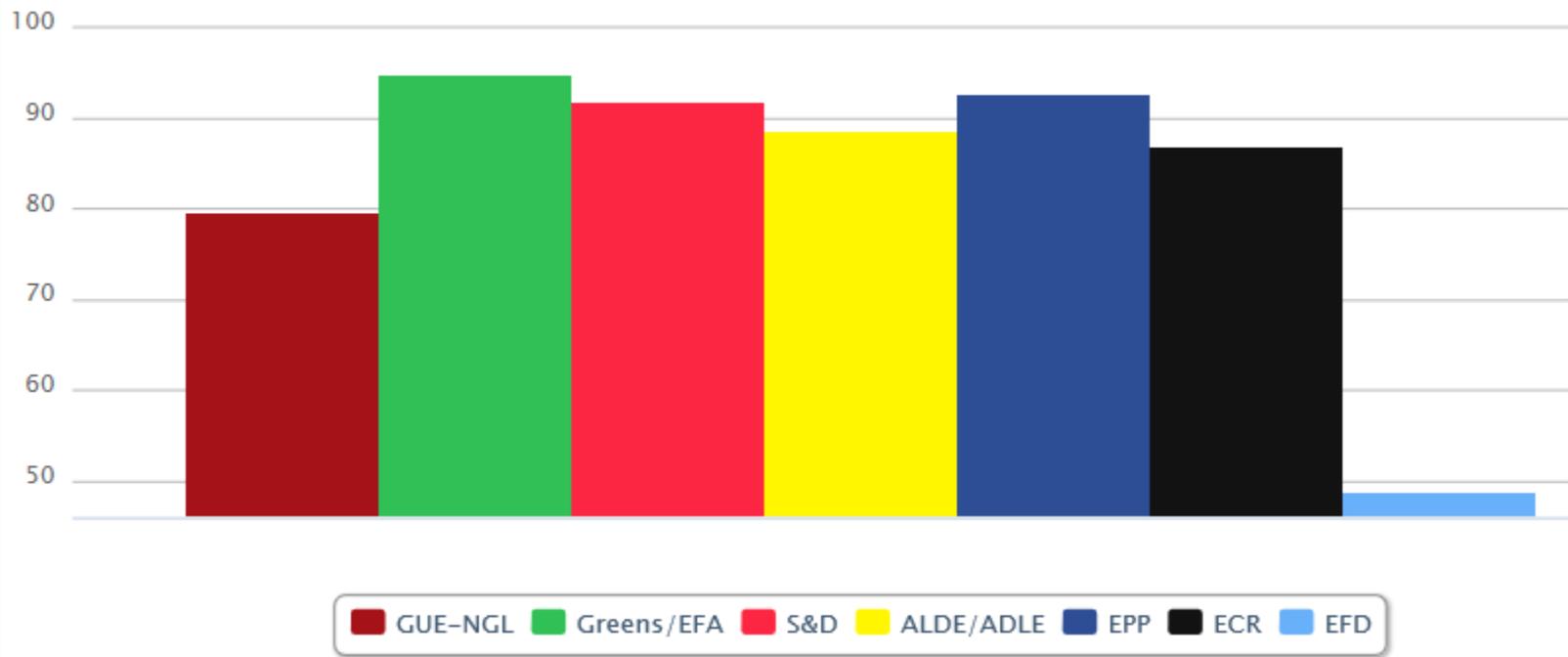
European Parliament

Overall	79.37%	94.68%	91.54%	88.40%	92.63%	86.65%	48.59%
Agriculture	70.35%	94.21%	75.93%	79.11%	88.92%	77.56%	45.18%
Budget	72.58%	92.92%	90.49%	86.82%	95.46%	80.15%	52.17%
Budgetary control	82.94%	96.60%	94.29%	96.22%	95.76%	89.58%	60.47%
Civil liberties, justice & home affairs	83.70%	96.40%	95.38%	92.46%	93.60%	83.38%	51.47%
Constitutional and inter-institutional affairs	72.36%	92.62%	93.69%	88.30%	94.96%	94.79%	51.36%
Culture & education	73.61%	96.94%	98.45%	91.38%	98.27%	85.98%	38.36%
Development	82.98%	98.31%	96.80%	89.98%	89.11%	79.62%	46.04%
Economic & monetary affairs	76.50%	91.95%	94.58%	91.01%	95.41%	87.78%	43.80%
Employment & social affairs	85.91%	95.02%	93.49%	86.37%	93.84%	89.93%	41.29%
Environment & public health	85.57%	97.45%	90.07%	85.37%	87.82%	86.24%	49.24%
Fisheries	74.35%	91.17%	88.07%	91.10%	90.83%	82.65%	43.19%
Foreign & security policy	83.46%	94.74%	92.41%	92.94%	95.29%	89.82%	50.17%
Gender equality	84.19%	92.28%	94.91%	80.40%	77.31%	82.65%	49.64%
Industry, research & energy	69.87%	96.46%	90.20%	85.91%	91.44%	93.37%	51.99%
Internal market & consumer protection	80.08%	93.17%	97.01%	88.42%	94.84%	91.36%	41.87%
Internal regulations of the EP	66.07%	81.17%	78.55%	74.89%	86.99%	88.67%	68.51%
International trade	86.90%	95.46%	92.61%	88.24%	93.00%	93.59%	47.55%
Legal affairs	79.32%	94.85%	92.47%	86.68%	95.97%	89.39%	44.55%
Petitions	86.01%	97.73%	97.10%	92.64%	96.28%	88.31%	41.39%
Regional development	70.98%	95.64%	97.03%	94.91%	96.88%	70.53%	46.75%
Transport & tourism	83.43%	91.67%	89.74%	90.34%	93.15%	83.24%	42.56%

Intra-group Cohesion

(8th term, specific policy areas)

European political groups cohesion rates on All policy areas (14.07.2009 - 17.04.2014)



European political groups cohesion rates on Economic & monetary affairs (14.07.2009 - 17.04.2014)



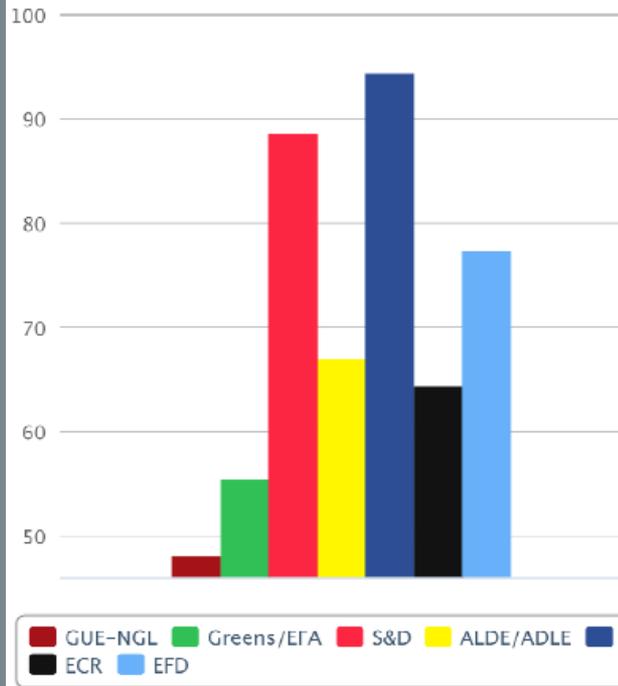
European political groups cohesion rates on Gender equality (14.07.2009 - 17.04.2014)



3. Inter-group Coalition

Groups' footprint on AGRI dossiers

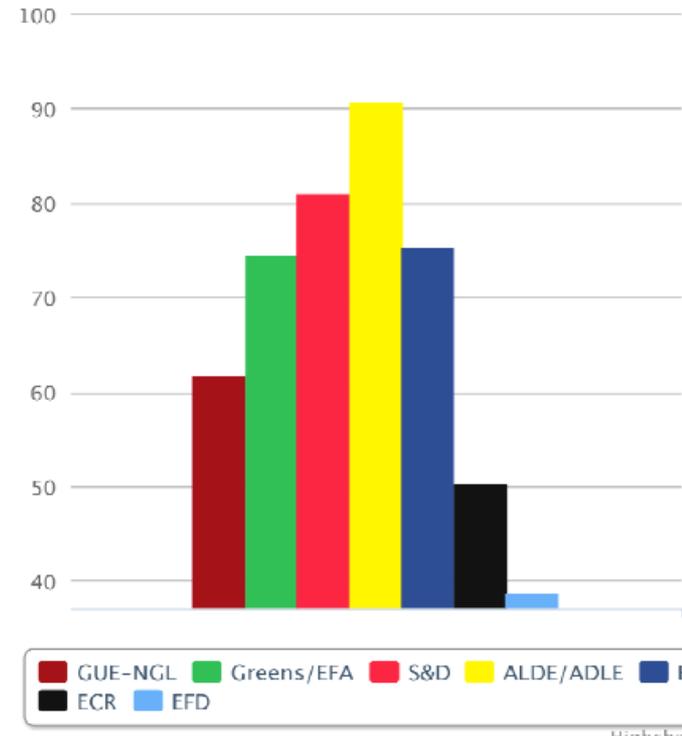
Percent of votes won by each of the political groups
Agriculture (14.07.2009 - 13.06.2013)



Highcharts.com

Groups' footprint on LIBE dossiers

Percent of votes won by each of the political groups
Civil liberties, justice & home affairs (14.07.2009 - 13.06.2013)



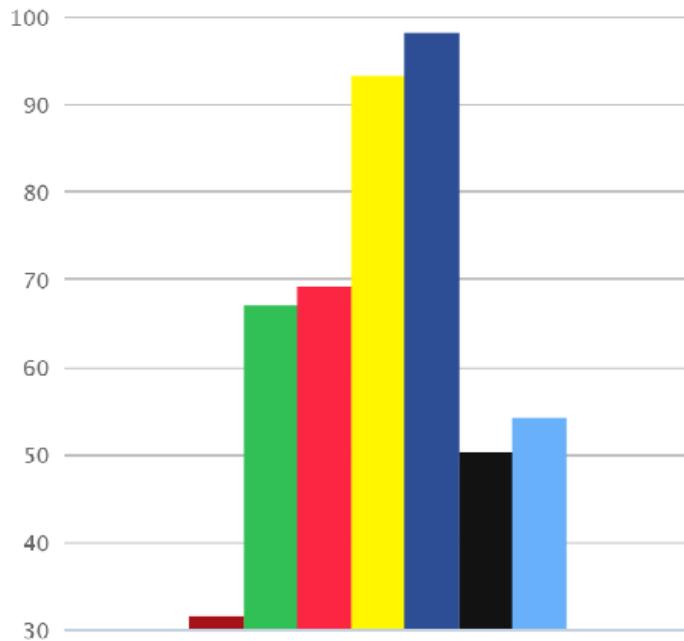
Highcharts.com



Inter-group Coalition

Groups' footprint on ECON dossiers

Percent of votes won by each of the political groups
Economic & monetary affairs (14.07.2009 - 13.06.2013)

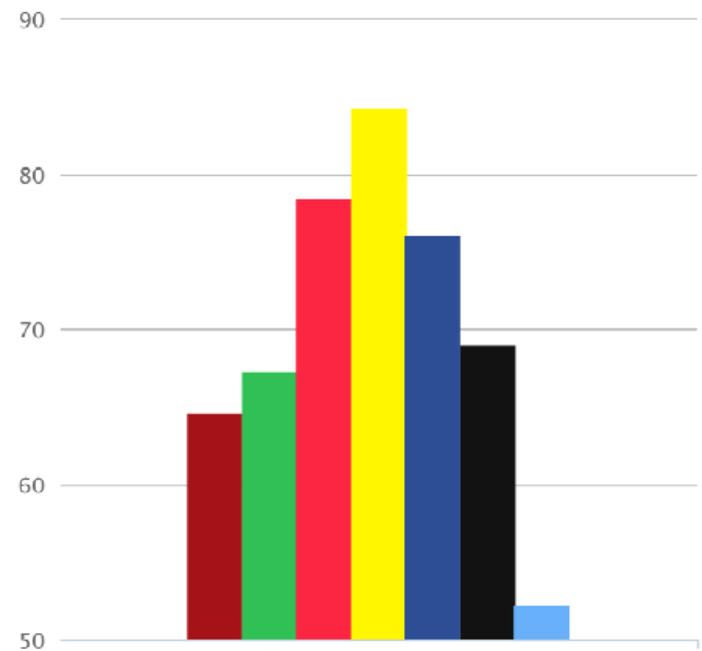


■ GUE-NGL
 ■ Greens/EFA
 ■ S&D
 ■ ALDE/ADLE
 ■ EPP
 ■ ECR
 ■ EFD

Highcharts.com

Groups' footprint on ENVI dossiers

Percent of votes won by each of the political groups
Environment & public health (14.07.2009 - 13.06.2013)



■ GUE-NGL
 ■ Greens/EFA
 ■ S&D
 ■ ALDE/ADLE
 ■ EPP
 ■ ECR
 ■ EFD

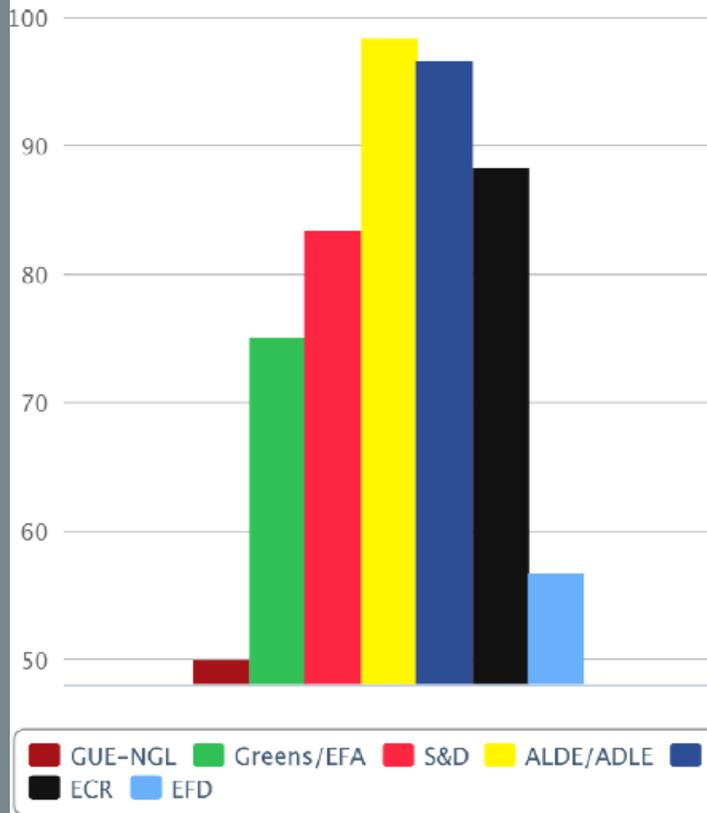
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Inter-group Coalition

Groups' footprint on IMCO dossiers

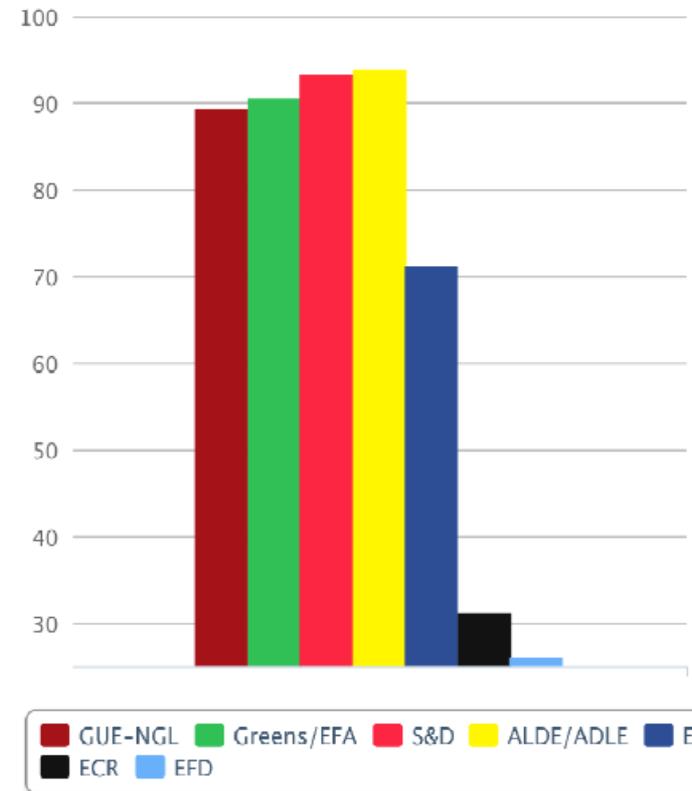
Percent of votes won by each of the political groups
Internal market & consumer protection (14.07.2009 - 13.06.2013)



Highcharts.com

Groups' footprint on FEMM dossiers

Percent of votes won by each of the political groups
Gender equality (14.07.2009 - 13.06.2013)

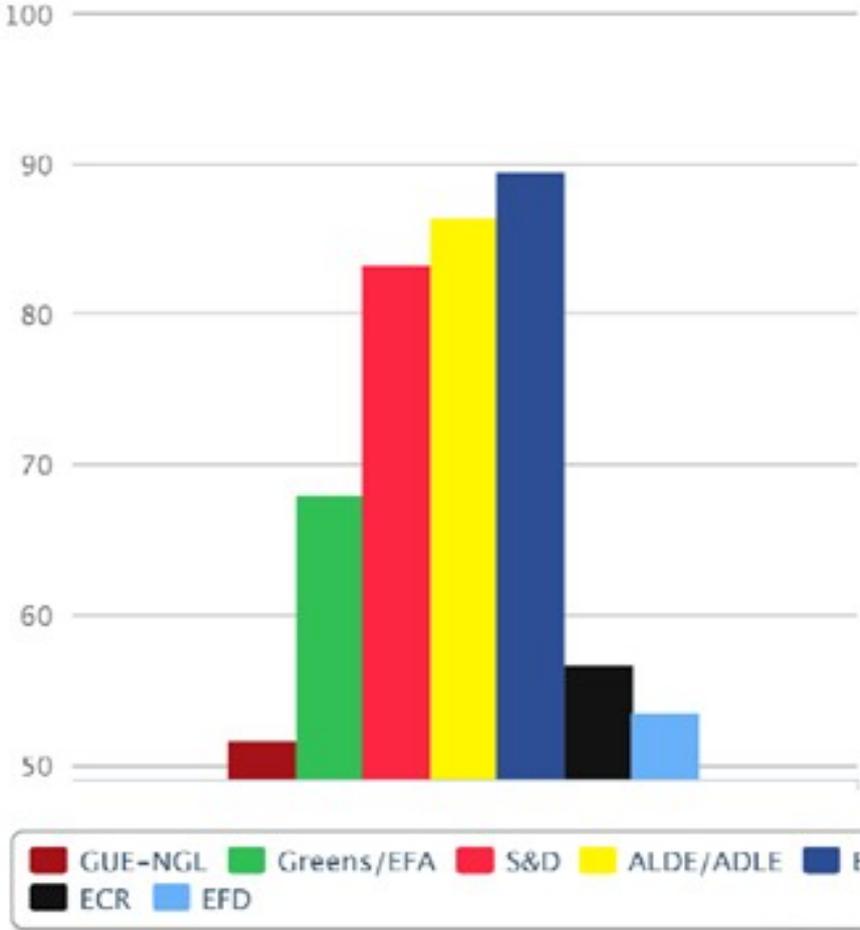


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Who wins? Who loses?

Percent of votes won by each of the political groups
All policy areas (14.07.2009 - 13.06.2013)

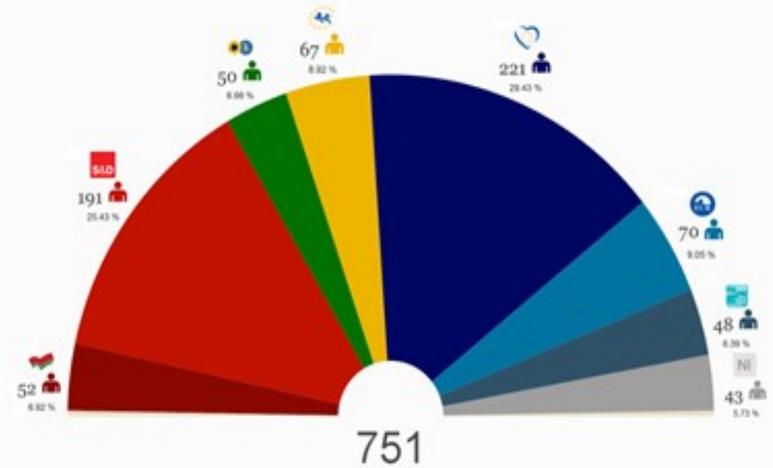
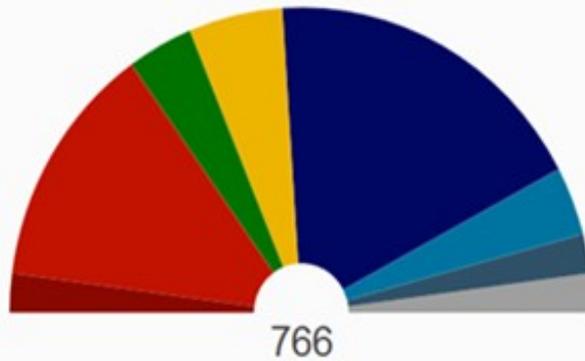


Highcharts.com



European Parliament

Comparing EE09 and EE14



Turnout 43%
Final results

Turnout 43.09%
Estimation 25/05/2014 23:58 CEST

	EPP Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats)	274	35.77 %
	S&D Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament	196	25.59 %
	ALDE Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe	83	10.83 %
	Greens/EFA The Greens/European Free Alliance	57	7.44 %
	ECR European Conservatives and Reformists	57	7.44 %
	GUE/NGL European United Left/Nordic Green Left	35	4.57 %
	EFD Europe of freedom and democracy Group	31	4.05 %
	NI Non-attached Members – Members not belonging to any political group	33	4.31 %

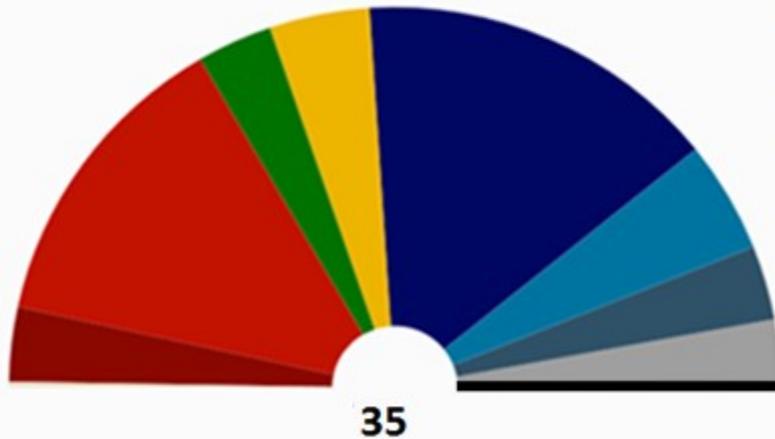
	EPP Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats)	221	29.43 %
	S&D Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament	191	25.43 %
	ECR European Conservatives and Reformists	70	9.32 %
	ALDE Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe	67	8.92 %
	GUE/NGL European United Left/Nordic Green Left	52	6.92 %
	Greens/EFA The Greens/European Free Alliance	50	6.66 %
	EFD Europe of freedom and democracy Group	48	6.39 %
	NI Non-attached Members – Members not belonging to any political group	43	5.73 %
	Others Newly elected Members not allied to any of the political groups set up in the outgoing Parliament	9	1.20 %

Plenary: possible coalitions

pro-european comfort zone

	XL grand coalition	grand coalition	centre left coalition	centre right coalition I	centre right coalition II	centre right coalition III
EPP	219	219		219	219	219
S&D	190	190	190			
ECR				72	72	72
ALDE	69		69	69		
GUE/NGL			52			
Greens/EFA			50			
EFDD					47	47
ENF						36
NI						16
Total	478	409	361	360	338	390
%	63,65%	54,46%	48,07%	47,94%	45,00%	52,00%

FEMM Distribution of seats / 8th term

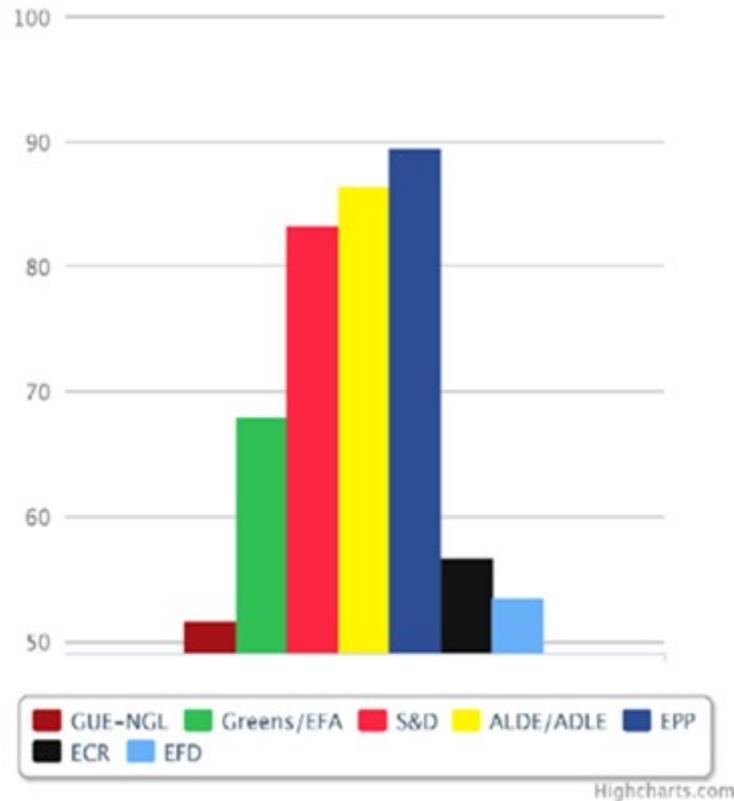


		EPP Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats)	10		28,57%
		S&D Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament	9		25,71%
		ECR European Conservatives and Reformists	3		8,57%
		ALDE Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe	3		8,57%
		GUE/NGL European United Left/Nordic Green Left	3		8,57%
		Greens/EFA The Greens/European Free Alliance	3		8,57%
		EFDD Europe of freedom and democracy Group	2		5,71%
		ENF Europe of Nations and Freedom Group	1		2,85%
		NI Non-attached Members – Members not belonging to any political group	1		2,85%

FEMM: possible coalitions

	XL grand coalition	grand coalition	centre left coalition	centre right coalition	centre right coalition (opt. II)
EPP	10	10		10	10
S&D	9	9	9		
ECR				3	3
ALDE	3		3	3	
GUE/NGL			3		
Greens/EFA			3		
EFDD					2
ENF					1
NI					1
Total	22	19	18	16	17
%	62,90%	54,30%	51,43%	45,71%	48,57%

Group's footprint in plenary 2009-2014



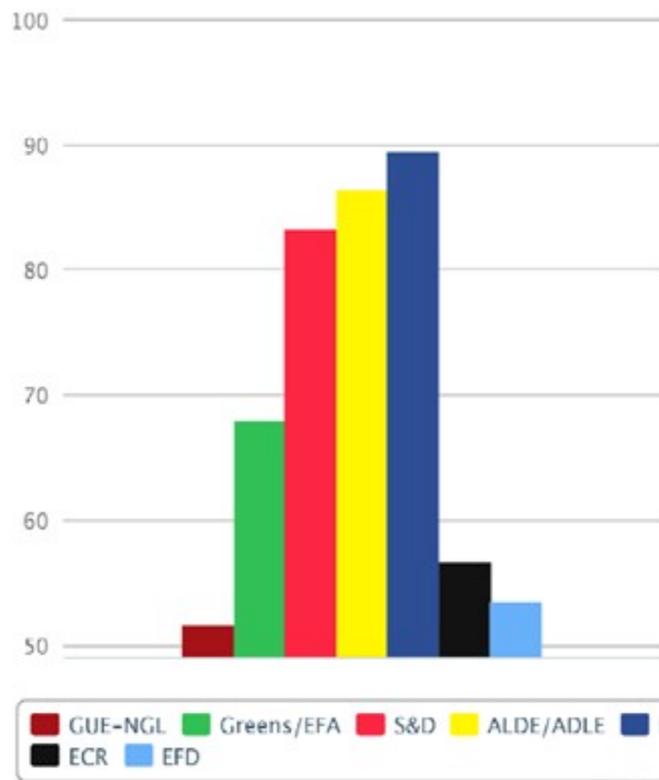
- **EPP group has won more votes (voting 'yes' if the majority of the Parliament voted 'yes', or 'no' if the majority voted 'no') than any other political group (92.5%).**
- **EPP is closely followed by the ALDE group (90%) and then by the S&D group (85.8%).**
- **In this respect, the situation has not changed much after the May 2014 elections.**

Source: Votewatch

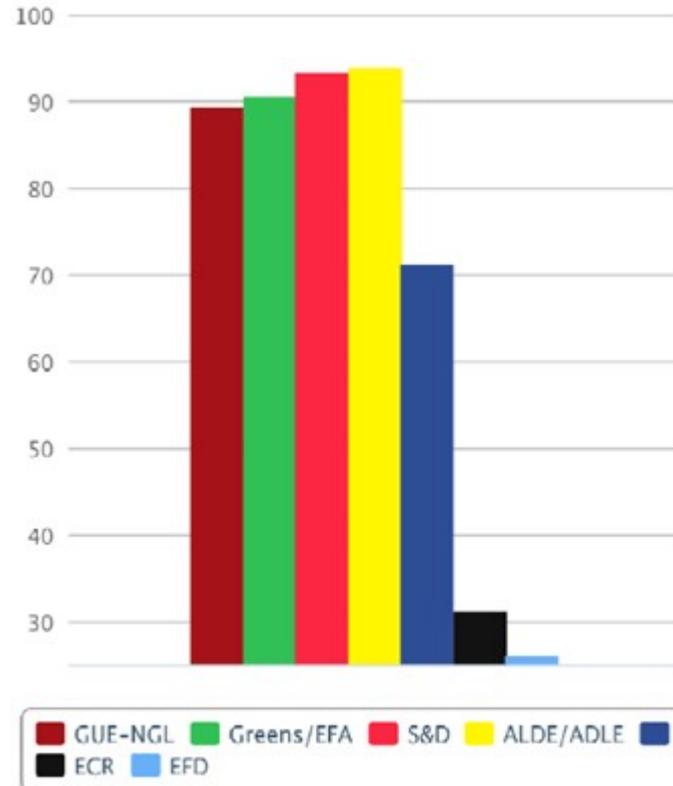
http://www.votewatch.eu/blog/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/VoteWatch_template_web.pdf

Group's footprint in plenary 2009-2014

Group's footprint in FEMM 2009-2014



Highcharts.com

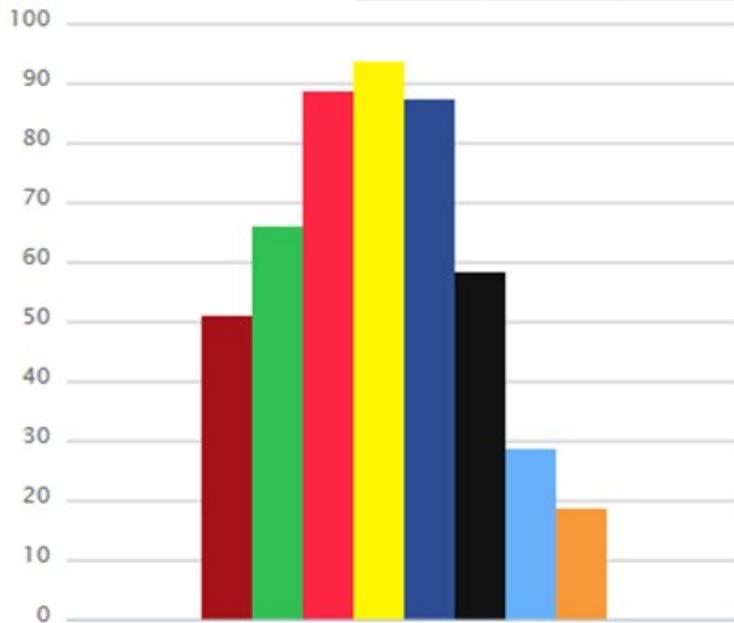
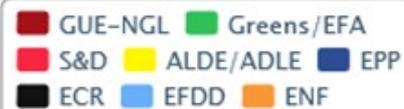


Highcharts.com

Percent of votes won by each of the political groups

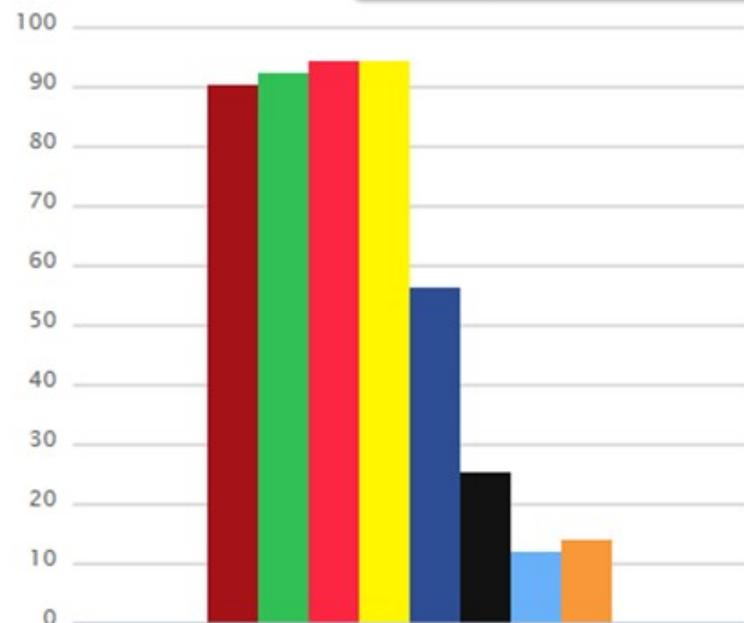
Group's footprint in plenary 2014-2016

Percent of votes won by each of the political groups
All policy areas (01.07.2014 - 21.01.2016)



Group's footprint in FEMM 2014-2016

Percent of votes won by each of the political groups
Gender equality (01.07.2014 - 21.01.2016)



Percent of votes won by each of the political groups



IV. Some examples



The proposed college of 28 commissioners put forward by Jean-Claude Juncker, the president-elect of the European Commission, was approved on 22 October by the European Parliament. 423 MEPs voted to approve the college, 209 voted against, and 67 abstained.



Approval of the Juncker-Commission 22 October 2014

 699

 423

 209

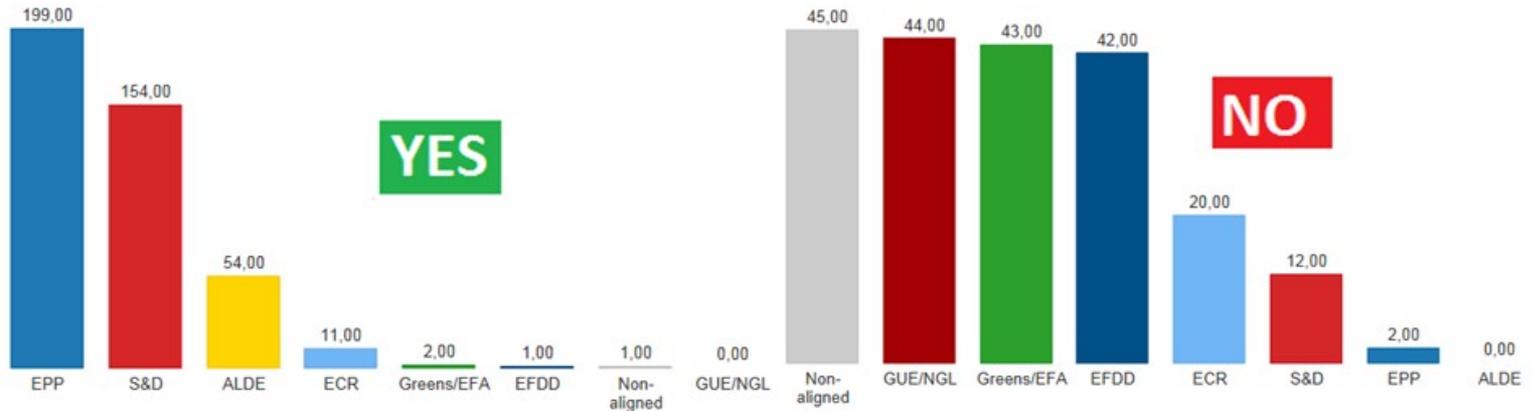
 67



	EPP	YES
	S&D	YES
	ECR	abstention
	ALDE	YES
	GUE/NGL	NO
	Greens/EFA	NO
	EFDD	NO
	NI	NO

Intra-group Cohesion

(8th term, election of the Commission 22/10/2014)



Some examples

- **7th term: Resolution on equality between women and men 2012 (11 March 2014)**
- **8th term: Resolution on progress between women and men in the European Union in 2013 (10 March 2015)**
- **8th term: Resolution on maternity leave (20 May 2015)**
- **8th term: Resolution on EU strategy for equality between women and men post 2015 (20 June 2015)**

Equality report 2012

Resolution A8 – 016/2015

 674

 289

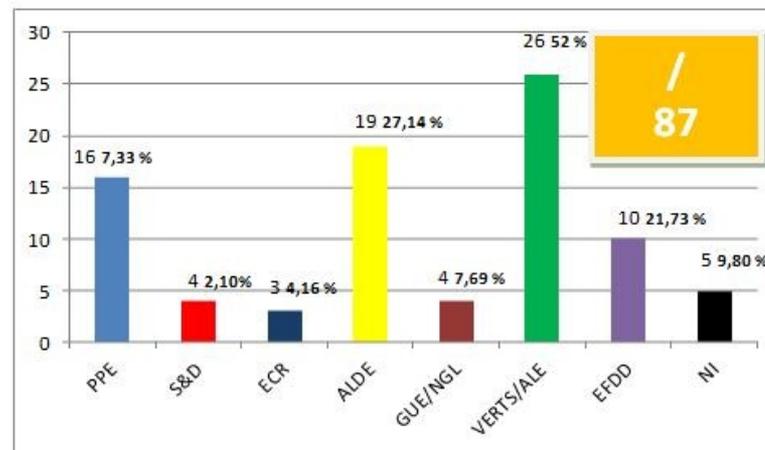
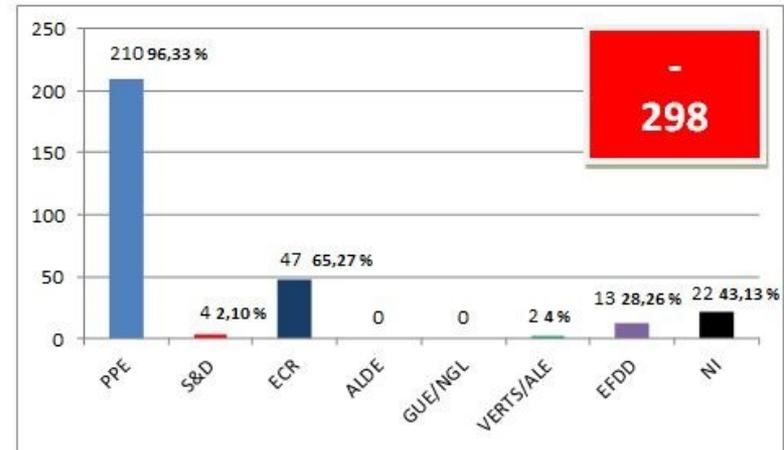
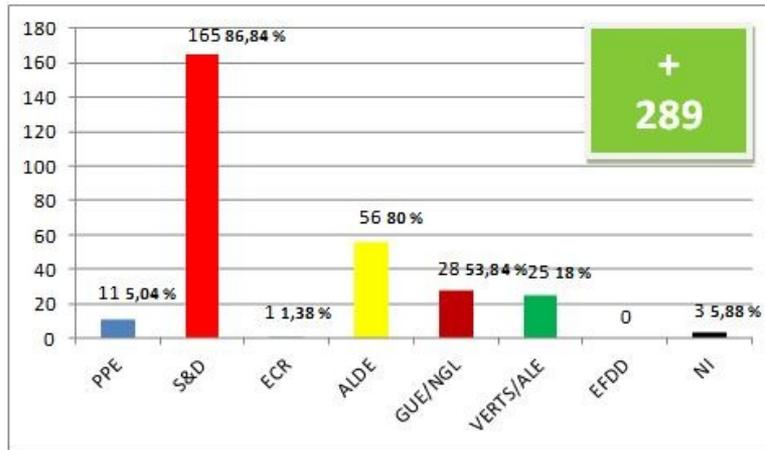
 298

 87



Intra-group Cohesion (7th term, resolution on equality between women and men

2012-11-May-2014)



Equality report 2013

Resolution A8 – 016/2015

 698

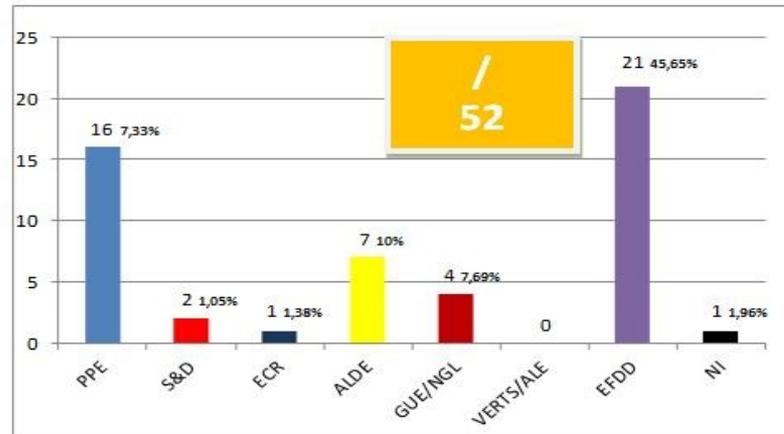
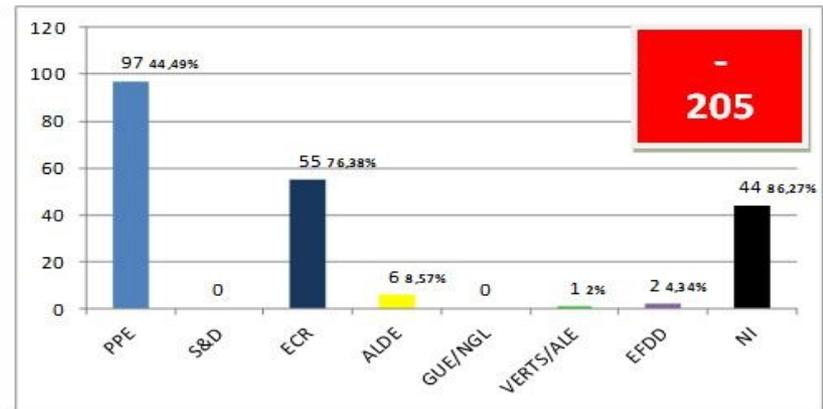
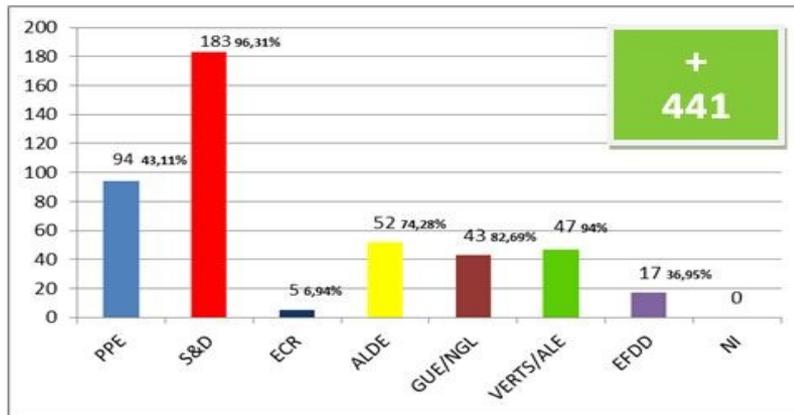
 441

 205

 52



Intra-group Cohesion (8th term, resolution on progress between women and men in the European Union in 2013, 10 March 2015)



Maternity leave

Resolution B8-0453/2015

 677

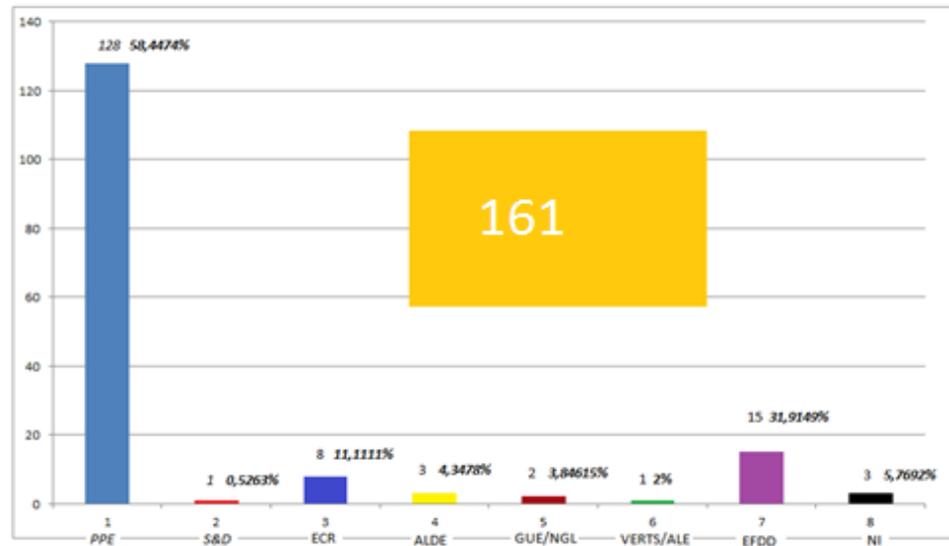
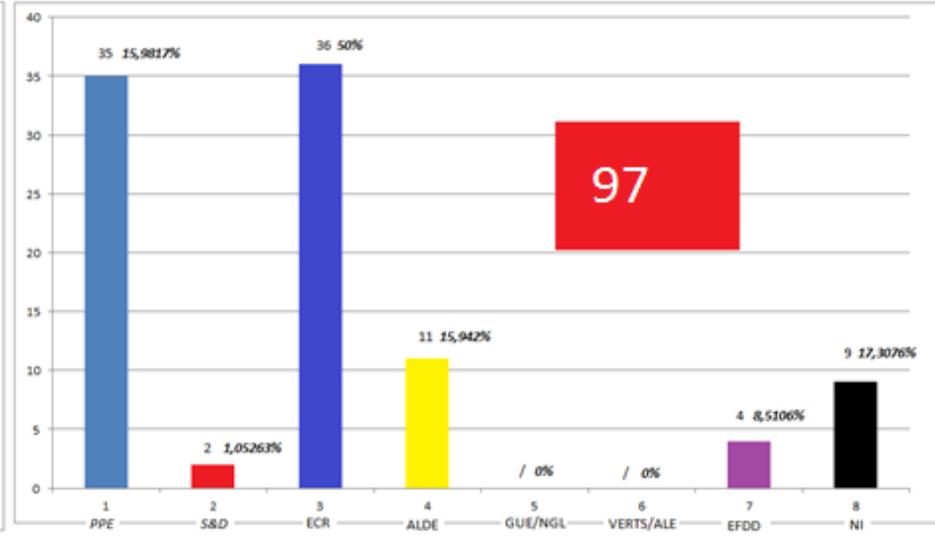
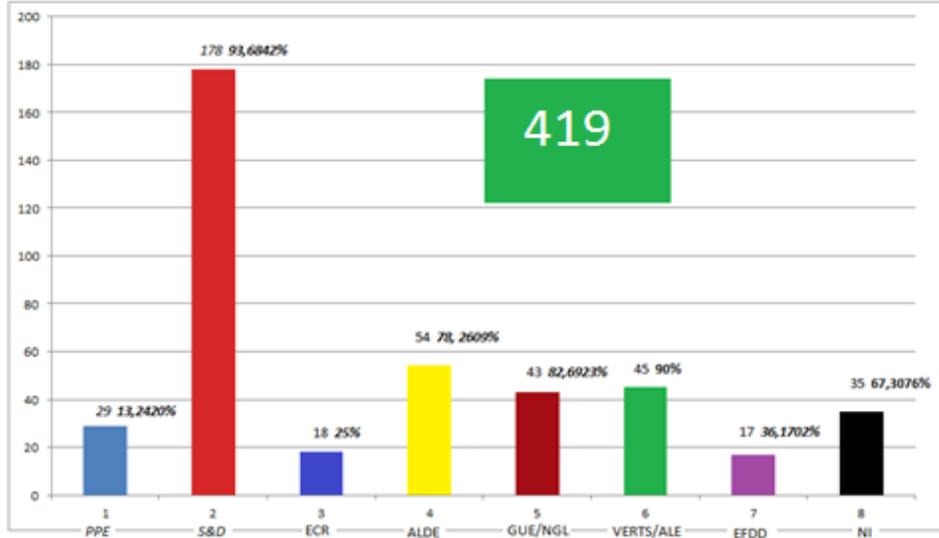
 419

 097

 161

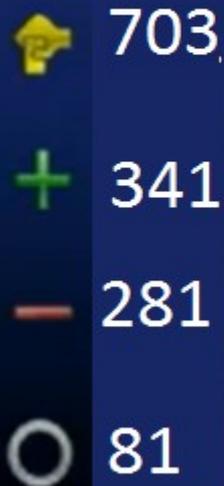


Intra-group Cohesion (8th term, resolution on maternity leave 20 May)

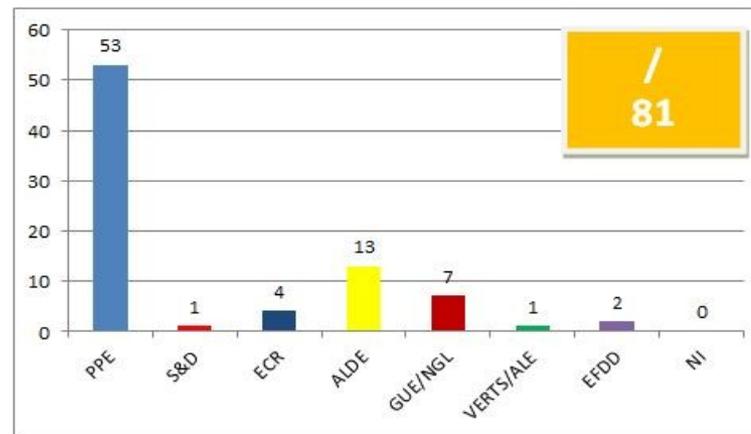
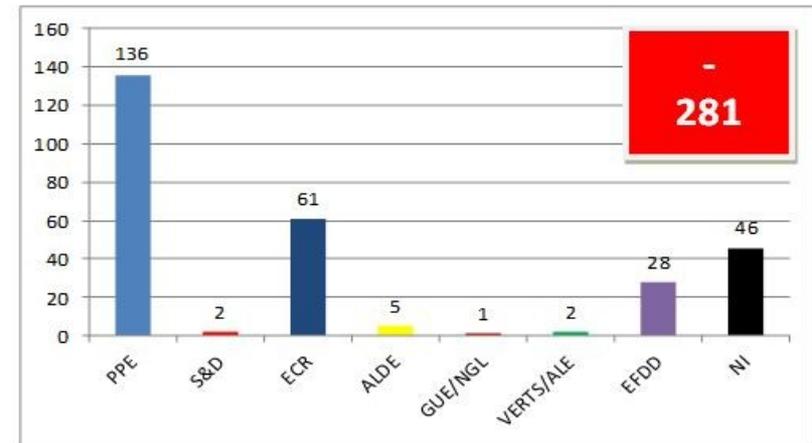
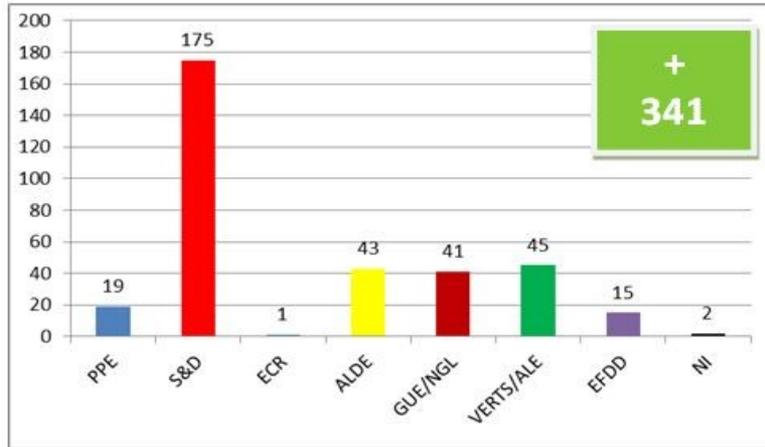


Post 2015 strategy

Resolution A8 – 016/2015



Intra-group Cohesion (8th term, resolution on EU strategy for equality between women and men post 2015, 20 June 2015)



V. Conclusions:

- **The recently by EIGE published Gender Equality Index states “With an overall score of 52.9 out of 100, the EU remains only halfway towards equality. Progress needs to increase its pace if the EU is to fulfil its ambitions and meet the Europe 2020 targets.”**
- **However, from a political point of view (Number of seats of each of the political groups, Intra-group Cohesion, Inter-groups Coalition) “to increase the pace of progress” is less evident.**



**Thank you very much
for your attention.**

