European Parliament Demographics 2021: Age, Party, Gender, & More
Understanding the demographic composition of the European Parliament can potentially open new doors for building those all-important relationships to push your issues forward within the EU.

From better aligning your issues with members of the parliament to tailoring your messages, or finding personal connections, knowing what is the demographic makeup of the European Parliament is a key part of the global government affairs professionals’ toolkit.

Leveraging EU Issue Tracker and FiscalNote data, we examine a few key points to give you some insights about the members of the European Parliament:
There are 27 countries represented in the EU Parliament. Each has a number of seats proportional to the population of the country, so countries with smaller populations have fewer MEPs than countries with larger populations. Germany, for example, has the most members, with 97, followed by France (79 members) and Italy (76 members). The countries with the fewest members are Cyprus, Luxembourg, and Malta, with six members each.
Women are still underrepresented in the European Parliament with less than 40 percent of the seats. However, over the years, women have made gains; before 1994 less than 20 percent of members were women, according to the European Parliament. While slow, progress has been notable: at the end of 2019, Ursula von der Leyen became the first woman to be elected president of the European Commission.

Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European Commission

Party:
Group of the European People's Party
(Christian Democrats)

Date of birth:
October 8, 1958

Place of birth:
Ixelles, Belgium
How does Gender Relate to Party in the EU Parliament?

When it comes to gender diversity within the parties represented in the EU Parliament, only Italian political party Movimento 5 Stelle shows a majority of women members (62 percent). The Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance is the only other party where slightly more members at the EU Parliament are women.

The group with the largest disparity between men and women is the European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR) party with 71 percent men and 29 percent women members. Parties with smaller representation and unaffiliated members grouped under “other,” are even less diverse with men accounting for 82 percent of their members.
Most countries represented in the EU Parliament have more male than female members. In fact, Finland and Sweden are the only countries in the EU Parliament with a greater proportion of women, with 57 percent of seats occupied by a woman.

Countries that have a 50 percent gender split in seats are Denmark, Latvia, Luxembourg, and Slovenia. The remaining 21 countries represented in EU Parliament have more male than female members.

The countries with the least female representation are Cyprus (the only country with no female members) and Romania, with 15 percent women out of 33 total members.
The median age of the members of the European Parliament is 52 years, this is slightly older than the median age of 43.9 years of the EU population in 2020. However, while 20.6 percent of the EU population was aged 65 and over that year, only 15 percent of the members of the European Parliament are 65 or older. The most represented age group in the European Parliament is currently 45-54 with 55-64 the second largest age group.
At 85 and 81, respectively, the former Prime Minister of Italy, Silvio Berlusconi, and the former Prime Minister of Poland, Jerzy Buzek, are the oldest members of the European Parliament. They are both members of the Group of the European People’s Party (Christian Democrats).

**Silvio Berlusconi**
- **Party:** Group of the European People’s Party (Christian Democrats)
- **Date of birth:** September 29, 1936
- **Place of birth:** Milano, Italy

**Jerzy Buzek**
- **Party:** Group of the European People’s Party (Christian Democrats)
- **Date of birth:** July 3, 1940
- **Place of birth:** Śmiłówice, Poland
Who are the Youngest Members of the European Parliament?

By far the youngest member of the European Parliament is Kira Marie Peter-Hansen from Denmark at 23 years old. She was elected in 2019 becoming the youngest ever member of the parliament. Peter-Hansen is a member of the Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance party.

At 26 Jordan Bardella from France, is the second-youngest member of the European Parliament. He is a member of the Identity and Democracy Group and was also elected in 2019.

Kira Marie Peter-Hansen

- Party: Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance
- Date of birth: February 23, 1998
- Place of birth: Frederiksberg C, Denmark

Jordan Bardella

- Party: Identity and Democracy Group
- Date of birth: September 13, 1995
- Place of birth: Drancy, France
Most parties have similar averages when it comes to age (around 50 years old), but with the lowest average age, 44, the Movimento 5 Stelle party is the youngest in the EU Parliament. In contrast, the European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR) has the highest average age at 55, closely followed by the Group of the European People’s Party (Christian Democrats) with an average age of 54.
Most countries have similar age averages (around 50), but the country with the oldest average member age is Lithuania, with an average MEP age of 63. The next oldest is Latvia, with an average MEP age of 60. The youngest is Malta, with an average MEP age of 46, closely followed by Sweden, with an average age of 47.
FiscalNote’s solutions allow global government affairs professionals like you to build relationships with members of the European Parliament and on top of regulatory risks before they become formal proposals.

Our team of EU policy experts in Brussels analyzes changes and sends you concise updates on your dossiers that cut through the clutter of your inbox. EUIT covers all of the EU’s members and regulatory agencies at a granular level so you can follow individual measures and clearly see how existing regulations will change.

Become a Knowledge Center with EUIT

You need to know what’s going on – but don’t have time to read multiple sources. Receive succinct summary emails including all key documents when an important dossier moves. Be a go-to knowledge center and provide information internally in concrete, visible, and valuable way.
FiscalNote is the premier information services company focused on global policy and market intelligence. By combining AI technology, expert analysis, and legislative, regulatory, and geopolitical data, FiscalNote is reinventing the way that organizations minimize risk and capitalize on opportunity.

FiscalNote empowers more than 5,000 clients worldwide to monitor, manage, and act on the issues that matter most to them.

To learn more about FiscalNote and its family of brands, visit FiscalNote.com and follow @FiscalNote.