



European Parliament elections at 1st glance



Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer



Contents

Socialist Social Democrat Centre Left

Christian Democrat Centre-right

Liberal Centrist

Conservative right-wing (further right than the EPP)

Green Centre left to leftist

Communist Far left

Populist-Eurosceptic-nationalist

Socialist Social Democrat
Centre Left



Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

Ideology

Socialist Social-Democrat
Centre-Left

Party/group

Party of European Socialists (S&D)



Spitzenkandidat (if applicable)



Frans Timmermans
(Dutch)

Select key priorities affecting business

Economic policies

- Bigger EU budget
- Stronger financial regulation for banks

Digital policies

- Create long-term investment plan to prepare for digital revolution and AI
- Fight fake news

Climate/environment policies

- Create long-term investment plan to prepare for green transition
- Adopt a sustainable development pact and a just transition fund
- EU to lead in renewables and become climate-neutral by 2050
- New tax on CO2 emissions
- Plan for affordable housing and clean public transport
- Reform of agricultural policy

Social policies

- No job without a contract
- No job without a fair salary
- Ban on zero-hours contracts and fake self-employment

Tax policies

- Common European approach to ensure a proper level of effective taxation and stop downward corporate tax competition

Corporate governance policies

- Protect whistleblowers

Competition policies

- Not in the manifesto, but the Spitzenkandidat said on the record that it is wrong to call for a change of the competition rules following the blocked Siemens-Alstom merger
- We need 'another industrial policy' it is 'completely wrong' to use Siemens-Alstom as an example of why this is needed, he said

Trade policies

- Again not in manifesto, but the Spitzenkandidat is in favour of international trade and concluding free-trade agreements (FTAs)
- Believes the FTAs negotiated by the Commission would need to be better explained to voters and more transparent, because EU citizens fear international trade will 'undermine their jobs, social and environmental standards and conflicts would not be dealt with by judges'
- In favour of a 'democratization' of the trade rules: ie that the Commission would need to ask the European Parliament (and not only the Council) for a mandate
- In favour of opening trade negotiations with the US (unlike some Socialist MEPs in parliament)
- In favour of maintaining WTO rules and multilateralism
- The challenge is that trade policies should not go against EU social and environmental standards

Projection for 2019 (in % and number of seats)

20.1%
142 seats



2014 results (if the UK leaves the EU, then the number of seats will fall to 705 from 751)

25.43%
191 seats



Our expectation: what does it mean in practice for business

With the Socialists expected to lose a significant number of votes, MEPs from this group are likely to keep pushing for initiatives popular to their voting base, especially in relation to:

- better protection of social rights of workers;
- overhaul of the corporate taxation rules to ensure 'fair and transparent' taxation of multinationals;
- focus on stringent environmental and energy policies to fight climate change; and
- strong financial regulation.

Christian Democrat
Centre-right



Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

Ideology

Christian-Democrat
Centre-right

Party/group

European People's Party
(EPP)



Spitzenkandidat (if applicable)



Manfred Weber
(Germany)

Select key priorities affecting business

Economic policies

- Enforce EU economic rules on member states' public finances
- Strengthen European tools to combat economic shocks including by turning the European Stability Mechanism into a European Monetary Fund and setting up the European Deposit Insurance Scheme
- Deepen Eurozone integration

Digital policies

- Increase investment in AI and foster human-centred innovations (where people come first)
- Modernise EU legislation to ensure fitness for technological changes
- Create a true European Innovation Union to remain competitive at the global level
- Ensure all regions benefit from digital infrastructure and education
- Protect privacy to enhance online trust

Climate/environment policies

- Effective price on CO2 with a well-functioning emissions trading system and incentivise emission reductions in EU industries and the energy sector
- Enable investments and innovation in all technological solutions to low-carbon mobility
- Safeguard supply of energy to Europe at affordable prices
- Modernise the Common Agricultural Policy
- Defend standards for agriculture, fisheries and food quality
- Protect health against lower-quality imports

Social policies

- Equal opportunities for women in the labour market through equal pay for equal work and greater choice on balancing work and caring responsibilities
- Help for those who lose jobs through digitisation and globalisation by increasing the European Fund for Transition
- Improve trade defence and systematic foreign investment screening to protect workers from anti-dumping, delocalisation and technology sell-out

Tax policies

- Introduce a Digital Fair Tax
- Work for an OECD-level solution for fighting tax evasion and eliminating tax havens

Corporate governance policies

- Not in manifesto

Competition policies

- Forward-looking European industrial and competition policy to allow global champions to be built in Europe, and to challenge competitors like China and the US while defending strategically important European sectors against unfair practices
- Not in manifesto but the Spitzenkandidat said on the record that we need to think about a potential veto mechanism on deals (not to the Council though)
- Propose new legislation on mergers for the next five years

Trade policies

- Negotiate new and additional free and fair-trade agreements, alongside ongoing talks with Mercosur, Australia and New Zealand, including with the US (without lowering standards)
- Close relationship with the UK post-Brexit while maintaining integrity of the EU
- Qualified majority voting to be adopted for foreign policy

Functioning of EU institutions

- Give the European Parliament the right to initiate legislation
- Improve national and regional parliaments' involvement in law-making and oversight

Projection for 2019 (in % and number of seats)

26.7%

188 seats



2014 results (if the UK leaves the EU, then the number of seats will fall to 705 from 751)

29.43%

221 seats



Our expectation: what does it mean in practice for business

While the EPP will be the biggest party, it may not be able to push its agenda through without coming closer to the centre ground or aligning with the farther right.

During the next mandate, we can expect the EPP to push strongly for:

- commencement of full trade negotiations with the US;
- competition rules to be updated to facilitate the building of European champions; and
- a European Monetary Fund.

Liberal
Centrist



Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

Ideology

Liberal
Centrist

Party/group

Alliance of Liberals and
Democrats for
Europe (ALDE)



Spitzenkandidat (if applicable)

No Spitzenkandidat appointed but a team of seven senior EU figures forming 'Team Europe'. They are described as 'a group of seven passionate leaders as diverse as Europe itself, ready to renew Europe and lead the ALDE electoral campaign'. Some are also running for MEP in their member state.



Nicola Beer
(Germany)

Emma
Bonino
(Italy)

Select key priorities affecting business

Economic policies

- Support SMEs, 'the backbone of prosperity in Europe'
- Create jobs through easier access to finance, simpler rules for investment funds
- Encourage knowledge and technology transfer from universities and research institutes
- Manage EU funds effectively to ensure the EU budget delivers on issues that matter to citizens
- Develop loans/guarantees to mobilise private capital and incentivise innovation
- Continue to reconstruct the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU)
- Rapid implementation of a Banking Union in the Eurozone, based on strengthening the responsibility of owners and creditors
- Reform the European Stability Mechanism into a European Monetary Fund
- Stable framework for sustainable investments and finance

Digital policies

- Invest in research and innovation
- Reach the target of 3% of EU GDP invested in research and development by 2020
- Enable self-driving vehicles
- Build a fully-functioning Digital Single Market
- Abolish geoblocking
- Harmonise data protection policies
- Ensure free access to information while guaranteeing IP rights
- Create a legal framework for blockchain, artificial intelligence and others without stifling innovation
- Develop defenses against hybrid activities: disinformation campaigns, cyber espionage, cyber-attacks and crime
- Develop a secure digital identity for Europeans to be able to log in and sign documents safely
- Digitise all public services

Climate/environment policies

- The EU's budget to only support programmes in line with the EU's climate and energy objectives
- Ensure transition to a resource-efficient circular economy
- Follow the Paris Agreement to avoid costly lock-ins to high-carbon investments
- EU to take global leadership in setting ambitious international targets
- Complete the Energy Union
- Move to foster R&D in low emission technologies, infrastructure, clean energy production, energy efficiency and a reduction of industry and transport emissions including aviation and shipping
- Strengthen the EU Emissions Trading System - where possible extend its scope e.g. transport
- By 2050 the EU to be a carbon neutral economy with its energy system fully based on renewable energy: complete the single European energy market with free flows of renewable energy now
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels
- Push for more zero-emission vehicles and decarbonisation of all transport modes

Projection for 2019 (in % and number of seats)

10.21%

72 seats



2014 results (if the UK leaves the EU, then the number of seats will fall to 705 from 751)

8.92%

67 seats



Our expectation: what does it mean in practice for business

Overall, ALDE is expected to retain the role of 'kingmaker' – can make a vote go in one direction or another.

ALDE focuses on its traditional liberal and pro-European stances in favour of free markets, open competition and trade. It also has a strong focus on digital issues such as blockchain and AI. These issues are expected to remain high on the political agenda thanks to ALDE impetus.



Violeta Bulc
(Slovenia)

Katalin Cseh
(Hungary)

Social policies

- “A Europe that renews its promise of a strong social contract for a competitive economy”
- Strengthen our knowledge economy by investing in research and innovation and equipping EU workforce with the right set of skills for the 21st century

Tax policies

- Not in manifesto

Corporate governance policies

- Not in manifesto

Competition policies

- Encourage competition among companies in the digital space
- Prevent development of monopolies in the digital space
- Ensure competition to develop innovative services



Luis Garicano
(Spain)

Guy Verhofstadt
(Belgium)



Margrethe Vestager
(Denmark)

Trade policies

- EU to set global standards in international trade and promote free and rules-based trade
- Push for modern and progressive free trade agreements - content to be explained in clear language to the public
- Support the European Commission negotiate more trade deals – future agreements should preserve human dignity and human working conditions, sustainability and anti-corruption




EU institutions functioning

- EU to encourage decentralisation and diversity, not burdensome bureaucracy and over-regulation
- More transparent and efficient EU institutions
- European Parliament to only have one seat in Brussels
- Give the European Parliament the right to initiate legislation
- Ensure more transparency of negotiations and voting within the Council
- Better promote the positive impact of EU policies and co-operation on the lives of citizens

Conservative right-wing
(further right than the EPP)



Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

Ideology	Select key priorities affecting business	Projection for 2019 (in % and number of seats)
<p>Conservative right-wing (further right than the EPP)</p> <p>Party/group</p> <p>European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR)</p> <p>Spitzenkandidat (if applicable)</p>  <p>Jan Zahradil (Czech Republic)</p>	<p>Economic policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – No further integration of the Eurozone <p>Digital policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Not in manifesto <p>Climate/environment policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Protection of wildlife and endangered animals – Lowering emissions through the ETS – Balance between ensuring a prosperous fishing sector, meeting the demands of consumers and ensuring sustainability – Diversification of energy supply, particularly away from Russia, and opposition to Nordstream II <p>Social policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Not in manifesto <p>Tax policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Tax competition is one of the sources of European prosperity and should remain a member state competency <p>Corporate governance policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Protecting whistleblowers 	<p>7.5 % </p> <p>53 seats</p> <p>2014 results (if the UK leaves the EU, then the number of seats will fall to 705 from 751)</p> <p>9.3% </p> <p>70 seats</p> <p>Our expectation: what does it mean in practice for business</p> <p>Current polling suggests the ECR will fall from being the third largest party to the fifth, with the Greens and far-left only a few seats behind. The eventual loss of the UK Conservative Party not only will affect the ECR number of seats but also their agenda and the way businesses interact with them. They are expected to maintain the UK Conservative MEPs' pro-business stance (fighting for de-regulation) but, depending on the parliamentary arithmetic, we might see the ECR shift further to the right and align with populist parties to oppose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – economic, fiscal and political integration; – institutional reform; and – reform of competition law to facilitate the building of European champions.
<p>Competition policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Against reform of competition policy to facilitate European champions <p>Trade policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Pro-trade – Supportive of opening EU market to non-EU products in a limited and controlled way, whilst ensuring EU products have improved access to non-EU markets – Believes EU should retaliate against US tariffs <p>Functioning of the EU institutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – General review of the EU institutions and agencies, as well as a freeze on new proposals, aside from those agreed unanimously by the council – Opposition for increased use of qualified majority voting – In favour of 'multi-speed' EU 		

Green
Centre-left to leftist



Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

Ideology	Select key priorities affecting business	Projection for 2019 (in % and number of seats)	
<p>Green <i>Centre-left to leftist</i></p> <p>Party/group European Green Party/ Green-European Free Alliance</p> <p>Spitzenkandidat (if applicable)</p>	<p>Economic policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Invest in a just green economy, research and innovation – Promote green manufacturing and finance without greenwashing – Develop adequate infrastructure: emphasis to be put on research and eco-innovation – Europe to move away from fossil fuels by pulling private and public funds from fossil investments <p>Digital policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Create an effective and independent EU authority to supervise the digital sector to control and limit the market power of big corporations <p>Climate/environment policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Phase out coal by 2030 and other fossil fuels soon thereafter – Phase out nuclear energy – Promote energy efficiency – Move to 100% renewables – Promote a just transition to a carbon-neutral circular economy through a Green New Deal – Cut emissions fast enough to reach the 1.5C limit by promoting a just transition towards a net-zero-emissions economy – Develop an EU carbon budget and a strong carbon floor price – Develop sustainable alternatives to plastic and increase recycling targets – Create a new environmental action programme – Ban the most poisonous pesticides as soon as possible – Link EU agricultural policy support to environmental and climate protection (safeguard water, invest in animal welfare, protect biodiversity and refrain from using GMOs) <p>Social policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Create sustainable jobs in regions affected by the phasing out of fossil energy – Fight social dumping – Secure fair pay, union rights and decent working conditions – Adopt a minimum income directive, respecting national social security systems – Develop fairly paid sick leave and fair parental leave in all countries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Pilot universal basic income and working-time reduction schemes – Guarantee social protection for young people through minimum income, and basic income pilots <p>Tax policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Fair taxation of air travel – Non-recyclable plastics to be taxed or banned – Develop tax regimes that do not benefit large multinationals and wealthy individuals – Continue to crack down on tax havens, tax evasion, tax avoidance and money laundering – Introduce an EU digital tax – Against unfair tax competition between member states <p>Corporate governance policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ensure protection of activists, journalists and whistle-blowers <p>Competition policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Not in manifesto but the Spitzenkandidat Bas Eickhout is against giving individual member states the power to overrule a Commission decision because ‘that’s the end of the internal market and competition rules’ – There should be ‘more room for political context around global competition’ in competition policies but it should remain ‘in the hands of the Commission’ – ‘Important to base competition on strict rules but can’t hurt to have a bit more flexibility [...] when there is a political judgement to be made at a certain moment’ <p>Trade policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Not in manifesto but Eickhout believes that ‘trade is a means to achieve something, not a target on its own’ – Trade agreements must not undermine environmental and social progress – Ready to impose tariffs against the US if needed – SDG should be at the core of trade policy <p>Functioning of the EU institutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ensure more EU institutional transparency – Impose transparency of lobbying activities – European Parliament should be able to remove underperforming Commissioners 	<p>6.9% </p> <p>52 seats</p> <p>2014 results (if the UK leaves the EU, then the number of seats will fall to 705 from 751)</p> <p>6.6% </p> <p>50 seats</p> <p>Our expectation: what does it mean in practice for business</p> <p>The Greens are focused on the fight against climate change. As a result the promotion of biodiversity and clean energy will be at the core of the next mandate of the European Parliament and Commission. Compromises will have to be found and it remains to be seen how coalitions would be formed, but the Greens’ long-standing proposals on these issues cannot be ignored.</p>
 <p>Bas Eickhout (Netherlands)</p>			
 <p>Ska Keller (Germany)</p>			

Communist
Far left







Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

Ideology	Select key priorities affecting business	Projection for 2019 (in % and number of seats)
<p>Communist <i>Far left</i></p> <p>Party/group <i>Spitzenkandidat (if applicable)</i></p>	<p>Economic policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Change the ECB’s mission to include employment goals and override its autonomy in favour of true democratic accountability – Abolish the fiscal and growth pact – End austerity <p>Prioritise a social public investment programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mimic the forms of economic and social alternatives that emerged from the experiences of social co-operatives and the self-management of recovered factories – Stop the development of a two-speed Europe – ‘we work for all countries in Europe to develop in a co-operative way’ – Use EU budget for solidarity and redistribution through ‘the democratic control of financial markets and the public, democratic ownership of banks’ – Set out a European conference on public debt to finalise and put in place structural and long-term solutions for its restructuring and reduction <p>Digital policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Equal rights of access to cultural resources (including information and digital platforms) – Promote digital democracy, internet neutrality and freedom of speech <p>Climate/environment policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Prevent privatisation of natural resources and public goods – Create a fundamental right of access to energy and water – Reduce dependence on fossil fuels – Develop short production and consumption circuits to minimise the use of resources – Fight climate change by developing true renewable energies and energy savings, improvement of public transport, and against new market solutions to carbon emissions – Develop economically and ecologically sustainable agriculture 	<p>7.2% </p> <p>51 seats</p> <p>2014 results (if the UK leaves the EU, then the number of seats will fall to 705 from 751)</p>
 <p>Violeta Tomic (Slovenian)</p>	<p>Tax policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Protect the sea and use marine resources in a non-exploitative way – Fight against marine pollution and protect oil, mining and gas reserves – Secure adequate salaries and universal access to pensions – Take concrete measures against poverty – Impose a Financial Transactions Tax (FTT) – Develop a minimum tax for large corporates – Take measures against tax evasion and end tax havens <p>Corporate governance policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Impose public country-by-country reporting ‘defining obligations of full transparency for the strategies of the big companies acting in Europe’ – Strengthen the fight against corruption through independent control – Respect popular sovereignty and promote citizens’ involvement in EU decision-making – Legally protect whistleblowers and journalists <p>Competition policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Not in manifesto <p>Trade policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Fight against free trade agreements – International trade agreements which threaten agriculture, industry, audio-visual broadcasting, workers’ rights, the environment, and culture must be rescinded – Suspend EU association agreements with countries that violate human rights and/or occupy disputed territories, notably Israel and Morocco <p>Functioning of EU institutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Not in manifesto 	<p>6.9% </p> <p>52 seats</p> <p>Our expectation: what does it mean in practice for business</p>
 <p>Nico Cue (Belgium)</p>		<p>The GUE are expected to remain a marginal force in the European Parliament with limited influence on policy-making. However, in the likely scenario of a more fragmented parliament, finding alliances will be more difficult and GUE MEPs, who are broadly pro-European, will probably be needed to secure voting majority on specific proposals, with other groups (such as the S&D, Greens, ALDE and even EPP) on some particular issues.</p>

Populist-Eurosceptic-
nationalist



Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

Ideology	Select key priorities affecting business		Projection for 2019 (in % and number of seats)
<p>Populist/ Eurosceptic/ nationalist</p> <p>Party/group</p> <p>Pre-election: EFDD (Europe of Freedom and Direct Democracy) ENF (Europe of Nations and Freedom)</p> <p>Post-election (possibly): European Alliance of Peoples and Nations (EAPN)</p> <p>Spitzenkandidat (if applicable)</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>There is no common manifesto yet and the formation of a new political group(s) cannot occur until after the election (a group needs to have at least 25 MEPs representing at least a quarter of EU member states). It is therefore too early to determine key priorities, although the manifestos of some flagship national parties (eg the German <i>Alternativ für Deutschland (AfD)</i> and the French <i>Rassemblement National (RN)</i>) gives some indication of their direction of travel and possible points of (dis)agreement.</p> <p>Economic policies</p> <p>AfD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Reintroduction of national currency while maintaining the euro in parallel – Rejection of EU rules on the resolution of banks and role of the ECB in supervising banking <p>RN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Decrease French contribution to the EU budget – Align monetary creation with the real economy rather than finance – Include the fight against unemployment in the missions of the ECB <p>Digital policies</p> <p>AfD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Increased independence from foreign hardware and software – Avoid over-regulation of tech sector <p>Climate/environment policies</p> <p>AfD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Reject Paris climate agreement and decarbonisation – Favour mixture of energy sources, including through Nordstream II and the development of new types of nuclear reactors <p>RN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Favour local production and consumption by de-taxing short/local production circuits and over-taxing globalised and non-sustainable imports 	<p>Social policies</p> <p>AfD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Reject standardisation of social security systems – Restrict wage dumping through additional controls on temporary work contracts for low-paid foreign workers <p>RN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Reject standardisation of social and fiscal systems to preserve French interests – Repeal the Directive on Posted Workers <p>Tax policies</p> <p>AfD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Work for an OECD-level solution for fighting tax evasion and eliminating tax havens – Support a financial transaction tax, if introduced at all trading venues, also outside the EU, and collected nationwide <p>RN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Decrease tax for French citizens – Decrease tax for SMEs <p>Competition policies</p> <p>AfD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Public procurement in critical areas should be geared towards long-term strategic and security considerations <p>RN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – End dogma of free competition – Give priority to French companies in public procurement – Recognise the ‘national responsibility of companies’ to encourage virtuous behaviours (such as refusal of delocalisation and hiring of domestic workers) 	<p>EFDD 30 seats 4.26%</p>  <p>ENF 61 seats 8.65%</p>  <p>2014 results (if the UK leaves the EU, then the number of seats will fall to 705 from 751)</p> <p>EFDD 48 6.39%</p>  <p>ENF - 24 seats - 4.1%</p>  <p>Our expectation: what does it mean in practice for business</p> <p>Current talks between national parties within these groups are ongoing (such as Italy’s <i>Lega</i> and Germany’s <i>AfD</i>, both members of the EFDD, and Italy’s <i>Movimento 5 Stelle</i> and Austria’s <i>FPÖ</i>, both members of the ENF). Bringing together these parties has been historically difficult, notably because their views on social, economic and environmental policy differ widely.</p> <p>However, the trick will likely be uniting everyone around a common interest (opposing the EU’s position). If effective, this could result in legislative paralysis. Such group(s) would attempt to slow down the EU’s agenda and oppose any form of economic, fiscal and political integration.</p>