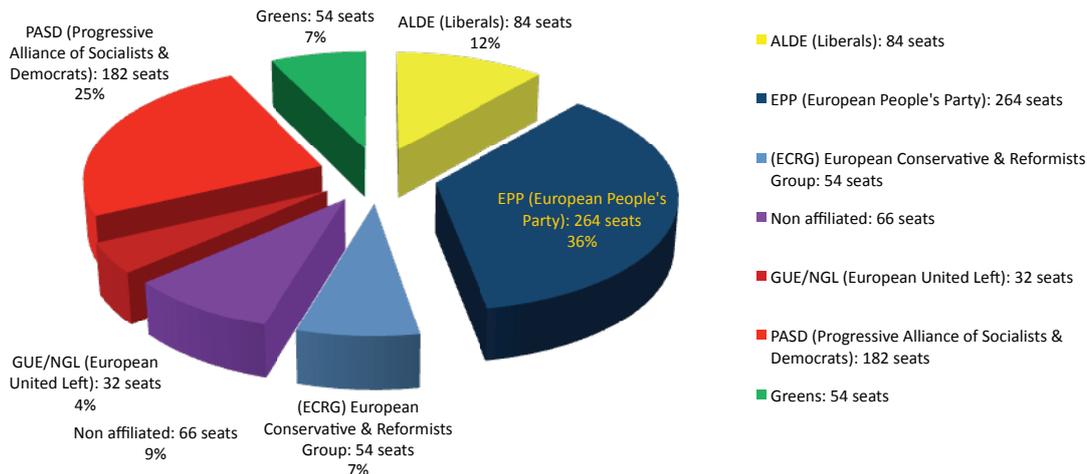


## European elections update (1<sup>st</sup> July 2009)

With the 3<sup>rd</sup> liberal bulletin the ELDR Party keeps you up to date with the latest developments and makeup of the new European Parliament.

Preliminary make up of European Parliament 09-14  
as of 30 June 2009



Our liberal group in Parliament – Alliance of Liberals & Democrats for Europe (ALDE) – elected Guy Verhofstadt unanimously as the new group leader.

Belgium's former Prime Minister (1999-2007) and leader of ELDR's member party OpenVLD will now lead the negotiations on the re-election of European Commission President Barroso on behalf of the liberal parliamentary group.

After his appointment as new leader Verhofstadt said "I think it is the task of the European Parliament to push the Council [representing member states] and the Commission to come forward with more credible solutions to the crisis. It will be the liberal group that has to play a major role," he added.

"We should show how ALDE is the most clearly pro-European group in the Parliament. In the future, "If ALDE votes 'yes' to a legislative proposal, then it'll mean that the proposal is GOOD for Europe. If ALDE votes 'no' that means that it is BAD for Europe," Verhofstadt concluded.

In its group meeting today the liberals unanimously adopted the following positions with regard to the re-appointment of European Commission President Barroso.

1. The European Council must first accept its responsibility in the procedure and formalize its decision to nominate its candidate for the Presidency of the European Commission.
2. The ALDE group will be preparing its memorandum (programme) for what we believe should be addressed by the Commission in the next five years, in particular addressing the causes of the economic and financial crisis. We also expect from the candidate for Commission President an ambitious programme of action to be published and discussed openly.
3. We must not allow ourselves to have a timetable for decision to be imposed on us.
4. The newly elected European Parliament's credibility and standing should be upheld and strengthened by the process. The stronger the European Parliament, the more democratic and transparent the whole of the European Union.
5. In order to realize these objectives, we wish to build a broad coalition of political forces in the European Parliament. For us such a coalition is only possible between those who are committed to a pro-European agenda.

All group leaders will meet on 9th July to decide whether to put on the agenda of the European Parliament on 15th July the vote on the re-appointment of Barroso.

Since the pro-Barroso camp of the EPP Party falls short of the necessary majority they will seek an alliance with other political groups.

So far the liberal MEPs refuse unconditional support for the re-election of Barroso and will seek a number of conditions to be fulfilled in order to secure liberal policies to be implemented by the next European Commission.

## Did you know that...

- The **74 liberal MEPs** from ELDR member parties come from 17 countries.
- 10 other MEPs from France, Ireland, Lithuania, Slovakia and Spain joined the now 84 members **strong ALDE group**.
- While **43 % of the 74 ELDR MEPs are women**, even 45% of the 84 ALDE members are women. The overall share in the new Parliament is 35%.
- Almost exactly **half of all MEPs** (49,8%) were **elected for the first time**.
- **51% of ELDR MEPs** were **elected for the first time** and even 52% of the ALDE group are new members of the Parliament.
- The entire left in the EP is led by group leaders coming from Germany. Lothar Bisky from the German Die Linke was elected chairman of the ultra-left parliamentary group European United Left/Nordic Green Left (GUE/NGL). Rebecca Harms and Daniel Cohn-Bendit head the Green group and Martin Schulz was re-elected as group leader of the socialists.
- **Liberals** have always been strong **advocates of pluralism and diversity**. The liberals including the strong presence of German Liberals in the group, however, will prevent this cumulative power of the German leftist current to determine wrong policies for European citizens.
- If and when the Lisbon Treaty enters into force, the Parliament will acquire co-decision powers over as much as 80-90% of EU legislation, including the Common Agricultural Policy and important legal matters affecting the rights of ordinary citizens.
- **Sweden took over the EU presidency today**. Two ELDR member parties form part of the government coalition and ensure liberal policies.



## Stay tuned!

ELDR will keep you up to date with the decision when to vote on Barroso and the positions of the liberal group.