

# Background – The new European Parliament after Brexit



This background note gives a brief overview of imminent changes that will take place once the [Withdrawal Agreement](#) comes into effect on 1 February 2020.

## **Parliament's composition after Brexit**

As a non-EU country, the UK will no longer be represented at EU level, so Parliament will be composed of 705 seats instead of 751. Of the 73 UK seats in the European Parliament, 27 will be redistributed to member states and the remaining 46 will be held in reserve for future EU enlargements.

Under the new set-up, no member state will lose any MEPs. A few countries will see an increase in their number of representatives, in line with the new relative population sizes of member states, while the new distribution also ensures a minimum level of representation for the smallest EU countries. Member states that will see an increase in the number of MEPs are expected to announce or confirm their names to the Parliament. Their term will officially start on 1 February 2020.

## **Who are the new MEPs?**

All 27 MEPs that will take up office on 1 February 2020 were elected at the [May 2019 European Elections](#). In line with the 1976 electoral act, member states have to notify the European Parliament of the names of the new MEPs taking up their seats before their mandates can officially start.

Depending on national rules, some names have already been confirmed, while others are still pending. You can find all current MEPs on [the European Parliament's dedicated webpage](#).

## Changes to parliamentary committees and subcommittees

[The number of members sitting in the European Parliament's committees and subcommittees](#) changes as shown below. The new composition will become effective immediately after the UK's withdrawal from the EU.

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| AFET Foreign Affairs                            | 71      |
| AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development          | 48      |
| BUDG Budgets                                    | 41      |
| CULT Culture and Education                      | 31      |
| DEVE Development                                | 26      |
| ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs              | 60      |
| EMPL Employment and Social Affairs              | 55      |
| ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety | 81 (+5) |
| IMCO Internal Market and Consumer Protection    | 45      |
| INTA International Trade                        | 43 (+2) |
| ITRE Industry, Research and Energy              | 78 (+6) |
| JURI Legal Affairs                              | 25      |
| LIBE Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs  | 68      |
| REGI Regional Development                       | 43      |
| TRAN Transport and Tourism                      | 49      |
| AFCO Constitutional Affairs                     | 28      |
| PECH Fisheries                                  | 28      |
| PETI Petitions                                  | 35      |
| FEMM Women's Rights and Gender Equality         | 35      |
| CONT Budgetary Control                          | 30      |
| DROI Human Rights (Subcommittee)                | 30      |
| SEDE Security and Defence (Subcommittee)        | 30      |

Parliament's political groups will decide on the membership of each committee and subcommittee after the new MEPs take their seats. According to Parliament's Rules of Procedure ([Rule 209](#)), their composition should as far as possible reflect that of Parliament as a whole. [Read more here](#).

Some committees and subcommittees will also need to elect new chairs, vice-chairs and coordinators, since a number of UK MEPs will be leaving these posts on 31 January 2020.

### ***The Chairs and Vice-Chairs that will have to be replaced are:***

[Chris DAVIES](#) (RE, UK), Chair, Fisheries

[Lucy NETHSINGHA](#) (RE, UK), Chair, Legal Affairs

Seb DANCE (S&D, UK), Vice-Chair, Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

[Julie WARD](#) (S&D, UK), Vice-Chair, Culture and Education

[Irina VON WIESE](#) (RE, UK), Vice-Chair, Human Rights Subcommittee

***The Coordinators that will have to be replaced are:***

[Shaffaq MOHAMMED](#) (Renew, UK), Deputy Coordinator, Culture and Education

[Jude KIRTON-DARLING](#) (S&D, UK), Coordinator, Petitions

[Irina VON WIESE](#) (Renew, UK), Coordinator, Human Rights Subcommittee

[Geoffrey VAN ORDEN](#) (ECR, UK), Coordinator, Security and Defence Subcommittee

**Changes to interparliamentary delegations**

Interparliamentary delegations will also be affected by the UK's withdrawal from the EU. The Chairs and Vice-Chairs that will have to be replaced are:

[Catherine BEARDER](#) (RE, UK), 1st Vice-Chair, Political Committee, ACP-EU

[Judith BUNTING](#) (RE, UK), Vice-Chair, Korean Peninsula

[Richard CORBETT](#) (S&D, UK) Vice-Chair, Afghanistan

[Dinesh DHAMIJA](#) (RE, UK), Chair, India

[Neena GILL](#) (S&D, UK), Chair, Japan; 12th Vice-Chair, ACP-EU

[Martin HORWOOD](#) (RE, UK), 1st Vice-Chair, Iran

[John HOWARTH](#) (S&D, UK), 1st Vice-Chair, South Asia

[Jackie JONES](#) (S&D, UK), 1st Vice Chair, United States

[Nosheena MOBARIK](#) (ECR, UK), Chair, South Asia

[Rory PALMER](#) (S&D, UK), 2nd Vice-Chair, Australia/New Zealand

[Molly SCOTT CATO](#) (Greens, UK), 2nd Vice-Chair, Mercosur; 1st Vice-Chair, Development/Energy Committee, EuroLat

[Caroline VOADEN](#) (RE, UK), 1st Vice-Chair, Arab Peninsula

**Future relationship negotiations**

With the withdrawal of the UK now effective, a new chapter of negotiations begins, centred on the future relationship between the EU and the UK. Even though the UK is now a non-EU country, the challenges that both sides are facing remain common and both sides have much to gain from working together.

Issues to be discussed and which will form part of an agreement in the near future range from the fight against climate change to terrorism threats, and from cooperation in research to shared defence structures. [Trade conditions and principles](#) between the EU and the UK will be a major point in the negotiations.

The transition period starting on 1 February is set to expire at the end of

December 2020. Any agreement on the future EU-UK relationship will have to be fully concluded before that point if it is to come into force on 1 January 2021. The transition period can be extended once for one to two years, but the decision to do so must be taken by the EU-UK Joint Committee before 1 July.

Parliament will have to approve any future relationship agreement. If such an agreement refers to competences that the EU shares with member states, then national parliaments will also need to ratify it.

The EP will follow closely the work of the EU negotiator Michel Barnier and continue to influence the negotiations through resolutions. Parliament's UK coordination group, led by [Foreign Affairs Committee](#) Chair [David McAllister \(EPP, DE\)](#), will liaise with the EU [Task Force for Relations with the United Kingdom](#) and coordinate with all competent committees.