

# Statistical brief: gender balance in politics 2020

Gender Statistics Database

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Political assemblies and executives often fail to reflect the gender diversity of the populations they represent, with women significantly under-represented in many cases. The European Institute for Gender Equality regularly monitors the situation in parliaments and governments across the EU, with a particular focus on gender balance in decision-making at EU, national and territorial levels, as well as in legislative actions and political parties.

**The European Commission reflects its best gender balance, with the first woman to be elected as president in 2019, while the European Parliament's 40% threshold decreases following Brexit.**

The 2019 European elections see the proportion of women Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) break through the 40% threshold for the first time, with women occupying 34.4% of the 512 seats (30.7% in the constituent session of the new Parliament in July 2019). However, Brexit saw MEPs from the United Kingdom leave the European Parliament, reducing the proportion of women from 42.7% to 39.3%. Currently around half (53) of the EU Member States (7) have a gender-balanced representation (i.e. at least 40% of each gender) among their MEPs. However, Cyprus has no women MEPs and nine Member States MEPs are at least two-thirds men.

The current European Commission boasts the first ever woman as president and the best gender balance recorded to date: 55 women and 54 men (45.1% and 53.9%, respectively). The European Parliament has only twice been led by a woman (Christine Ferre, 1979-1982, and Nicole Fontaine, 1999-2002), with the last appointment dating more than two-decade ago.

**Figure 1. Share of women and men MEPs, %**



**Figure 2. Women and men Members of the European Commission, %**



Source: EIGE Gender Statistics Database

(1) Denmark, Ireland, Spain, France, Greece, Latvia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Slovakia, Finland and Slovenia

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EN (PDF, 397.78 KB)

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## Metadata

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