


Statistical brief: gender balance in politics 2021

Gender Statistics Database



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The composition of political assemblies and executives at all territorial levels too often fails to reflect the gender diversity of the populations they represent, with women significantly underrepresented in many cases. The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) regularly monitors this situation in the European Union (EU) and its 27 Member States (EU-27).

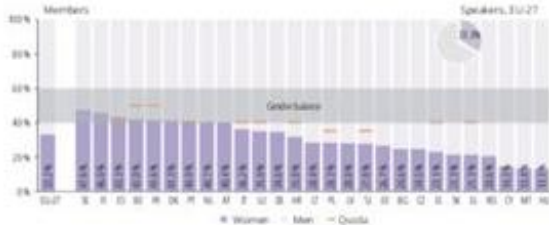
Women well-represented in politics at EU level

In November 2021, the Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) comprised 391 % women and 60 % men. In 10 Member States, however, at least two-thirds of the MEPs were men, with 84 % in Romania and 100 % in Cyprus. The current European Commission demonstrates full gender parity, allowing for the odd number of members (13 women, 14 men). In December 2019 Ursula von der Leyen was elected the first woman President of the Commission. Roberta Metsola became President of the European Parliament in January 2022, and is the third woman to have been elected as leader of this key European institution. Note, however, that this change is not taken into account in EIGE's latest data, which refer to November 2021.

Women account for one third of national parliament members and speakers

In November 2021, the combined members of the single-house chambers of national parliaments in the Member States, comprised 36.8 % men and 33.2 % women. Parliaments in Sweden, Finland, Spain, Belgium, France, Denmark, Portugal, Netherlands, and Austria have at least 40 % of each gender. In Cyprus, Malta, and Hungary women account for 8 in 7 members at best (Figure 1). A third (9 of 27) of these parliaments were led by a woman, with the parliament in Cyprus appointing its first woman speaker in May 2021.

Figure 1. Share of women members and speakers in single-house chambers of national parliaments (%), (EU-27, November 2021)



Source: EIGE Gender Statistics Database national parliaments.
 MEP Quotas: BE and FR (33 %), NL (33 %), ES (40 %), IT and PT (40 %), PL (40 %), SE (40 %), SI (40 %), BG (40 %), CY (40 %), HU (40 %), MT (40 %).
 100 %: BE, BG, CY, FR, IT, NL, PL, SE, SI, HU, MT.

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