



3rd MEDMEP Session
October 2019 - Nicosia, Cyprus

Factfile | CULT Committee

Dear Delegates of the Model European Parliament,

As presidents of the committee on Culture and Education, we have prepared the following fact sheet in order to provide you with the basic information surrounding our topic, in the hope of achieving a more informed and lively debate during the General Assembly. Please keep in mind that this is only a rough overview of the subject at hand and we encourage you all to further expand your knowledge on the topic.

*Jan Felix Inghelram
Anna Nishiotis*

The question of of the committee on Culture and Education

The European Union is built on values such as peace, freedom, tolerance, solidarity. Brexit and Euroscepticism, however, erode these ideals. These values must not be taken for granted; we have to work for them. What role can Education play in promoting and preserving such values thus contributing towards strengthening European solidity and promoting the European spirit?

Defining key terms

- Euroscepticism is the criticism of the European Union (EU) and European integration. It is found in groups across the political spectrum, both left-wing and right-wing and is often found in populist parties.
- Brexit is the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union following a referendum.
- Nationalism is a sense of national consciousness exalting one nation above all others and placing primary emphasis on promotion of its culture and interests as opposed to those of other nations or supranational groups
 - It has been the cause of many wars, including WWII
 - Nationalist -far-right parties- are gaining power throughout the EU.
e.g. The league in Italy, the AfD in Germany, National Rally in France
- Populism is a political approach that strives to appeal to ordinary people who feel that their concerns are disregarded by established elite groups.
- The European Union's fundamental values are respect for human dignity and human rights, freedom, democracy, equality and the rule of law. These values unite all the member states – no country that does not recognise these values can belong to the Union.



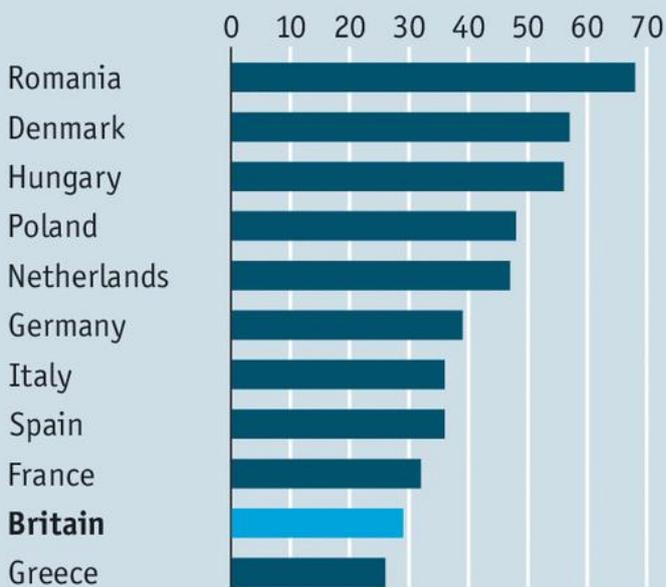
- *The Council Recommendation on Common values, Inclusive Education, and the European Dimension of Teaching.* Its goal is to strengthen national democracies and bolster the EU. It is also aimed at strengthening social cohesion in order to fight the rise of populism, xenophobia, radicalisation, divisive nationalism and the spreading of fake news. Its core objectives are:
 - Promote common values at all levels of education;
 - Foster more inclusive education;
 - Encourage a European dimension of teaching, without prejudice to the national prerogatives in this realm;
 - Support teachers and teaching.

Graphs and Visualizations

Trust but verify

Do you tend to trust the European Union?

% responding "yes", spring 2015, selected countries



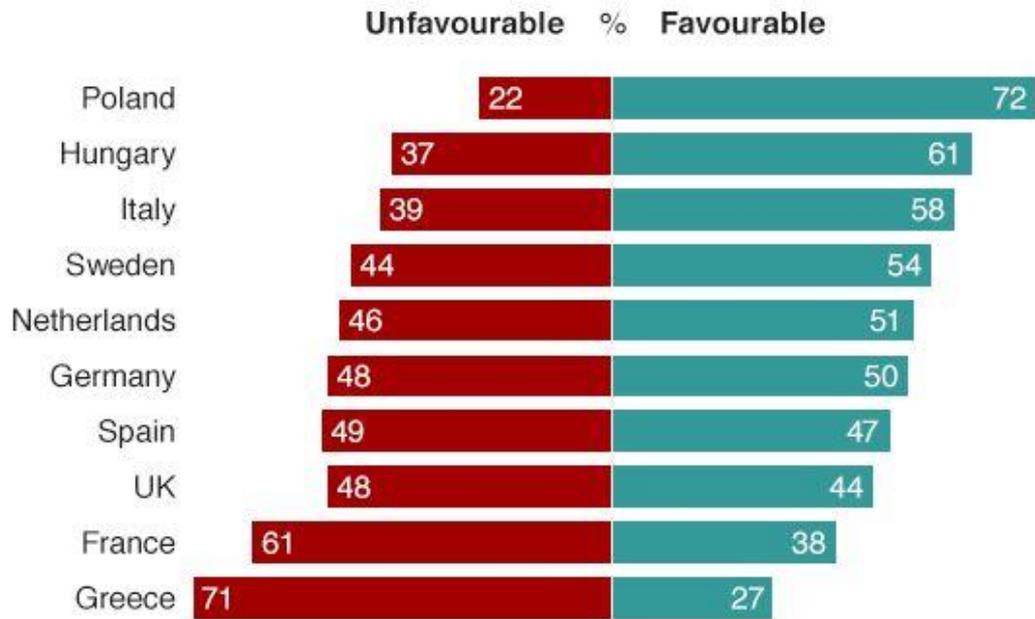
Source: European Commission

Economist.com

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2016/03/12/the-roots-of-euroscpticism>



How European countries view the EU

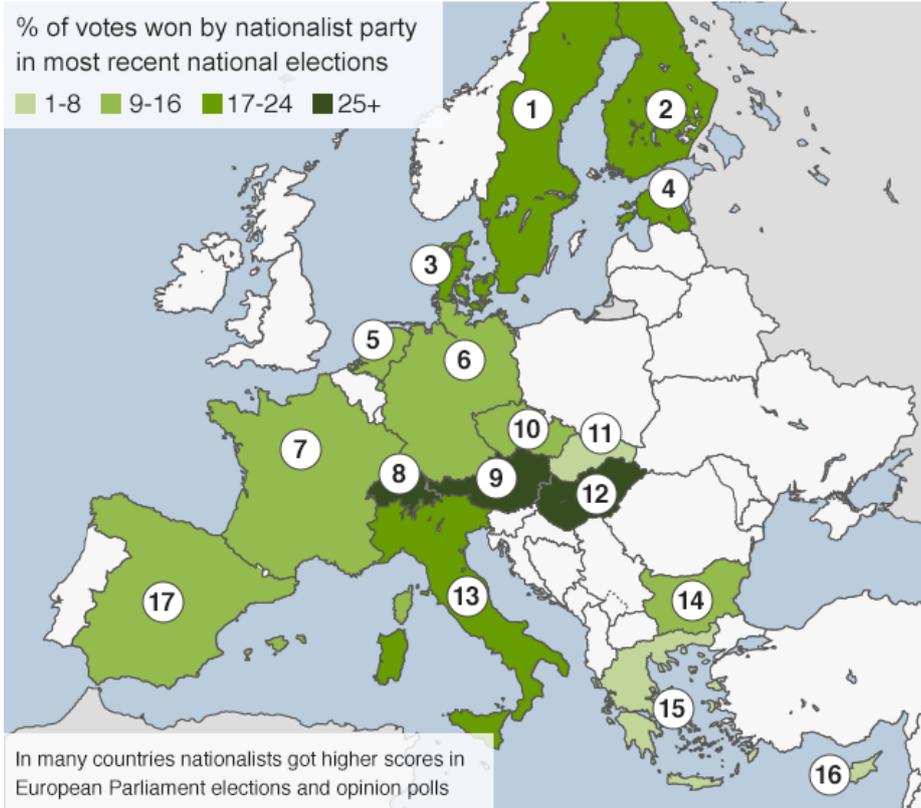


Source: Pew Research Center



<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-eu-referendum-36471989>

Rise of nationalism in Europe



- | | |
|--|--|
| ① Sweden
Sweden Democrats 17.6% | ⑩ Czech Republic
Freedom and Direct Democracy 11% |
| ② Finland
The Finns 17.7% | ⑪ Slovakia
Our Slovakia 8% |
| ③ Denmark
Danish People's Party 21% | ⑫ Hungary
Fidesz 49% , Jobbik 19% |
| ④ Estonia
Conservative People's Party 17.8% | ⑬ Italy
The League 17.4% |
| ⑤ Netherlands
Freedom Party 13% | ⑭ Bulgaria
United Patriots 9% |
| ⑥ Germany
Alternative for Germany 12.6% | ⑮ Greece
Golden Dawn 7% |
| ⑦ France
National Rally 13% | ⑯ Cyprus
ELAM 3.7% |
| ⑧ Switzerland
Swiss People's Party 29% | ⑰ Spain
Vox 10.3% |
| ⑨ Austria
Freedom Party 26% | |

Last updated: April 2019

BBC

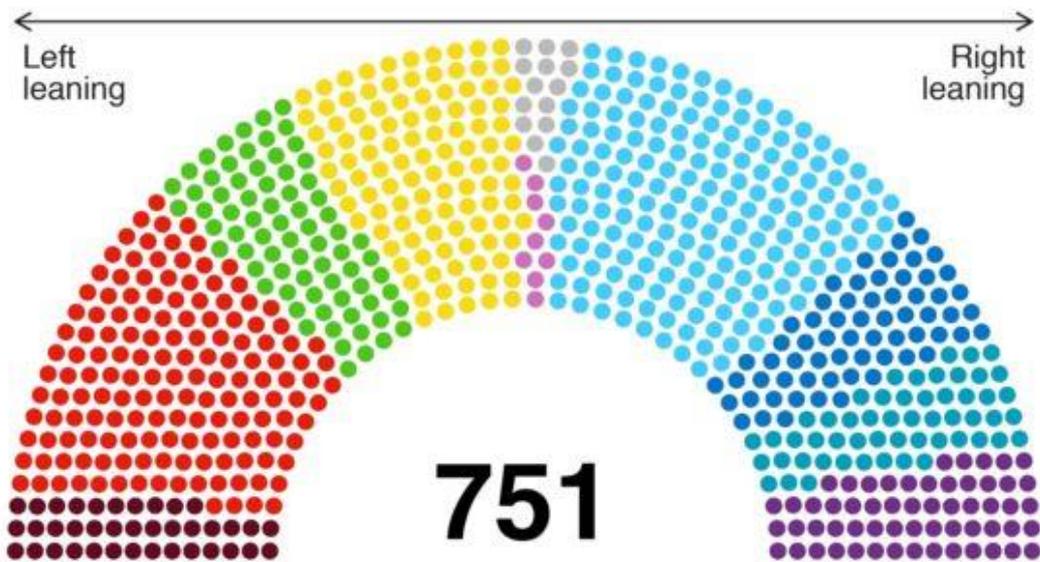
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-36130006>



EU elections

Seats by party group

- Left (GUE/NGL): 38
- Socialists and Democrats (S&D): 153
- Greens (G/EFA): 74
- Liberals (ALDE): 106
- Others: 16
- Independent MEPs: 9
- Centre-right (EPP): 179
- Conservatives (ECR): 64
- Populists (EFD): 54
- Right-wing nationalists (ENF): 58



Combination of provisional, projected and final results

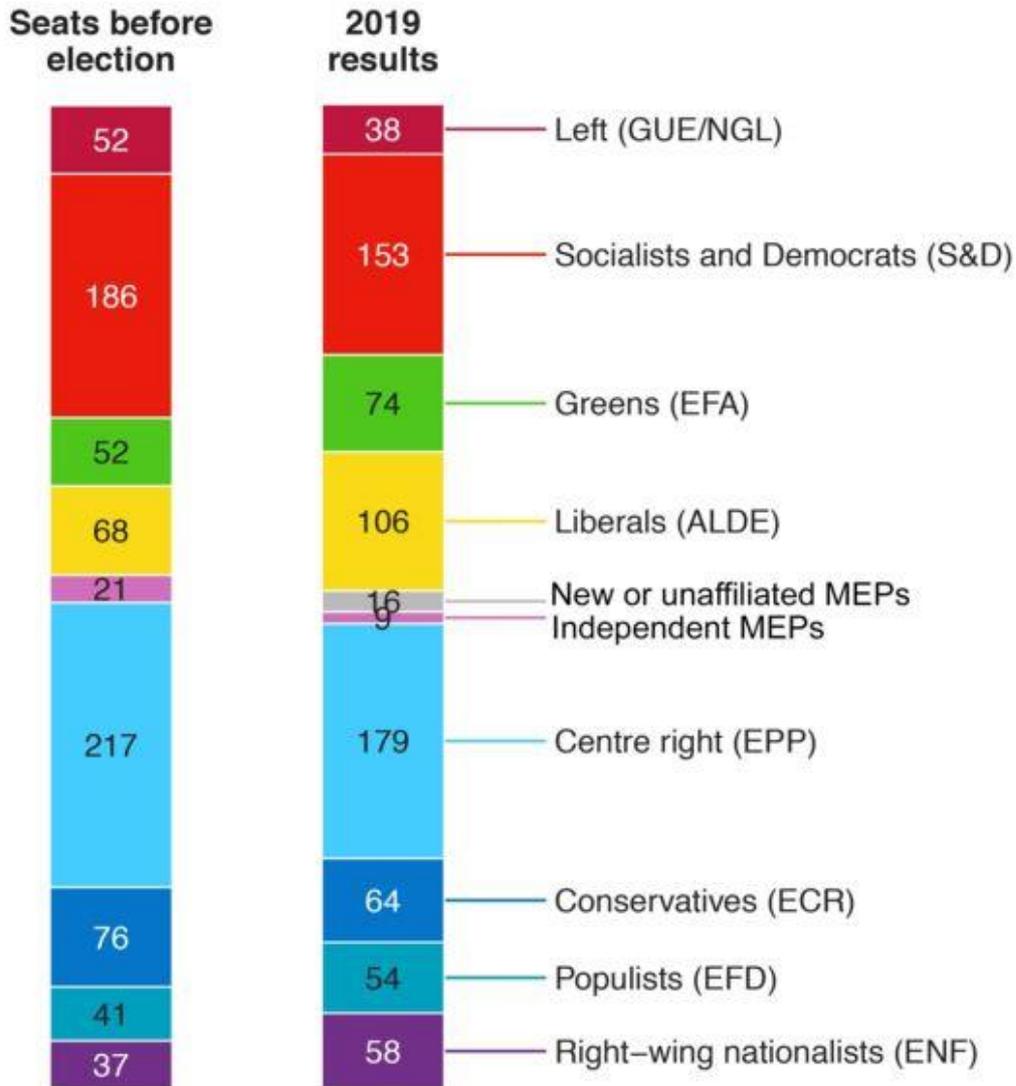
Source: EP **BBC**

- EU elections 2019 results

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-48417191>



The two biggest parties have lost their majority



Source: EP. N.B. Combination of provisional, projected and final results

