

European Parliament elections

The European elections 2019 in five charts

Centre-right and centre-left lose their combined majority amid strengthened Green, populist and nationalist forces



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Aleksandra Wisniewska and Billy Ehrenberg-Shannon YESTERDAY

Voters have chosen a [fractured European Parliament](#). For the first time in the history of the EU the centre-right and centre-left political groups have lost their combined majority in the face of strengthened Green, populist and nationalist forces. This divided parliament will find it more difficult than ever before to set the course of the EU's future.

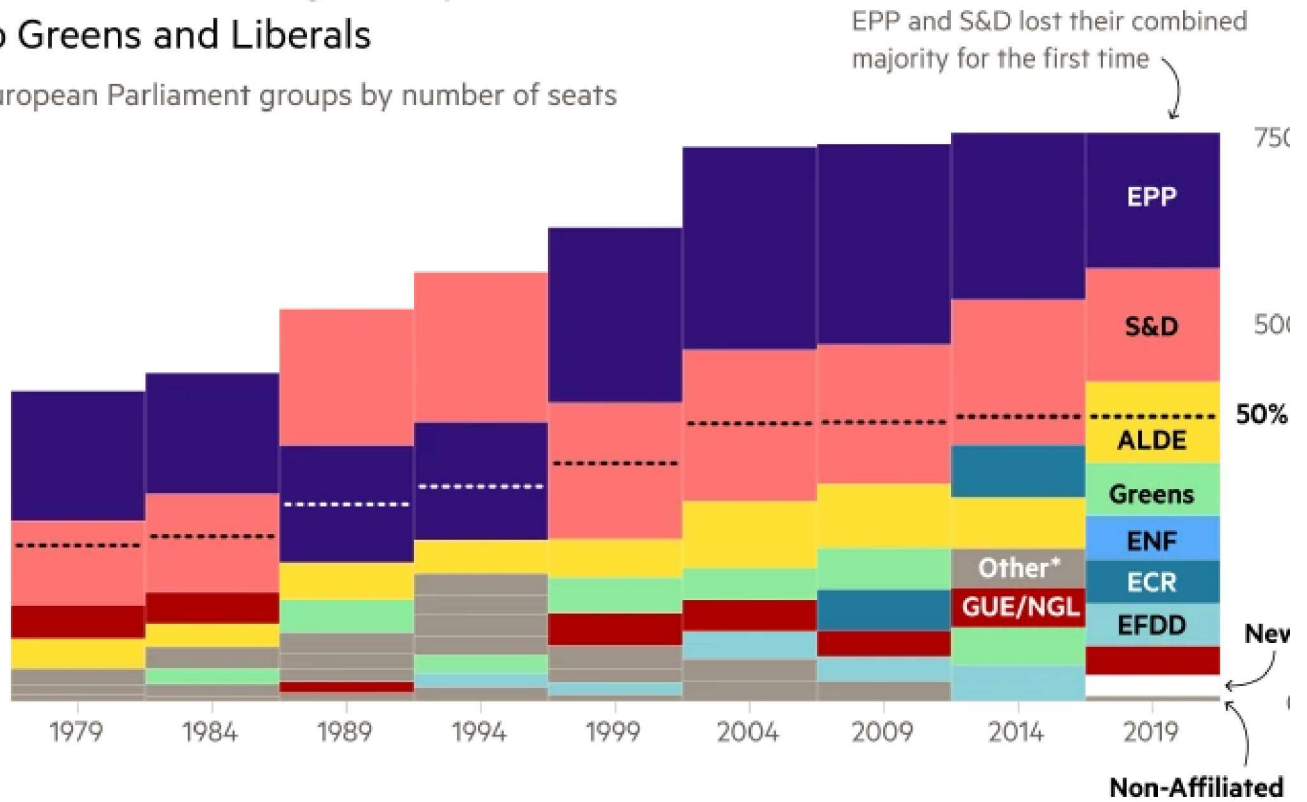
Here is what else we have learnt from the results.

Centre pro-EU forces hold up, but fragmented

The centre-right European People's party (EPP) and centre-left Socialists and Democrats (S&D) lost their combined majority for the first time in a generation, benefiting Greens and Liberals. This means they might need to seek support of other parties to form ad-hoc coalitions on subject-by-subject basis. This heralds complicated negotiations over contentious subjects such as the EU budget, trade, border policies and the rule of law in countries like Poland and Hungary.

Traditional centre-ground parties lose seats to Greens and Liberals

European Parliament groups by number of seats



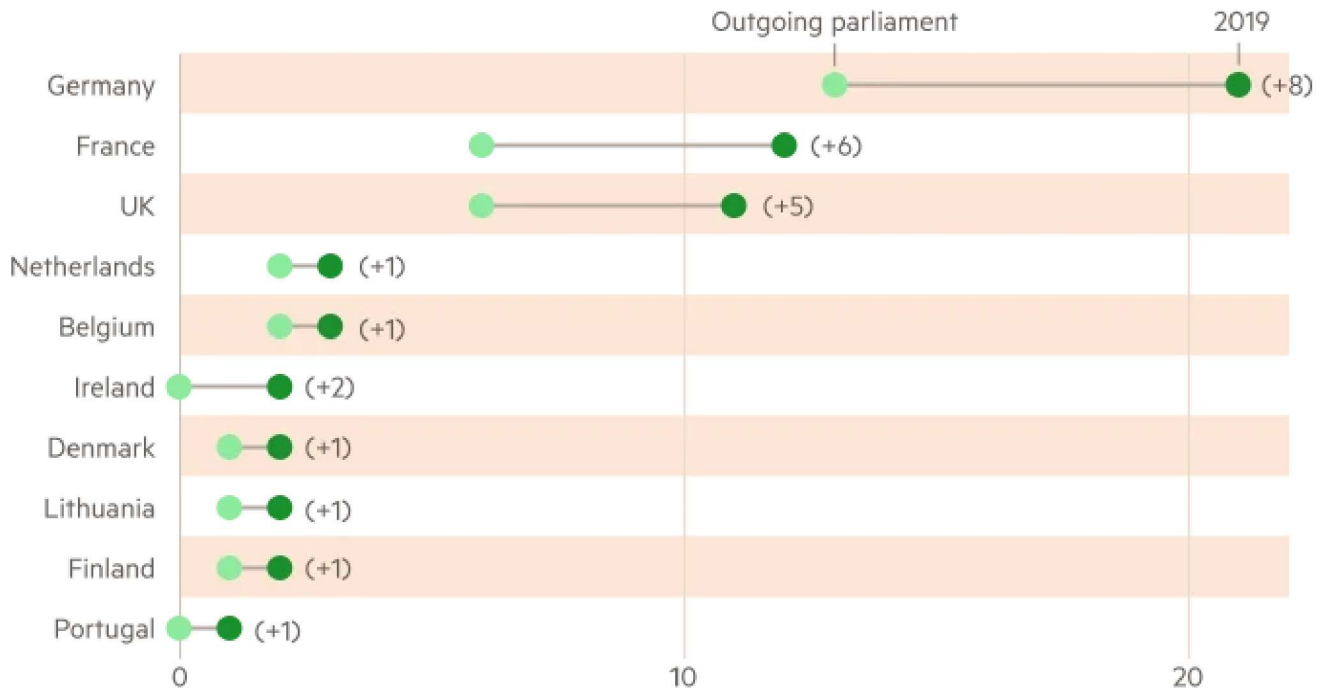
Source: European Parliament
 *Dissolved groups
 © FT

Greens flying high

It was a good night for the Greens across Europe. They came second in Germany, third in France and overtook Conservatives in the UK finishing fourth behind Brexit, Liberal Democrats and Labour.

Green parties had a strong showing across the bloc

Countries where green parties increased* their number of seats in the EP



Source: European Parliament

*Figures based on provisional results, except for UK and Ireland where figures are based on estimates

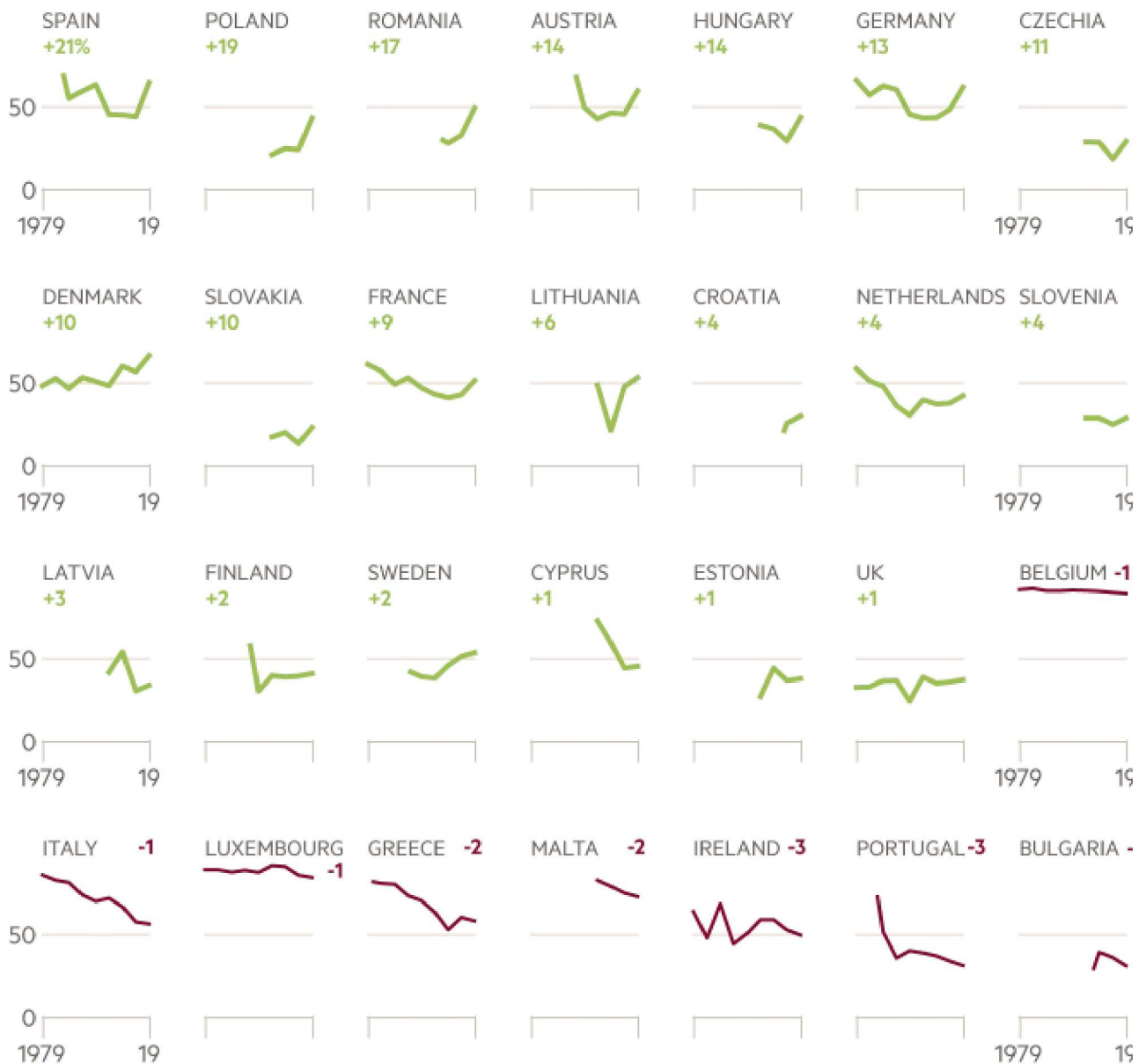
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Europeans turned out in big numbers

Turnout figures went up across Europe, boosting Liberals and Greens. Bucking a decades-long trend, 20 of the 28 EU countries recorded an uptick in turnout. Nine of them saw a double-digit increase, a sign that voters were motivated to make their voices heard amid increasing polarisation of EU politics.

Several member states recorded a historic increase in turnout

Turnout* in European parliament elections 2019 (%)



Source: European Parliament

*Voting is compulsory in Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece and Luxembourg

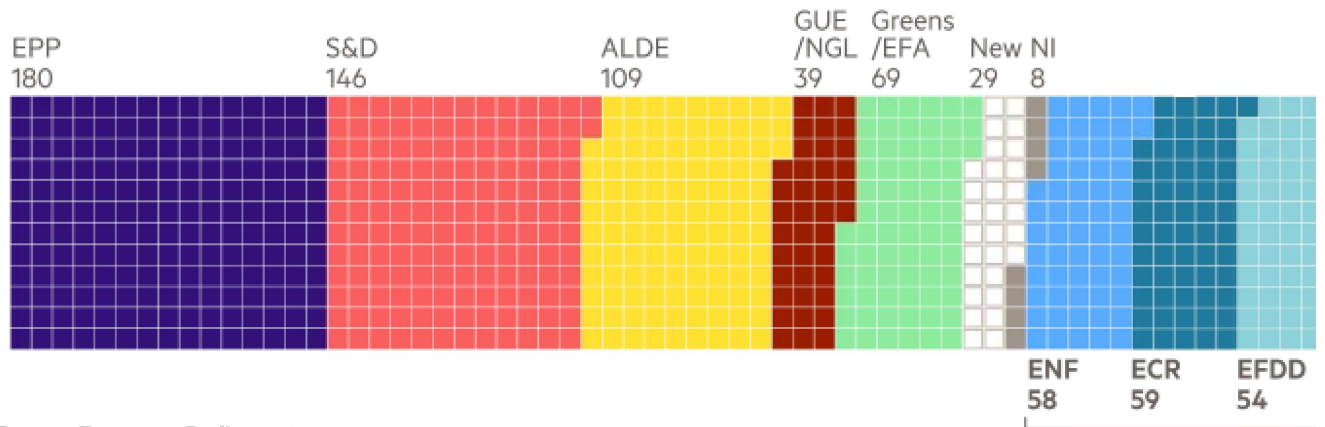
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Eurosceptics fail to impress

Eurosceptic and far-right parties made gains but fell short of expectations. They remain roughly a quarter of MEPs, with Europe of Nations and Freedom (ENF) making the biggest gains with 58 seats, an increase of 21 on the previous ballot.

The eurosceptics and nationalists make only modest gains

Each is a seat in the European Parliament



Source: European Parliament

*Figures based on provisional results, except for Cyprus, Ireland and UK where figures are based on estimates

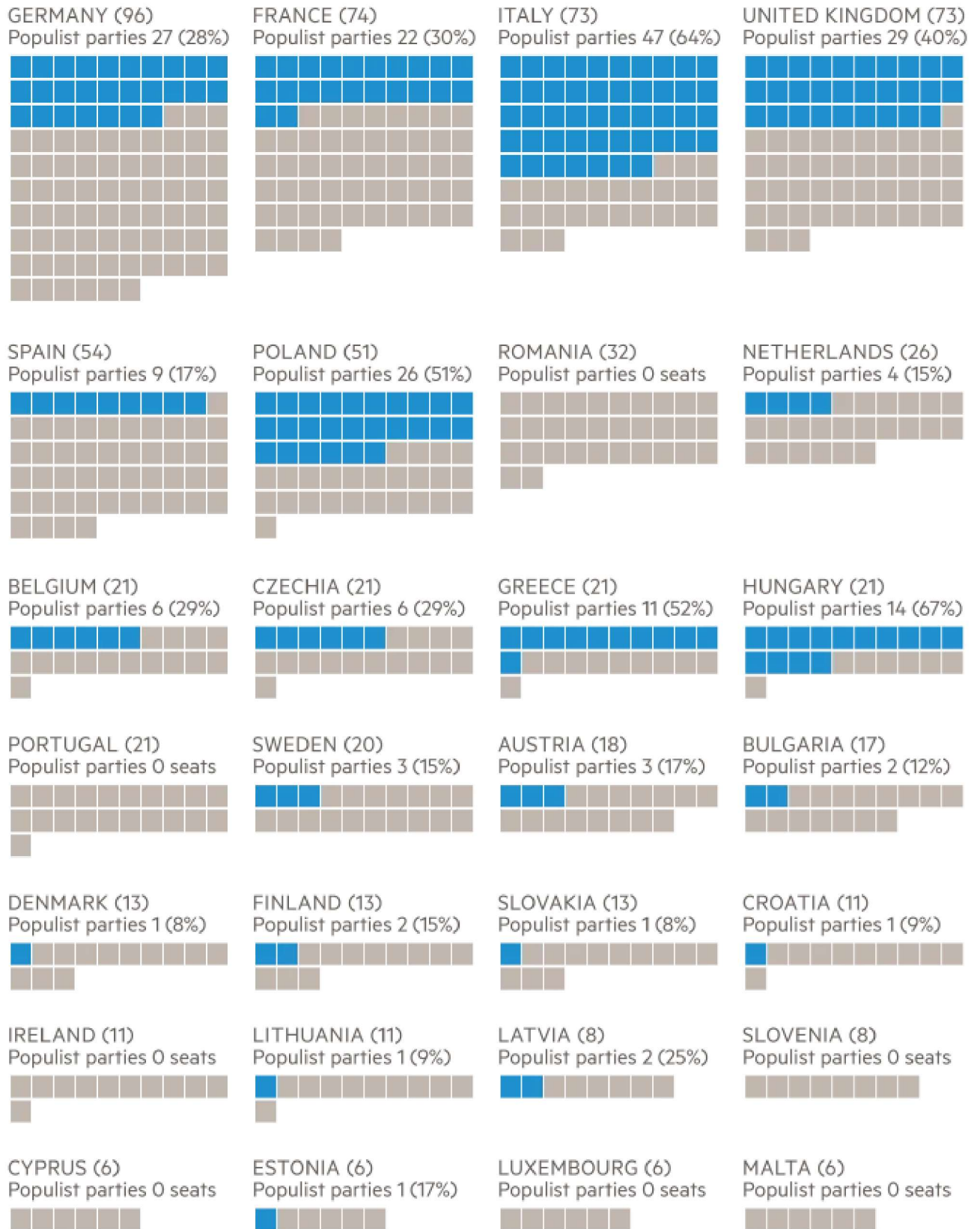
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Eurosceptics and nationalists took just under a quarter of seats in the E

The ENF, until now the smallest faction in parliament, was propelled by the success of Italy’s League and France’s National Rally. EFDD on the other hand capitalised on the [surge of UK’s Brexit Party](#), which took a third of UK’s vote. European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) faltered after an abysmal performance of UK’s Conservatives.

Populists and eurosceptics failed to make inroads

Seats won (% of all seats)



Source: European Parliament, FT research and Rooduijn, M., Van Kessel, S., Froio, C., Pirro, A., De Lange, S., Halikiopoulou, D., Lewis, P., Mudde, C. & Taggart, P. (2019). The PopuList: An Overview of Populist, Far Right, Far Left and Eurosceptic Parties in Europe.

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Far-right strong at national level

However, the strength of the far-right parties will probably be felt in their home countries, especially in France and Italy, where Marine Le Pen's National Rally and Matteo Salvini's League came top of the polls. The results will reinforce their rhetoric of the election as a litmus test of their popularity.

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