

- SPECIAL EDITION:  
2019 EU elections: Results
- Joint CCBE – FBE Conference: “Self-Regulation & Quality in the Legal Profession” – 25 October 2019 in Lisbon
- CCBE Conference: “The modernisation of European company law” – 27 November 2019 in Brussels
- Croatian Bar Association awards the Dr. Ivo Politeo Award to CCBE First Vice-President, Ranko Pelicarić
- 2019 Three Bar Meeting
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## 2019 EU ELECTIONS: RESULTS

### A new Parliament

Between 23 and 26 May 2019, more than 400 million EU citizens elected the 751 members of the European Parliament, with an overall turnout of 50.62 % (compared to 42.6 % in 2014).

The main change in the composition of the European Parliament in comparison to the previous elections in 2014 is the shift from the two main political groups (EPP and S&D) towards a more fragmented Parliament, with the Liberals in the lead in terms of progression, followed by the far-right parties and the Greens.

A closer look at the results reveals that the EPP and S&D suffered the most in terms of number of seats, losing 34 and 31 seats respectively. However, they remain the largest political groups in the Parliament, with 182 seats for the EPP and 154 seats for the S&D.

The liberals, whose political group is now renamed “Renew Europe”, won the elections in terms of progression, becoming the third largest political group in the Parliament.

The second largest progression is that of the newly formed far-right group, “Identity and Democracy” which succeeded the ENF. In general, the far-right/Eurosceptic parties as a whole will have more weight in discussions in Parliament than before, which will probably make decisions on some issues more difficult to take.

Another aspect that will also probably affect the European Parliament’s legislative programme are the 22 additional seats won by the Greens, reflecting the increasing concerns of EU citizens regarding climate change and its consequences.

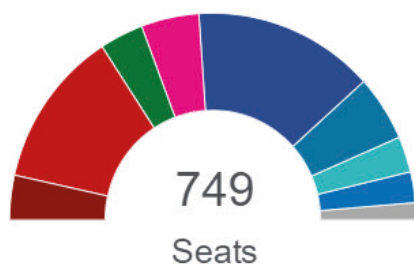
For more information on the general results of the European Parliament elections, please visit the following website: <https://election-results.eu/>

As regards the European Parliament Committee Chairs, the EPP now has seven Chairs in its ranks, the S&D five, RE four, the Greens two, ECR two and GUE/NGL one, and ID has neither a Chair nor a Vice-Chair in any of the Committees, due to the request from the main political groups to observe the cordon sanitaire.

For more information on the composition of the Committee Chairs of the European Parliament, please consult the following link: <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20190709IPR56669/parliament-s-committees-elect-chairs-and-vice-chairs>

## European Union 2014-2019

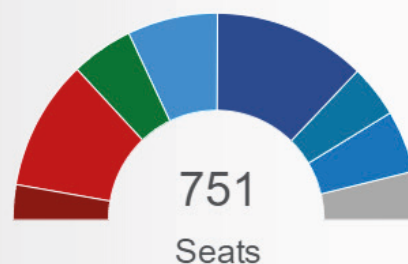
Outgoing Parliament



Political groups	Seats
<b>EPP</b> Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats)	216 ●
<b>S&amp;D</b> Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament	185 ●
<b>ECR</b> European Conservatives and Reformists Group	77 ●
<b>ALDE</b> Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe	69 ●
<b>GUE/NGL</b> Confederal Group of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left	52 ●
<b>Greens/EFA</b> Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance	52 ●
<b>EFDD</b> Europe of Freedom and Direct Democracy Group	42 ●
<b>ENF</b> Europe of Nations and Freedom Group	36 ●
<b>NI</b> Non-attached Members	20 ●








## European Union 2019-2024

Constitutive session



Political groups	Seats
<b>EPP</b> Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats)	182 ●
<b>S&amp;D</b> Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament	154 ●
<b>Renew Europe</b> Renew Europe group	108 ●
<b>Greens/EFA</b> Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance	74 ●
<b>ID</b> Identity and Democracy	73 ●
<b>ECR</b> European Conservatives and Reformists Group	62 ●
<b>GUE/NGL</b> Confederal Group of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left	41 ●
<b>NI</b> Non-attached Members	57 ●

This chart is taken from the following website: <https://election-results.eu/tools/comparative-tool/>

<b>Political groups</b>								<b>NI</b>
<b>Seats</b>	<b>-34</b>	<b>-31</b>	<b>+39</b>	<b>+22</b>	<b>+37</b>	<b>-15</b>	<b>-11</b>	<b>+37</b>

## President of the European Commission – Ursula von der Leyen

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Born in Brussels, Belgium, Ursula von der Leyen is a Doctor of Medicine, a German politician, and has been a member of the Christian Democratic Union of Germany (CDU) since 1990. During her political career, she served successively as a Federal Minister of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Federal Minister of Labour and Social Affairs and as Germany's first female Federal Minister of Defence. She is the only minister to have served in the cabinet of Angela Merkel consistently since she first became Chancellor in 2005.

Her nomination by the European Council came as a surprise since she had not participated in the election campaign, not being one of the Spitzenkandidaten selected by the political parties to become President of the Commission, as was the case during the 2014 elections.

## President of the European Parliament – David Maria Sassoli

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Born in Florence, Italy, David Maria Sassoli graduated in Political Science and has had a long career in journalism. In 2009, he became a member of the European Parliament for the Italian centre-left Democratic Party (PD) and was the most-voted candidate in the Central Italy constituency.



## President of the European Council – Charles Michel

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Born in Namur, Belgium, Charles Michel graduated in law and became a lawyer at the Brussels Bar. He started his political career at the age of 16 when he joined the francophone liberal party, Mouvement Réformateur (MR). He has successively served as Minister of Home Affairs in the Walloon government and Belgian Minister of Development Cooperation. He is also the former Prime Minister of Belgium (2014-2018) and remains incumbent Prime Minister until a new Federal Government is installed, or until 1 December 2019, when his term as European Council President begins.

## High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Vice-President of the Commission (candidate) - Josep Borrell

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Born in La Pobla de Segur, Spain, Josep Borrell holds a degree in aeronautical engineering, applied mathematics and is a Doctor of Economics. He is also a Catalan politician, and a member of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE). After holding numerous cabinet positions in the Spanish government – including Budget General Secretary (1982-84), State Secretary for Finance (1991-96) and Minister of Public Works, Telecommunications, Transport and the Environment (1991-96) – he became a member of the European Parliament, where he served as President of the institution from 2004 to 2007.



## President of the European Central Bank (candidate) – Christine Lagarde

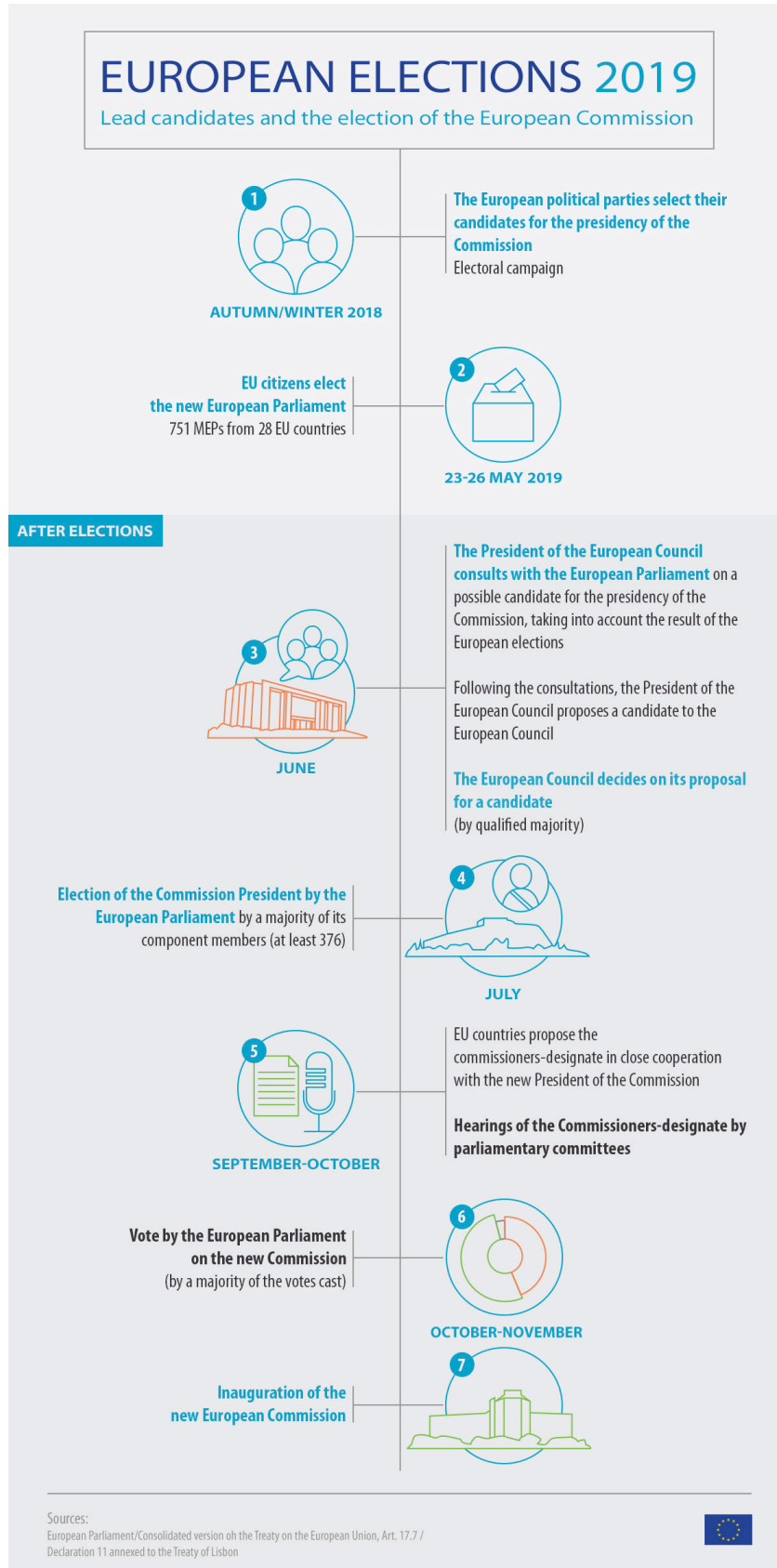
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Born in Paris, France, Christine Lagarde graduated in social law, labour law, English and political science. She was admitted to the Paris Bar in 1981 and worked as a lawyer in a renowned international law firm. She then served as French Minister for Foreign Trade, Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, Minister of Finance and Economy. In 2011, she was appointed as the eleventh managing director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) where she served two mandates.

## What's next?

After electing David Maria Sassoli as President of the European Parliament and Ursula von der Leyen as President of the European Commission, the Parliament still needs to approve the nomination by the European Council of Josep Borell as High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and of Christine Lagarde as President of the European Central Bank. It will also have to approve the proposed composition of the new European Commission based on the candidates proposed by each country, in close cooperation with the new President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen. The new Commission, as well as the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the President of the ECB, will officially take office on 1 November 2019.



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## JOINT CCBE – FBE CONFERENCE: “SELF-REGULATION & QUALITY IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION” – 25-10-2019 IN LISBON



The conference will be an opportunity to remind participants of the role and importance of self-regulation for the independence of the legal profession and to discuss the interplay between regulation and quality within the profession:

- How can citizens be guaranteed high quality of legal services?
- How can their interests be protected and best served?
- How can their legal needs be met while ensuring the application of appropriate rules?

In particular, the conference will examine the recently adopted Directive 2018/958 on a proportionality test before adoption of new regulation of professions and its implementation within the legal profession in Europe:

- How can the independence of lawyers be guaranteed and the adequate role of Bars and Law Societies in protecting and defending citizens be ensured?
- To what extent would the role of Bars and Law Societies be affected and the landscape of rules for lawyers be changed?

The discussions will provide insights from different perspectives (Bars, legal professionals, European institutions, academics, consumers, etc.) on how to best respond to the legal needs of citizens and improve access to justice for everyone.

For further information, please contact the CCBE secretariat at [event@ccbe.eu](mailto:event@ccbe.eu).

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## CCBE CONFERENCE: “THE MODERNISATION OF EUROPEAN COMPANY LAW” – 27-11-2019 IN BRUSSELS

The Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe, with the participation of the French-speaking Bar and the Dutch-speaking Bar of Brussels and the scientific support of its Company Law Committee, invites you to a conference on recent legislative achievements and on the future of European company law.

The focus will be on the following topics:

- Cross-border mergers, divisions and conversions;
- Digitalisation of company law;
- Corporate governance and sustainability;
- Future EU policies.

What has been achieved in legislating company law in Europe?

What has been implemented already?

What is working in practice and what is not effective?

What remains to be done?



**When :** 27 November 2019 – 09.00-16.30

**Where :** Salle des audiences solennelles, Cour d’appel de Bruxelles, place Poelaert, 1 – 1000 Brussels

For further information, please contact the CCBE secretariat at [event@ccbe.eu](mailto:event@ccbe.eu).

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## CROATIAN BAR ASSOCIATION AWARDS THE DR. IVO POLITEO AWARD TO CCBE FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT, RANKO PELICARIĆ



At the annual Assembly of the Croatian Bar Association (CBA) on 6 July 2019, CBA President Josip Šurjak awarded the Dr. Ivo Politeo Award to CCBE First Vice-President, Ranko Pelicarić, and to the President of the Slovenian Bar Association, Roman Završek. The Dr. Ivo Politeo Award, named after one of Croatia’s most prominent lawyers who, among other things, in 1954 prepared the Codex of Professional Ethics of Lawyers for the International Lawyers Union, is the highest award that the CBA can give to lawyers. Ranko Pelicarić has been actively involved in the CBA since 1978, when he started working as a lawyer trainee. He has held numerous positions at the CBA and served as CBE President from 2000 to 2006. During his career as a lawyer, Ranko Pelicarić has fully met the conditions of the Dr. Ivo Politeo Award since he does not consider the legal profession to be just a profession, for him it is a way of thinking and a lifestyle.

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## 2019 THREE BAR MEETING

Each year, the CCBE meets with representatives from the All Chinese Lawyers Association (ACLA) and the Japanese Federation of Bar Associations (JFBA). The 2019 meeting was held in Porto, the home town of the CCBE President.

These meetings provide an opportunity to exchange general experiences regarding the organisation, regulation and perception of the profession of lawyer in China, Japan and Europe, as well as the trade of legal services and the impact of innovation on the profession. Each organisation also presents an overview of the past year's issues, actions, developments and achievements.

This year's edition focussed mainly on the following themes: The independence of lawyers and maintaining this independence (with the CCBE presenting the potential European Convention on the profession of lawyer), the right of access to a lawyer in law enforcement and criminal proceedings, the quality of legal services and its guarantees, and finally the ethical aspects of automated decision-making tools and applications (based on complex algorithms and AI) especially in the judicial and justice fields.

The presentations and exchanges were, as always, fascinating and high level. The subsequent discussions showed that, despite the obvious differences in legal practices and culture, the legal professions represented by the three participating organisations share similar values and principles when it comes to describing the duties of lawyers in their relationships with their clients, the courts and the authorities.

This is the main added value of these Three Bar meetings: exchanging experiences and best practices, discovering early warnings of potential challenges and opportunities, learning from each other, and finding what unites us in the midst of all that divides us.

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## G7 OF LAWYERS IN PARIS

On the initiative of the President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron, civil society stakeholders, including lawyers' organisations and the trade union movement, were invited to comment on the topics to be discussed at the G7 meeting held in Biarritz in August 2019.

The CNB acted as hosts for lawyers' organisations from the G7 countries at a meeting held on 11 and 12 July in Paris to coordinate these submissions. The CCBE was invited to participate, which was a welcome opportunity to ensure that the voices of Bars and Law Societies from non-G7 European countries would also be heard.

Together with our G7 colleagues, we emphasised the importance of core values of our profession, particularly touching on the rule of law and the protection of human rights. Submissions were made concerning the fight against inequalities and promoting access to justice, the protection of the environment, strengthening responsible business conduct, the preservation of the rule of law and the right to a fair trial, as well as opportunities and threats posed by digitalisation and artificial intelligence.

The CCBE was represented at the meeting by its third Vice-President, James MacGuill. The event was well organised and provided an opportunity to raise awareness of the concerns of the profession on these important topics among political leaders and society in general.



▷ On 6 and 7 September 2019, the Georgian Bar Association, the Law Society of Hong Kong and the European Association of Lawyers will host the International Legal Forum in Tbilisi. The Forum will be dedicated to the “One Belt, One Road” initiative and will serve as an excellent opportunity to discuss the legal aspects, as well as investment and commercial opportunities attached to this initiative. The Forum aims to attract many lawyers and business community representatives from “One Belt, One Road” countries who will give participants the opportunity to expand their professional network and create new business connections. The Forum will consist of a one-and-a-half-day conference and the official part of the Forum will be followed by a gala dinner and a wine tour that will serve as an excellent opportunity for international guests to experience Georgian culture and traditions. For details and registration information, please visit the following website: [www.tbilisilegalforum.com](http://www.tbilisilegalforum.com).

▷ See you in Luxembourg!

The Bar of Luxembourg is hosting the 2019 International Congress of the UIA and would be very happy to welcome you to Luxembourg City on this occasion, from 6 to 10 November 2019.

The UIA offers lawyers the opportunity to exchange different perspectives and experiences with colleagues from all over the world.

Participants will discuss the following issues during the Plenary Sessions: Innovation and the law, European law and institutions, Business and human rights, Violence against women.

In addition, more than 40 working sessions will be organised in small working groups. Participants will have the opportunity to further their knowledge in many different legal fields: family law, law of robotics, international criminal law and art law, among many others.

These working groups will be led by nearly 300 international speakers. Some of the sessions will have simultaneous translation in French, English and Spanish to allow for maximum engagement.

On top of that, you will find leisure and business opportunities and social activities – ceremonies, sporting activities, tourist activities – to strengthen your network.

#UIALuxembourg

[Programme](#)

[Newsletter on Main Themes and Special Sessions](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

<i>13/09/2019</i>	<i>Standing Committee – Copenhagen</i>
<i>24/10/2019</i>	<i>Standing Committee – Lisbon</i>
<i>25/10/2019</i>	<i>Joint CCBE – FBE Conference on self-regulation and quality in the legal profession - Lisbon</i>
<i>6-10/11/2019</i>	<i>2019 international Congress of the UIA - Luxembourg</i>
<i>27/11/2019</i>	<i>CCBE Conference on the Modernisation of European Company Law – Brussels</i>
<i>29/11/2019</i>	<i>Plenary Session – Brussels</i>