





- Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) are directly elected by EU citizens every 5 years.
 - > full independence from their governments
 - > very comfortable developing and vocalising their own views







- Current EP has 720 MEPs, distributed into 8 political groups + NI





Political Groups & Prominent National Parties



























































Leaders of Political Groups













Patriots for Europe









B. Eickhout



I. García Pérez



V. Hayer



M. Weber



J. Brudziński



J. Bardella



R. Aust



M. Schirdewan T. Reintke



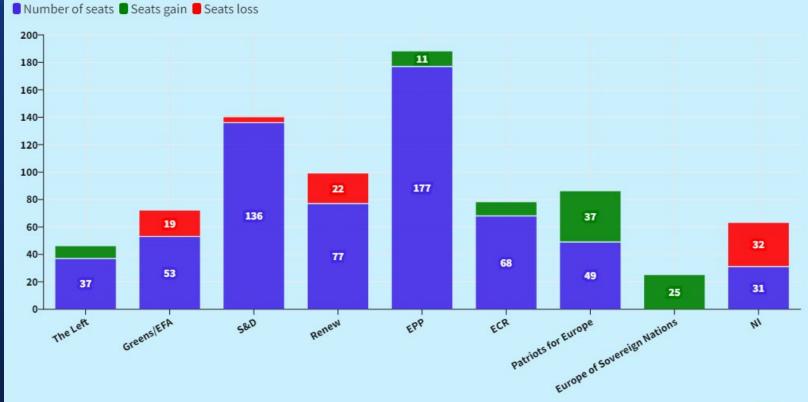
N. Procaccini



S. Tyszka



Balance of power among political groups after EP 2024 elections Based on current affiliation

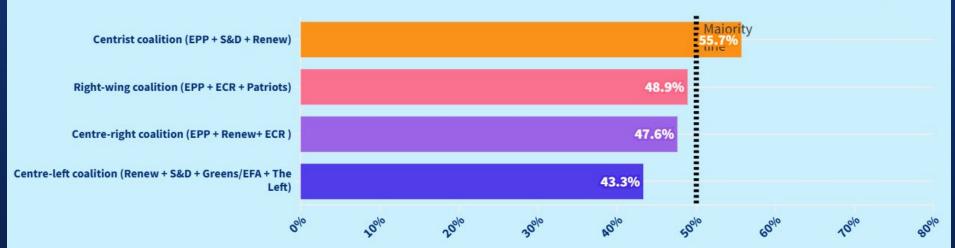














Parliamentary Committees - Standing Committees

- The Parliament has 20 Committees and 4 Subcommittees. This is where reports are drafted and legislation is amended.
- They are composed by a variable number of MEPs (25-90), and lead by a chair & 4 vice-chairs.





Parliamentary Committees - Standing Committees

AFET - Foreign Affairs 79 MEPS	BUDG - Budgets 40 MEPS	ENVI - Environment, Public Health and Food Safety 90 MEPs	REGI - Regional Development 41 MEPs	LIBE- Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs 75 MEPS
*DROI - Human Rights *Subcommittee of AFET	CONT- Budgetary Control	*SANT - Public Health *Subcommittee of ENVI	AGRI - Agriculture and Rural Development	AFCO - Constitutional Affairs
29 MEPs	30 MEPs	30 MEPs	49 MEPs	30 MEPs
*SEDE- Security and Defence *Subcommittee of AFET 29 MEPs	ECON - Economic and Monetary Affairs 60 MEPs	ITRE - Industry, Research and Energy 90 MEPs	PECH - Fisheries 27 MEPs	FEMM - Women's Rights and Gender Equality 40 MEPs
DEVE - Development 25 MEPs	*FISC - Tax Matters Subcommittee of ECON 30 MEPs	IMCO - Internal Market and Consumer Protection 52 MEPs	CULT - Culture and Education 30 MEPs	PETI - Petitions 35 MEPs
INTA - International Trade 43 MEPs	EMPL - Employment and Social Affairs 60 MEPs	TRAN - Transport and Tourism 46 MEPs	JURI - Legal Affairs 25 MEPs	



Parliamentary Committees - Chairs



ITRE Borys BUDKA

















Groups coordinators



Coordinators:

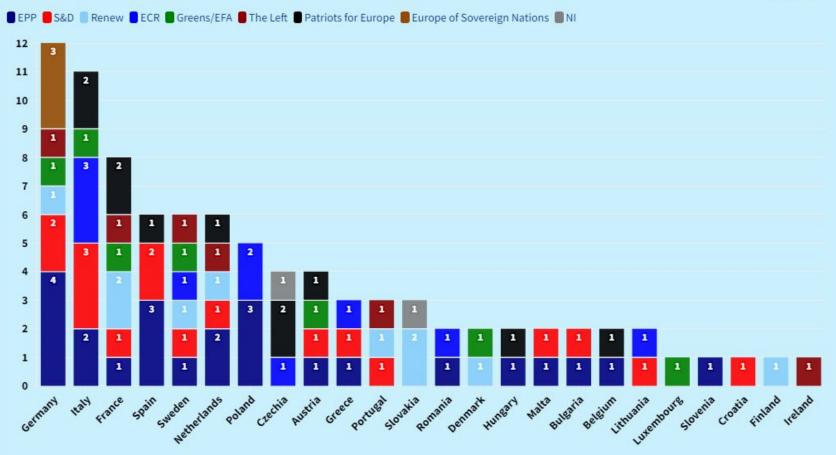
- Appointed by political groups to manage their group's activities and positions within a committee.
- They meet to prepare agenda and plan committee activities





ENVI committee: breakdown by political groups

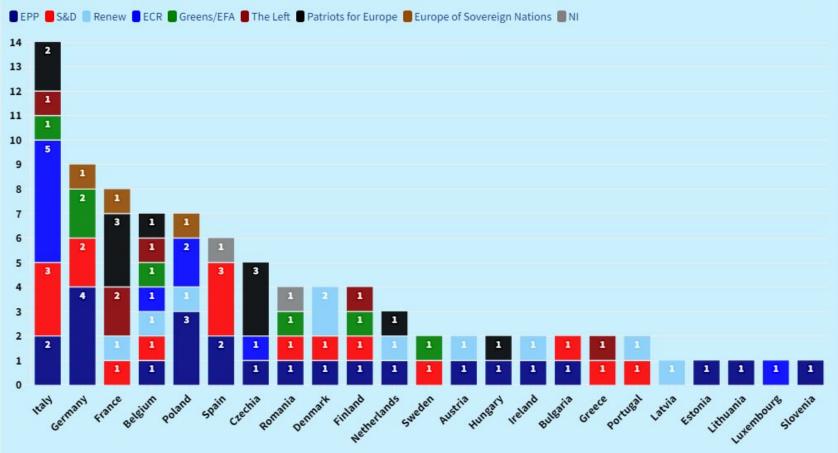




ENVI committee as a whole: 90 members (EPP: 24, S&D: 17, Renew: 10, ECR: 10, PfE: 11, Greens: 7, The Left: 7, ESN: 3, NI: 2)

ITRE committee: breakdown by political groups

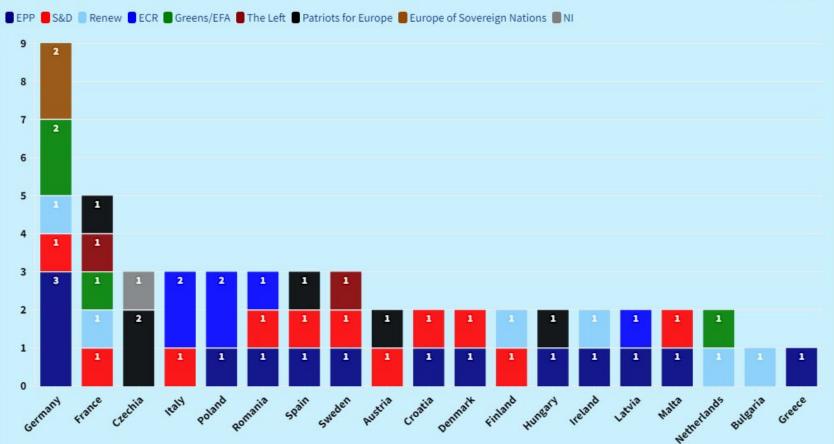




ITRE committee as a whole: 90 members (EPP: 24, S&D: 17, Renew: 10, ECR: 10, PfE: 11, Greens: 7, The Left: 6, ESN: 3, NI: 2)

IMCO committee: breakdown by political groups

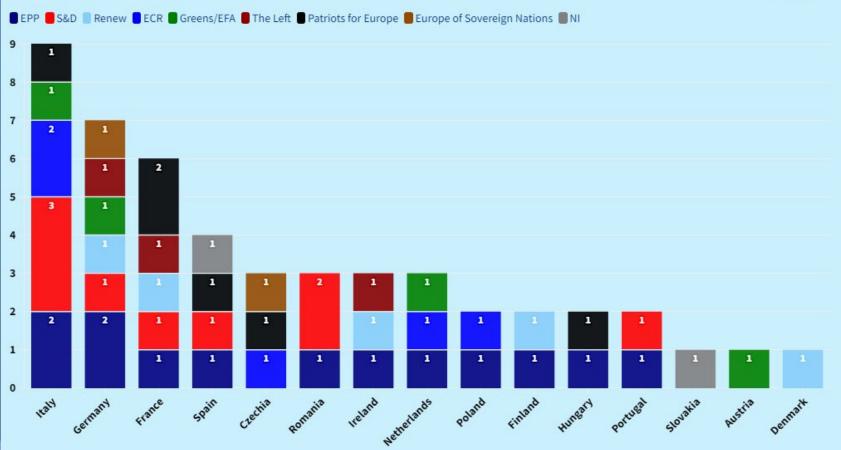




IMCO committee as a whole: 52 members (EPP: 14, S&D: 11, Renew: 6, ECR:6, PfE: 6, Greens:4, The Left:2, ESN:2, NI: 1)

AGRI committee: breakdown by political groups

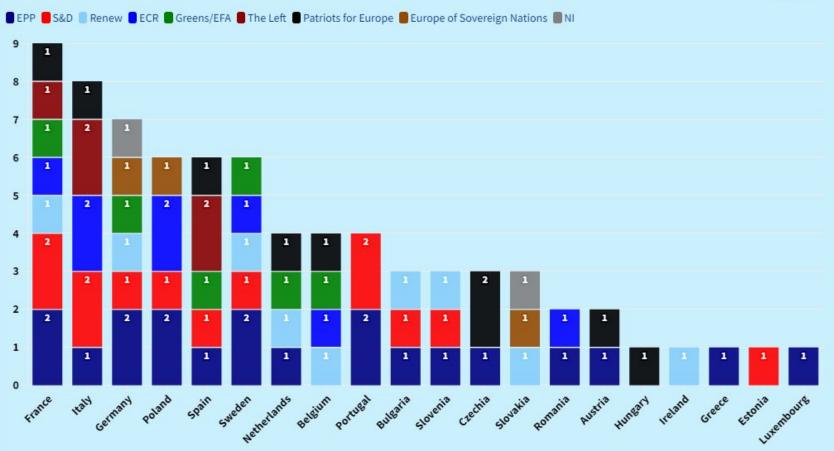




AGRI committee as a whole: 49 members (EPP: 13, S&D: 9, Renew: 5, ECR: 5, PfE: 6, Greens: 4, The Left: 3, ESN: 2, NI: 2)

LIBE committee: breakdown by political groups





LIBE committee as a whole: 75 members (EPP: 20, S&D: 13, Renew: 9, ECR: 8, PfE: 9, Greens: 6, The Left: 5, ESN: 3, NI: 2)

EP rules of procedure: key changes

Temporary legislative committees:

- Several committees have overlapping competences
 - e.g. AGRI vs ENVI (on food), ENVI vs IMCO (green standards for consumers), etc.
- If legislation falls within the competence of more than three committees => set up temporary committee to deal with specific legislative proposal
- Established based on a decision by the Conference of Presidents
- Will last until the adoption of the binding act
- <u>Different from the temporary "special committees"</u>, which issue non-binding recommendations (e.g. animal transport, cancer, etc.)





Leadership of the European Parliament

- President -> elected by the Parliament for a renewable 2.5-year term;
- The President and political group leaders -> set the agenda
 -> coordinate the Parliament's legislative work (Conference of Presidents).







R. Metsola President

Leadership of the European Parliament

Vice-presidents



S. Verheyen



E. Kopacz



E. Gonzalez Pons



K. Barley



P. Picierno



V. Negrescu



Y. Omarjee



C. Schaldemose



J. Lopez



M. Hojsik



S. Wilmes



N. Stefanuta



R. Zile



A. Sberna





Power of EP vis-a-vis Commission & Council

European Commission -> proposes legislation based on agenda and consultations

-> attends discussions in the EP to explain proposals and answer questions

European Parliament & Council of the EU

- -> different approaches
- -> Council tends to be more conservative, while MEPs are more vocal to propose "revolutionary" measures
- -> co-decide on the proposal in trilogues, where Commission acts as "arbitrator"





Power of EP vis-a-vis Commission & Council

European Commission -> proposes the annual budget

European Parliament & Council of the EU

- -> different interests
- -> Council focuses on national contributions and spending level, while MEPs seek more funding for their interests
- -> approve or amend the budget proposal





Power of EP vis-a-vis Commission - accountability

-> checks and balances

Examples:



Motion of censure: EP can dismiss the entire Commission through a vote of no confidence

Annual reports: Commission presents the report on its activities to the EP -> further debate and scrutiny



EP rules of procedure: key changes



Proposed changes affecting EP-Commission relations => under negotiation (revision of their inter-institutional framework)

 Special scrutiny hearings: EP to summon Commissioners for hearings on issue of major political importance. Conference of Presidents to decide on convening the hearing

Public by default and could lead to written recommendations

- EP to hold a regular <u>scrutiny session during each plenary session</u> with the Commission President or selected Commissioners <u>without a predefined theme</u>







Commission vs EP

Fragmentation of power in the EP + most MEPs coming from opposition parties ->

 A harder job for the Commission to build majorities, i.e. harder to turn the EP into a rubber stamping institution;

Individual MEPs more needed to be lobbied / they will increase their power when legislation is required.



Acts issued by the European Parliament



The European Parliament issues the following types of acts:

1. **Legislative Acts:** Binding acts that create or change EU laws (e.g. regulations, directives)

e.g.: Packaging and packaging waste; Chemicals: classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures; Medicinal products for human use; Screening of foreign investments in the Union; Union's electricity market design; CO2 emission standards for cars and vans; Establishment of the digital euro







Acts issued by the European Parliament

The European Parliament can issue the following types of acts:

 Non-legislative Acts: acts expressing Parliament's position or opinion on various matters, usually non-binding

e.g.: European strategy for low-emission mobility; New Circular Economy Action Plan; Ensuring food security and the long-term resilience of EU agriculture; The future of EU international investment policy; Report on Artificial Intelligence in a Digital Age

See Rules of Procedure: https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/RULES-9-2023-02-14-TOC_EN.html



EP's own legislative initiative resolutions



Treaty of Maastricht & Lisbon Treaty - allows EP to request the Commission to submit proposals.

e.g.: Digital Services Act: Improving the functioning of the Single Market; Better governance for the single market; An EU legal framework to halt and reverse EU-driven global deforestation; Corporate due diligence and corporate accountability









Case Study: Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR)

- → On 30 November 2022, the Commission published a proposal for the revision of Directive 94/62/EC on Packaging and Packaging Waste
- → On 22 November 2023, the EP adopted and amended the ENVI report
- → On 4 March 2024, the PE and the EU Council reached a provisional agreement on the proposed Regulation
- → On 24 April 2024 the EP adopted the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR)



How are reports assigned to the different committees?

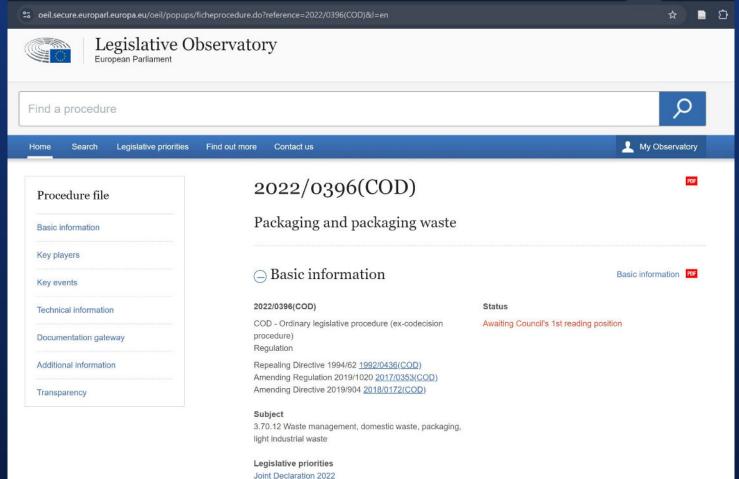
 Conflicts happen when more committees want to lead on a specific legislative file, especially due to the lack of a dedicated committee (e.g. digital policy).

 Attribution conflicts are solved by the Conference of Presidents, after receiving a recommendation by the Conference of Committee Chairs.



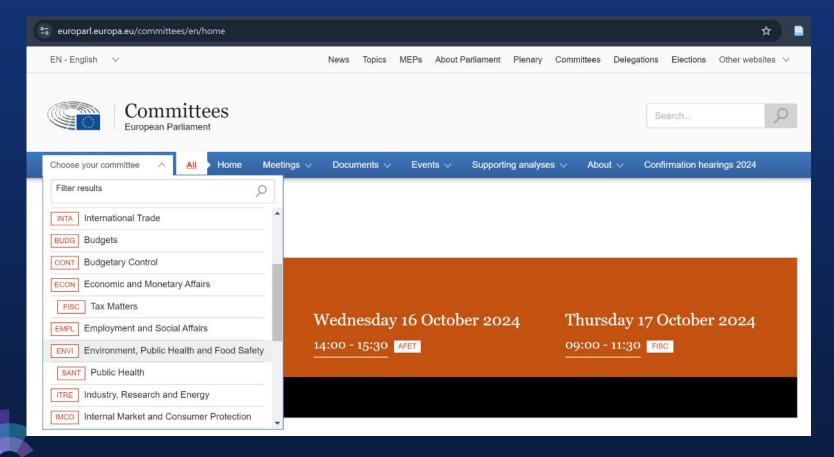


Legislative Observatory



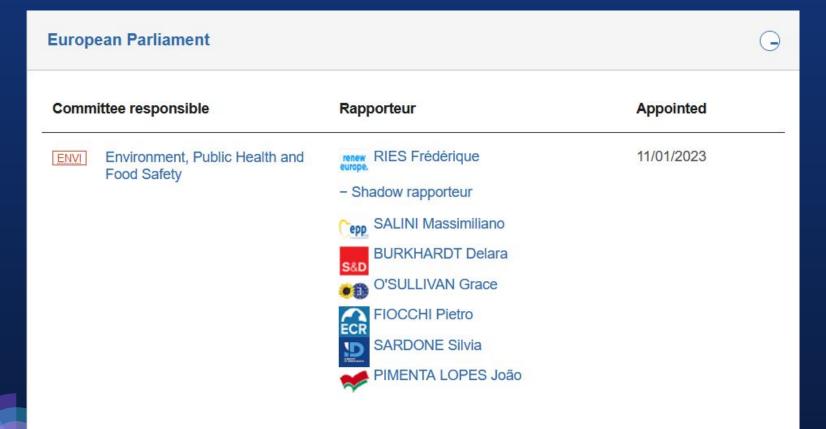


Analyse the relevant committee





Leading legislators: the Rapporteurs





How the reports are allocated to EPGs in committees

Reports in committees are distributed among political groups using the D'Hondt method, which allocates them proportionally based on group size.

The group assigned a report selects a rapporteur from its members.





Case study - ENVI Committee





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Full list

Incoming / Outgoing ~

Assistants

Directory

Search MEP meetings

Ethics and Transparency V



Frédérique RIES 🐠

Belgium

Date of birth: 14-05-1959, Balen-Wezel





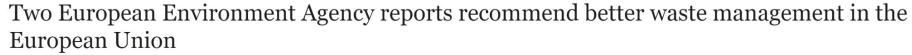
MEP Profile: Frédérique Ries

- 1. European Parliament website: Home | Profile page | Frederique Ries | History | 9
- 2. Personal website: Frédérique Ries Frédérique Ries
- 3. **EUMatrix:** <u>EU Matrix Most advanced tech-driven</u> <u>political foresight tool | Frédérique RIES</u>





European Parliament - Questions



> Answer in writing

Question for written answer E-003595/2019 to the Commission Rule 138 Frédérique Ries (Renew)

On 28 October 2019, the European Environment Agency (EEA) published two reports – one on the role of plastic waste export in the circular economy and the other providing a snapshot of resource losses from waste management (electrical and electronic equipment, end of life batteries and textile and plastic waste).

The findings of these reports are sobering: based on the 2015 figures presented by the EEA, 30 million tonnes of plastic waste is generated in the EU each year, of which only 17% is reused or recycled.

This poor management of – mainly plastic – waste is damaging to the environment and the climate, due mainly to plastic and micro-plastic waste being disposed of on land and in waterways.

- 1. Given that on average 170 kg of waste, consisting mainly of plastics and metals, is generated per person per year in the EU, what new measures not provided for in the EU's plastics strategy will the Commission take in the coming months?
- 2. Does the Commission plan to set a quantified target for reducing the consumption of plastics in the form of packaging waste as part of the 2020 review of the Packaging Waste Directive? Might such a target also be set for the construction sector, which also uses large amounts of plastics?



Speeches

Verbatim report of the debates



Monday January 16, 2023 - Strasbourg

Revised edition

Waste transfers (debate)



Frédérique Ries, on behalf of the Renew Group. – Mr President, Commissioner, a few words to begin by thanking our rapporteur, Mrs Weiss, for this spirit of openness, this spirit of compromise which has made it possible to achieve a collective result of which we can be proud.

We have aimed for ambition, with this major reform of the European waste transfer rules: to better protect the environment and health, to prevent certain countries from remaining the world's trash bin. And the challenge is considerable: in 2020, or waste exports to third countries exceeded 32 million tonnes. It is hardly imaginable. We have added several building blocks to the legislative text proposed to us by the Commission in November 2021, starting with what is one of my main political battles; the elimination of plastic pollution on the planet. The end of the export of plastic waste to third countries will be a reality three years after the entry into force of this regulation, four years for OECD countries.

The fight against plastic pollution, which takes between a hundred and a thousand years to degrade and which kills our oceans, is global: it must become total. There are obviously other advances in our text. I am thinking of the outright ban on exporting hazardous waste to third countries (China, India, certain countries on the African continent) or this pressing request made to the Commission for increased monitoring of waste exported to OECD countries (the United States, Japan, Israel, Turkey, in particular).

I conclude on the paradigm shift that is taking place – and for the better – in the European Union. Faced with China closing its recycling market two years ago now, which has led to a real upheaval in the global market, and also faced with the depletion of natural resources, Europe has understood that it must take its destiny in hand and protect its internal market. As for waste, this means tightening export conditions – which we are doing – and better valorising it at home, so that this waste becomes a usable and sustainable resource. This will also be beneficial for many sectors of industry.

Legal Notice - Privacy Policy



A rapporteur is appointed in the responsible parliamentary committee to draft a report on proposals of a legislative or budgetary nature, or other issues. In drafting their report, rapporteurs may consult with relevant experts and stakeholders. They are also responsible for the drafting of compromise amendments and negotiations with shadow rapporteurs. Reports adopted at committee level are then examined and voted on in plenary. Rule 55

REPORT on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on packaging and packaging waste, amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 and Directive (EU) 2019/904, and repealing Directive 94/62/EC

06-11-2023 - A9-0319/2023 - PE742.297v03-00 - ENVI DOC PDF (963 KB) | DOC (442 KB) Frédérique RIES

REPORT on the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment

11-10-2018 - A8-0317/2018 - PE623.714v02-00 - ENVI

REPORT on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on food intended for infants and young children and on food for special medical purposes

26-04-2012 - A7-0059/2012 - PE478.337v04-00 - ENVI DOC PDF (1 MB) | DOC (942 KB) Frédérique RIES

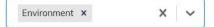
Report on health concerns associated with electromagnetic fields

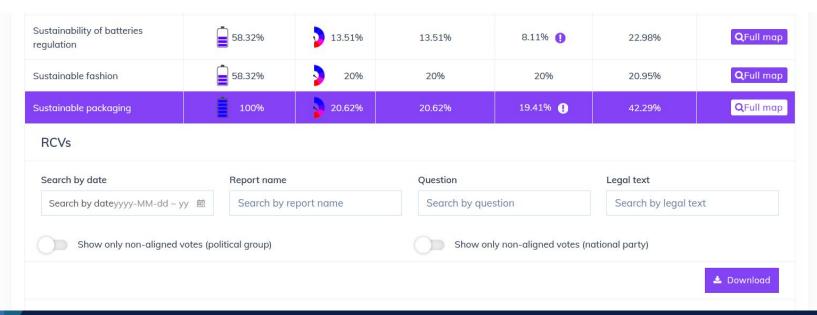
23-02-2009 - A6-0089/2009 - PE416.575v02-00 - ENVI

Frédérique RIES

© Click on the name of the topic to see full list of specific actions

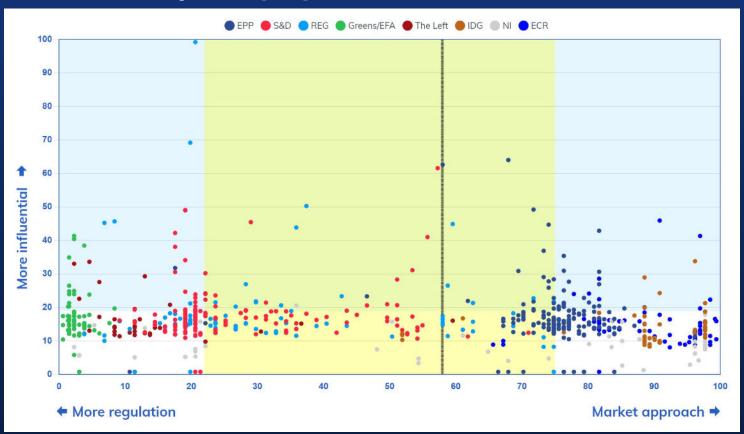
Category





DATE ↑↓	REPORT NAME ↑↓	QUESTION	IN LINE WITH OWN POLITICAL GROUP	IN LINE WITH NATIONAL PARTY	MEP VOTE
24 Apr 2024	Packaging and packaging waste	Vote on Amendment 532 on "Packaging and packaging waste"	Yes	Yes	14
22 Nov 2023	Packaging and packaging waste	Criticizes the privatization of urban waste management in some Member States for failing to enhance environmental sustainability, maintaining low multi-material recovery and recycling levels, preferring landfilling, and being profit-driven rather than committed to public service and environmentally sound solutions.	Yes	Yes	• •
22 Nov 2023	Packaging and packaging waste	The European Parliament rejects the Commission proposal on Packaging and packaging waste	Yes	Yes	• 0
22 Nov 2023	Packaging and packaging waste	Argues that affected individuals, legal entities, and environmental NGOs are entitled to request action from competent authorities regarding potential breaches of the PPWR, with such requests requiring supporting information and data, obliging authorities to consider and respond to plausible demonstrations of breaches, and if action is taken, the Commission must be notified to assess and address any wider non-compliance	Yes	Yes	ı . 0

Sustainable packaging



Packaging and packaging waste, amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 and Directive (EU) 2019/904, and repealing Directive 94/62/EC 2022/0396(COD) Amendment 700



Packaging and packaging waste, amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 and Directive (EU) 2019/904, and repealing Directive 94/62/EC 2022/0396(COD) Amendment 829



Packaging and packaging waste, amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 and Directive (EU) 2019/904, and repealing Directive 94/62/EC 2022/0396(COD) Amendment 866



(32a)'recycling' means any recovery operation using physical or chemical processes by which waste materials are reprocessed into products, materials or substances, whether for the original or other purposes. This includes an appropriate decontamination stage, where priority should be given to mechanical recycling. It includes the reprocessing of organic material but does not include energy recovery and the reprocessing into materials that are to be used as fuels or for backfilling operations.

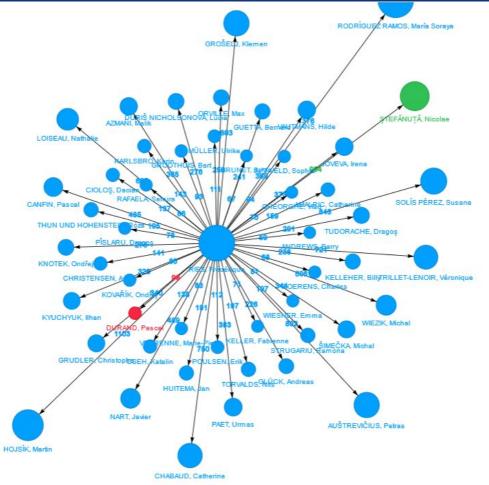
2a.Food packaging containing Bisphenol A (BPA, CAS 80-05-7) shall not be placed on the market 18 months after the entry into force of the Regulation.

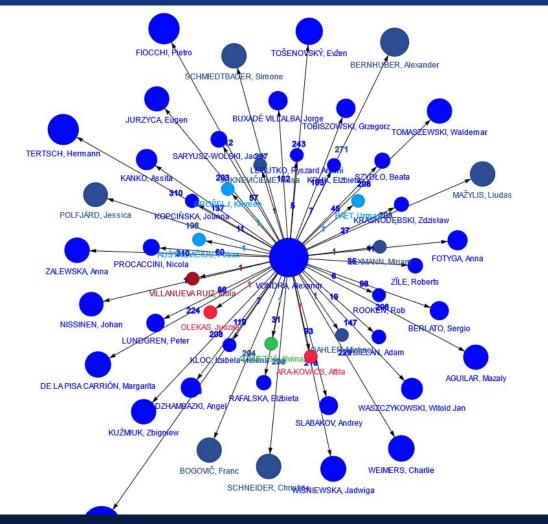
1.All packaging shall be recyclable.

1.All packaging shall be recyclable **from** 1 January 2030.



MEP's network in the European Parliament





Frédérique Ries

VIEWS AND INFLUENCE	STATEMENTS AMENDME	NTS MEPS' EP NETWORK	DETAILED INFLUENCE	CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDE	RS
Engaged by	Topic	Pr	rocedure name	Committee	
Select	[~]		Search by procedure name	Select	¥
DATE 1	STAKEHOLDER 1	TOPIC	PROCEDURE NAME	HEADQUARTERS ↑↓	сомміттее 🔱
30 Apr 2024	Mission du Maroc auprès de l'UE	Visite de courtoisie			Bruxelles
07 Mar 2024	EUROPEAN ORGANISATION FOR RARE DISEASES	Revision of the Pharmaceutical Legislation		France	European Parliament
07 Mar 2024	Acumen Public Affairs	Revision of the Pharmaceutical Legislation		■ Belgium	Brussels
19 Feb 2024	Bureau Européen des Unions de Consommateurs	Revision of the Pharmaceutical Legislation		■ Belgium	Virtual meeting
14 Feb 2024	Algemene vereniging van de Geneesmiddelenindustrie	Revision of the Pharmaceutical Legislation		■ Belgium	Virtual meeting
08 Feb 2024	European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations	Revision of the Pharmaceutical Legislation		Luxembourg	European Parliament
07 Feb 2024	EUROPEAN ORGANISATION FOR RARE DISEASES	Revision of the Pharmaceutical Legislation		France	Virtual meeting



How to engage with the MEPs?



- 1. Research the MEP's interests and background: Understand their political affiliation, policy interests, committee memberships and past work. Identify areas where your expertise or interests align with theirs.
- 2. Communicate concisely and clearly.



How to engage with the MEPs?



- 4. Offer expertise and support: Share relevant information, research, or data that could help the MEP in their work.
- 5. Network with the MEP's staff and stakeholders.
- 6. Be responsive and reliable.
- 7. Follow up regularly to maintain the relationship.





MEPs: Key Influences on Decision-Making

Political Focus

Political actors -> driven by ideology, party/group priorities

Public Opinion

Directly accountable to voters -> need to showcase results

Drawn to high-visibility issues (growth, environment, social justice)



EP career

Career growth -> depends on alliances, legislative impact, and visibility in debates



Key questions before approaching MEPs

- What is their professional background?
- What are the MEP's policy priorities based on activities in the past?
- Is the MEP a senior figure or a newcomer?
- Is the MEP very close to their constituency? Is the local public opinion aligned with your views on your topics of interest?
- How did the MEP vote in the past on similar or linked topics?
- Did the MEP issue any public statement on that topic?
- Did the MEP propose any amendment relevant to the file? If yes, what was the purpose of it (e.g. more regulation vs less regulatory requirements)?



Frederique Ries

Focus

- More national profile than local one
- Senior member in the EP (elected in 1999 for her first term)
- Main legislative files: packaging and packaging waste, reduction of single-use plastics, GMOs, pesticides, preventive health, medical devices
- In addition to ENVI, she was co-chair of the network of Parliamentary Advocates for Rare Diseases, member of MEPs Against Cancer, FEMM, PETI

renew europe.

Potential arguments:

- Health implications from re-use mandates, since she was more into health than the environment
- It would help if this argument is made by consumer groups

Delara Burkhardt

Focus

- Local profile, she is very close to the party branch and local organisations in Schleswig-Holstein
- New member in the EP (elected in 2019 for her first term)
- Main legislative files: packaging and packaging waste, deforestation, climate targets, sustainable textiles



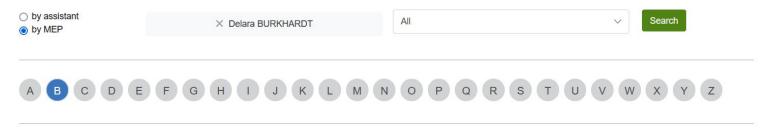
Potential arguments:

- She is unlikely to budge on environmental ambition. Possibility to highlight socioeconomic implications for rural, low-impact businesses in her home constituency
- It would help if the argument proposes 'realistic' solutions to mitigate this issue e.g. **temporary** exemption or **targeted** support



Accredited Parliamentary Assistants

Search



Members	Туре	Assistants
Delara BURKHARDT	Accredited assistants	Gerrit Bertold KRAUSE Marta POLUSIK Roxane Eva Rosa ROTH
Delara BURKHARDT	Accredited assistants (grouping)	Hannah CORNELSEN Malte MARKERT Jan Ludwig ROESSMANN
Delara BURKHARDT	Local assistants	Marc-Andre FRICKE Philipp MUNCK
Delara BURKHARDT	Paying agents	Prof. Dr. Ludewig + Partner

Assistants to the Vice-Presidency/to the Quaestorate

Assistants to Vice-Presidents and Quaestors are temporary agents of the European Parliament who assist the Vice-President or Quaestor in the exercise of their duties as a Vice-President or Quaestor, in particular in relation with meetings of the Bureau, the Quaestors or their working groups, and their specific portfolios. They work under the direction and authority of their Vice-President or Quaestor whom they can also accompany to missions, subject to specific conditions decided by the Bureau.

Accredited assistants

Accredited parliamentary assistants (APAs) are chosen by a Member or a group of Members and employed under a direct contract with the European Parliament. They are based on Parliament's premises, in one of its three places of work – Brussels, Strasbourg or Luxembourg – and assist



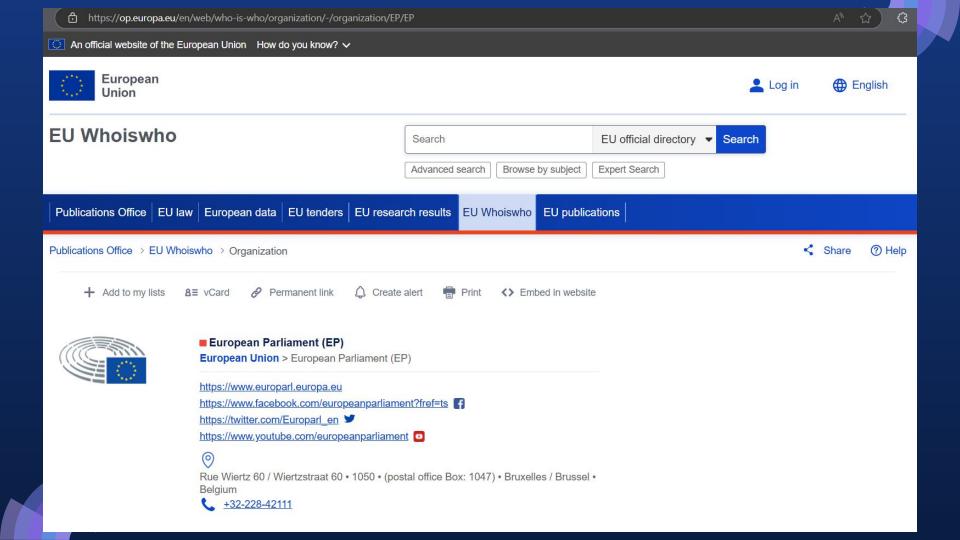
Accredited Parliamentary Assistants: Key Influences on Decision-Making

Accredited parliamentary assistants (APAs):

- Act as the first point of contact for stakeholders;
- Support MEPs' legislative, political, and administrative work (e.g. manage the flow of information, help draft speeches, and policy proposals).

<u>Personal Branding</u> -> want to build reputation and demonstrate value, with some of them focused on Brussels, and others on domestic politics.







EP Committees group advisors: Key Influences on Decision-Making

EP Committees policy advisors:

- Provide expert advice on specific policy areas
- They are hired by political groups

Policy focus

Substantial influence on the legislative process, as they are specialised

Balancing politics and expertise

Some of them focus on their Brussels career, but they usually keep close ties with theparty delegations from their country



The Plenary

The EP holds monthly 4-day part-sessions in Strasbourg and additional part-sessions in Brussels with specific agendas.

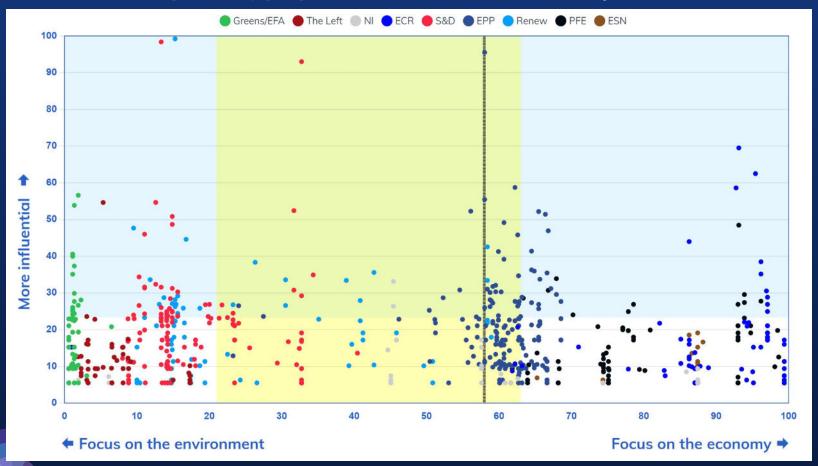
Amendments in Plenary:

Can be proposed by: a committee; a political group; at least 36 Members of Parliament.





Upcoming proposal: A new Circular Economy Act







For more insights: <u>eumatrix.eu</u>

Doru Frantescu, CEO & Founder doru.frantescu@eumatrix.eu