

The new Parliament and the new Commission



Plenary chamber of the European Parliament

On 23-26 May, more than 200,000,000 voters in 28 EU countries went to the polls to elect MEPs.

They in turn voted on 16 July 2019 to elect Ursula von der Leyen as president of the European Commission, the first woman to hold the post.

She will put a team together based on nominees from national capitals - commissioners-designate - whose competence and abilities MEPs will examine in a series of parliamentary committee hearings in late September/October.

Once this is done, MEPs will vote on the full College of Commissioners at the end of October.

The legitimacy of the Commission and of its President therefore rests on the legitimacy of Parliament and the democratic election of its members.

[Find out more about the European election results and the political composition of the new Parliament](#)

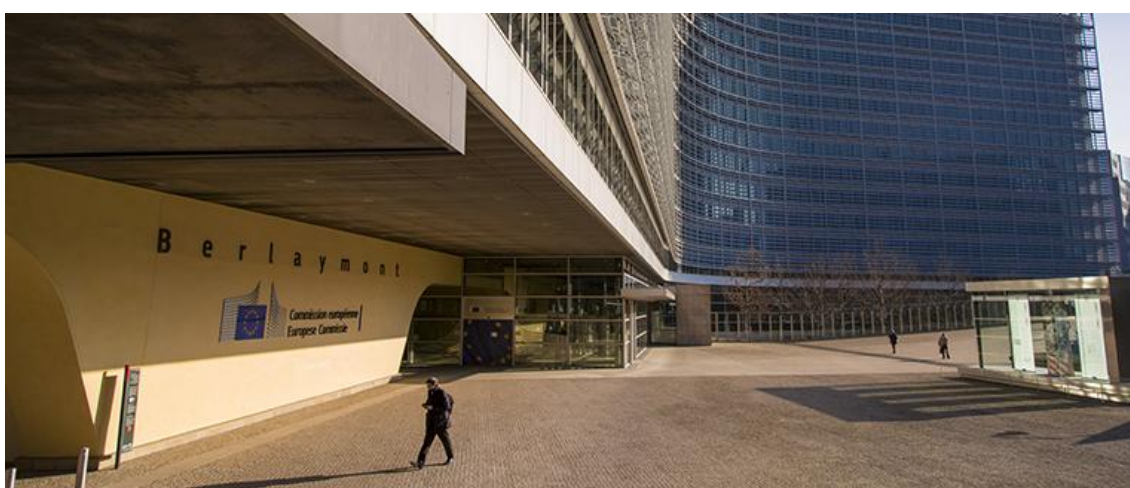


New Parliament

The new Parliament met for the first time on 2-4 July in Strasbourg

The first act of the newly-elected European Parliament was to elect its president for the next two-and-a-half years. MEPs also elected 14 vice-presidents, five quaestors and decided on the size of its committees. Nominations in committees were decided by the political groups and announced during a plenary session. The committees elected their chairs and vice-chairs during their first meetings in July.

[Parliament's leadership](#)



Election of the President of the Commission

Before the election, the candidate presents his or her political agenda and priorities for the next five years to Parliament. To be elected President, the candidate needs the support of an absolute majority of MEPs, thus obtaining democratic legitimacy directly from elected MEPs.

[Election of Commission President](#)



Commissioners-designate hearings

The public hearings are set to take place in September and October

The Council, in agreement with the Commission President-elect and based on suggestions from EU countries, adopts a list of candidate commissioners. These commissioners-designate appear before parliamentary committees in their prospective fields of responsibility and will face a lengthy public and transparent questioning on their competence and suitability for the position by the recently elected MEPs.

[Public hearings in the European Parliament](#)



EU flags outside the european commission

Election of the European Commission

Once elected by Parliament, the Commission is formally appointed by the European Council, acting by a qualified majority

The full Commission, including the Commission President and the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, must be elected by a majority of the votes cast, by roll call, after the President-elect has presented the College of Commissioners and their programme before MEPs.

[How it works](#)