

Directorate-General for the Presidency
Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments

Factsheet: The Belgian House of Representatives

























1. At a glance

Belgium is a federal state with a federal Parliament consisting of two chambers, the House of Representatives (Kamer van volksvertegenwoordigers/Chambre des représentants) and the Senate (Senaat/Sénat). The regions (Flanders, Wallonia and Brussels) and the communities (Flemish, French-speaking and German-speaking) have their own elected assemblies.

The House's 150 representatives are directly elected under a proportional voting system from 11 electoral districts. Belgium has compulsory voting and thus maintains one of the highest rates of voter turnout in the world. The current Belgian government led by Prime Minister Charles Michel (MR/ALDE) is formed by a coalition of the Dutch-speaking parties N-VA (ECR), Open VLD (ALDE), CD&V (EPP) and the MR.

The Federal Advisory Committee for European Affairs is composed of 30 Members: 10 Members of the Senate, 10 Members of the House of Representatives and 10 Members of the European Parliament elected in Belgium.

2. Composition

Results of the House of Representatives elections on 25 May 2014				
	Party	EP affiliation	%	Seats
	Nieuw-Vlaamse Alliantie (N-VA) New Flemish Alliance		20,26%	33
	Parti Socialiste (PS) Socialist Party - Walloon		11,67%	23
	Christen-Democratisch en Vlaams (CD&V) Christian Democratic and Flemish		11,61%	18
	Open Vlaamse Liberalen en Democraten (Open Vld) Open Flemish Liberals and Democrats		9,78%	14
	Mouvement Réformateur (MR) Movement for Reform		9,64%	20
	Socialistische Partij Anders (sp.a) Socialist Party–Differently (Flemish)		8,83%	13
	Groen Flemish Green Party		5,32%	6
	Centre démocrate humaniste (cdH) Humanist Democratic Centre		4,99%	9
	Partij van de Arbeid van België/ Parti du Travail de Belgique (PVDA-PTB) Workers' Party	Not affiliated	7,45%	2
	Vlaams Belang (VB) Flemish Interest	Non-attached	3,67%	3
	Ecolo Greens-Walloon		3,30%	6
	Fédéralistes Démocrates Francophones (FDF) Francophone Democratic Federalists	Not affiliated	1,80%	2
	Parti populaire (PP) People's Party	Not affiliated	1,51%	1
	Others		3,89%	0
			100%	150

Turnout: 89.37%. The next elections will take place in May 2019.

3. Officeholders

<p>President of the House of Representatives</p>  <p>Mr Siegfried Bracke (N-VA/ECR), since 14 October 2014</p>	<p>Chairperson of the Federal Advisory Committee for European Affairs</p>  <p>Mr. Philippe Mahoux (PS/S&D) <i>(The Committee is chaired alternatively and for the duration of a full legislature by the Speaker of the House of Representatives or the Chairman of the delegation of the Belgian Senate.)</i></p>
<p>Secretary General of the House of Representatives: Ms Emma De Prins, since 15 October 2009.</p>	

4. Relations with Members of the European Parliament

<p>Participation rights for Belgian MEPs in plenary sittings</p>	<p>No, in principle MEPs are not allowed to participate in a plenary meeting. However, there are precedents during which MEPs presented their report (drafted on behalf of the Federal Advisory Committee on European Affairs).</p>
<p>Participation rights for Belgian MEPs in committee meetings</p>	<p>In the Federal Advisory Committee for European Affairs, MEPs can take part in the debate and also vote, while in other Committees MEPs can only take part in the debate but not vote. The Chairperson of the Committee has to give them permission in advance.</p>
<p>Availability of videoconferencing system in Belgian House of Representatives</p>	<p>No</p>

5. Information links

Official website: www.dekamer.be

[Rules of procedure in English](#)

[List of committees](#)

[Recent documents submitted by the House of Representatives to the Interparliamentary EU Information Exchange \(IPEX\)](#)

[European Parliament Information Office in Brussels](#)

6. Contacts

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