



# The relations between the European Parliament and the European Council

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**EPRS blog** [www.eptthinktank.eu](http://www.eptthinktank.eu)

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European Parliament

# The European Parliamentary Research Service

EPRS is the European Parliament's in-house **research service and think tank**.

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**Staff:** around 290 staff member of which 120 policy analyst

**Located in:** Brussels, Luxembourg and Bazoches-sur-Guyonne

Mission

*“Provide Members with **independent and authoritative analysis of, and research on, EU policy issues**, in order to assist them in their parliamentary work.”*

***Empowerment through knowledge***

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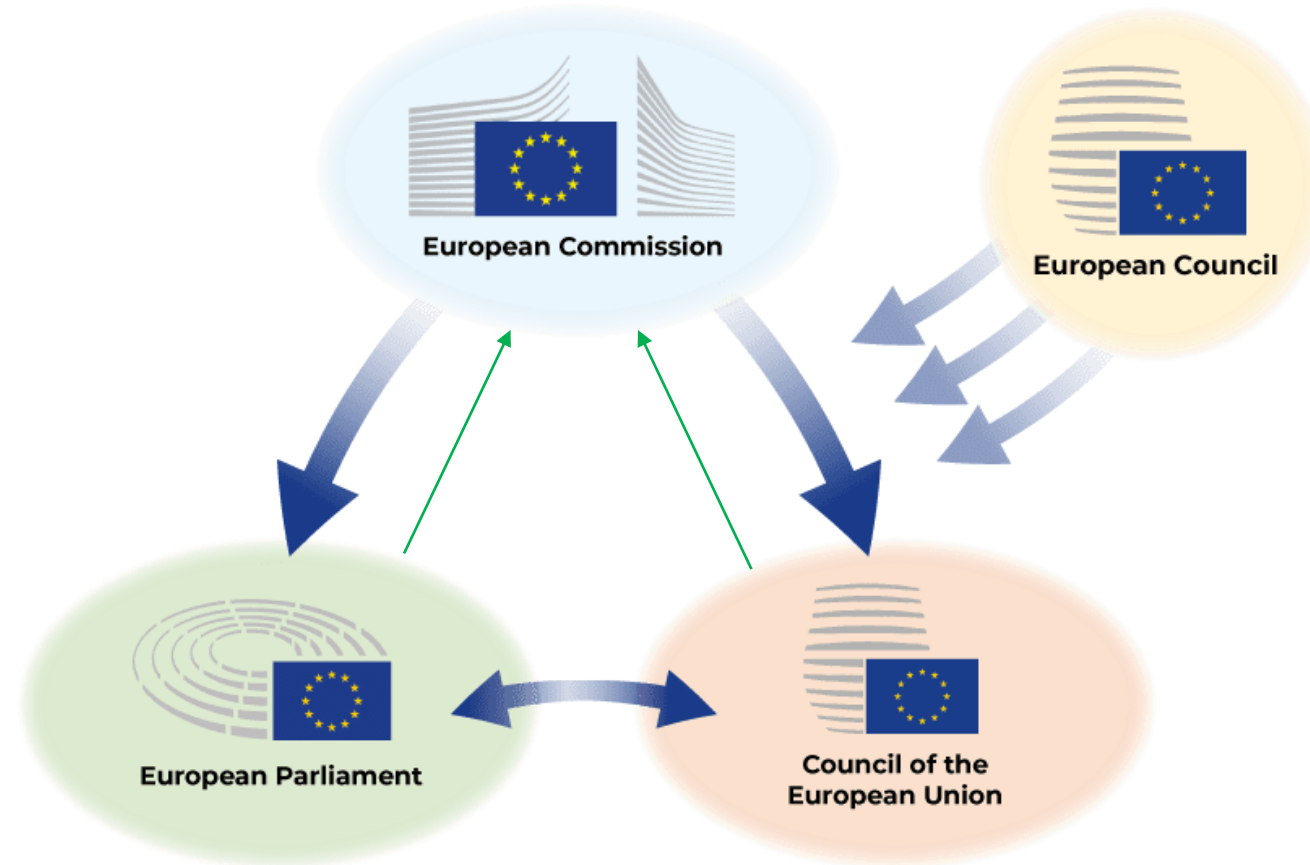
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# The EU's institutional framework



# The European Council



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# The European Council: role and membership

## Role:

- non-legislative
- Provide strategic guidance
- Crisis manager

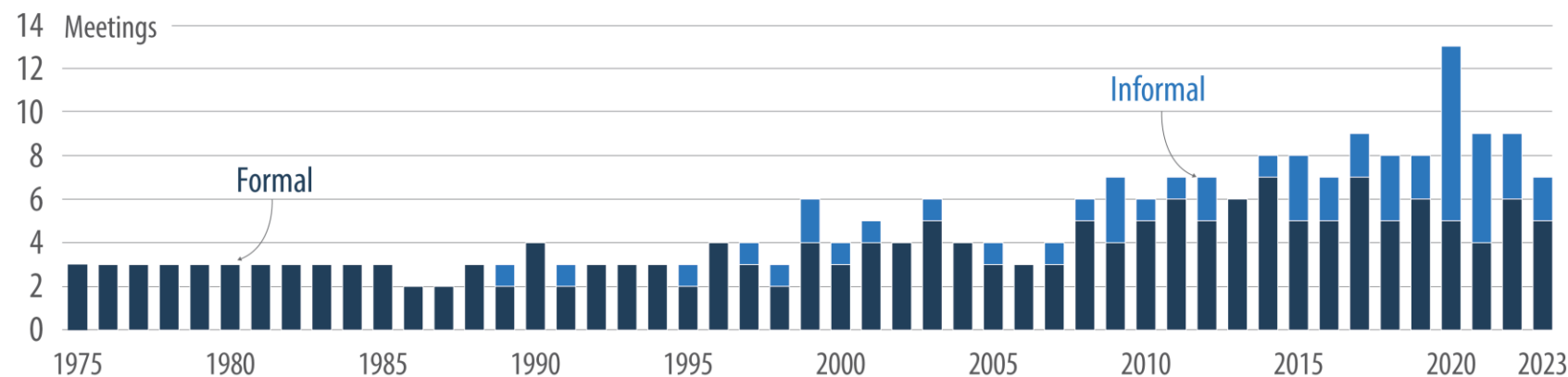
## Membership

- Heads of State or Government

 BELGIUM Alexander DE CROO PRIME MINISTER - 2020	 BULGARIA Nikolai DENKOV PRIME MINISTER - 2023	 CZECHIA Petr FIALA PRIME MINISTER - 2021	 DENMARK Mette FREDERIKSEN PRIME MINISTER - 2019
 GERMANY Olaf SCHOLZ CHANCELLOR - 2021	 ESTONIA Kaia KALLAS PRIME MINISTER - 2021	 IRELAND Leo VARADKAR PRIME MINISTER - 2022	 GREECE Kyriakos MITSOTAKIS PRIME MINISTER - 2019
 SPAIN Pedro SÁNCHEZ PRIME MINISTER - 2018	 FRANCE Emmanuel MACRON PRESIDENT - 2017	 CROATIA Andrej PLENKOVIĆ PRIME MINISTER - 2016	 ITALY Giorgia MELONI PRIME MINISTER - 2022
 CYPRUS Nikos CHRISTODOULIDES PRESIDENT - 2023	 LATVIA Evika SILIŅA PRIME MINISTER - 2023	 LITHUANIA Gitanas NAUSEDA PRESIDENT - 2019	 LUXEMBOURG Luc FRIEDEN PRIME MINISTER - 2023
 HUNGARY Viktor ORBÁN PRIME MINISTER - 2010	 MALTA Robert ABELA PRIME MINISTER - 2020	 NETHERLANDS Mark RUTTE PRIME MINISTER - 2010	 AUSTRIA Karl NEHAMMER CHANCELLOR - 2021
 POLAND Donald TUSK PRIME MINISTER - 2023	 PORTUGAL António COSTA PRIME MINISTER - 2015	 ROMANIA Klaus IOHANNIS PRESIDENT - 2014	 SLOVENIA Robert GOLOB PRIME MINISTER - 2022
 SLOVAKIA Robert FICO PRIME MINISTER - 2023	 FINLAND Petteri ORPO PRIME MINISTER - 2023	 SWEDEN Ulf KRISTERSSON PRIME MINISTER - 2022	
 EUROPEAN COUNCIL Charles MICHEL PRESIDENT - 2019		 EUROPEAN COMMISSION Ursula VON DER LEYEN PRESIDENT - 2019	
Political affiliation of members     			

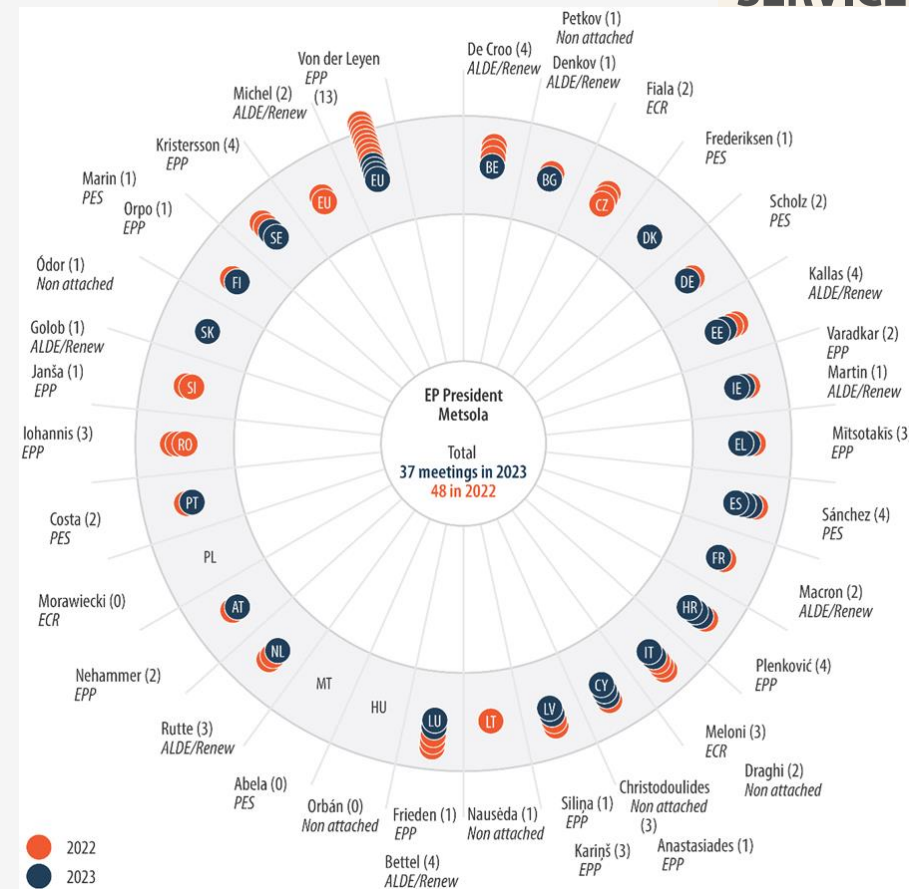
# Meetings of the European Council

European Council meetings by type, 1975-2023



# European Council's interaction with the European Parliament

➤ EP President speaking at European Council meetings

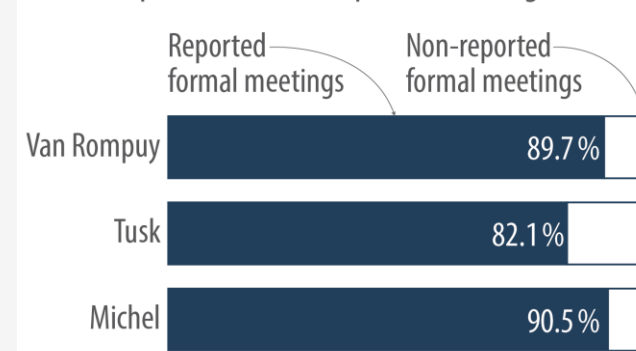


# European Council's interaction with the European Parliament

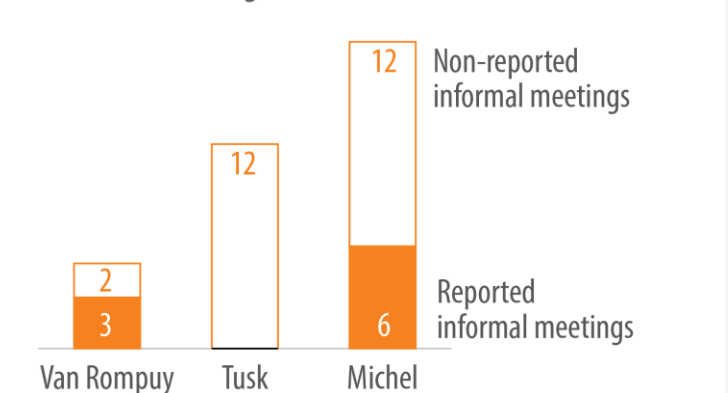
## ➤ EUCO President reporting at EP plenary sessions

### • Differences between Presidents

European Council presidents' reports for formal meetings, share of reported and non-reported meetings



European Council presidents' reports for informal meetings, number of meetings



### • Added value

## ➤ Scrutinizing the European Council

“It is necessary to correct institutional imbalances that have arisen over time and to increase the accountability of the executive toward the legislature, in particular to grant Parliament scrutiny powers over the European Council” (EP resolution [2023/2017/INI](#))



## **European Council's interaction with the European Parliament**

- **Written questions to the EUCO President**
- **Election of Commission President (Art.17 TEU)**
- **Withdrawal (Art. 50 TEU)**
- **Accession/enlargement (Art. 49 TEU)**
- **Treaty change (Art. 48 TEU)**
  
- **Multi-Annual Financial Framework**



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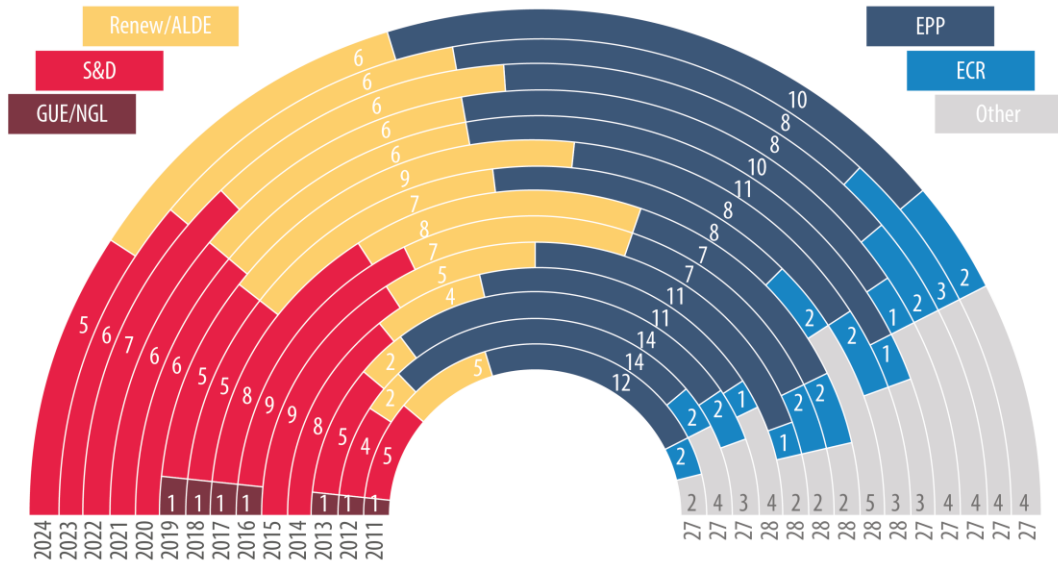
# European Council's interaction with the European Parliament

- This is Europe debates



# Political make-up of the European Council

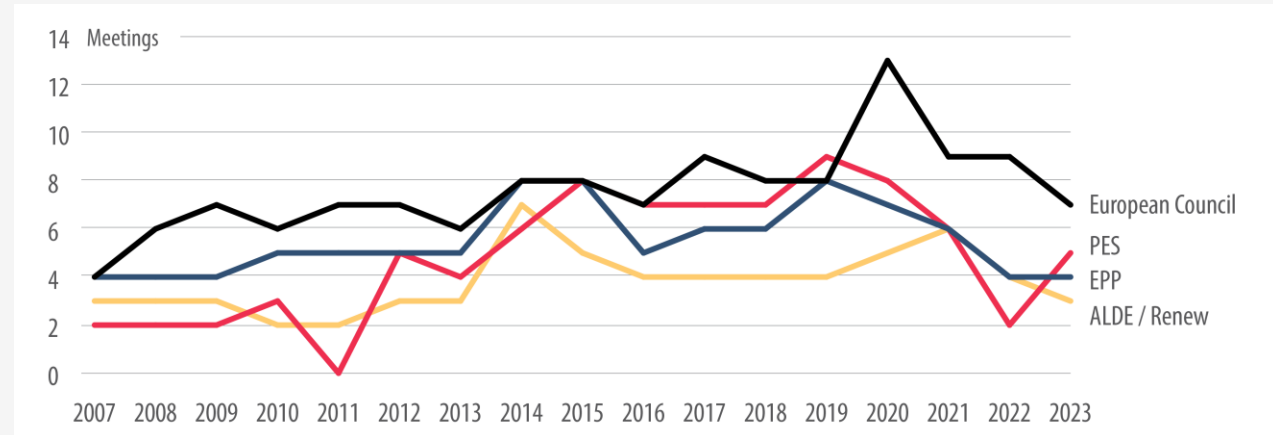
Political group affiliation of EU Heads of State or Government, 2011-2024



NB: The charts above show the situation on 1 January of the year concerned.

Source: EPRS.

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# The EU's strategic political priorities

## Strategic agenda 2019-2024 European Council

protecting citizens and freedoms

developing a strong and vibrant economic base

building a climate-neutral, green, fair and social Europe

promoting European interests and values on the global stage



## Political guidelines 2019 European Commission

- A European Green Deal
- An economy that works for people
- A Europe fit for the digital age
- Protecting our European way of life
- A stronger Europe in the world
- A new push for European democracy

## Main topics in conclusions of the European Council, between 2021 and 2023

# European Council conclusions



- External relations: 24.7%
- Covid-19: 23.1%
- Migration: 14.5%
- Digital policy: 12.5%
- Security and defence: 9.6%
- Climate and energy: 5.6%
- Other: 9.9%

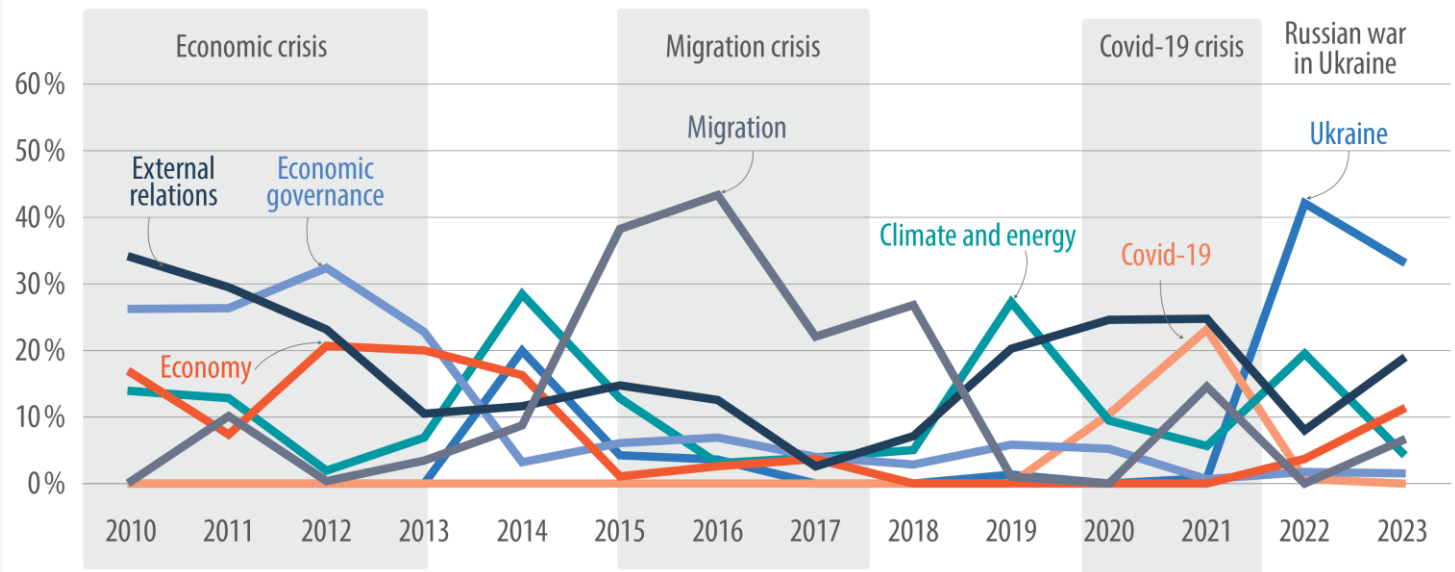


- Ukraine: 42.1%
- Climate and energy: 19.5%
- Security and defence: 13.9%
- External relations: 8.0%
- Other: 16.5%



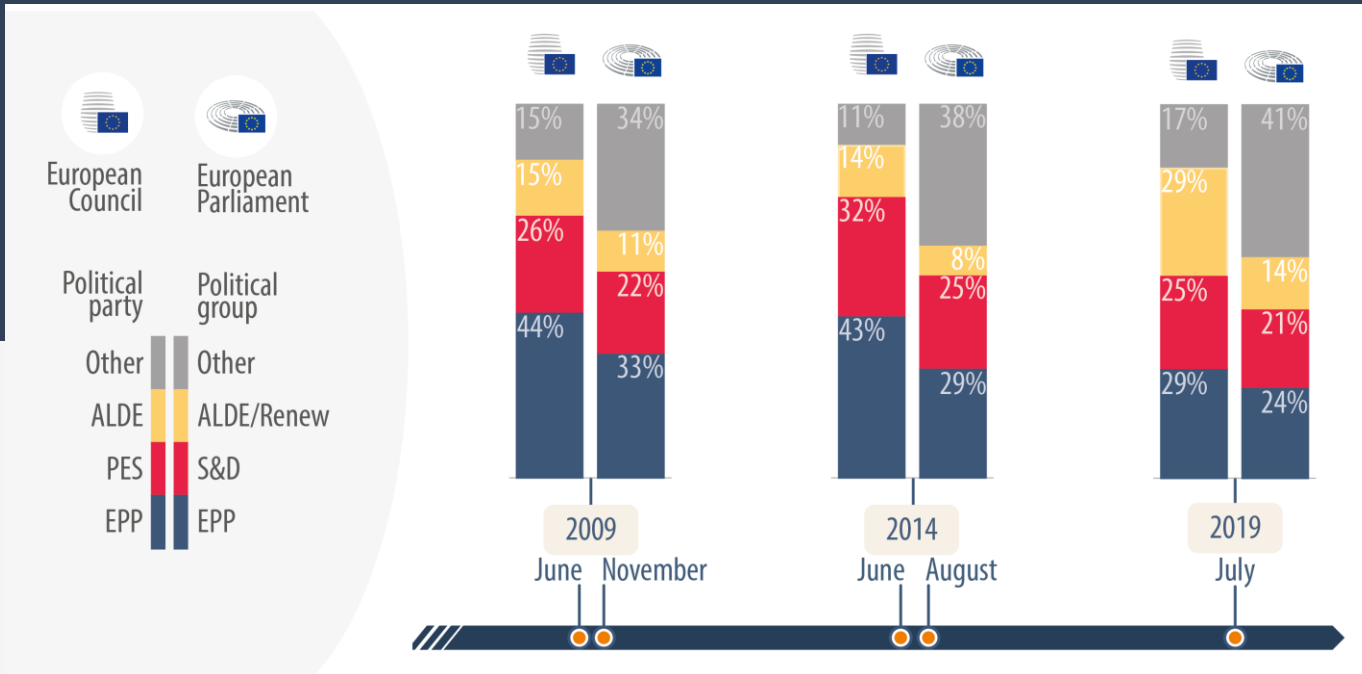
- Ukraine: 33.4%
- External relations: 18.7%
- Economy: 11.1%
- Security and defence: 6.8%
- Migration: 6.5%
- Enlargement: 6.3%
- Other: 17.2%

Word count of European Council conclusions, 2010-2023



# The European Council and the change of the institutional cycle:

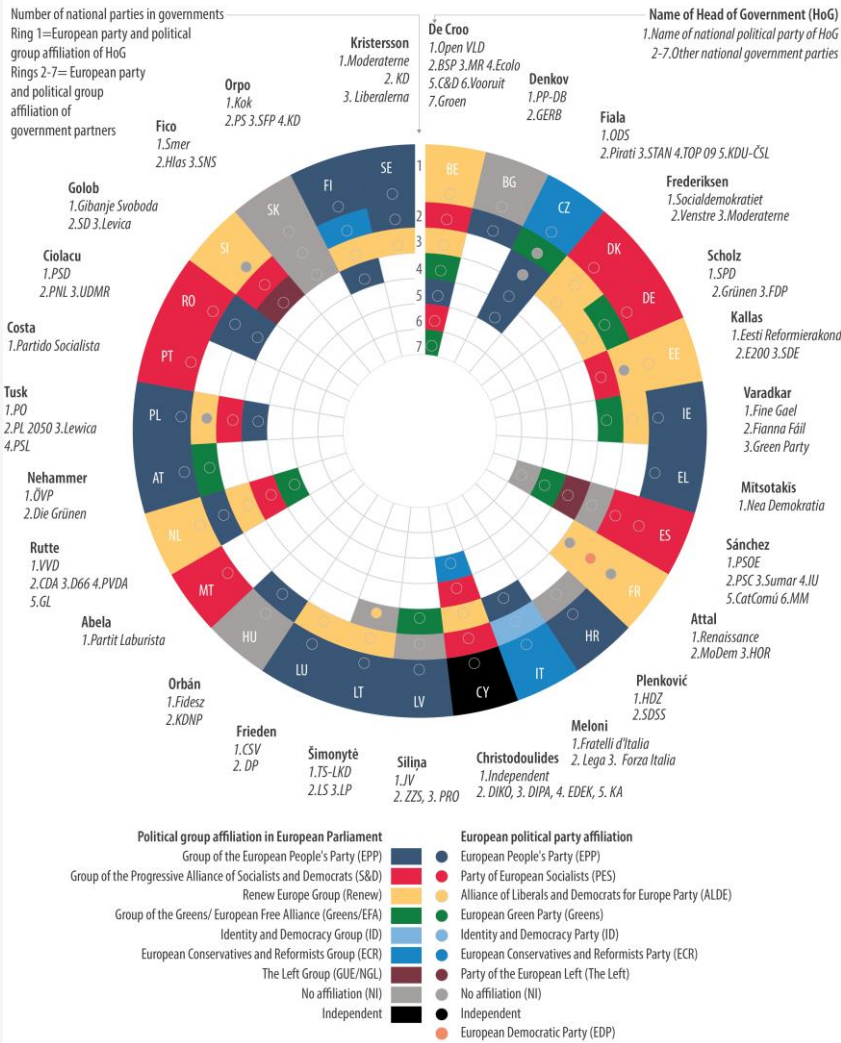
## The European Council and the next institutional leadership



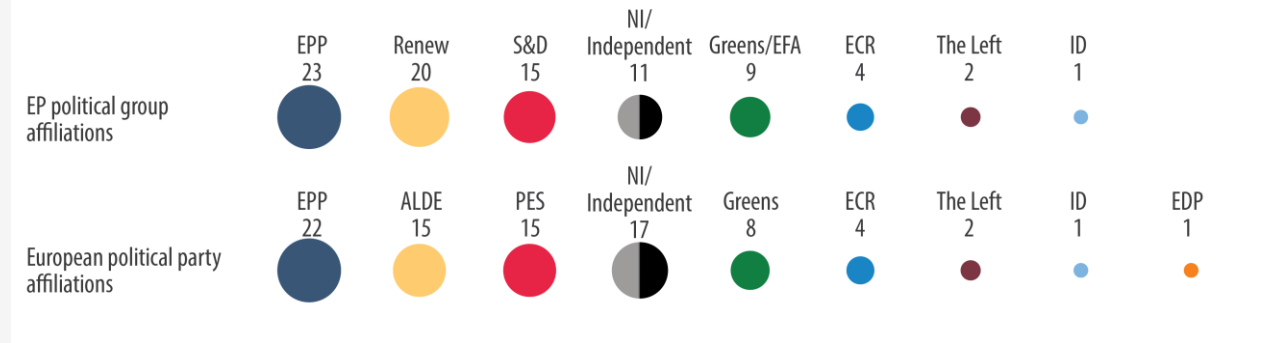
— EPRS publication: [European political parties and the European Council](#)

# Multi party governments in the European Council

Coalition governments in the European Council



Total number of political group and party affiliations in governments



# The European Council and the change of the institutional cycle:

## The political priorities of the EU



- Strategic Agenda 2019-2024
- Informal European Council, 6 October 2023, Granada
- Special European Council 17-18 April 2024
- June 2024 New Strategic priorities 2024-2029



# Thank you





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