

## European electoral systems (Elections June 2004)

**Caption:** The electoral systems in the Member States of the European Union applicable to European elections of June 2004.

**Source:** CVCE.

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**Last updated:** 08/07/2016



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Member State	Proportional representation	Preferential voting	Allocation of seats	The right to vote	Eligibility
Belgium	Yes 4 constituencies (Flanders, Wallonia, the German-speaking region and the Brussels region) and three electoral colleges (Dutch-, French- and German-speaking)	Yes Electors can vote for a list or for individual candidates Some parties inform voters which candidates are supported by them One vote per elector	D'Hondt distribution method	Minimum age: 18 years EU citizens with full voting rights Belgians resident abroad (by postal vote) Compulsory vote for electors registered on electoral rolls	Citizens appearing on the register of Belgian electors 21 years of age or over French-, Dutch- or German- speakers (according to the college)
Czech Republic	Yes At national level	Yes Electors must vote for a list and can also cast up to two preferential votes for individual candidates on this list	Lists gaining less than 5 % of the total votes cast are excluded	Minimum age: 18 years EU citizens with full voting rights Residents in the Czech Republic for at least 45 days	EU citizens registered as resident in the Czech Republic for at least 45 days 21 years of age or over Full eligibility rights in their Member State of origin
Denmark	Yes At national level	Yes Electors can vote for a list or for individual candidates Some parties inform voters which candidates are supported by them One vote per elector	D'Hondt distribution method All votes cast both for lists and for individual candidates are added together The candidates obtaining the highest number of votes are elected	Minimum age: 18 years EU citizens permanently resident in Denmark with full voting rights there Danish citizens resident in an EU Member State (by postal vote)	EU citizens 18 years of age or over Full eligibility rights in their Member State of origin
Germany	Yes Lists of candidates submitted either at the federal level (SPD, Greens, PDS, FDP) or at the level of the Länder (CDU and CSU)	No 'Closed' lists	Hare-Niemeyer system Seats are allocated at national level Lists gaining less than 5 % of the total votes cast are excluded	Minimum age: 18 years EU citizens with full voting rights in their Member State of origin German citizens who are resident of Germany/ a EU	Persons possessing German nationality for at least one year EU citizens resident in Germany 18 years of age or over

				Member State, of any member state of the Council of Europe or of any other country provided they have been resident of this country for less than 25 years and who are on a German electoral roll	Full eligibility rights in their Member State of origin
Estonia	Yes At national level	No 'Closed' lists and independent candidates	D'Hondt distribution method The political party or the independent candidate whose comparative figure (or total number of votes won) is the highest, is awarded a seat Among the candidates on a list, the seat is obtained by the candidate who figures highest on this list	Minimum age: 18 years EU citizens with full voting rights in their Member State of origin and whose permanent residence is in Estonia	EU citizen possessing voting rights 21 years of age or over
Greece	Yes At national level	No 'Closed' lists	'Enishimeni Analogiki' distribution method, or reinforced proportional system Lists gaining less than 3 % of the total votes cast are excluded Seats allocated following the order of the candidates on the list	Minimum age: 18 years EU citizens with full voting rights in their Member State of origin Greek citizens in another EU Member State (vote at consulates) Compulsory vote for Greek citizens	EU citizens 25 years of age or over Full eligibility rights in their Member State of origin
Spain	Yes At national level	No 'Closed' lists	D'Hondt distribution method	Minimum age: 18 years EU citizens with	EU citizens 18 years of age or over

				full voting rights in their Member State of origin Spanish citizens abroad (by postal vote)	Full eligibility rights in their Member State of origin
France	Yes 8 electoral regions (North-West; West; East; South-West; South-East; Loire, Massif Central; Ile-de-France; Overseas Territories)	No 'Closed' lists	D'Hondt distribution method Allocation of seats: the rule of the largest average applies Lists obtaining less than 5 % of the votes cast in the electoral region are excluded	Minimum age: 18 years EU citizens with full voting rights in their Member State of origin, having their main address in France or resident in France on a continuous basis French citizens abroad (vote by proxy) Inhabitants of the French Overseas Territories	EU citizens 23 years of age or over Main address or resident in France on a continuous basis Full eligibility rights in their Member State of origin
Ireland	Yes 4 electoral regions (Dublin, East, South, North-West)	Yes No list system Single transferable vote method: vote for a candidate while indicating, in order of preference, the candidate to whom this vote is to be transferred if the candidate of first choice has already reached the quota or been eliminated	By means of the single transferable vote method Election of candidates who have reached the quota ( $[\frac{\text{votes cast}}{\text{seats}+1}] + 1$ ) Any votes accruing to a candidate in excess of the quota are redistributed among the remaining candidates in accordance with the preferences expressed by the voters	Minimum age: 18 years EU citizens resident in Ireland with full voting rights in their Member State of origin	EU citizen resident in Ireland 21 years of age or over Full eligibility rights in their Member State of origin
Italy	Yes 5 electoral regions (North-West, North-East, Central and Southern Italy,	Yes Electors must vote for a list and can also cast one preferential vote	The number of seats allocated to each national list is determined by means of a national	Minimum age: 18 years EU citizens with full voting rights in their Member State	EU citizens 25 years of age or over Full eligibility rights in their

	and the Italian islands)	for an individual candidate on this list	electoral quotient (votes/seats) For the lists, seats are allocated to each constituency by means of an electoral quotient (votes per list/seats per list)	of origin Italian citizens in another EU Member State (vote at consulates)	Member State of origin
Cyprus	Yes At national level	Yes Electors must vote for a list and can also cast up to two preferential votes for individual candidates on this list		Minimum age: 18 years EU citizens permanently resident in the Republic for at least six months and entered on the electoral roll Voting is compulsory but without penalties in case of failure to vote	EU citizens 25 years of age or over
Latvia	Yes At national level	Yes Electors must vote for a list and can also cast a preferential vote for an individual candidate on this list or cross out the names of those candidates that they do not support	Sainte-Laguë method (division by successive odd numbers)	Minimum age: 18 years Latvian citizens living abroad (by postal vote) Vote by email if applied for in advance	EU citizens resident in Latvia 21 years of age or over
Lithuania	Yes At national level	Yes Electors must vote for a list and can also cast five preferential votes for candidates on this list	Lists gaining less than 5 % of the total votes cast are not entitled to parliamentary representation Electoral quotient method with the remainder split	Minimum age: 18 years EU citizens having declared their place of residence in Lithuania 65 days prior to the elections Vote in post offices or by post for health reasons Lithuanian citizens resident abroad	21 years of age or over

				(vote at consulates)	
Luxembourg	Yes At national level	Yes Six votes per elector Electors can either cast all six votes for one list, or split them among candidates from the same or different lists	D'Hondt distribution method Seats allocated according to the number of votes obtained by candidates and by lists	Minimum age: 18 years EU citizens residing in Luxembourg, having spent 5 of the last 6 years there, with full voting rights in their countries of origin. Compulsory vote for all electors listed on the electoral rolls Luxembourg citizens abroad (by postal vote)	EU citizens 18 years of age and over Living in the Grand Duchy and, if not Luxembourgish, having lived there for 10 of the last 12 years Full eligibility in the country of origin
Hungary	Yes At national level	No 'Closed' lists	D'Hondt distribution method Lists gaining less than 5 % of the total votes cast are excluded	Minimum age: 18 years Hungarian citizens resident in Hungary EU Citizens resident in Hungary who have applied for inclusion in the electoral roll Hungarian citizens resident abroad (vote in embassies if they have applied for inclusion on the electoral register of the diplomatic mission at least 30 days before the election day)	All electors Full eligibility in the country of origin
Malta	Yes At national level	No 'Closed' lists	By means of the single transferable vote.	Minimum age: 18 years All those whose names appear in	All those whose names appear in the national or in the European

				the national or in the European Union Electoral Register	Union Electoral Register
Netherlands	Yes At national level	Yes No list system of voting, electors vote for one candidate Political alliance of lists system	D'Hondt distribution method	Minimum age: 18 years EU citizens with full voting rights in their Member State of origin and resident in the Netherlands before 28 April 2004 Vote by proxy Netherlands citizens resident abroad (by postal vote, by telephone or via the Internet)	EU citizens 18 years of age or over Full eligibility in their Member State of origin
Austria	Yes At national level	Yes Electors must vote for a list and can also cast one preferential vote for an individual candidate on this list One vote per elector	D'Hondt distribution method Seat allocation is carried out at national level Lists gaining less than 4 % of the total votes cast are not entitled to parliamentary representation Seats are allocated according to the number of votes per list	Minimum age: 18 years EU citizens with full voting rights in their Member State of origin Austrians resident abroad (vote using polling cards)	EU citizens 19 years of age or over Full eligibility in their Member State of origin
Poland	Yes 13 electoral regions	No 'Closed' lists	D'Hondt distribution method Seat allocation is carried out at national level Lists gaining less than 5 % of the total votes cast are not entitled to parliamentary representation	Minimum age: 18 years Polish or EU citizens permanently resident in Poland and registered in the electoral roll	EU citizens 21 years of age or over Permanently resident in Poland or in any other EU Member State for at least 5 years

			Mandates are attributed to single constituencies Using the Hare Niemeyer method (which takes into consideration the turnout), mandates are distributed to winning lists		
Portugal	Yes At national level	No 'Closed' lists	D'Hondt distribution method	Minimum age: 18 years EU citizens with full voting rights in their countries of origin Portuguese citizens in another EU Member State (vote at the consulate)	EU citizen 18 years of age or over Full eligibility in the country of origin
Slovenia	Yes At national level	Yes Electors must vote for a list and can also cast one preferential vote for an individual candidate on this list	D'Hondt distribution method	Minimum age: 18 years Slovene citizens EU citizens permanently resident in Slovenia	Slovene citizens EU citizens permanently resident in Slovenia 18 years of age or over
Slovakia	Yes At national level	Yes Electors can attribute one preferential vote to an individual candidate on the list of the political party (these candidates must gain 10 % of the votes attributed to their lists if they are to be elected)	Droop distribution method Lists gaining less than 5 % of the total votes cast are not entitled to parliamentary representation	Minimum age: 18 years Slovak and EU citizens domiciled in the Slovak Republic	Slovak and EU citizens domiciled in the Slovak Republic 21 years of age or over
Finland	Yes At national level	Yes No list system of voting, electors vote for one candidate	D'Hondt distribution method Once the number of seats for each party, electoral	Minimum age: 18 years Finnish citizen EU citizens living in Finland, listed on the electoral	EU citizens 18 years of age and over Holders of voting rights Exception: persons



			alliance and joint list is determined, candidates are ranked according to the total number of preferential votes obtained	registers or having requested voting rights, and holding full voting rights in their countries of origin	in custody
Sweden	Yes At national level	Yes Electors vote for a political party and can vote for one of the candidates on the list of the chosen party	Modified St. Lagüe system Lists obtaining less than 4% of the votes cast are excluded Candidates obtaining a minimum of 5 % of the votes won by their party, are ranked on the list of the party according to the number of votes won	Minimum age: 18 years EU citizens registered as resident in Sweden with full voting rights in their Member State of origin Citizens of any nationality other than Swedish must announce their intention of voting to the tax Council administrative board Swedish citizens abroad (vote by email)	Citizens with full eligibility in the country of origin
United Kingdom	Yes 12 electoral regions (11 + Northern Ireland)	- No, in 11 regions (where the 'closed' regional list system is used)  - Yes, in Northern Ireland (where the Single Transferable Vote system is used)	- 11 regions: D'Hondt distribution method  - Northern Ireland: Single Transferable Vote system	Minimum age: 18 years EU citizens appearing on electoral rolls, with full voting rights in their countries of origin British citizens abroad and members of the armed forces (declaration of eligibility)	EU citizens 21 years of age and over UK residents Full electoral rights in the country of origin