



End of term scorecard:

The activity records of MEPs analysed by Member State

VoteWatch Europe special policy brief 2/2014

Introduction

This special VoteWatch Europe policy brief contains a quantitative analysis of some of the main types of parliamentary activity undertaken by Members of the European Parliament during the 7th European Parliament term (2009-2014). It looks in particular at the relationship between national delegation membership (in most cases this is the same as nationality) and level of parliamentary activity.

The analysis shows that, in overall terms, MEPs from the 15 'old' EU Member States have been more active than their counterparts from the 13 'new' countries¹. For instance, they have been more successful in obtaining rapporteurships, enhancing their ability to influence EU legislation. Our research also shows that MEPs from small national delegations are both among the most active and among the least active, whereas MEPs from large national delegations occupy the middle ground. The picture varies somewhat depending on type of activity. It is interesting to note, for instance, the high level of activity by German and UK MEPs when it comes to legislative reports under the co-decision procedure.

For detailed figures, please refer to the Annex.

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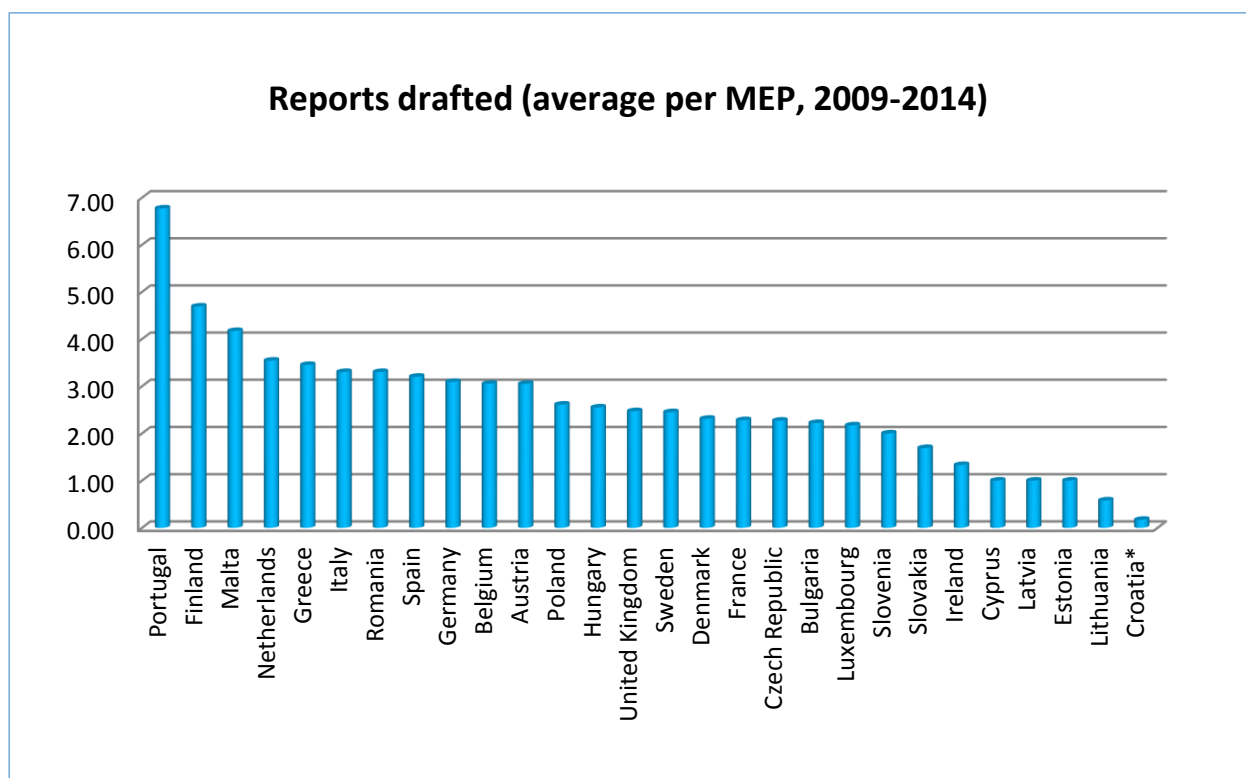
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¹ It should be noted that Croatian MEPs only joined the Parliament in July 2013.

1. Reports drafted

A draft report is a document prepared by (usually) one or (sometimes) two MEPs, which serves as the basis for the adoption of a legislative or non-legislative proposal at committee level and in plenary. The rapporteur is chosen from among the members of the parliamentary committee responsible for a specific policy area. Draft reports can be either amended Commission proposals or own-initiative reports. This section covers only reports that reached the plenary stage.

The statistics below makes no distinction between legislative and non-legislative reports. It includes only reports that have already been voted in the EP plenary and that were published on the EP website by the time this data was collected (April 2014).

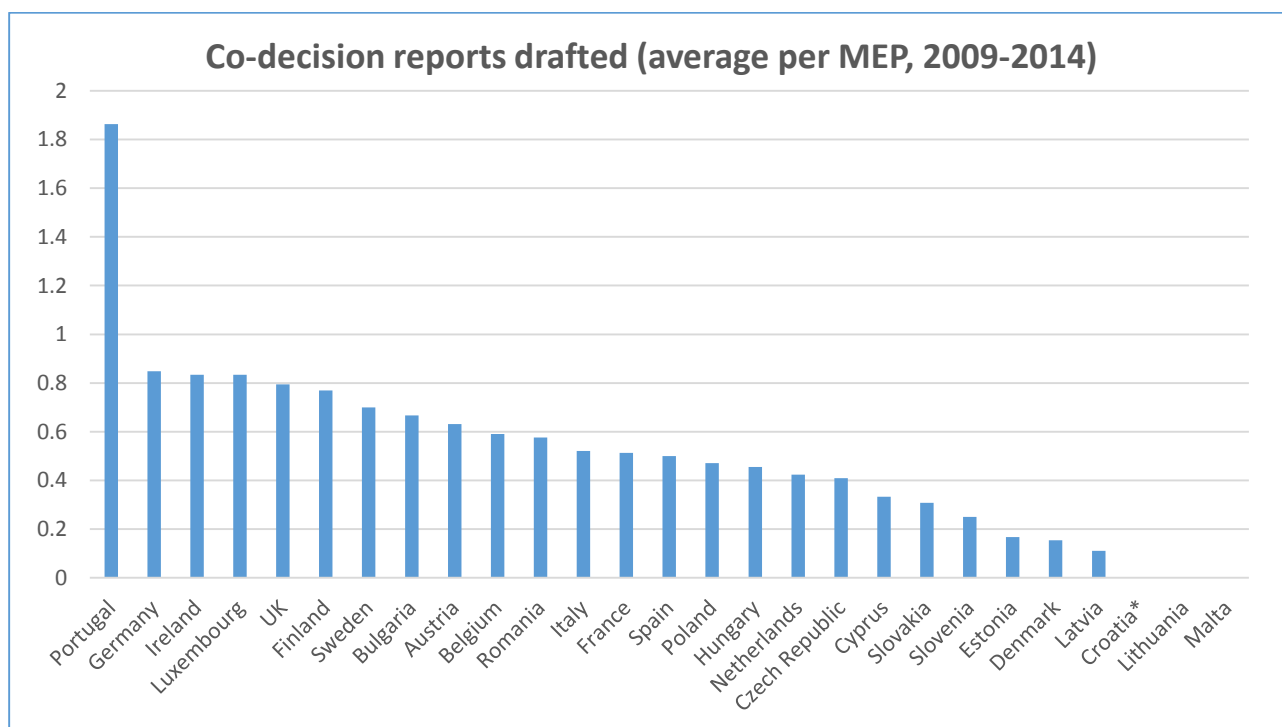


On average, Portuguese MEPs drafted the most reports, with an average of almost 7 per MEP. However about one third (44 out of 142) were drafted by Vital Moreira, Chair of the International Trade Committee. A committee chair automatically becomes rapporteur on reports that are not requested by the committee members, which is often the case for reports of a technical and non-controversial nature. The Portuguese are followed by the Finish and Maltese Members. At the other end of the spectrum are the Baltic MEPs (Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia).

2. Co-decision reports drafted

The co-decision procedure (officially known as the “ordinary legislative procedure”) is the main legislative procedure used to adopt EU legislation. The ordinary legislative procedure gives the same weight to the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union in a wide range of areas. Since the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, the vast majority of European laws are adopted jointly by the European Parliament and the Council. This section includes only the co-decision reports that had been adopted at the plenary level by January 2014.

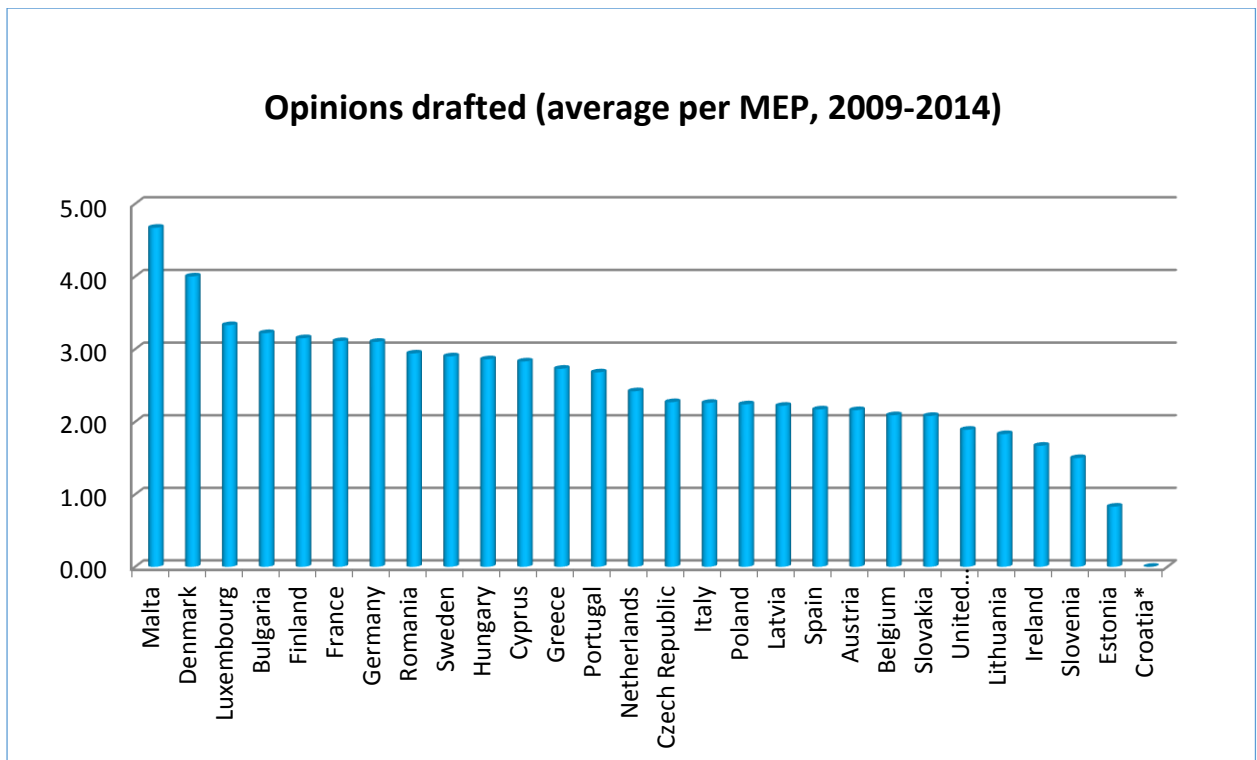
The statistics includes only those legislative acts adopted through the ordinary legislative procedure (co-decision). It includes the reports that have already been voted on and adopted in the EP plenary (from the beginning of the seventh EP term, in July 2009, to January 2014), and that were published on the EP website.



Portuguese MEPs top this ranking, for the reason explained above. Of the remaining countries, German MEPs have the best average, followed by those from Luxembourg, Ireland and the UK. At the opposite end are Maltese and Lithuania, whose MEPs had not drafted a single co-decision report adopted by plenary by January 2014. The same applies to Croatian MEPs, but as Croatia only joined the EU in July 2013 they can be considered *hors categorie*.

3. Opinions

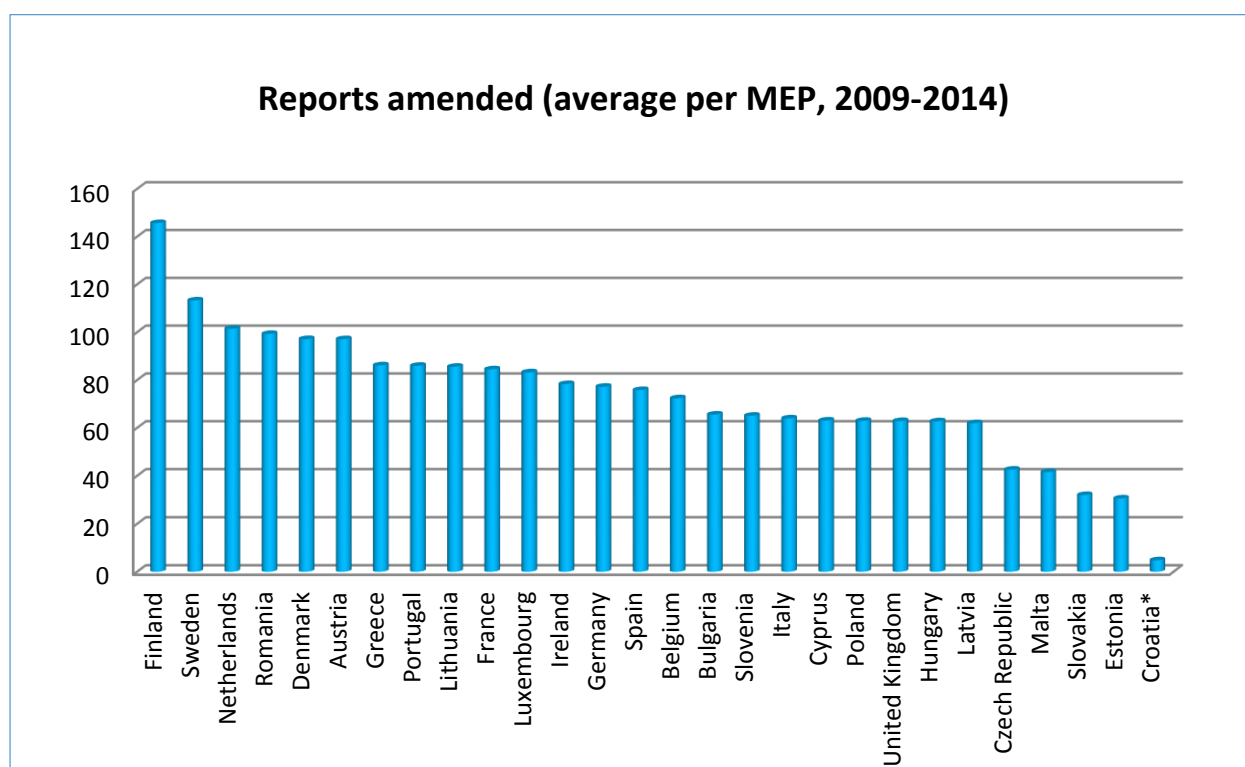
An opinion is a document produced by one committee to assist another committee in producing a report. It usually contains proposed amendments to the legislative or non-legislative proposal being prepared by the lead committee. This section includes the opinions that were adopted by the committee.



Maltese MEPs top the opinions ranking, mainly due to the 7 opinions drafted by David Casa MEP. They are followed by the Danes, Luxembourgish and the (relatively new-comers) Bulgarians. At the bottom of the ranking we also find small Member states: Ireland, Slovenia and Estonia.

4. Reports amended

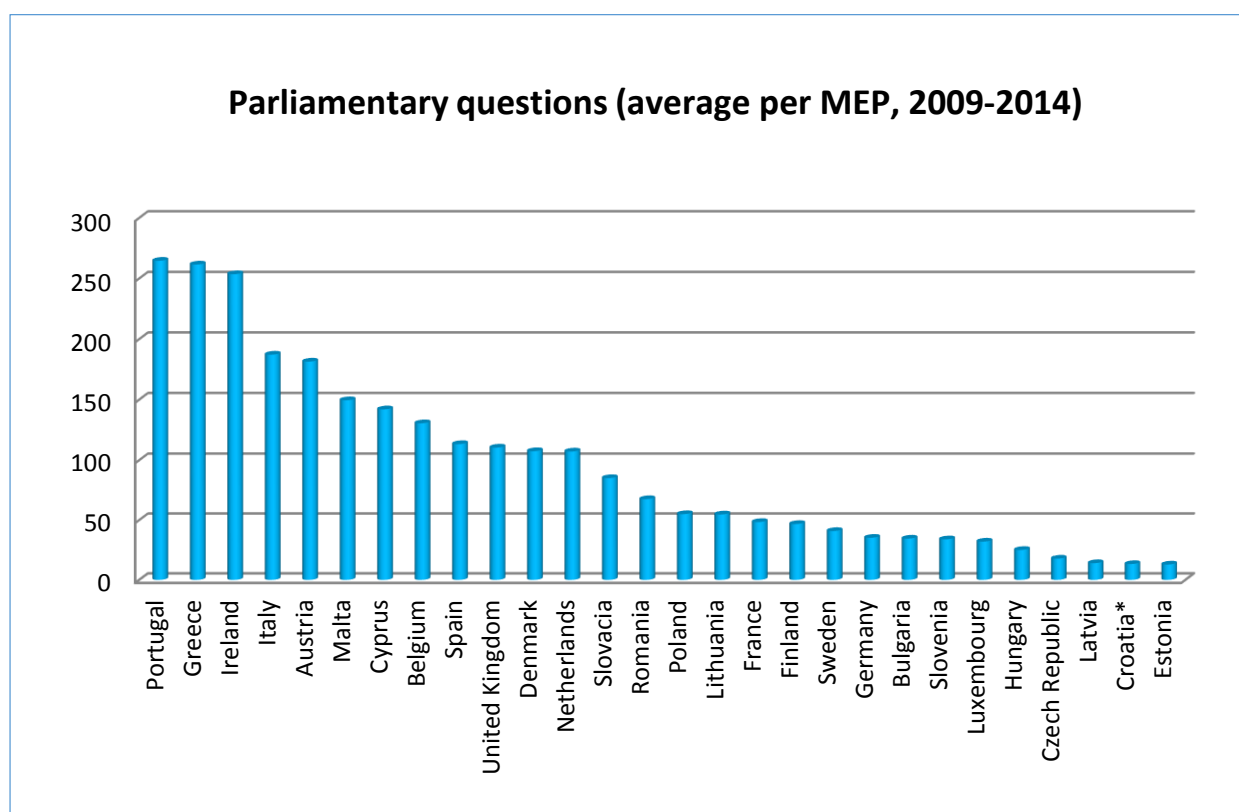
'Reports amended' refers to the number of reports to which MEPs have submitted amendments. Amendments give MEPs the opportunity to modify policy proposals that are being negotiated. This section only includes amendments proposed by MEPs at the committee stage, whether they have been adopted or not.



Finnish MEPs have been most active at trying to shape the text of a report by amending it. Their high average can be attributed mainly to Sari Essayah MEP, who has submitted amendments to no fewer than 333 reports. The next positions in the ranking are occupied by the Swedes, the Dutch and the Romanians. At the bottom of the table are the Czech Republic, Malta, Slovakia and Estonia.

5. Parliamentary questions

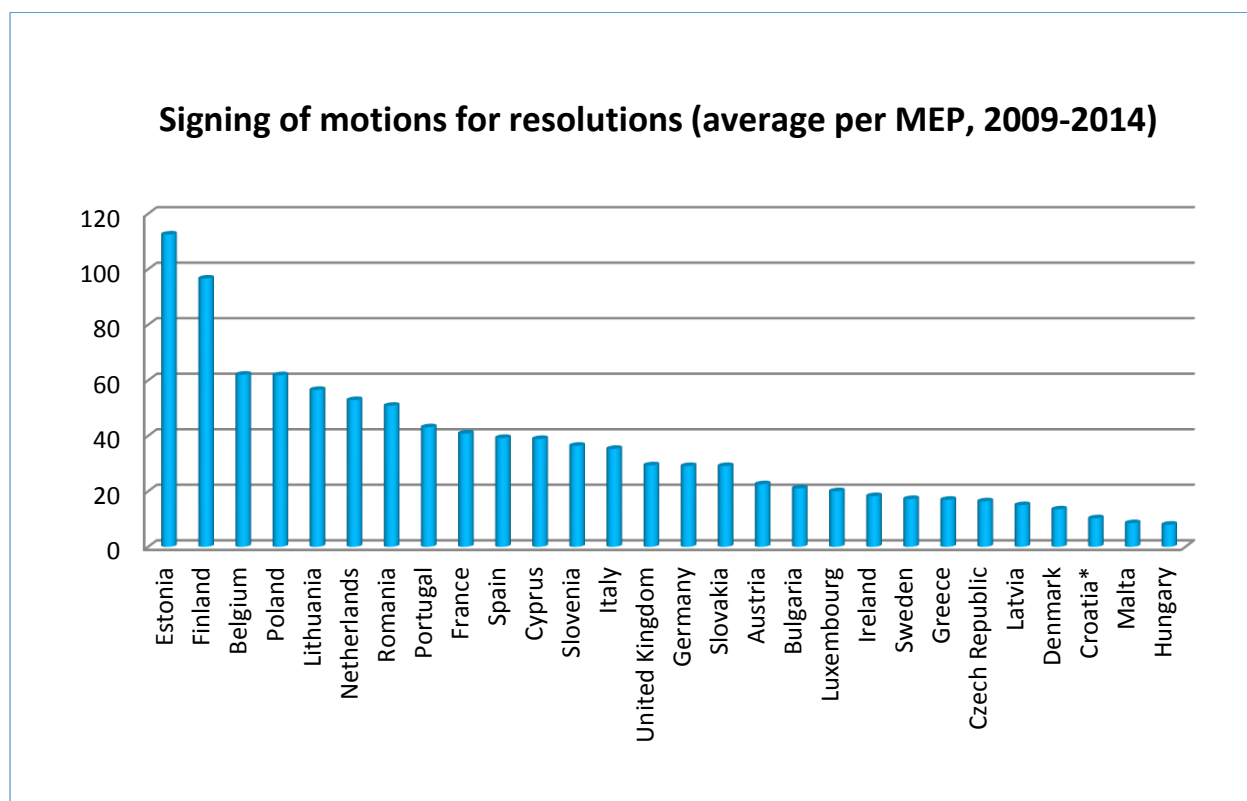
Parliamentary questions can be addressed by Members of the European Parliament to the European Commission or to the Council of the European Union. MEPs often use questions to draw attention to an issue of particular concern. Questions may be addressed orally (in plenary, following a pre-selection) or in writing.



It is perhaps no coincidence (this would require a qualitative analysis) that MEPs from some of the countries most affected by the economic crisis, Portugal, Greece, Ireland top the ranking of questions addressed to the European Commission and the Council. Two Portuguese MEPs, Diogo Feio and Nuno Melo, have submitted far more parliamentary questions than other MEPs: over 1.400 each. In this category too, some of the smaller Member States, Estonia, Latvia, Czech Republic and Hungary, are at the bottom of the table.

6. Signing of motions for resolutions

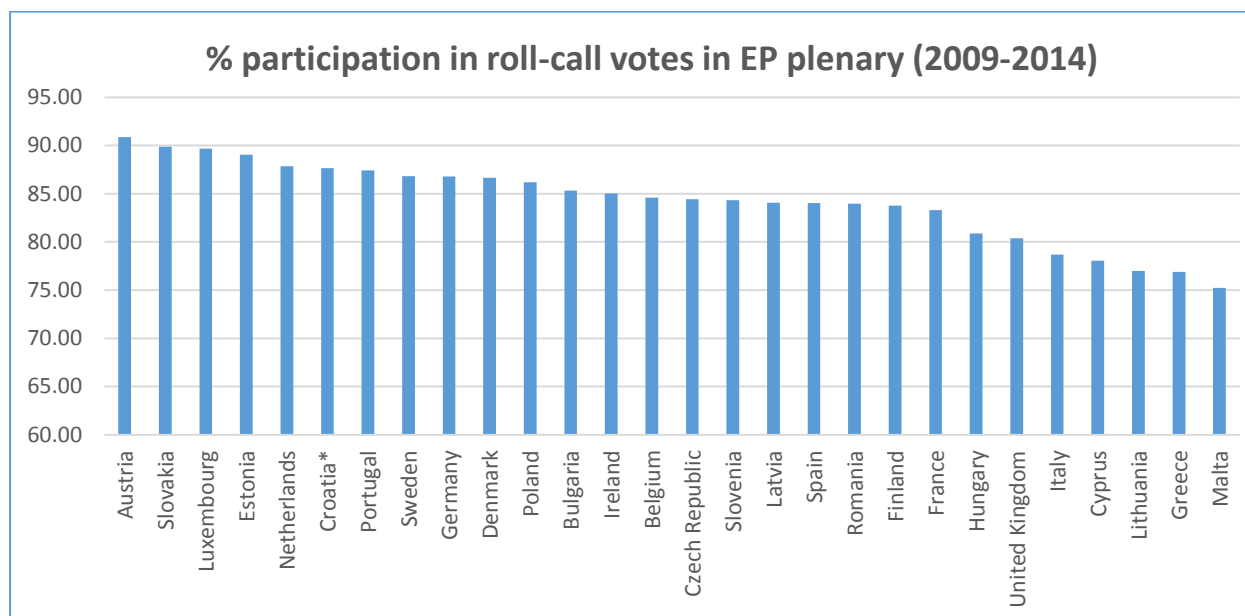
Motions for resolutions are used by MEPs to make suggestions to the entire European Parliament to adopt a formal position on a matter. The EP’s motions for resolutions often target breaches of human rights, democracy and rule of law, among other subjects.



Estonian and Finnish MEPs have been the most inclined to sign motions for resolutions for debate and vote in the EP plenary. Their high averages are mainly due to Kristiina Ojuland (32) and Sirpa Pietikäinen (95). At the bottom of this list are the Danish, Maltese and Hungarian MEPs.

7. Participation in roll-call votes

The participation rate is the percentage of roll call votes an MEP has taken part in, irrespective of the number of days she/he attended the plenary. But as roll call votes take place on most plenary days, the roll call participation rate is also a good overall indicator of attendance on plenary days.



Just as in the 2004-2009 EP term, Austrian MEPs have been most participative in the votes in the EP plenary. They are followed by Slovakian and Luxembourgish Members. At the bottom of this ranking we find the Lithuanian, Greek and Maltese MEPs.

VoteWatch Europe is an independent organisation set up to promote better debates and greater transparency in EU decision-making, by providing easy access to, and analysis of, the votes and other activities of the European Parliament (EP) and the EU Council of Ministers (Council). VoteWatch uses the EU Institutions' own attendance, voting and activity data - available through their websites - to give a full overview of MEP and Member State activities.

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VoteWatch Europe 32-34 Avenue de Tervueren, Box 1, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium, tel. +32 2 318 11 88
secretariat@votewatcheurope.eu | Twitter: [@VoteWatchEurope](https://twitter.com/VoteWatchEurope) | Facebook: [/VoteWatchEurope](https://www.facebook.com/VoteWatchEurope)
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Annex: MEP activities data by Member State

1. Reports drafted (average per MEP, 2009-2014)

Member State	Drafted reports
Portugal	6.77
Finland	4.69
Malta	4.17
Netherlands	3.54
Greece	3.45
Italy	3.30
Romania	3.30
Spain	3.20
Germany	3.09
Belgium	3.05
Austria	3.05
Poland	2.61
Hungary	2.55
United Kingdom	2.47
Sweden	2.45
Denmark	2.31
France	2.28
Czech Republic	2.27
Bulgaria	2.22
Luxembourg	2.17
Slovenia	2.00
Slovakia	1.69
Ireland	1.33
Cyprus	1.00
Latvia	1.00
Estonia	1.00
Lithuania	0.58
Croatia*	0.17

* It should be noted that Croatian MEPs only joined the Parliament in July 2013.



2. Co-decision reports drafted (average per MEP, 2009-2014)

Member State	Average co-decision reports
Portugal	1.9
Germany	0.8
Ireland	0.8
Luxembourg	0.8
UK	0.8
Finland	0.8
Sweden	0.7
Bulgaria	0.7
Austria	0.6
Belgium	0.6
Romania	0.6
Italy	0.5
France	0.5
Spain	0.5
Poland	0.5
Hungary	0.5
Netherlands	0.4
Czech Republic	0.4
Cyprus	0.3
Slovakia	0.3
Slovenia	0.3
Estonia	0.2
Denmark	0.2
Latvia	0.1
Croatia*	0.0
Lithuania	0.0
Malta	0.0

* It should be noted that Croatian MEPs only joined the Parliament in July 2013.

3. Opinions drafted (average per MEP, 2009-2014)

Member State	Opinions
Malta	4.67
Denmark	4.00
Luxembourg	3.33
Bulgaria	3.22
Finland	3.15
France	3.11
Germany	3.10
Romania	2.94
Sweden	2.90
Hungary	2.86
Cyprus	2.83
Greece	2.73
Portugal	2.68
Netherlands	2.42
Czech Republic	2.27
Italy	2.26
Poland	2.24
Latvia	2.22
Spain	2.17
Austria	2.16
Belgium	2.09
Slovakia	2.08
United Kingdom	1.89
Lithuania	1.83
Ireland	1.67
Slovenia	1.50
Estonia	0.83
Croatia*	0.00

* It should be noted that Croatian MEPs only joined the Parliament in July 2013.

4. Reports amended (average per MEP, 2009-2014)

Member State	Amended reports
Finland	145.62
Sweden	113.25
Netherlands	101.42
Romania	99.24
Denmark	97.08
Austria	97.05
Greece	86.09
Portugal	85.91
Lithuania	85.50
France	84.42
Luxembourg	83.17
Ireland	78.25
Germany	77.14
Spain	75.76
Belgium	72.32
Bulgaria	65.50
Slovenia	65.00
Italy	63.89
Cyprus	63.00
Poland	62.88
United Kingdom	62.79
Hungary	62.68
Latvia	61.89
Czech Republic	42.50
Malta	41.50
Slovakia	31.92
Estonia	30.50
Croatia*	4.75

* It should be noted that Croatian MEPs only joined the Parliament in July 2013.

5. Parliamentary questions (average per MEP, 2009-2014)

Member State	Parliamentary questions
Portugal	264.64
Greece	261.55
Ireland	253.58
Italy	187.15
Austria	181.42
Malta	149.50
Cyprus	142.00
Belgium	130.50
Spain	113.31
United Kingdom	110.41
Denmark	107.46
Netherlands	107.19
Slovakia	85.08
Romania	67.48
Poland	54.96
Lithuania	54.67
France	48.35
Finland	46.69
Sweden	40.85
Germany	35.18
Bulgaria	34.50
Slovenia	33.88
Luxembourg	32.00
Hungary	25.00
Czech Republic	17.77
Latvia	14.00
Croatia*	13.25
Estonia	12.83

* It should be noted that Croatian MEPs only joined the Parliament in July 2013.

6. Signing of motions for resolutions (average per MEP, 2009-2014)

Member State	Signing of motions for resolutions
Estonia	112.50
Finland	96.62
Belgium	62.00
Poland	61.80
Lithuania	56.50
Netherlands	52.85
Romania	50.79
Portugal	43.05
France	40.78
Spain	39.19
Cyprus	38.83
Slovenia	36.38
Italy	35.26
United Kingdom	29.34
Germany	29.08
Slovakia	29.08
Austria	22.53
Bulgaria	21.06
Luxembourg	20.00
Ireland	18.25
Sweden	17.20
Greece	16.91
Czech Republic	16.36
Latvia	15.00
Denmark	13.46
Croatia*	10.25
Malta	8.50
Hungary	7.95

* It should be noted that Croatian MEPs only joined the Parliament in July 2013.

7. % participation in roll-call votes in EP plenary (2009-2014)

Member State	% participation in roll-call votes (EP plenary)
Austria	90.86
Slovakia	89.89
Luxembourg	89.67
Estonia	89.05
Netherlands	87.86
Croatia*	87.64
Portugal	87.41
Sweden	86.81
Germany	86.80
Denmark	86.66
Poland	86.18
Bulgaria	85.32
Ireland	85.02
Belgium	84.59
Czech Republic	84.42
Slovenia	84.34
Latvia	84.08
Spain	84.03
Romania	83.97
Finland	83.76
France	83.31
Hungary	80.86
United Kingdom	80.38
Italy	78.68
Cyprus	78.06
Lithuania	76.98
Greece	76.90
Malta	75.23

* It should be noted that Croatian MEPs only joined the Parliament in July 2013.