

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

Factsheet: The Spanish Senate



1. At a glance

Spain is a constitutional monarchy and a parliamentary democracy. The Spanish Parliament (*Cortes Generales*) is a bicameral body composed of the lower House (*Congreso de los Diputados*) and the upper House (*Senado*).

The Senate is made up of 266 Members: 208 elected by popular vote, and 58 appointed by the regional legislatures. All Senators serve four-year terms, though regional legislatures may recall their appointees at any time. The Congress of Deputies has more independent functions, and it can also override most Senate measures. Only the Congress can grant or revoke confidence to the Spanish Prime minister.

Senators form groups along party lines. Parties with fewer than 10 Senators form the Mixed Group. If the membership of an existing group falls below six during a session, it is merged into the Mixed Group at the next session. 133 seats are required for an absolute majority.



Elections to the Chamber were held on Sunday 26 June 2016, following the failure to produce a stable government after the 2015 elections.

2. Composition

Composition of the Spanish Senate			
	Party	EP affiliation	Seats
	Partido Popular (PP) People's Party		151
	Partido Socialista Obrero Español (PSOE) Spanish Socialist Workers' Party		63
	Unidos Podemos United We can		23
	Democràcia i Llibertat (DiL) Democracy and Freedom		4
	Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya Republican Left of Catalonia		12
	Partido Nacionalista Vasco (PNV) Basque Nationalist Party		6

Ciudadanos	Ciudadanos (C's) Citizens		3
	Others		4
	Total		266

3. Officeholders

<p>Speaker of the Senate</p>  <p>Mr Pío García-Escudero (PP/EPP), since 2 April 2004</p>	<p>Chairperson of the Mixed Committee for the European Union (composed of Members of both Chambers)</p>  <p>Mrs María Soraya RODRÍGUEZ RAMOS, since 16 November 2016.</p>
<p>Secretary General of the Spanish Senate: Mr Manuel Cavero Gómez</p>	

4. Relations with Members of the European Parliament

Participation rights for Spanish MEPs in plenary sittings	No
Participation rights for Spanish MEPs in committee meetings	Foreseen by Spanish law, for the joint EU affairs Committee (<i>Comisión mixta</i>) only
Availability of videoconferencing system in Spanish Senate	Yes

5. Information links

- Official website <http://www.senado.es>
- [Rules of procedure in English and Spanish](#)
- [List of committees](#)
- [Recent documents submitted by the Cortes to the Interparliamentary EU Information Exchange \(IPEX\)](#)
- [European Parliament Information Office in Madrid](#)

6. Contacts

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