

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



## Factsheet: The Belgian Senate





















### 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 2014 elections were the first ones without a direct election of senators. Based on the sixth State reform of October 2011, the 71-Member Senate, which comprised 40 directly elected Members, was transformed into a 60-Member indirectly elected body, comprising 50 senators of the federal entities designated by Community and Regional Parliaments and 10 co-opted senators, selected by the 50 senators. Six Dutch-speaking Members and four French-speaking Members will be co-opted based on the election results of the House of Representatives.


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 Senate renewal on 26 May 2019					
	Party	EP affiliation	Community & Regional	Co-opted	TOTAL
	Nieuw-Vlaamse Alliantie (N-VA) New Flemish Alliance		8	1	9
	Groen Flemish Green Party		7	2	9
	Ecolo Greens-Walloon				
	Mouvement Réformateur (MR) Movement for Reform		6	1	7
	Vlaams Belang (VB) Flemish Interest		6	1	7
	Parti Socialiste (PS) Socialist Party - Walloon		6	1	7
	Christen-Democratisch en Vlaams (CD&V) Christian Democratic and Flemish		4	1	5
	Open Vlaamse Liberalen en Democraten (Open Vld) Open Flemish Liberals and Democrats		4	1	5
	Partij van de Arbeid van België/ Parti du Travail de Belgique (PVDA-PTB)		4	1	5
	Workers' Party				

	Socialistische Partij Anders (sp.a) Socialist Party–Differently (Flemish)		3	1	4
	Centre démocrate humaniste (cdH) Humanist Democratic Centre		2	0	2
<b>Total</b>			<b>50</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>The next Senate renewal will take place in 2024.</b>					

### 3. Officeholders

<p><b>President of the Senate</b></p>  <p>Ms Sabine LAURELLE (MR/RE), since 18 July 2019</p>	<p><b>Chairperson of the Federal Advisory Committee for European Affairs</b></p> <p>To be elected</p> <p><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><b>Secretary General of the Belgian Senate: Mr Gert Van der Biesen since 1 May 2016.</b></p>	

### 4. Relations with Members of the European Parliament

<b>Participation rights for Belgian MEPs in plenary sittings</b>	No
<b>Participation rights for Belgian MEPs in committee meetings</b>	In the committee meetings the MEPs can neither take part in the debate nor vote.
<b>Availability of videoconferencing system in Belgian Senate</b>	No

### 5. Information links

Official website: <http://www.senate.be>

[Rules of procedure in French](#)

[List of committees](#)

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

[European Parliament Liaison Office in Brussels](#)

### 6. Contacts

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