

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

Factsheet: Senate of the Italian Republic













Palazzo Madama, seat of the Italian Senate

1. At a glance



The Italian Senate is composed of a maximum of 321 Members: 315 Members who are directly elected on regional lists every five years by all Italian citizens over the age of 25, plus up to six Senators for life (former Presidents of the Italian Republic or citizens appointed by the President for "outstanding merits"). Elected Senators must be over 40 years old. Given the failed attempt to reform the Constitution, the Italian Parliament has remained a "perfect bicameral system", where the two Chambers have exactly the same functions and powers. Italy is a Parliamentary Democracy, where both the Chamber and the Senate give a vote of confidence on a new Government and its political programme. Every seven years, a special body composed of the Chamber, Senate and regional delegates elects the President of the Republic. The last electoral law is a mixture of majority (1/3 of the seats) and proportional system (2/3 of the seats). In addition, since 2006, 2% of the seats (6 senators) are elected by the Italians resident abroad.

2. Composition

	Party	EP Affiliation	Seats
	Movimento 5 Stelle 5 Stars Movement		109
	Forza Italia Berlusconi Presidente Come on Italy - Berlusconi for President		61
	Lega Salvini Premier League Salvini for Premier		58
	Partito Democratico (PD) Democratic Party		52
	Fratelli d'Italia Brothers of Italy		18
	Per le Autonomie For Autonomies		8
	Gruppo Misto ¹ Mixed Group		12
			318

¹ The Gruppo Misto comprises elected members of the following parties: Liberi e Uguali, Più Europa con Emma Bonino, PSI, MAIE and the senators for life nominated by the President of the Republic.

3. Officeholders

<p>President of the Italian Senate</p>  <p>Mrs Maria Elisabetta Alberti Casellati (FI) since 24 March 2018</p>	<p>Chairperson of the EU Policies Committee</p>  <p>Mr Ettore Antonio Licheri (M5S) since 21 June 2018</p>
<p>Secretary General of the Senate Ms Elisabetta Serafin</p>	

4. Relations with Members of the European Parliament

Participation rights for Italian MEPs in plenary sittings	No
Participation rights for Italian MEPs in committee meetings	Yes
Availability of videoconferencing system in the Senate	Yes

5. Information links

Official website: <http://www.senato.it>

[Rules of Procedure](#)

[List of committees](#)

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

[The EP Information Office in Rome](#)

6. Contacts

<p>Factsheet author and contact in the EP Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments:</p> <p>Mr Paolo Atzori Office WIE 05U043, 1047 Brussels Phone +32 2 28 43306 laura.autore@ep.europa.eu</p>	<p>Brussels-based contact of the Italian Senate:</p> <p>Ms Beatrice Gianani Office WIE 06U006, 1047 Brussels Phone +32 2 28 42297 beatrice.gianani@natparl.ep.europa.eu</p>
---	---

Last updated on 05/07/2018. Photo credits: Italian Senate.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/relnatparl>
relnatparl@ep.europa.eu