



## Factsheet: The Belgian House of Representatives
























### 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). In principle the regions (Flanders, Wallonia and Brussels) and the communities (Flemish-speaking, French-speaking and German-speaking) have their own elected assemblies, however the Flemish region and the Flemish-speaking community have merged their parliaments in 1980 into one single Flemish Parliament. As a result Belgium has six parliaments altogether.

The 150 representatives of the House are directly elected under a proportional voting system from 11 electoral districts. Belgium has compulsory voting and thus maintains one of the highest rates of voter turnout in the world. The current Belgian caretaker Prime Minister is Ms Sophie WILMÈS (MR/RE) as of 27 October 2019. The government forming negotiations are still ongoing since the elections of 26 May 2019.



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 House of Representatives elections on 26 May 2019				
	Party	EP affiliation	%	Seats
	Nieuw-Vlaamse Alliantie (N-VA) New Flemish Alliance		16,03%	25
	Parti Socialiste (PS) Socialist Party - Walloon		9,46%	20
	Vlaams Belang (VB) Flemish Interest		11,95%	18
	Mouvement Réformateur (MR) Movement for Reform		7,56%	14
	Ecolo Greens-Walloon		6,14%	13
	Christen-Democratisch en Vlaams (CD&V) Christian Democratic and Flemish		8,89%	12
	Partij van de Arbeid van België/ Parti du Travail de Belgique (PVDA-PTB) Workers' Party		8,62%	12
	Open Vlaamse Liberalen en Democraten (Open Vld) Open Flemish Liberals and Democrats		8,54%	12
	Socialistische Partij Anders (sp.a) Socialist Party-Differently (Flemish)		6,71%	9
	Groen Flemish Green Party		6,1%	8
	Centre démocrate humaniste (cdH) Humanist Democratic Centre		3,7%	5
	DéFI Challenge	Not affiliated	2,22%	2
	Others		4,08%	0
			100%	150

**Turnout: 88.38%. The next elections should take place in 2024.**

### 3. Officeholders

<p><b>President of the House of Representatives</b></p>  <p>Mr Patrick DEWAEL (Open VLD/RE), since 27 June 2019</p>	<p><b>Chairperson of the Federal Advisory Committee for European Affairs</b></p>  <p>Mr Patrick DEWAEL (Open VLD/RE), since 27 June 2019</p> <p><i>(The Committee is chaired alternatively and for the duration of a full legislature by the President of the House of Representatives or the Chairperson of the delegation of the Belgian Senate.)</i></p>
<p><b>Secretary General of the House of Representatives:</b> Mr Marc Van der Hulst, since 1 October 2016</p>	

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

<p><b>Participation rights for Belgian MEPs in plenary sittings</b></p>	<p>No, in principle MEPs are not allowed to participate in a plenary meeting. However, there are precedents during which MEPs presented their report (drafted on behalf of the Federal Advisory Committee on European Affairs).</p>
<p><b>Participation rights for Belgian MEPs in committee meetings</b></p>	<p>In the Federal Advisory Committee for European Affairs, MEPs can take part in the debate and also vote, while in other Committees MEPs can only take part in the debate but not vote. The Chairperson of the Committee has to give them permission in advance.</p>
<p><b>Availability of videoconferencing system in Belgian House of Representatives</b></p>	<p>No</p>

### 5. Information links

[Official website: www.dekamer.be](http://www.dekamer.be)

[www.lachambre.be](http://www.lachambre.be)

[Rules of procedure in English](#)

[List of committees](#)

[Recent documents submitted by the House of Representatives to the Interparliamentary EU](#)

[Information Exchange \(IPEX\)](#)

[European Parliament Information Office in Brussels](#)

## **6. Contacts**

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