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





Factsheet: The Belgian House of Representatives

TANK PLAN

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.

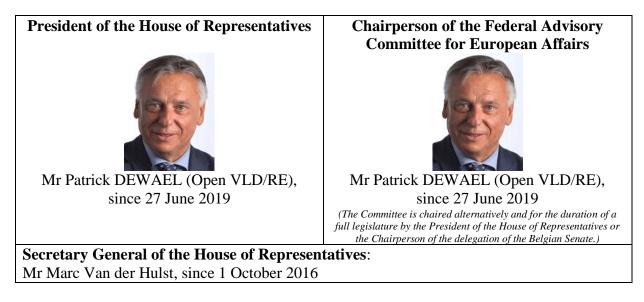
The 150 representatives of the House are directly elected under a proportional voting system from 11 electoral districts. Belgium has compulsory voting and thus maintains one of the highest rates of voter turnout in the world. The current Belgian caretaker Prime Minister is Ms Sophie WILMÈS (MR/RE) as 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.

Results of the House of Representatives elections on 26 May 2019					
	Party	EP affiliation	%	Seats	
DENKEN.DURVEN.DOEN.	Nieuw-Vlaamse Alliantie (N-VA) New Flemish Alliance	CROUP	16,03%	25	
PS	Parti Socialiste (PS) Socialist Party - Walloon	S&D	9,46%	20	
VLAAMS BELANG	Vlaams Belang (VB) Flemish Interest	!D	11,95%	18	
MR	Mouvement Réformateur (MR) Movement for Reform	europe.	7,56%	14	
ecolo	Ecolo Greens-Walloon	NE CARACTERIA	6,14%	13	
CD	Christen-Democratisch en Vlaams (CD&V) Christian Democratic and Flemish	Серр	8,89%	12	
PVDAPTB	Partij van de Arbeid van België/ Parti du Travail de Belgique (PVDA-PTB) Workers' Party	GUE/NGL Europeen United Lett • Nardis Green Lett	8,62%	12	
open ud	Open Vlaamse Liberalen en Democraten (Open Vld) Open Flemish Liberals and Democrats	renew europe.	8,54%	12	
🎯 sp.a	Socialistische Partij Anders (sp.a) Socialist Party–Differently (Flemish)	S&D	6,71%	9	
	Groen Flemish Green Party		6,1%	8	
cdh	Centre démocrate humaniste (cdH) Humanist Democratic Centre	Серр	3,7%	5	
DéFI	DéFI Challenge	Not affiliated	2,22%	2	
	Others		4,08% 100%	0 150	
Turnout: 88.38%. The next elections should take place in 2024.					

2. Composition

<u>3. Officeholders</u>



4. Relations with Members of the European Parliament

Participation rights for Belgian MEPs in plenary sittings	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).
Participation rights for Belgian MEPs in committee meetings	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.
Availability of videoconferencing system in Belgian House of Representatives	No

5. Information links

Official website: www.dekamer.be 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

Last updated on 9 January 2020. Photo credits: Belgian House of Representatives.

6. Contacts

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