

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

Factsheet: The Spanish Chamber of Deputies



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 *Congreso* has 350 Members, elected by popular vote on block lists by proportional representation in constituencies matching the Spanish provinces using the D'Hondt method. Congressmen serve 4-year terms. In the *Congreso*, Members of the Parliament from the political parties, or groups of parties, form parliamentary groups¹.



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 Chamber of Deputies			
	Party	EP group	Seats
	Partido Popular (PP) People's Party		137
	Partido Socialista Obrero Español (PSOE) Spanish Socialist Workers' Party		85
	Unidos Podemos United, weWe can		71
	Ciudadanos (C's) Citizens		32
	Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya Republican Left of Catalonia		9
	Democràcia i Llibertat (DiL) Democracy and Freedom		8
	Partido Nacionalista Vasco (PNV) Basque Nationalist Party		5
	Others		3
	Total		350

¹ Groups must be formed by, at least, 15 MPs, but a group can also be formed with only five MPs if the parties in it got, at least, 5% of the nationwide vote, or 15% of the votes in the constituencies they run for seats. The MPs belonging to parties who cannot create their own parliamentary group shall form the Mixed Group.

3. Officeholders

Speaker of the Congress  Mrs Ana PASTOR JULIÁN (PP/EPP), since 19 July 2016	Chairperson of the Mixed Committee for the European Union (composed of Members of both Chambers)  Mrs María Soraya RODRÍGUEZ RAMOS, since 16 November 2016
Secretary General of the Spanish Chamber of Deputies: Mr Carlos Gutiérrez Vicén	

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 only
Availability of videoconferencing system in Spanish Chamber of Deputies	No

5. Information links

- Official website: <http://www.congreso.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

Factsheet author and contact in the EP Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments: Mr Luis Balsells Office WIE 05U05, 1047 Brussels Phone +32 2 28 32386 luis.balsells@ep.europa.eu	Brussels-based contact of the Spanish Cortes: Carmen Sánchez-Abarca Gornals Office 06U042, B-1047, Brussels Tel.: +32 2 28 44596 carmen.sanchezabarca@natparl.ep.europa.eu
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