

European electoral systems (Elections June 1999)

Caption: The electoral systems in the Member States of the European Union applicable to European elections of June 1999.

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European electoral systems

	Proportional representation	Preferential voting	Allocation of seats	The right to vote	Eligibility
Austria	Yes At national level	Yes Electors must vote for a list and can, in addition, vote for a given candidate on this list One vote per elector	D'Hondt system Count held at national level Lists obtaining less than 4% of the votes cast are excluded Seats are allocated according to the number of votes per list	Minimum age: 18 years EU citizens with full voting rights in their countries of origin Vote by polling cards for Austrian citizens residing abroad	EU citizens 19 years of age or over Full eligibility in the country of origin
Belgium	Yes 4 electoral constituencies and 3 electoral colleges	Yes Electors can vote for a list or for individual candidates Some parties indicate their preference One vote per elector	D'Hondt system	Minimum age: 18 years EU citizens with full voting rights Belgian citizens residing abroad (by postal vote) Compulsory vote for electors registered on electoral rolls	Citizens appearing on the register of Belgian electors for the European Parliament 21 years of age or over French, Dutch or German speakers (according to the college)
Denmark	Yes At national level	Yes Electors can vote for a list or for individual candidates Some parties indicate which candidates they prefer One vote per elector	D'Hondt system Votes for individual candidates and their lists are added together The candidates who obtain the greatest total number of votes are elected	Minimum age: 18 years EU citizen living in Denmark and with permanent residence in Denmark, holding full voting rights there Danish citizen residing in another EU Member State, not deprived of electoral rights in Denmark Postal vote	EU citizen 18 years of age and over Full eligibility in the country of origin
Finland	Yes At national level	Yes	D'Hondt system Once the number of seats for each party, electoral alliance and joint list is determined, candidates are ranked according to the total number of preferential	Minimum age: 18 years Finnish citizen EU citizen living in Finland, listed on the electoral registers or having requested voting rights, and holding full voting rights in their countries of origin	EU citizen 18 years of age and over Holder of voting rights Exception: persons in custody

			votes obtained		
France	Yes At national level	No Lists bearing 87 names are voted for in their entirety	D'Hondt system Allocation on the basis of the highest average Lists obtaining less than 5% of the votes cast are excluded	Minimum age: 18 years EU citizens with full voting rights in their countries of origin and with a their home or permanent residence in France French citizens abroad (vote by proxy or at 'polling stations' in embassies or consulates) Inhabitants of overseas territories	EU citizens 23 years of age and over Home or permanent residence in France Full eligibility in country of origin
Germany	Yes Lists of candidates, either at federal or Länder level	No Lists are voted for in their entirety	Hare-Niemeyer system Count at federal level Lists obtaining less than 5% of the votes cast are excluded	Minimum age: 18 years EU citizens with electoral rights in their countries of origin German citizens residing in the FRG, in a Council of Europe Member State, or in any other country (for less than 25 years and registered on the German electoral roll) Postal vote	EU citizens 18 years of age and over Full eligibility in the country of origin
Greece	Yes At national level	No	Seats allocated in accordance with the national quotient system, with remaining seats allocated on the basis of the highest average Lists obtaining less than 3% of the votes cast are excluded	Minimum age: 18 years EU citizens with full voting rights in their countries of origin Greek citizens in another EU Member State (vote at consulates) Compulsory vote for Greek citizens	EU citizens 21 years of age and over Full eligibility in the country of origin
Ireland	Yes 4 constituencies Simple transferable voting system: electoral quotient = $1 + \frac{\text{votes cast}}{\text{seats} + 1}$	Yes No list voting Vote for one candidate, marking the order of preference of candidates, in the event that the first choice has already obtained the	Election of candidates having obtained the electoral quotient Proportional allocation of all votes obtained above the quotient amongst the other candidates, according to the preferences of the	Minimum age: 18 years EU citizens living in Ireland, with full voting rights in their countries of origin	EU citizens 21 years of age and over Full right of eligibility in the country of origin

		necessary quotient or has been disqualified	electors		
Italy	Yes At national level	Yes	Allocation of seats on the basis of votes obtained by each national list, divided by the national electoral quotient Subsequently, seats are allocated on the basis of constituencies, to candidates who have obtained the largest number of votes Remaining seats are allocated to national lists with the largest ratio	Minimum age: 18 years EU citizens with full voting rights in their countries of origin Italian citizens in another EU Member State (vote at the consulate) Italian citizens outside the EU: vote in Italy	EU citizen 25 years of age and over Full eligibility in the country of origin
Luxembourg	Yes At national level	Yes Six votes per elector Electors can either cast all six votes for one list, or split them among candidates from the same or different lists A list is credited with as many votes as it has candidates	D'Hondt system Seats allocated according to the number of votes obtained by candidates and by lists	Minimum age: 18 years EU citizens residing in Luxembourg, and having spent 5 of the last 6 years in the Grand Duchy, with full voting rights in their countries of origin. Compulsory vote for Luxembourg citizens residing in the Grand Duchy, and for other EU citizens listed on the electoral rolls Luxembourg citizens abroad and other categories of elector (postal vote)	EU citizens 21 years of age and over Living in the Grand Duchy and, if not Luxembourgish, having lived there for 10 of the last 12 years Full eligibility in the country of origin
Netherlands	Yes At national level	Yes	D'Hondt system	Minimum age: 18 years EU citizens with full voting rights in their countries of origin Dutch citizens abroad (vote by proxy or postal vote)	EU citizens 18 years of age or over Full eligibility in the country of origin
Portugal	Yes At national level	No Lists are voted for in their entirety	D'Hondt system	Minimum age: 18 years EU citizens with full voting rights in their countries of origin	EU citizen 18 years of age or over Full eligibility in

				Portuguese citizens in another EU Member State (vote at the consulate)	the country of origin
Spain	Yes At national level	No Lists are voted for in their entirety	D'Hondt system	Minimum age: 18 years EU citizens holding full voting rights in their country of origin Spanish citizens abroad (postal vote)	EU citizen 18 years of age and over Full eligibility in the country of origin
Sweden	Yes At electoral level	Yes Electors vote for a political party and can vote for one of the candidates on the list of the chosen party	Modified St. Lagüe system Lists obtaining less than 4% of the votes cast are excluded The candidate must obtain a minimum of 5% of the votes won by his or her party	Minimum age: 18 years EU citizens holding full voting rights in their countries of origin Citizens of any nationality other than Swedish must declare their intention to vote Swedish citizens abroad: previous residence in Sweden, voting rights renewed in writing after 10 years spent abroad	EU citizens 18 years of age and over Full eligibility in the country of origin
United Kingdom	Yes Voting for lists in their entirety in 11 regions Simple transferable voting system (Northern Ireland)	No Lists are voted for in their entirety	D'Hondt system (11 regions)	Minimum age: 18 years EU citizens appearing on electoral rolls, with full voting rights in their countries of origin Members of the House of Lords British citizens abroad and members of the armed forces (declaration of eligibility)	EU citizens 21 years of age and over UK residents Full electoral rights in the country of origin