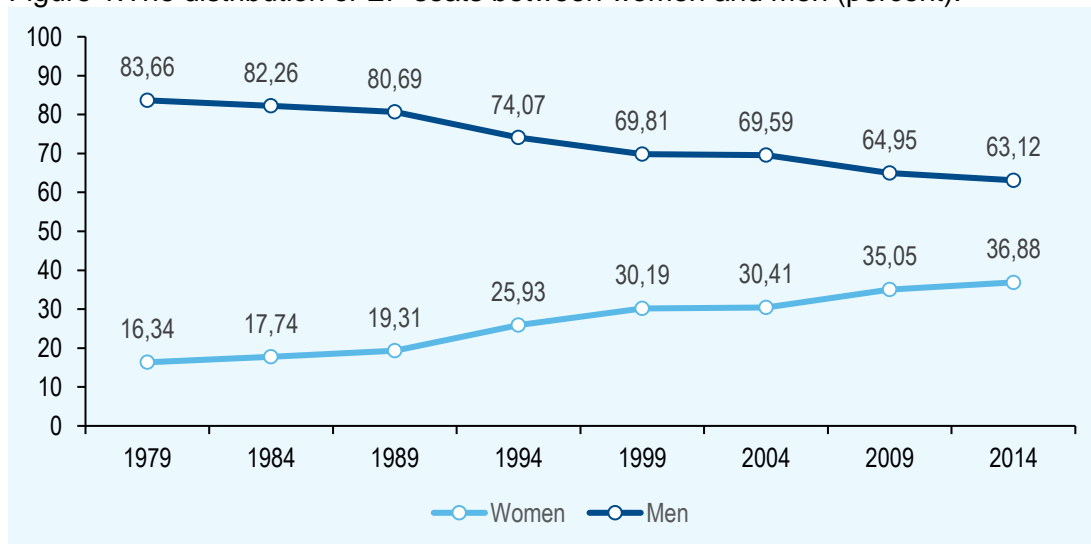


# Equality in Parliament is increasing over time

There are currently 751 seats in the EP, as Britain has not yet left the EU. Previous fact sheets (2019: 6) have described how the seats in Parliament have changed over time and the plans for future changes. This fact sheet, on the other hand, will show how the distribution of seats in Parliament is divided between women and men. The figure below shows how the distribution of the proportion of seats between women and men in Parliament from the first European elections in 1979 up to the latest election in 2014. After the first elections to the EP in 1979, 83.6 percent men and only 16.3 percent women were elected to Parliament. Every year since then the distribution between men and women has become more equal. In the most recent election in 2014 the difference between the sexes had decreased to 26.2 percentage points. The development towards a more equal representation in the EP has taken place in all parts of the EU. Previously, there were geographical differences where women and men were more equally represented in certain geographical areas than others. For example, it was more equal in the western parts of the EU than in the eastern and southern parts of the Union, but now equality is also moving in the right direction in these regions (Stockemer & Sundström, 2019).

Figure 1. The distribution of EP seats between women and men (percent).



Source: [European Parliament. \(2014\). European and National Elections figured out. Luxembourg: Public Opinion Monitoring Unit.](#) Result of the distribution of seats in the European Parliament between women and men over time.

Comments: The figure shows the percentage development of seat distribution between women and men over time in the European Parliament.

## References

Stockemer, D., and Sundström, A. (2019) "Women's Representation across Different Generations: A Longitudinal Analysis of the European Parliament", *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies*, <https://doi-org.ezproxy.uu.se/10.1111/jcms.12848>.