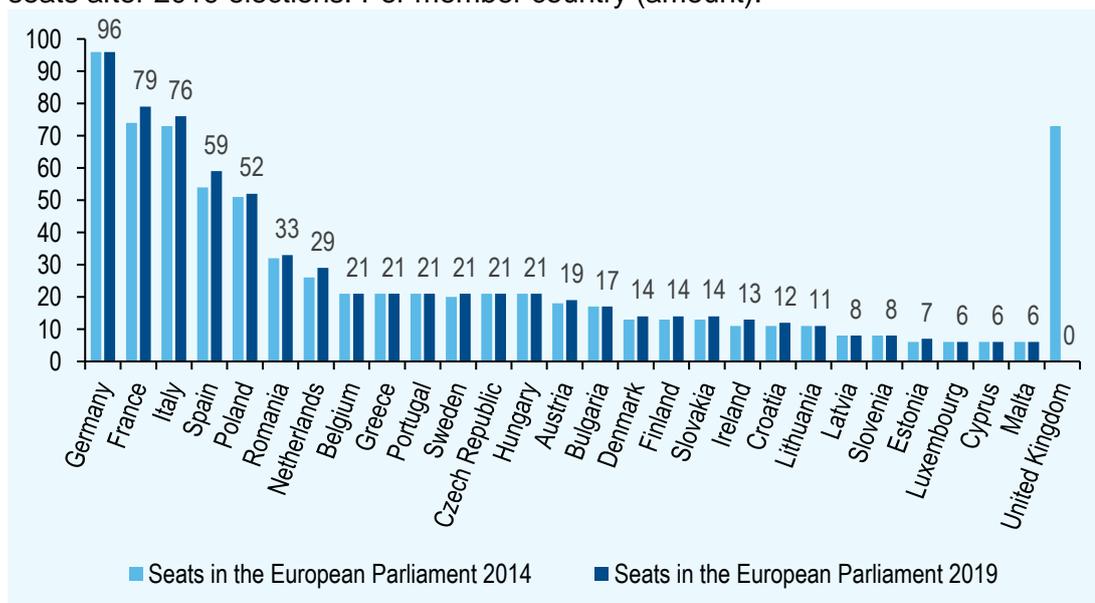


Brexit alters the distribution of seats in the European Parliament election

After the first European Parliament elections in 1979, the Parliament consisted of 410 seats. As more countries have joined the EU, the number of seats in Parliament has also increased. The largest increase so far was in 1989, when 84 new seats were added, with a total of 518 seats. Since then, there has been a gradual increase to today's 751 seats. The distribution of the number of seats per country is mainly based on the countries' populations. However, after the Lisbon Treaty took effect in 2009, a maximum number of parliamentary seats (96), and a minimum number of seats (6) were introduced for all EU countries. Such a restriction means that the smallest states in the EU are still able to influence decisions, and it also means that the European Parliament cannot exceed the total maximum number of 751 seats. Before the election this spring, a change in the number of seats will once again take place. This time there will be a reduction of seats in Parliament. Brexit means that the total number of seats will be preliminarily reduced to 705. 27 of the UK's current 73 mandates will be re-distributed among the remaining member states, while the other 46 mandates will be reserved for potential future enlargements. There are 14 member countries that will receive additional mandates, including Sweden with a planned increase from 20 to 21 seats in the European Parliament.

Figure. Seats in the European Parliament after the 2014 election and expected seats after 2019 elections. Per member country (amount).



Source: [European Parliament](#). Results after the election in 2014, and projection in 2019.

Comments: The figure shows the seats per member state in the EU Parliament, for both the election in 2014 and projection for 2019. These numbers are based on the outcome of Brexit.