



**EUROPEAN NETWORK AGAINST RACISM**

The voice of the anti-racist movement in Europe

# ENAR'S ELECTION ANALYSIS: ETHNIC MINORITIES IN THE NEW EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT 2019-2025

We at the European Network Against Racism (ENAR) analysed racial and ethnic representation following the results of the 2019 European Parliament elections.[1] This review encompasses (A) total racial, ethnic and religious minorities, or all of those racialised in their countries and (B) people of colour, all those racialised as 'non-white', with origins outside of Europe.

Reviewing results from the 28 EU Member States amounting to 751 MEPs, we found:

## Racial/ethnic minorities are hugely underrepresented according to proportion of population.

We estimate that racial and ethnic minorities make up at least 10% of the European Union population, but make up:

**5% (approximately 36 MEPs) of the total elected MEPs**



**After Brexit, this figure will reduce to 4%.**

**People of colour specifically amount to only 4% (approximately 30) of the total elected MEPs**



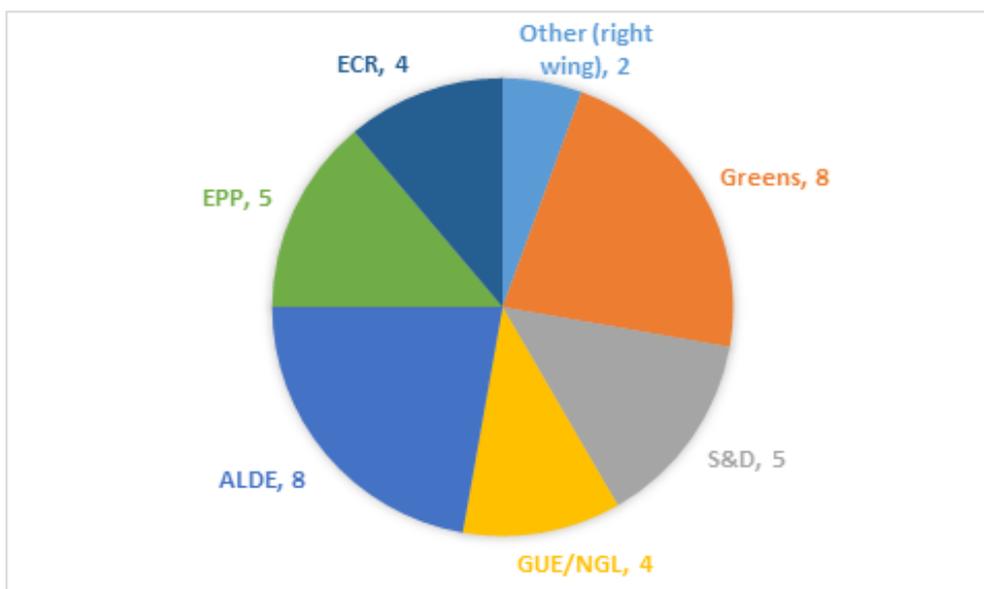
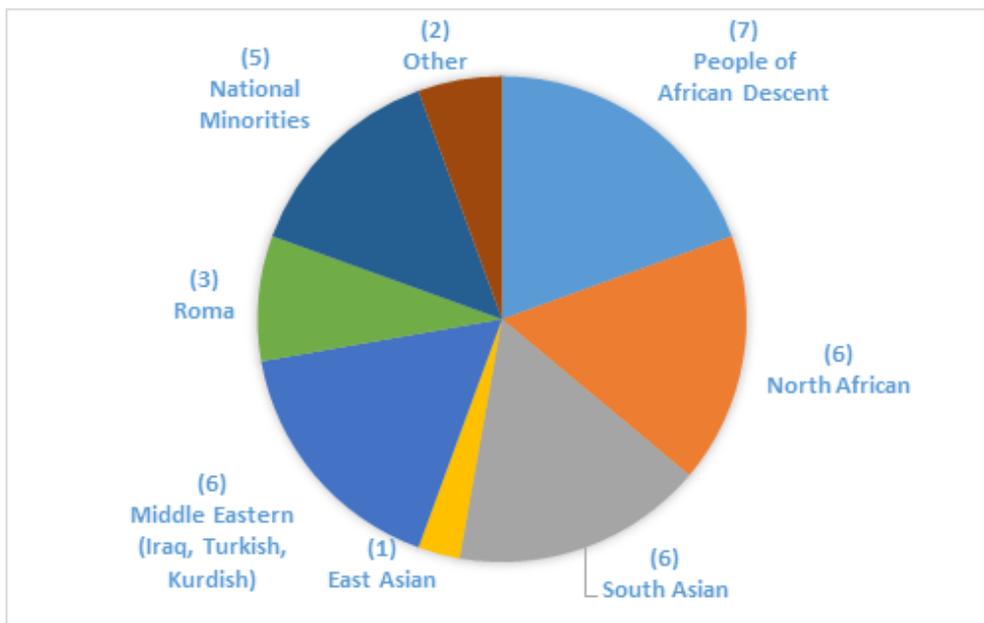
**After Brexit, reducing to 3% (24).**

[1] This review was conducted through third-party identification and therefore does not purport to be 100% representative. There is no EU-wide system of diversity monitoring and therefore no consistent way to Across Europe, there is no consistent way to measure racial, ethnic or religious diversity. Political parties do not publish information on the racial diversity of their election lists. Race and ethnicity are social constructs, and systems of data collection should be based on self-identification. For more info on equality data collection, please see: [http://www.enar-eu.org/IMG/pdf/20084\\_equalitydatacollectionpublication-8-low.pdf](http://www.enar-eu.org/IMG/pdf/20084_equalitydatacollectionpublication-8-low.pdf) and <http://www.enar-eu.org/Equality-data>.

# WHO ARE THE ELECTED ETHNIC MINORITY MEPS? A BREAKDOWN

Of the 36 elected ethnic minority MEPs:

- **Gender:** 19 are men and 17 are women
- **Ethnicity:**
  - o 6 are national minorities, e.g. Russians in Lithuania, Hungarians in Romania
  - o 7 are people of African descent; there will be 6 black women in the European Parliament, compared to just 1 in the last mandate
  - o 6 are of north African descent, 6 of middle eastern descent
  - o All 6 MEPs of South Asian descent are from the UK and will leave with Brexit
- **Politics:** 17 are from left leaning parties, 8 from liberal parties, and 11 are from right leaning parties.
- **Country:** The UK elected 7 minority MEPs, France 6, Germany 5 and Sweden 4. Only 13 of the 28 EU Member States elected ethnic minority MEPs.



# WHAT CAN WE SAY FROM THIS?

- 1. We see an increase in ethnic minority representation from the previous mandate.** There is no figure for general ethnic minority representation in the last mandate, but there were approximately 18 people of colour (non-white) in the last mandate. Now this figure has increased to 30. After Brexit, however, it will be 24.
- 2. Ethnic minorities in general and people of colour in particular are widely underrepresented according to estimates of the proportion in the European population.** This can be attributed to a number of factors, including structural racism and exclusion in society, direct discrimination in voting, a low proportion of ethnic minority candidates. In our previous analysis of candidates' lists, it was clear that national parties failed to elevate minority candidates to the top of the lists, affecting electoral success particularly in countries which do not have preferential voting.
- 3. Brexit will have a huge impact** - the departure of UK MEPs will greatly reduce representation of racial minorities in the European Parliament. Ideologically, UK MEPs also tend to bring a clear racial diversity angle, including cross-party agreement on the need for representation and equality data collection.
- 4. Left-leaning parties are far more representative than right-wing parties.** However, we do see a number of people of colour and ethnic minorities elected from (far) right-wing parties. Therefore, we see that on the question of ending racism, representation is not the end of the story. We need to complement improved representation with a clear commitment to equality and anti-racist politics. More about ENAR's demands for anti-racist politics in Europe: [www.enar-eu.org/EUelectionsdemands](http://www.enar-eu.org/EUelectionsdemands).
- 5. There is a wider problem with representation in European policy making.** Alongside the European Parliament, there is a need for European institutions, such as the European Commission, to recognise and address the overwhelming lack of racial diversity. The European Commission has a staff of over 33,000 and has real power in European policy making, and yet publishes no data on racial/ethnic diversity, nor does it implement positive action to improve representation.
- 6. How can we improve representation in politics?** This is an issue for European institutions, national level parties, and voters alike. All institutions must prioritise diversity and representation of racial and ethnic minorities as an urgent issue for democratic legitimacy. They must produce data on the scope of the issue, and take clear measures to ensure there is no discrimination in party lists or in institutional structures.

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