



Funded by the
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The project "ACE II" ACTIVE CITIZEN in EUROPE II Active European citizens building

Visit to European Parliament Office in Athens

The topic: Empowering democracy



The European Parliament, established in 1952 as Common Assembly of the European Coal and Steel Community, 1962 as European Parliament, first direct elections in 1979 and with its location in Strasbourg (France), Brussels (Belgium) and Luxembourg, is the EU's law-making body with legislative, supervisory and budgetary responsibilities.

Analytically:

a) The legislative role:

- Passing EU laws, together with the Council of the EU, based on European Commission proposals
- Deciding on international agreements
- Deciding on enlargements
- Reviewing the Commission's work programme and asking it to propose legislation

b) The supervisory role:

- Democratic scrutiny of all EU institutions

- Electing the Commission President and approving the Commission as a body. Possibility of voting a motion of censure, obliging the Commission to resign
- Granting discharge, i.e. approving the way EU budgets have been spent
- Examining citizens' petitions and setting up inquiries
- Discussing monetary policy with the European Central Bank
- Questioning Commission and Council
- Election observations

c) The budgetary role:

- Establishing the EU budget, together with the Council
- Approving the EU's long-term budget, the "Multiannual Financial Framework"

The number of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) for each country is roughly proportionate to its population, but this is by degressive proportionality: no country can have fewer than 6 or more than 96 MEPs and the total number cannot exceed 751 (750 plus the President). MEPs are grouped by political affiliation, not by nationality.

It is directly elected by EU voters every 5 years and the last elections were in May 2019. The Italian politician and journalist, member of the Democratic Party, David Maria Sassoli was elected as President on 3 July 2019.

The Parliament works at two (2) main stages:

- Committees for preparation of the legislation.

It numbers 20 committees and 2 subcommittees, each handling a particular policy area. The committees examine proposals for legislation, and MEPs and political groups can put forward amendments or propose to reject a bill. These issues are also debated within the political groups.

- Plenary sessions for passing the legislation in Strasbourg and Brussels.

This is when all the MEPs gather in the chamber to give a final vote on the proposed legislation and the proposed amendments.

The Parliament accepts citizens', residents' or companies' and other organisations' requests for acting on a certain issue and their petitions, either by post or online about any subject which comes under the EU's remit.

Other ways of getting in touch with Parliament include contacting the local MEP or the European Parliament Information Office in m-s.

Wednesday, 13 November

A learning unit ON

1. European Youth Event (EYE): Youth ideas for a better future- Youth parliament by **Greece**: HELLENIC MIGRATION POLICY INSTITUTE (I.ME.PO.)
2. Migration policy by **Greece**: HELLENIC MIGRATION POLICY INSTITUTE (I.ME.PO.)
3. Parliament's LGBT intergroup by **Lithuania**: Mano Europa

Thursday, 14 November

A learning unit ON

1. Erasmus+: Multimedia centre by **Estonia**: LAG Western-Harju Partnership (LHKK)
2. Current political agenda - press releases and LIVE: hearings by **Estonia**: LAG Western-Harju Partnership (LHKK)
3. Black Ribbon Day by **Romania**: the University UNIVERSITATEA DIN PITESTI/ UNIVERSITY OF PITESTI (UPIT)
4. International Day of Democracy - Celebrations in Europe by **Romania**: the University UNIVERSITATEA DIN PITESTI/ UNIVERSITY OF PITESTI (UPIT)

Methods used: Attractive Lectures with Word texts, Excel, PowerPoint, ppt and pptx forms, subtitles and legends. Audio-visual Screenings, Projections, web interactive learning tours. Peer group Discussions. Presentations and interaction of participants in Debates. Exchange of ideas and critical thoughts. Field exercises and sharing of knowledge, skills and the analyses of participants on the following topics focused on the **Facebook European Parliament**.

Let's enjoy https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/institutions-bodies/european-parliament_en

Info educational sheets on topics for development per national team are attached as well as included in digital files via mobiles and facebook group.