# MEP Survey 2000

By the European Parliament Research Group (EPRG) (http://www.lse.ac.uk/Depts/eprg)

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### THIS IS A CONFIDENTIAL SURVEY FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF ACADEMIC RESEARCH

Please complete and return to

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Estimated time to complete survey: 20 minutes

SECTION I. BASIC INFORMATION				
1. In which member state were you elected?				
2. What is your NATIONAL political party?				
3. What is your Party Group in the European Parliament?				
4. Which region, locality or city do you represent (if any)?				
5. On what date did you become an MEP?				<del></del>
6. Are you also a member of your national parliament (either house)?	Yes		No	•
7. Are you a member of an executive organ of your national party?	Yes		No	•
8. Are you, or have you ever been, a President, Vice-President or Quaestor of the EP?	Yes		No	
9. Are you, or have you ever been, a member of the Bureau of your EP party group?	Yes	•	No	•
10. Are you, or have you ever been, a Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson of one of the EP committees?	Yes		No	

SECTION II. BACKGROUND								
11. What was your age at the beginning of July 1999 (in years)? YEARS								
12. What is your gender?	Male _							
	Female .							
13. What do you consider your social class background (e.g. the occupation of your father)? (please tick one box only)								
	Manager or company director	•						
	Private sector professional/white colla	r.						
	Public sector professional/white collar	•						
	Self-employed	•						
	Skilled worker							
	Manual worker	•						
14. How old were you when you stopped fu	ull-time education?							
	Younger than 16 years	•						
	Between 16 and 19 years	•						
	Older than 20 years							

### **SECTION III. CAREER**

15. Have you ever held, or do you currently hold, any of the	ese positions?	(please tick as many boxes as a	pply)
Member of national parliament	Ī	Official (functionnaire) in the	e EP .
Member of national government		Official in another EU institu	ution _
Regional elected office		Official in a professional as	sociation
Local elected office		Official in a trade union	
European Commissioner		Official in a student organis	ation _
National party office		Official in a women's organ	isation _
Regional/local party office	•	Official in a regional/local in	terest group
European party office		Official in a national interes	t group
Assistant to an MEP	•	Official in a European interes	est group
Assistant to a national politician		A 'lobbyist' in Brussels	-
16. Where would you most like to be 10 years from now?	Mer	mber of the European Parliament	
(tick as many boxes as you wish)	Cha	ir of an EP committee	
	Cha	ir of an EP party group	-
	Mer	mber of national parliament	-
	Mer	mber of national government	-
	Eur	opean Commissioner	-
	Hea	nd of a European/International Agend	су _
	Reti	ired from public life	

### **SECTION IV. ATTITUDES**

17. Where would you place yourself on the Left-Right spectrum? (tick one box only)

			•	•		•		•	•
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
LEFT									RIGHT

18. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (tick one box per line)

	Agree Strongly	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Disagree Strongly
a. Greater effort should be made to reduce inequality of income	-	•			•
b. Tougher action should be taken against criminals	-	•			•
c. Government should play a greater role in managing the economy	-				•
d. Women should be free to decide for themselves on abortion	-				•
e. Current welfare spending should be maintained even if it means raising taxes	•			•	•
f. The use of marijuana should be decriminalised	•			•	•
g. It is more important to reduce inflation than to reduce unemployment	•			•	•

19. Where would you place yourself on the question of European integration? (tick one box only)

20. Taking everything into consideration, would you say that your country has benefited or not from EU membership?

(tick one box only)

Benefited

Not Benefited

Don't Know

21. Do you identify most with Europe, your member state, or your region, and which second and third? (tick one box per column)

	First	Second	Third
Europe		•	
My member state		•	
My region		•	

### **SECTION V. EU POLICIES**

22. Do you think there should be more or less EU-wide regulation in the following areas? (tick one box per line)

	A lot more	A little more	About the same	A little less	A lot less
a. Health and safety at work					
b. Labour rights (e.g. working time rules)					
c. Consumer protection standards					
d. Environmental protection standards					
e. Food safety standards					
f. Taxation rates (e.g. harmonised business taxes)					
g. media, broadcasting and audiovisual standards			•		

23. Do you think more or less of the EU budget should be spent on the following areas? (tick one box per line)

	A lot more	A little more	About the same	A little less	A lot less
a. Agricultural price support					
b. Economic and social cohesion					
c. Scientific research and development					•
d. Development aid			•		•
e. Direct unemployment assistance	•		•		-
f. Support for member states with the most refugees	•		•		•

### 24. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about EMU and EU monetary policies? (tick one box per line)

	Agree Strongly	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Disagree Strongly
a. The current interest rate of the European Central Bank is too low	•		•	•	•
b. EcoFin (not the ECB) should set inflation targets in the Euro-zone			•	•	•
c. The EP should have more power to influence interest rates in EMU			•	•	-
d. The minutes of the ECB Governing Council should be available to the public	•	•	•	•	-
e. Governments should be allowed to run deficits of more than 3% of GDP	_	_	_	_	_

25. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about EU trade policies? (tick one box per line)

	Agree Strongly	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Disagree Strongly
a. The EU should promote global free trade at all costs	•	•	-		-
b. The EU should abide by all World Trade Organization rules and rulings			•	•	•
c. The EU should support uniform global labour standards			•	-	•
d. The EU should support uniform global environmental standards			•	-	•
e. All trade barriers between the EU and the USA should be abolished				•	•

26	26. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about EU Justice and Home Affairs policies? (tick one box per line)						
		Agree Strongly	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Disagree Strongly	
	a. The EU should agree common rules for granting political asylum	•	•	•			
	b. The EU should agree common rules for granting EU citizenship	•	•	•			
	<ul> <li>c. For serious crimes, the police in each member state should be able to issue arrest warrants which apply throughout the EU</li> </ul>	•		•		•	
	d. For serious crimes, national courts should automatically recognise rulings by courts in other member states	•				•	
	e. The Council should vote by QMV on all JHA issues	•	•	-			
	f. JHA policies should be adopted using the Co-decision Procedure	-		•		•	

## 27. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about EU foreign and defence policies? (tick one box per line)

	Agree Strongly	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Disagree Strongly
a. "Mr. CFSP" should have the power to set the EU foreign policy agend	la <u>.</u>	•	•	-	•
b. The Commission should have the power to set the EU foreign policy	agenda <u> </u>	-			-
c. The Council should vote by QMV when adopting 'joint actions'	•	-			-
d. The EP should have the power to reject some foreign policy decision		-			-
e. The EU should have its own military units available for 'rapid reaction	,	•	•		•
f. The EU rather than NATO should be responsible for Europe's defend	e .	-		-	

### **SECTION VI. INSTITUTIONAL REFORM**

8. To what extent do you agree/disagree with the following statements about reform of the EU? <b>(tick one box per line)</b> Agree					Disagree	
	Strongly	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly	
<ul> <li>a. The member states, not the Commission nor the European Parliament, ought to remain the central pillars of the EU</li> </ul>	•	•	•		•	
<ul> <li>b. It is imperative that the European Commission becomes the true government of the European Union</li> </ul>	•	•	•		•	
c. QMV should be used in all legislative decisions in the Council		•			•	
<ul> <li>d. The voting-weights of the larger member states (under QMV) should be increased</li> </ul>		•	•	•	•	
e. The larger states should have no more than one Commissioner		•			•	
f. Member states should NOT have an automatic right to a Commissioner		•			•	
g. The powers of the ECJ should be curtailed		•			•	
h. The European Parliament should have the right to initiative legislation		•			•	
<ul> <li>i. The European Parliament should have equal legislative power with the Council in ALL areas of EU policy-making</li> </ul>	•	•	•	•		
j. The EP should be able to amend ALL areas of expenditure in the EU budge	t.	•	-		•	
<ul> <li>k. The Commission President should be nominated by the EP, rather than the national governments</li> </ul>				•	•	
I. Commissioners should be individually approved by the EP under the Assent Procedure				•	•	
m. The EP should be able to remove individual Commissioners from office		•			•	
n. The President of the Commission should be directly-elected		•			•	
o. The EP should be allowed to hold all its plenary sessions in Brussels	•	•	•	•	•	

#### **SECTION VII. REPRESENTATION**

29. When thinking about your work as an MEP, how important are the following aspects of your work? (tick one box per line)

	Of little	_			Of great	
	importance			importar		
	1	2	3	4	5	
Taking part in legislation						
Parliamentary oversight	<del>-</del>	<del>-</del>	<del>-</del>	-	<del>-</del>	
Articulation of important societal needs and interests	=	-	-	-	-	
Developing common strategies for EU policies	<del>-</del>	<del>-</del>	<del>-</del>	<del>-</del>	-	
Mediation between different interests in society	<del>-</del>	-	-	-	-	
Representation of individual interests of individual citizens	<del>-</del>	-	-	-	=	
	_	_	_	_	_	

30. How important is it to you to represent the following groups of people in the European Parliament? (tick one box per line)

	Of little importance				Of great importance		
	1	2	3	4	5		
All people in Europe	·	_	•	•	· ·		
All people in my member state	-	-	-	-	-		
All the people who voted for my party	<del>-</del>	=	=	=	=		
All the people in my constituency	<del>-</del>	=	=	=	=		
My national party	<del>-</del>	=	=	=	=		
My EP party group	-	-	-	-	-		
A specific group in society	<del>-</del>	=	-	=	=		
Which one?	<del>-</del>	=	=	=	=		

Of little

31. How much time do you spend on political wo	rk in your home countr	y rather tha	n work at the	European P	arliament?		
Most of my time e	each week	•	(tick one box only)				
Some of my time	each week	•					
Limited time, mos	stly at weekends	•					
Little or no time		•					
Don't Know		•					
32. MEPs receive requests for information or act			n interest gro	oups. About	how many re	quests from	
the following might you receive in a typical	week! (lick one box	0-10	10-25	25-50	50-100	>100	
a. Individuals from	my constituency	•				•	
b. Other individuals	s from my country		-	•		•	
c. Individuals from	other countries	-		•		-	
d. National interest	groups		•	-	•		
e. European intere	st groups	•			-	-	
33. Which of the following forms of contact with in	ndividuals voters do yo	ou have? (tio	ck all the bo	xes that app	oly)		
Access via a perr	manently staffed office	of my own					
Access via a perr	manently staffed office	shared with	other MEPs				
Access via party-	ran regional or nationa	office					
A PO box or an A	outomated Telephone I	_ink					
Regular consultat	tion sessions (surgerie	s) for individ	lual constitue	ents			
Occasional consu	ultation sessions (surge	eries) for inc	lividual const	tituents			
						12	

### **SECTION VIII. CONTACTS**

34. How frequently are you in contact with the following groups, people or institutions? (tick one box per line)

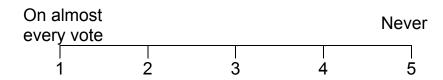
	At least once a week	At least once a month	At least every three months	At least once a year	Less often	No contact
Ordinary citizens				·		
Organised groups	•	•	•	•	•	•
Lobbyists	•	•	•	•	•	•
Journalists	•	•	•	•	•	•
Leaders of my EP party group	•	•	•	•	•	•
MEPs of other parties from my member state	•	•	•	•	•	•
Officials in the Commission	•	•	•	•	•	•
European Commissioners	•	•	•	•	•	•
Officials in the Council Secretariat	•	•	•	•	•	•
Members of COREPER	•	•	•	•	•	•
Ministers in the Council	•	•	•	•	•	•
Members of the Economic and Social Committee	•	•	•	•	•	•
Officials in the European Court of Justice	•	•	•	•	•	•
Members of the Committee of the Regions	•	•	•	•	•	•
Members of my national party executive	•	•	•	•	•	•
MPs from my national parliament	•	•	•	•	•	•
Ministers from my national government	•	•	•	•	•	•
Civil servants from my national government	•	•	•	•	•	•
-	•	•	•		•	•

### 35. How frequently are you in contact with the following interest groups? (tick one box per line)

	At least once a week	At least once a month	At least every three months	At least once a year	Less often	No contact
National Interest Groups				<b>,</b>		
Consumer associations						
Environmental organisations	-	_	-	-	-	<del>-</del>
Trade unions	=	=	_	=	=	<del>-</del>
Professional associations	-	-	=	=	=	-
Agriculture/fisheries organisations	-	-	<del>-</del>	-	-	-
Industry organisations	=	-	=	=	=	-
Transport associations	=	-	-	=	=	-
Trade and commerce associations	-	-	<del>-</del>	-	-	-
Banking and insurance associations	-	-	<del>-</del>	-	-	-
European Interest Groups Consumer associations (e.g. EUROCOOP, BEUC)	-	-	<del>-</del>	-	-	-
Environmental organisations (e.g. EEB, Greenpeace)	-	-	-	=	=	-
European trade unions (e.g. ETUC)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Professional associations (e.g. SEPLIS)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Agriculture/fisheries organisations (e.g. COPA)	-	-	<del>-</del>	-	-	-
Industry organisations (e.g. UNICE)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transport associations (e.g. LR/RU)	-	-	<del>-</del>	-	-	-
Trade and commerce associations (e.g. FIPMEC)	=	=	-	=	=	-
Banking and insurance associations (e.g. GCECEE)	=	=	=	=	=	=
Human rights organisations (e.g. Amnesty)	-	=	-	=	=	-
	-	•	•	•	•	•

#### **SECTION IX. LEGISLATIVE BEHAVIOUR**

36. How often do you receive recommendations on which way to vote from the following parties or groups? (tick one box per line)



You national party leadership

Your EP party group leadership

Your national party delegation of MEPs

Your EP committee leadership

The European Commission

Your national government

European interest groups

National interest groups

Private citizens

37. On issues in the EP, how often is your position the same as the majority in these Party Groups? (tick one box per line)



European People's Party/European Democrats (PPE/DE)

Party of European Socialists (PSE)

European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party (ELDR)

Greens/European Free Alliance (V/ALE)

European United Left/Nordic Green Left (GUE/NGL)

Union for a Europe of Nations (UEN)

Technical Group of Independents (TDI)

Group for a Europe of Democracies and Diversities (EDD)

38. In many cases people have different views concerning matters before the European Parliament. On which of the following would you be most inclined to base your decision in such cases? **(tick one box per column)** 

	1st choice	2nd choice	3rd choice
Follow my own judgement	•	•	•
Follow the views of the voters of my party	•	•	•
Follow the view of my national party leadership	•	•	
Follow the view of my EP party group			-

39. If you had the chance to win any of the following posts, which one would you choose? (tick one box per column)

	1st choice	2nd choice	3rd choice
President of my EP party group	•	•	•
Leader of my national party delegation	•		•
President of the European Parliament	•		•
Chairperson of my EP committee	_	<u>-</u>	_

40. Here are a list of reasons why MEPs choose which EP committee to join. How important were each of these reasons in deciding which committee to join after the 1999 European elections? **(tick one box per line)** 

	Extremely Important	Moderately important	Somewhat important	Only a little important	Not at all important
a. The committee concerns my personal interests	•	•			-
b. The committee is important to my constituents	•	•			•
c. The committee tackles topics in which I have professional	expertise .	•			•
d. The committee covers important issues	•	•			-
e. I was asked to serve on the committee by my EP party gr	oup _	•			•
f. I was asked to serve on the committee by my national part	ty <u> </u>	•			•
g. I was a member of this committee in the last European Pa	arliament	•			•