



Scorecards Analysis and Summary

Purpose and methodology

With the European elections approaching, CAN Europe wanted to provide people with some background information on how Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and political parties represented in the European Parliament – both national and Europe-wide - have supported or rejected climate and energy policy development in the last five years. With this information in hand, European citizens now have the opportunity to act on their desire for increased climate action in the upcoming election by voting for MEPs who supported stronger climate policies and are running for re-election or by casting their votes for the most supportive parties. CAN Europe's European Parliament scorecards provide a ranking of both political parties and individual MEPs based on ten crucial climate and energy votes that took place during the 2009-2014 parliamentary term.

The votes in question cover proposals to improve the EU's Emissions Trading Scheme, the Mechanism for Monitoring and Reporting emissions, the 2030 renewable energy and energy savings targets, the 2020 greenhouse gas emissions reductions target, the 2030 greenhouse gas emission reduction target, renewable energy policies, energy savings policies, the European support to the international climate negotiations, the integration of climate change in EU development policies and provision of international climate finance.

The scores were based on the votes of all MEPs on these ten issues. For each vote, MEPs were either given a point for voting positively (i.e. either 'for' or 'against', depending on if the text furthered or hindered the development of climate and energy policies) or no points for any of the other voting behaviours (i.e. "against", 'abstain', 'absent', 'didn't vote'). Overall scores were assigned to each MEP by averaging out their points. The same was done for the European Parliament's political groups and all national political parties represented at the European Parliament, based on the points of their respective MEPs. Finally, scores were grouped into four bands that we named for ease of use: *very good* (75-100%), *good* (50-74%), *bad* (25-49%) and *very bad* (0-24%).

More information on the choice of votes and details of each vote (e.g. content, context, references) can be found in the Scorecards Background Document.



Analysis of results

In this brief analysis, we tried to bring out the major patterns that arose from the voting records we have compiled for all MEPs of the present term.¹

The analysis focuses firstly on MEPs in general, secondly on their European political groups, thirdly on their member states, and lastly on their national parties.

MEPs in general

The average score of all MEPs is *good* (57%), and the median is 60%.

More than a third (36%) of all MEPs achieved a rank of *very good*, less than a third (27%) were scored *good*, less than a quarter (22%) fell into the category of *bad*, and the remainder (15%) were ranked *very bad*.

A majority of MEPs scored either *very good* or *good*, which in general reflects the fact that out of the three EU institutions (European Commission, European Council and European Parliament) the Parliament is still the most supportive of increased climate action. Unfortunately in the current decision-making process, (in particular during the so-called triilogue between the three institutions) the Parliament is often less influential. However, due to recent legislative changes, the Parliament's influence will increase in the future.²

Political groups of the European Parliament

When looking at the scores on the basis of the political groups as represented in the European Parliament, we observe that:

- The first position goes both to Greens/EFA (the European Free Alliance is a coalition of regional parties) and S&D (the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats; made up of socialist and Social Democratic parties), who both have a *very good* score, voting positively for three quarters of the votes (88% and 83% respectively);
- In second place come GUE/NGL (European United Left/Nordic Green Left Group; mainly made up of communist parties) and ALDE (Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Group; liberal-centrist parties), who both obtained a *good* score by voting positively for slightly less than two thirds of the votes (67% and 62% respectively);

¹ Incoming and outgoing MEPs were included in the analysis, except for the Croatians who were only present for three of the ten votes due to Croatia's very recent accession to the EU.

² These changes include greater influence over the leadership and composition of the next European Commission, as well as the future of climate and energy policies in Europe.



- Third place is held by EPP (Group of the European People's Party; centre-right parties, mainly Christian Democratic) and ECR (European Conservatives and Reformists; right-wing parties, mostly conservative) with bad scores (45% and 25% respectively);
- And lastly, the EFD (Europe of Freedom and Democracy; right-wing and far-right parties) with a very bad score (15%).³

Based on all this data, we can conclude that there is a relatively clear right-left division in the voting results. The more to the right a political group is, the more likely they are to have scored badly on climate.

Member States

When comparing the average voting behaviour on the basis of the nationality of MEPs, we see that:

- Estonia, Portugal and Sweden are the only member states with on average a *very good* score (82%, 75% and 75% respectively);
- Most other countries score *good*: Ireland (74%), Denmark (72%), Austria (69%), Spain (67%), Belgium (66%), France (66%), Slovakia (65%), Finland (63%), Slovenia (63%), Cyprus (62%), Romania (61%), Germany (60%), Netherlands (59%), Greece (57%), Lithuania (56%), Latvia (56%), Luxembourg (55%), Bulgaria (52%), Italy (51%), Malta (50%);
- Four countries score *bad*: Czech Republic (49%), Hungary (46%), United Kingdom (43%) and Poland (33%).

When looking at the upper half of the Member states' ranking, we note that:

- There are only a few new member states represented (Estonia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Cyprus) of which one is of the Visegrad countries, which are usually seen in the EU as the ones blocking climate ambition;
- There are only two of the bigger member states (France and Spain) in the better half, and so-called climate leaders as UK and Germany are in the lower half;
- All three Nordic countries are in the upper half;
- Moreover, a few surprising countries are at the bottom of the ranking: UK MEPs score *bad*, and Italy is at the bottom of those who score *good*.

³ Non-attached MEPs (ones not attached to any political group) fared badly (25%).



National Parties

An overview of the ranking of parties per country can be found in the national scorecards. Most national parties follow the voting behaviour of their EU Groups, but there are exceptions. Below we have highlighted a few:

- Among the EU groups that did *very good* on average, the big exception within the Greens/EFA is Aralar (Spain, 33%) which did *bad*, and within the S&Ds, Unia Pracy (Poland, 30%) and Parti ouvrier socialiste luxembourgeois (Luxembourg, 10%) which respectively did *bad* and *very bad*;
- Of the EU groups that did *good* on average, the Communist Party of Greece (10%) did *very bad*; and within ALDE the parties that did *bad* are Latvijas Pirmā Partija/Latvijas Ceļš (Latvia, 40%), Drassi (Greece, 40%), Freie Demokratische Partei (Germany, 35%), Volkspartij voor Vrijheid en Democratie (Netherlands, 33%), and Darbo partija (Lithuania, 30%);
- Concerning the EU groups that did *bad* on average, parties that did *very bad* are all from ECR: Občanská demokratická strana (Czech Republic, 24%), Lietuvos lenkų rinkimų akcija (Lithuania, 20%), Ulster Conservatives and Unionists-New Force (United Kingdom, 20%), Prawo i Sprawiedliwość (Poland, 19%), and Polska Jest Najważniejsza (Poland, 17%).

Similarly a number of national parties scored better than their European group average, for example, within the political groups that scored *bad*:

- EPP: Parti Radical (France, 75%), Kristdemokraterna (Sweden, 70%), Centre Démocrate Humaniste (Belgium, 70%), Det Konservative Folkeparti (Denmark, 70%), Union des Démocrates et Indépendants (France, 70%), Nouveau Centre (France, 69%), Österreichische Volkspartei (Austria, 65%), Partido Social Democrata (Portugal, 63%), Christen Democratisch Appèl (Netherlands, 62%), Kansallinen Kokoomus (Finland, 62%), Partido Popular (Portugal, 60%), Slovenská demokratická a kresťanská únia - Demokratická strana (Slovakia, 60%), Christlich Soziale Partei (Belgium, 60%), Erakond Isamaa ja Res Publica Liit (Estonia, 60%), Fine Gael Party (Ireland, 60%);
- ECR: ChristenUnie (Netherlands, 70%), Conservatori e Social Riformatori (Italy, 60%).

You can access the full set of scorecards and background documents by visiting:

www.caneurope.org/VoteForClimateAction