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European Parliament Elections – 1979 to 1994

This paper presents a summary of direct elections to the European Parliament since 1979, in advance of elections in June 1999. It concentrates on elections in the UK, but covers some aspects of those in other EU countries as well.

A research paper analysing the 1999 election results will be published separately.

Richard Cracknell & Bryn Morgan

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Summary of main points

- Elections to the European Parliament are due to take place in June 1999. These will be the fifth set of elections to the European Parliament.
- 87 of the total 626 MEPs will be elected from the UK.
- Between 1979 and 1994 elections in GB were on a first-past-the-post basis. From 1999 a new regional list system will be used.
- European election turnout in the UK is relatively low. In 1994 36% of the electorate voted.
- Had it been in place, the main beneficiary of the new electoral system in 1994 would have been the Liberal Democrats, whose representation in the European Parliament would have risen from 2 to 11. The Conservatives too would have increased their MEPs from 18 to 26.

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I Introduction

Elections will take place to the European Parliament throughout the EU between 10 and 13 June 1999. This paper sets out results of previous elections to the European Parliament, largely for the UK, and provides some background to the electoral system which is to be used in Great Britain for the first time nationally.

European Parliament Elections 1999

Polling Days

United Kingdom, Denmark, Netherlands	Thursday, 10 June (Polls open in UK 7 am - 10 pm)
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Ireland	Friday, 11 June
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Austria, Belgium, France, Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal, Spain, Sweden	Sunday, 13 June
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The Count in the UK

Verification of ballot papers will take place at UK Parliamentary constituency level on Thursday, 10 June 1999 as soon as practicable after the polls close.

The count will not begin until the polling stations close at 9 pm on Sunday, 13 June across Europe. Regional returning officers should be in a position to announce their results either late in the evening of Sunday 13 June or in the early hours of Monday 14 June, depending upon how long it has taken for the votes to be counted in their region.

II Elections since 1979

The first direct elections to the European Parliament took place in June 1979, when nine European nations went to the polls to elect the members of a single Parliament. Previously, members of the European Parliament had been delegates from national parliaments. Direct elections have taken place at five-yearly intervals since then in 1984, 1989, 1994 and 1999.

The development of the European Parliament

The ECSC was given a 'parliamentary assembly', which met for the first time in September 1952 in Strasbourg

25 March 1957: the six founding States created the European Economic Community (EEC), through the Treaty of Rome (1957). The European Parliament then numbered **142 Members** delegated by their national parliaments.

January 1973: The Europe of the Six became the Europe of the Nine with the accession of Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom. The European Parliament increased in size to **198 Members**.

June 1979: the European Parliament was elected by direct universal suffrage, **410 Members** elected in the nine Member States.

January 1981: the accession of Greece to the Community's 10th Member State increased the number of **MEPs to 434**.

January 1986: the accession of Spain and Portugal to the European Community increased the number of **MEPs to 518**.

June 1994: fourth European Parliament elections by direct universal suffrage. The number of **Members rose to 567** to take account of German unification

3 January 1995: accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden. European Parliament membership increased to **626 Members**

Source: European Parliament *The European Parliament: an overview* [<http://www1.europarl.eu.int>]

A. UK Elections to the European Parliament

Table 1 shows the number of votes for each party at euro-elections in the UK since 1979. In Great Britain these were on a first-past-the-post basis, with constituencies comprising a number of Westminster seats. In Northern Ireland they have been on the basis of a system of single transferable vote - the table shows first preference votes only.

Table 1**Votes by party - 1979 to 1994**

	1979	1984	1989	1994
Great Britain				
Labour	4,253,207	4,865,261	6,153,661	6,753,881
Conservative	6,508,493	5,426,821	5,331,098	4,268,539
Liberal Democrat (a)	1,691,531	1,358,145 (c)	944,861	2,557,887
Scottish National	247,836	230,594	406,686	487,237
Plaid Cymru	83,399	103,031	115,062	162,478
Green (b)	17,953	70,853	2,292,718	494,561
SDP		1,233,490 (c)	75,886	
UK Independence				150,251
Natural Law				96,554
Liberal				100,500
Other	71,433	24,678	41,295	220,834
Total	12,873,852	13,312,873	15,361,267	15,292,722
Northern Ireland (first preference votes)				
Democratic Unionist	170,688	230,251	160,110	163,246
SDLP	140,622	151,399	136,335	161,992
Ulster Unionist	125,169	147,169	118,785	133,459
Sinn Fein		91,476	48,914	55,215
Alliance	39,026	34,046	27,905	23,157
Ulster Independence Movement				7,858
Conservative			25,789	5,583
Workers Party	4,418	8,712	5,590	2,543
Natural Law				2,291
Other	92,316	22,264	11,383	4,523
Total	572,239	685,317	534,811	559,867

(a) SLD in 1989/Liberal SDP Alliance in 1984/Liberal Party in 1979

(b) Ecology Party in 1979 and 1984

(c) The Liberal/SDP Alliance total 2,591,635

Sources: Research Paper 94/78

Craig & Mackie *Europe Votes 3*

Home Office Statistical Bulletin 26/84

Home Office *European Assembly election expenses 1979*

Table 2 expresses votes for each party as a proportion of the totals in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

	Share of votes by party - 1979 to 1994			
	1979	1984	1989	1994
Great Britain (% share in GB)				
Labour	33%	37%	40%	44%
Conservative	51%	41%	35%	28%
Liberal Democrat (a)	13%	10% (c)	6%	17%
Scottish National	2%	2%	3%	3%
Plaid Cymru	1%	1%	1%	1%
Green (b)	0%	1%	15%	3%
SDP		9% (c)	0%	
UK Independence				1%
Natural Law				1%
Liberal				1%
Other	1%	0%	0%	1%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%
Northern Ireland (% share of first preference votes in NI)				
Democratic Unionist	30%	34%	30%	29%
SDLP	25%	22%	25%	29%
Ulster Unionist	22%	21%	22%	24%
Sinn Fein		13%	9%	10%
Alliance	7%	5%	5%	4%
Ulster Independence Movement				1%
Conservative			5%	1%
Workers Party	1%	1%	1%	0%
Natural Law				0%
Other	16%	3%	2%	1%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

(a) SLD in 1989/Liberal SDP Alliance in 1984/Liberal Party in 1979

(b) Ecology Party in 1979 and 1984

(c) The Liberal/SDP Alliance total 19%

Sources: Research Paper 94/78
 Craig & Mackie *Europe Votes 3*
 Home Office Statistical Bulletin 26/84
 HomeOffice *European Assembly election expenses 1979*

Table 3 details the number of UK MEPs by party since 1979. The overall number has risen from 81 to 87. Labour and Conservative representation following the 1994 elections was roughly the reverse of the 1979 position. Around three-quarters of UK MEPs elected in 1994 were Labour, similar to the proportion which was Conservative in 1979.

In 1994, the Liberal Democrats gained their first European Parliament seats – Cornwall & West Plymouth and Somerset & North Devon – and the SNP increased their number of MEPs from 1 to 2.

Table 3**UK MEPs by party - 1979 to 1994**

	1979	1984	1989	1994
Great Britain				
Labour	17	32	45	62
	<i>(Number)</i>			
	21%	40%	56%	71%
	<i>(% of UK MEPs)</i>			
Conservative	60	45	32	18
	<i>(Number)</i>			
	74%	56%	40%	21%
	<i>(% of UK MEPs)</i>			
Liberal Democrat				2
Scottish National	1	1	1	2
Total	78	78	78	84
Northern Ireland				
Democratic Unionist	1	1	1	1
SDLP	1	1	1	1
Ulster Unionist	1	1	1	1
Total	3	3	3	3
Total UK	81	81	81	87

B. By-elections

Under the former electoral system by-elections were held following the death or loss of office of a UK MEP. Results of all the by-elections to date are set out in Table 4. Under the new system by-elections are less likely, as replacement MEPs will generally be drawn from regional lists.

Table 4 By-elections for European Parliament seats 1979-1998

Parliament	Date	Constituency			
1979-84					
	20.9.79	London SW	caused by disqualification of Shelagh Roberts who at the time of election held an office of profit under the Crown.		
			Change since 79		
			Votes	%	%
Shelagh Roberts		Conservative	41,096	41.2	-10.8
Tony Hart		Labour	32,632	32.7	0.5
Christopher Mayhew		Liberal	23,842	23.9	10.7
		Others (2) #	2,135	2.2	-0.4
		Majority	8,464	8.5	
		Turnout		19.4	
		# W O Smedley Anti Common Market and Free Trade Party	1,830	1.9%	
		D Hussey Independent	305	0.3%	
		Source: Craig & Mackie, Europe Votes 1, Daily Telegraph 22.9.1979			
1984-89					
	5.3.87	Midlands West	caused by death of sitting MEP, Terry Pitt		
			Change since 84		
			Votes	%	%
John Bird		Lab	59,761	39.2	-11.5
Michael Whitby		Con	55,736	36.5	-0.7
Christopher Carter		Lib/All	37,106	24.3	12.2
		Majority	4,025	2.6	
		Turnout		28.2	
	15.12.88	Hampshire Central	caused by death of sitting Conservative MEP, Basil de Ferranti		
Edward Kellett-Bowman		Con	38,039	49.0	-2.8
John Arnold		Lab	16,597	21.4	-2.6
David Chidgey		SLD	13,392	17.3	-6.9
Martin Attlee		SDP	5,952	7.7	
Sally Penton		Green	3,603	4.6	
		Majority	21,442	27.6	
		Turnout		14.1	

Source: BBC Election Handbook 1989

1994-99

12.12.96 **Merseyside West**caused by death of sitting Labour MEP,
Kenneth Stewart

		Votes	Change since 94	
			%	%
Richard Corbett	Lab	31,484	53.8	-4.6
Jeremy Myers	Con	12,780	21.8	1.8
Kiron Reid	Lib Dem	8,829	15.1	1.0
Others (3) #		5,448	9.3	
Majority		18,704	32.0	
Turnout			11.3	

Stephen Radford Liberal Party 4,050 6.9%
 Simon Darby National Democrat 718 1.2%
 John Collins Natural Law Party 680 1.2%

Source: Returning Officer

7.5.98 **South Yorkshire**caused by resignation/retirement of sitting Labour MEP,
Norman West

Linda McAvan	Lab	62,275	52.2	-20.5
Diana Paulette-Wallis	Lib Dem	22,051	18.5	10.6
Robert Goodwill	Con	21,085	17.7	3.9
Peter Davies	UKIP	13,830	11.6	9.0
Majority		40,224	33.7	
Turnout			23.4	

Source: Doncaster Elections Office

26-Nov-98 **NE Scotland**caused by death of sitting SNP MEP
Dr Allan Macartney

Ian Hudghton	Scottish Nat	57,445	47.6	4.9
Struan Stevenenson	Con	23,744	19.7	1.1
Kathleen Walkershaw	Scot Lab	23,086	19.1	-9.3
Keith Raffan	Scot Lib Dem	11,753	9.7	1.5
Harvey Duke	Scot Socialist	2,510	2.1	n.a
Robin Harper	Scot Green	2,067	1.7	0.5
Majority		33,701	27.9	
Turnout			20.5	

Source: Aberdeen Elections Office

C. Elections in other countries

1. Method

The system being used in Britain is similar to that being used in France, Germany, Greece, Portugal and Spain to elect their MEPs. The change in the system in the GB means all 626 MEPs will be elected under some form of proportional representation.

Country	Form of proportional system ¹	Constituency
Austria	D'Hondt system. Electors have one vote which can be cast either for a list or for a candidate on list.	National
Belgium	D'Hondt system. Votes can be cast either for a list or for a candidate on list.	Regional
Denmark	D'Hondt system. Votes can be cast either for a list or for a candidate on list.	National
Finland	D'Hondt system.	National; there are 4 voting regions but the vote is counted nationally. The parties can put up candidates for the whole country or for the 4 voting areas.
France	D'Hondt system. Electors have one vote which is cast for a list only.	National
Germany	Votes are counted at Federal level using the Hare-Niemeyer system	Federal and Land lists
Greece	Electors have one vote which is cast for a list only. Votes are counted using the Hagenbach-Bischoff method	National
Ireland	Single transferrable vote	Regional – 4 constituencies
Italy	Votes are counted at national level using the Hare method. If a constituency list has not obtained the quota they are transferred to the constituency in which the party has obtained a relative majority of the votes cast.	Regional – 5 constituencies
Luxembourg	Each voter has as many votes as there are seats; votes counted using the Hagenbach-Bischoff method. Votes can be cast for a whole list or distributed among individual candidates.	National
Netherlands	D'Hondt system.	National
Portugal	D'Hondt system; votes are cast for a list with a fixed order of candidates	National
Spain	D'Hondt system; votes are cast for a list with a fixed order of candidates	National
Sweden	Modified St Lagüe method	National

Source: Andrew Duff *Electoral Reform of the European Parliament* (Federal Trust 1996)

¹ An explanation of different methods of quota allocation is in Research Paper 98/112 (pp. 78-80)

2. Turnout

Turnout in the UK at euro-elections has been relatively low by comparison with general elections and european elections in other countries.

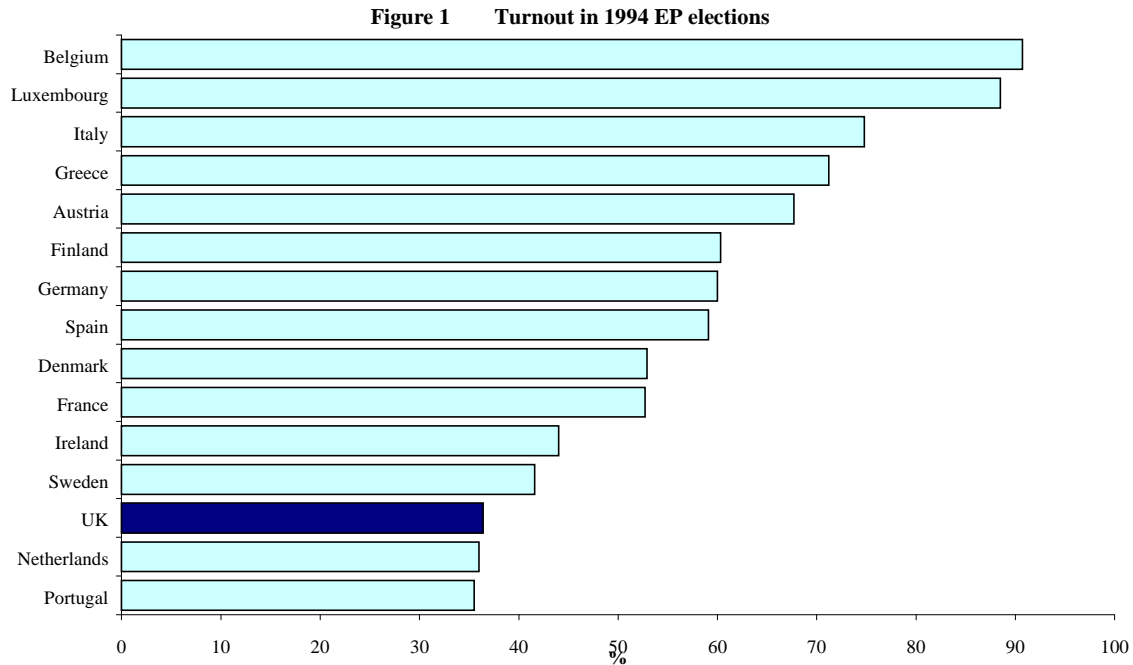


Table 5 Voter turnout across the EU (1979 to 1994)

		1979	1984	1989	1994
Austria		-	-	-	68 (a)
Belgium	#	92	92	91	91
Denmark		47	52	46	53
Finland		-	-	-	60 (a)
France		61	57	49	53
Germany		66	57	62	60
Greece		79 (b)	77	80	71
Ireland		64	48	68	44
Italy		86	84	82	75
Luxembourg	#	89	87	87	89
Netherlands		58	51	47	36
Portugal		-	72 (c)	51	36
Sweden		-	-	-	42 (a)
Spain		-	69 (c)	55	59
UK		32	33	36	36
EU (average)		63	61	59	57

(a) 1996

(b) 1981

(c) 1987

mandatory voting

Source: European Parliament *Election Facts* <http://www.europarl.eu/int/election/UK>

3. Composition of EP

a. Women

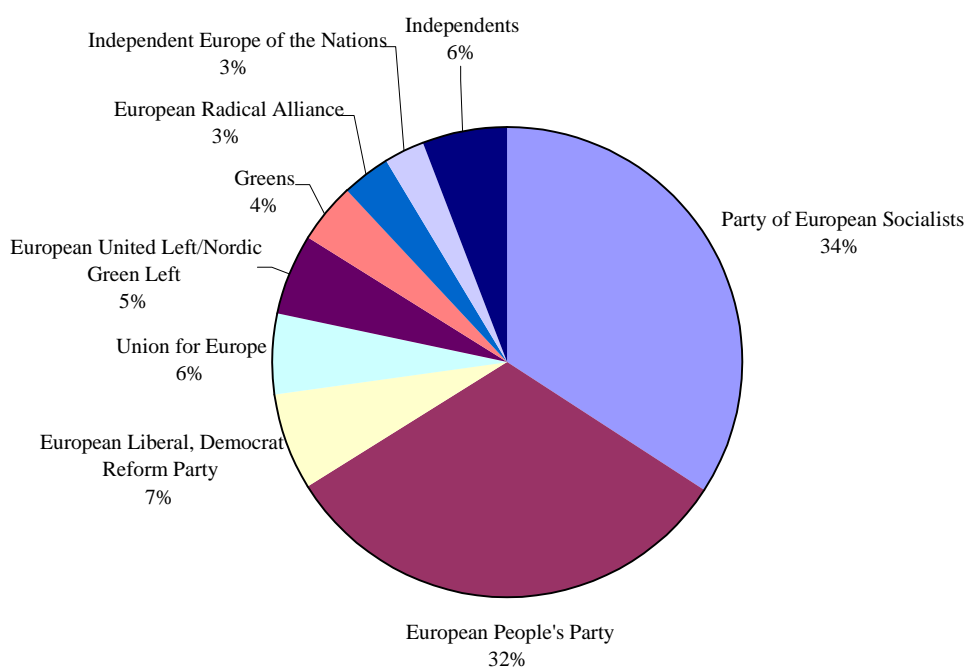
There are 169 women MEPs in the European Parliament, 27% of the total membership. Female representation ranges from 50% for Finland to 14% for Italy. The UK currently has 17 female MEPs out of a total representation of 87, equivalent to 20%.

b. Political Groups

MEPs do not sit in national delegations in the Parliament, but in multinational political groups. The largest group is the European Socialists, which includes the British Labour MEPs. Conservative MEPs sit with the second largest group, the European Peoples' Party. Britain's three Liberal Democrat MEPs are members of the European Liberal Group, while two Scottish Nationalist MEPs sit with the European Radical Alliance. The other political groups are: the Union for Europe Group; the Group of the European United Left/Nordic Green Left; the Greens; the Independent Europe of the Nations group; and Independent MEPs.

Figure 2

Political Groups in the European Parliament



The composition of the groups by country is shown in Table 6, overleaf:

Table 6 Political Groups by Country in the European Parliament
Pre-June 1999 elections

Country	PES	EPP	ELDR	EUL/ NGL					Country	
				UFE	Greens	ERA	I-EN	Ind	Total	
Austria	6	7	1	-	-	1	-	-	6	21
Belgium	6	7	6	-	-	2	1	-	3	25
Denmark	4	3	5	-	-	-	-	4	-	16
Finland	4	4	5	-	2	1	-	-	-	16
France	16	11	1	18	7	-	12	10	12	87
Germany	40	47	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	99
Greece	10	9	-	2	4	-	-	-	-	25
Ireland	1	4	1	7	-	2	-	-	-	15
Italy	19	35	4	4	5	3	2	-	15	87
Luxembourg	2	2	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	6
Netherlands	7	9	10	2	-	1	-	2	-	31
Portugal	10	9	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	25
Spain	21	30	2	-	9	-	2	-	-	64
Sweden	7	5	3	-	3	4	-	-	-	22
UK	61	17	3	-	1	1	2	1	1	87
Group Total	214	199	42	36	34	27	20	17	37	626

Source: Vachers *European Companion* (updated to take account of November 1998 by-election)

PES – Party of European Socialists – The largest group in the Parliament. It comprises members from all EU states, including British Labour MEPs and John Hume from the SDLP.

EPP – The European People’s Party has members from all EU states. Mainly comprises Christian Democrat parties but also includes British Conservatives who are affiliated but not full members of the Group. Also includes Fine Gael members from Ireland and the ‘Forza’ movement from Italy.

ELDR – The European Liberal, Democrat and Reform Party. Has its largest membership from the Netherlands as well as British Liberal Democrats.

UFE – Union for Europe. Membership includes: French former Guallist MEPs, Fianna Fail Irish members, Greek members from the Political Spring party, Centre Party Portuguese members.

UL/NGL – The Confederal Group of the European United Left/Nordic Green Left. Comprises Green/Left parties from Denmark, Finland, Greece, Italy, Spain and Sweden as well as members of Communist parties from France, Greece and Portugal.

Greens – The Greens, with representatives from 9 member states (including one elected Labour Member from the UK)

ERA – The European Radical Alliance. Based around the French Radical Party; also includes Scottish Nationalist MEPs and members of Spanish and Belgian regional parties.

I-EN – The Independent Europe of the Nations Groups. Composed of French members who led the opposition in France to the Maastricht Treaty, Danish anti-marketeters, two Dutch members from smaller parties and Jim Nicholson of the Ulster Unionists.

Ind – Independents. Includes French and Belgian National Front Members, the Italian Lega Nord and Ian Paisley.

III The 1999 Elections

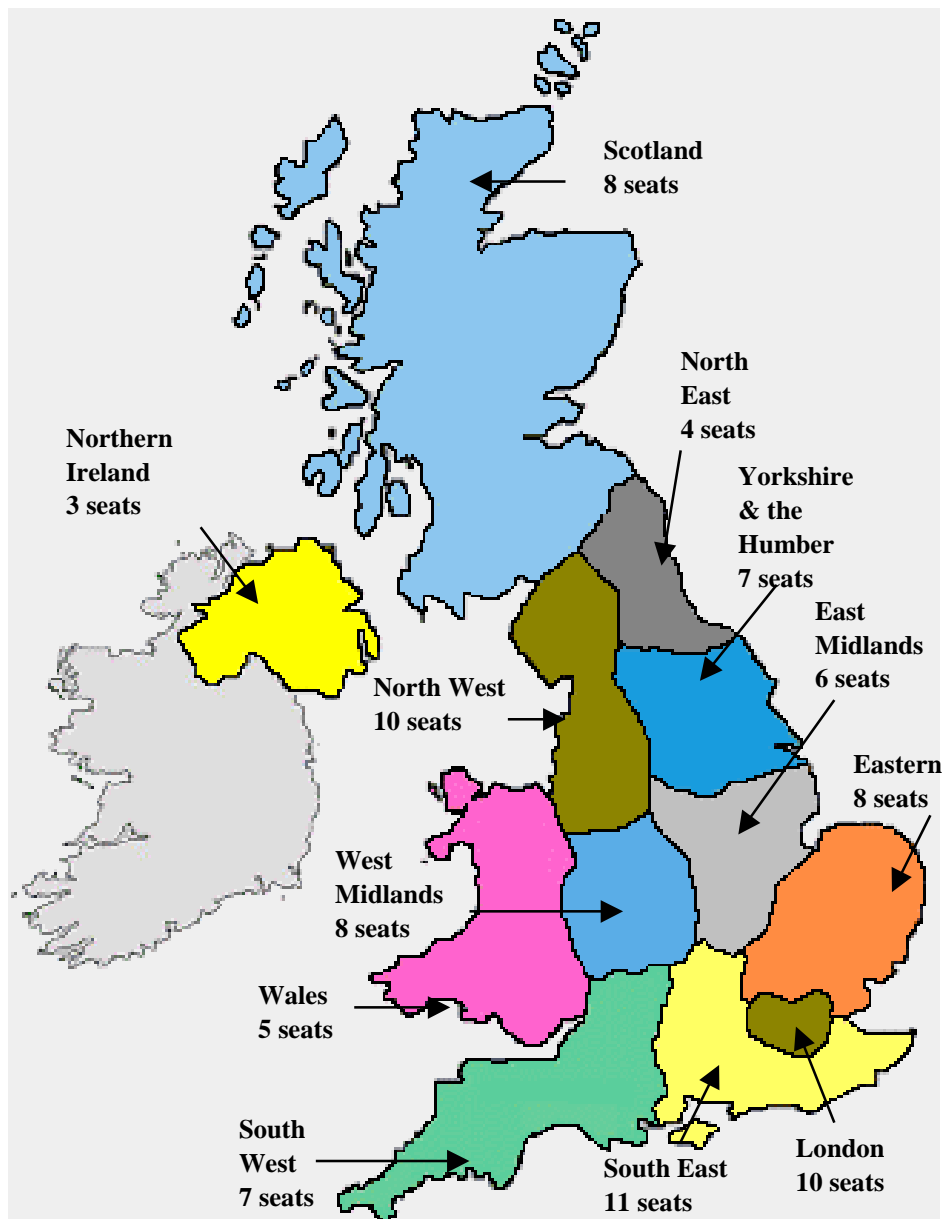
A. The new election system in the UK

In Great Britain, elections have previously been on a first-past-the-post basis. The 1999 elections will be held under a regional list system. This requires multi-member constituencies where the voter chooses between the lists of different parties, but cannot normally reorder the list of candidates, although some variants exist (for example Belgium) where some preference for individuals can be given. There were a series of debates and votes during the passage of the legislation on the merits or otherwise of an open list system, where voters could indicate personal preferences for particular candidates². The Act, as passed under the Parliament Acts procedure, introduced the closed list procedure.

Seats in the constituency are allocated between the parties according to their share of the vote and the results are broadly proportional to the vote share. The d'Hondt quota is used to allocate seats, and this is the same quota as used for the additional member aspect of the elections for the Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly. A worked example of the system is shown in Figure 5 (page 21). Individual candidates may stand as well as registered parties, but there are expected to be no more than 10 individuals standing in England.

The total number of MEPs in the UK remains the same at 87, (71 England, 8 Scotland, 5 Wales, 3 Northern Ireland). However European Parliament constituencies as known up to now cease to exist, except in Northern Ireland which retains its STV voting system. Instead Scotland and Wales now form one single electoral region each and MEPs for these electoral regions no longer have territorial constituencies, but represent the electoral region as a whole. England is divided into nine regions based on the current Government Offices for the Regions, except for combining Merseyside and the North West. Between 6 and 11 MEPs will be returned for each English region, dependent on the electorate of the region. The regions and the number of MEPs are illustrated in figure 3:

² see Research Paper no 98/102 *The European Parliamentary Elections Bill* for further details

Figure 3 Electoral regions, seats and electorates.

Region	European Electors	Seats	Electors per seat
England	37,033,434	71	521,598
East Midlands	3,195,665	6	532,611
Eastern	4,053,900	8	506,738
London	4,972,495	10	497,250
North East	1,969,966	4	492,492
North West	5,209,540	10	520,954
South East	6,023,991	11	547,636
South West	3,777,497	7	539,642
West Midlands	4,034,992	8	504,374
Yorkshire & The Humber	3,795,388	7	542,198
Wales	2,229,826	5	445,965
Scotland	4,015,399	8	501,925
Northern Ireland	1,202,929	3	400,976
UK	44,481,588	87	511,283

Source: UK Electoral Statistics 1999, ONS

1. How the regional list system works

Political parties will put forward lists of candidates in their preferred order. Individual independent candidates will also be able to stand. On election day, voters will cast one vote. They can vote either for a party list or for an independent candidate. The ranking order of candidates on a party list cannot be changed.

On completion of the poll, votes for each individual candidate and each party will be counted. The first seat will be allocated to the individual or party with the highest number of votes. If the seat is allocated to a party, it will go to the first candidate on that party's list. The second seat will be allocated in the same way except that if the first seat was allocated to a party, that party's total will be divided by two. The process will continue until all the seats are allocated. At all stages, parties' original totals are divided by the number of seats that party has already been allocated, plus one. If a party wins more than one seat, its candidates will be elected in the order in which they appear on the party list.

An example ballot paper is reproduced in **Figure 4**.






Election for the European Parliament							
SOUTHWEST REGION ■ 7 SEATS							
<p>You vote for a party or an independent, not for individual candidates. Parties win seats according to the share of votes they get. Names are taken from the top of each party's list to fill their seats.</p> <p>You have <u>one</u> vote.</p>							
 Mark an <input type="checkbox"/> in one box.	<input type="checkbox"/> 	<input type="checkbox"/> 	<input type="checkbox"/> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Conservative party	Liberal Democrats	Green party	Cornish Alliance	Labour party	Independent: N6 federal Europe	Independent: Socialist
	Lord Plumb MEP Bryan Cassidy MEP Sheila Jones Giles Chichester MEP Caroline Jackson MEP Peter Wiley Justin Fletcher	Robin Teverson MEP Graham Watson MEP Mark Peters Sheila Johnson Margaret Isherwood Sonia Hallett Richard Pascoe	Colin Anderson Richard Smith Patrick Annerley Jason Fisher	Jack Cowan Ian Fraser Euan Hazlitt	Ian White MEP Peter Jackson Helen Jones Nigel Ely Fraser Tyndale John Hanna Rachel Kelmscott	Clive Kitchen	Rosie Kane

Figure 4 – example ballot paper

Figure 5 Hypothetical example of the new electoral system

The following example shows how the seats would be allocated in a 7-member region with 1 million votes cast:

Stage 1

Labour (total)	380 000
Conservative (total)	300 000
Liberal Democrat (total)	180 000
Independent candidate	140 000

The first seat is allocated to the candidate at the top of the **Labour** list.

Stage 2

Labour (divided by 2)	190 000
Conservative	300 000
Liberal Democrat	180 000
Independent candidate	140 000

The second seat is allocated to the candidate at the top of the **Conservative** list.

Stage 3

Labour (divided by 2)	190 000
Conservative (divided by 2)	150 000
Liberal Democrat	180 000
Independent Candidate	140 000

The third seat is allocated to the candidate in second place on the **Labour** list.

Stage 4

Labour (divided by 3)	126 666
Conservative (divided by 2)	150 000
Liberal Democrat	180 000
Independent candidate	140 000

The fourth seat is allocated to the candidate at the top of the **Liberal Democrat** list.

Stage 5

Labour (divided by 3)	126 666
Conservative (divided by 2)	150 000
Liberal Democrat (divided by 2)	90 000
Independent candidate	140 000

The fifth seat is allocated to the candidate in second place on the **Conservative** list.

Stage 6

Labour (divided by 3)	126 666
Conservative (divided by 3)	100 000
Liberal Democrat (divided by 2)	90 000
Independent candidate	140 000

The sixth seat is allocated to the **independent** candidate.

Stage 7

Labour (divided by 3)	126 666
Conservative (divided by 3)	100 000
Liberal Democrat (divided by 2)	90 000

The seventh seat is allocated to the candidate in third place on the **Labour** list

Final result

Labour	3 seats
Conservative	2 seats
Liberal Democrat	1 seat
Independent Candidate	1 seat

There is no longer to be a role for the Parliamentary Boundary Commissions. Instead the Home Secretary considers the number of registered electors in the year preceding the next EP election and make amendments in the number of MEPs for each region to ensure that the ratio of registered electors to MEPs is as nearly as possible the same for every electoral region in England³.

2. Applying the new system to previous results

a. 1994 European Elections

Table 7 looks at the results of the 1994 Elections to the European Parliament on the basis of the new Electoral Regions. There are a number of European constituencies that are partly contained within more than one Electoral Region⁴. In these cases, the seat has been allocated to the region containing the majority of the electorate of the constituency. The table compares the number of seats won in 1994 with the outcome under the proposed system, assuming no change in voting behaviour.

The table shows that had the proposed system been in operation in 1994, Labour would have won 43 seats, 19 fewer than the actual result while the Conservatives would have won 26, a gain of 8. The Liberal Democrats would have gained 9 seats from the change, and the Scottish National Party and Plaid Cymru would have both gained one seat.

Although the result is more in proportion to the number of votes cast, Labour with 44% of the vote would have still won 51% of the seats.

b. 1997 General Election

Table 8 looks at notional results for European Elections on the basis of 1997 General Election results by Electoral Region. Again, Labour would win most seats with 42, the Conservatives would have won 28, the Liberal Democrats 12 and the Scottish National Party 2. Both Labour and the Conservatives would have had a larger share of MEPs than they did of votes.

³ There is no provision in the Bill to make adjustments to the number of MEPs for Scotland, Wales, or Northern Ireland

⁴ These are: Bedfordshire & Milton Keynes (included within South East but partly in Eastern), Cleveland & Richmond (Yorkshire & The Humber, North East), Itchen Test & Avon (South East, South West), Lincolnshire & Humberside (East Midlands, Yorkshire & The Humber), Peak District (East Midlands, West Midlands), London South & Surrey East (London, South East), The Cotswolds (South West, South East), Staffordshire West & Congleton (West Midlands, North West), Staffordshire East and Derby (West Midlands, East Midlands)

Table 7

Notional allocation of seats on the basis 1994 European Election Results by Electoral Region

	Con	Lab	LD	SNP/PC	Green	Other	Total
% of votes							
East Midlands	30.4%	49.7%	13.6%	..	3.8%	2.4%	100.0%
Eastern	33.5%	39.9%	19.0%	..	3.4%	4.1%	100.0%
London	29.8%	50.3%	12.1%	..	3.8%	4.0%	100.0%
North East	18.6%	65.9%	10.4%	..	2.9%	2.2%	100.0%
North West	27.1%	55.0%	12.1%	..	2.9%	3.0%	100.0%
South East	37.4%	26.1%	27.2%	..	3.8%	5.6%	100.0%
South West	32.9%	23.9%	32.7%	..	3.7%	6.7%	100.0%
West Midlands	29.0%	49.5%	13.9%	..	3.5%	4.0%	100.0%
Yorkshire & The Humber	24.4%	54.5%	15.2%	..	3.6%	2.3%	100.0%
England	30.5%	43.5%	18.4%	..	3.5%	4.1%	100.0%
Wales	14.6%	55.9%	8.7%	17.1%	2.0%	1.8%	100.0%
Scotland	14.5%	42.5%	7.2%	32.6%	1.6%	1.7%	100.0%
Great Britain	27.9%	44.2%	16.7%	4.2%	3.2%	3.7%	100.0%
Actual seats won							
East Midlands	0	6	0	0	0	0	6
Eastern	2	6	0	0	0	0	8
London	1	9	0	0	0	0	10
North East	0	4	0	0	0	0	4
North West	0	10	0	0	0	0	10
South East	9	2	0	0	0	0	11
South West	4	1	2	0	0	0	7
West Midlands	1	7	0	0	0	0	8
Yorkshire & The Humber	1	6	0	0	0	0	7
England	18	51	2	0	0	0	71
Wales	0	5	0	0	0	0	5
Scotland	0	6	0	2	0	0	8
Great Britain	18	62	2	2	0	0	84
Seats won under new system							
East Midlands	2	3	1	0	0	0	6
Eastern	3	4	1	0	0	0	8
London	3	6	1	0	0	0	10
North East	1	3	0	0	0	0	4
North West	3	6	1	0	0	0	10
South East	5	3	3	0	0	0	11
South West	3	2	2	0	0	0	7
West Midlands	2	5	1	0	0	0	8
Yorkshire & The Humber	2	4	1	0	0	0	7
England	24	36	11	0	0	0	71
Wales	1	3	0	1	0	0	5
Scotland	1	4	0	3	0	0	8
Great Britain	26	43	11	4	0	0	84

Notes: (a) Existing European constituencies have been allocated to Government Office Regions on a best-fit basis. Cases where a constituency falls within more than one region are described in the text.

Sources: House of Commons Library Elections Data on disk

Table 8**Notional allocation of seats on basis of 1997 General Election results by Electoral Region**

	Con	Lab	LD	SNP/PC	Other	Total
% of votes						
East Midlands	34.9%	47.8%	13.6%	..	3.7%	100.0%
Eastern	39.5%	38.6%	17.1%	..	4.8%	100.0%
London	31.2%	49.5%	14.6%	..	4.7%	100.0%
North East	19.8%	64.0%	12.6%	..	3.6%	100.0%
North West	27.6%	53.6%	14.5%	..	4.4%	100.0%
South East	41.9%	29.1%	23.3%	..	5.7%	100.0%
South West	36.7%	26.4%	31.3%	..	5.5%	100.0%
West Midlands	33.7%	47.0%	13.8%	..	5.5%	100.0%
Yorkshire & The Humber	28.0%	51.9%	16.0%	..	4.1%	100.0%
England	33.7%	43.5%	17.9%	..	4.8%	100.0%
Wales	19.6%	54.7%	12.4%	9.9%	3.4%	100.0%
Scotland	17.5%	45.6%	13.0%	22.1%	1.9%	100.0%
Great Britain	31.5%	44.3%	17.2%	2.6%	4.5%	100.0%
Seats won under new system						
East Midlands	2	3	1	0	0	6
Eastern	4	3	1	0	0	8
London	3	6	1	0	0	10
North East	1	3	0	0	0	4
North West	3	6	1	0	0	10
South East	5	3	3	0	0	11
South West	3	2	2	0	0	7
West Midlands	3	4	1	0	0	8
Yorkshire & The Humber	2	4	1	0	0	7
England	26	34	11	0	0	71
Wales	1	4	0	0	0	5
Scotland	1	4	1	2	0	8
Great Britain	28	42	12	2	0	84
Share of seats (%)						
England	37%	48%	15%	0%	0%	100%
Wales	20%	80%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Scotland	13%	50%	13%	25%	0%	100%
Great Britain	33%	50%	14%	2%	0%	100%

Sources: House of Commons Library Elections Data on disk