

EP Elections: Discussion

EUIJ Kyusyu, EP Elections 2014

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Why do we discuss the EP's Election in Japan?

Three viewpoints:

1. Implications for the EU's external policies?

- Change of the EU's external policies
 - through the strengthened role of the EP?
 - through the existence of the new political players (more Eurosceptic members of the EP etc.) in the EP?
 - How should Japan behave in the new situation? (policy implications)

2. Implications for the EU's internal politics

- EU level
- Member state level

3. Interest in the EU's sui generis political system

- Democracy
- Efficiency

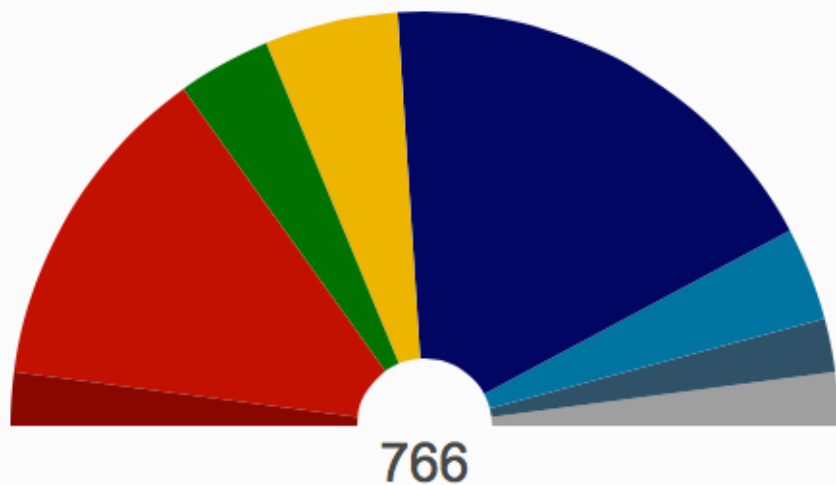
Results (comparison 2009/2014)

Turnout 2009, 43.90%, 2014, 43.09%

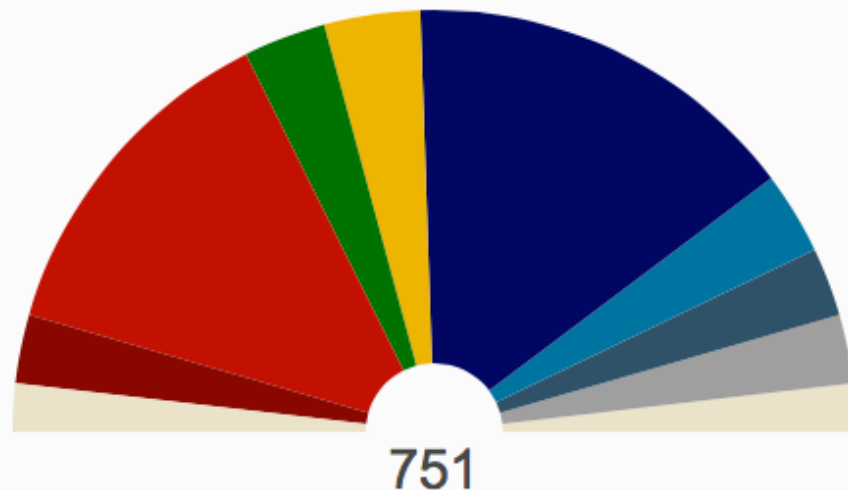
EPP and ALDE less, S&D unchanged.

“Others”(white, left and right) increased.

2009年



2014年

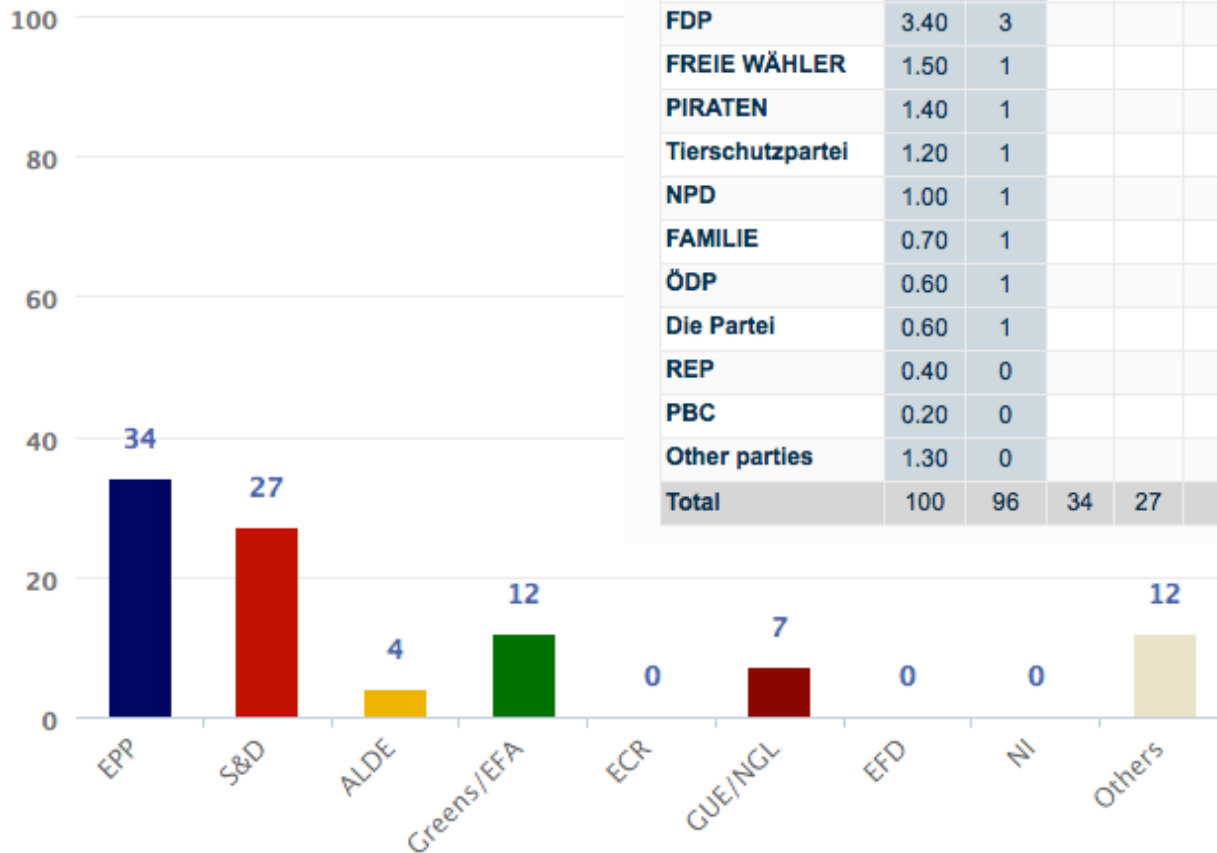


Political Groups

		EPP Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats)	221  29.43 %
		S&D Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament	189  25.17 %
		ALDE Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe	59  7.86 %
		Greens/EFA The Greens/European Free Alliance	52  6.92 %
		ECR European Conservatives and Reformists	46  6.13 %
		GUE/NGL European United Left/Nordic Green Left	45  5.99 %
		NI Non-attached Members – Members not belonging to any political group	41  5.46 %
		EFD Europe of freedom and democracy Group	38  5.06 %
		Others Newly elected Members not allied to any of the political groups set up in the outgoing Parliament	60  7.99 %

Result: Germany

Parties	%	Seats	EPP	S&D	ALDE	Greens/EFA	ECR	GUE/NGL	EFD	NI	Others
CDU / CSU	35.30	34	34								
SPD	27.30	27		27							
GRÜNE	10.70	11				11					
DIE LINKE	7.40	7						7			
AfD	7.00	7									7
FDP	3.40	3			3						
FREIE WÄHLER	1.50	1			1						
PIRATEN	1.40	1				1					
Tierschutzpartei	1.20	1									1
NPD	1.00	1									1
FAMILIE	0.70	1									1
ÖDP	0.60	1									1
Die Partei	0.60	1									1
REP	0.40	0									
PBC	0.20	0									
Other parties	1.30	0									
Total	100	96	34	27	4	12	0	7	0	0	12

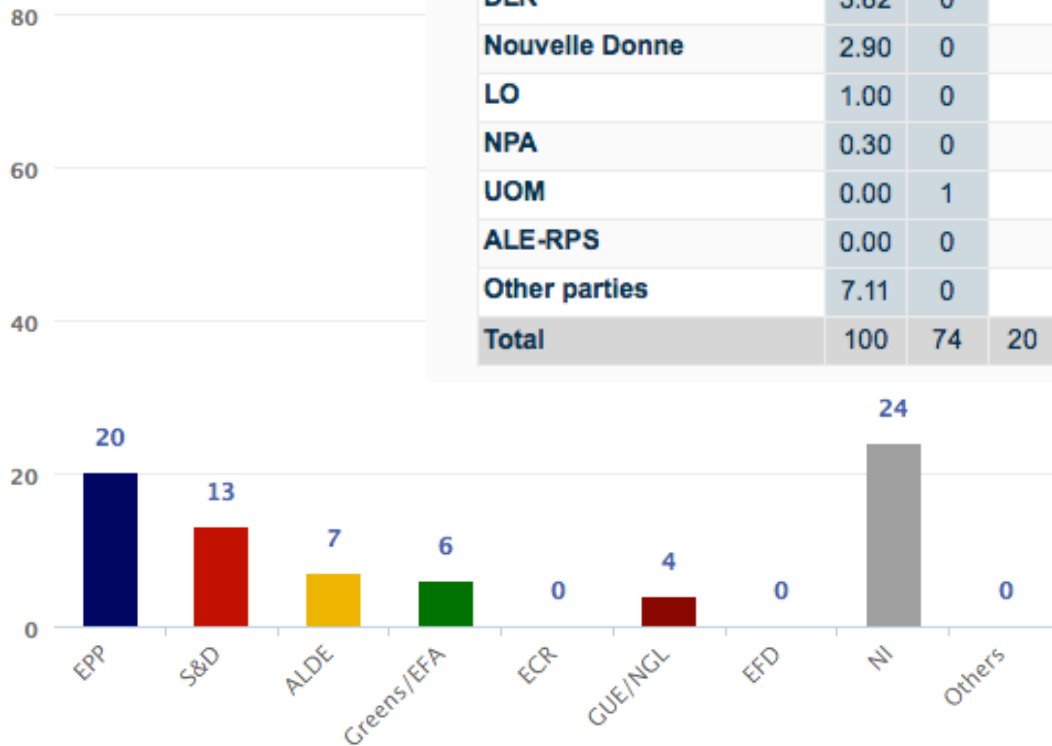


Result, France

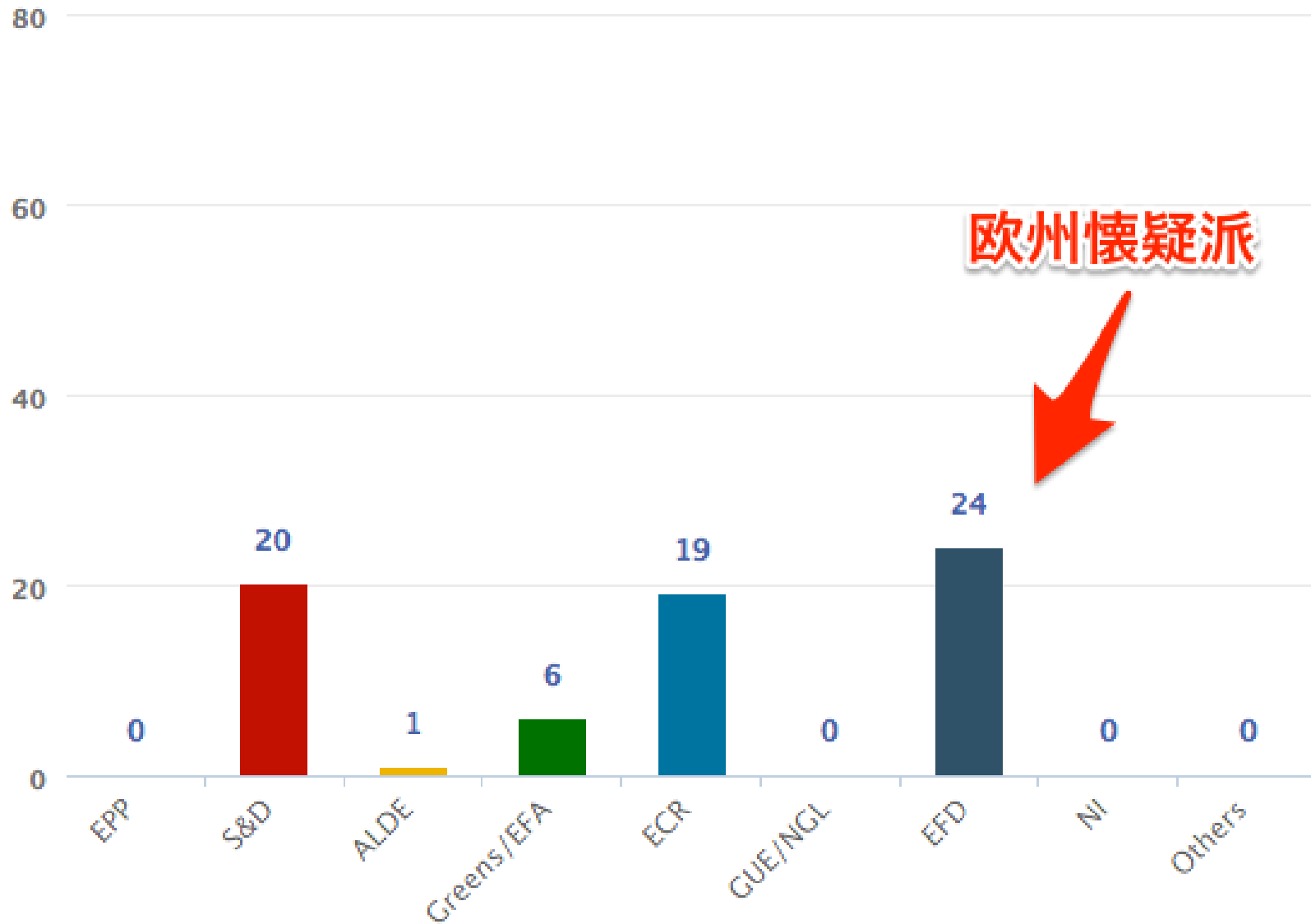
Parties	%	Seats	EPP	S&D	ALDE	Greens/EFA	ECR	GUE/NGL	EFD	NI	Others
FN	24.95	24								24	
UMP	20.79	20	20								
PS - PRG	13.98	13		13							
Alternative (UDI+MoDem)	9.90	7			7						
Europe écologie	8.91	6				6					
FG (PCF+PG+Ens.+et al.)	6.34	3						3			
DLR	3.82	0									
Nouvelle Donne	2.90	0									
LO	1.00	0									
NPA	0.30	0									
UOM	0.00	1							1		
ALE-RPS	0.00	0									
Other parties	7.11	0									
Total	100	74	20	13	7	6	0	4	0	24	0

Seats by political group

Estimation 26/05/2014 10:48 CEST



Result, UK



Political Implications of the EP

1. External Relations




















- The Lisbon treaty strengthened the external aspects of the EU
 - High Representative for Foreign and Security
 - Vice President of the Commission
 - European External Action Service (EEAS)
- EP
 - Direct role is limited in foreign and security policy.
 - But, assent and control through budget
 - Arena for debate.
 - EPA, TTIP etc, strong influence
 - The 2014 election would not bring big change because of the grand coalition nature.

Political Implications of the EP

2. Internal Politics

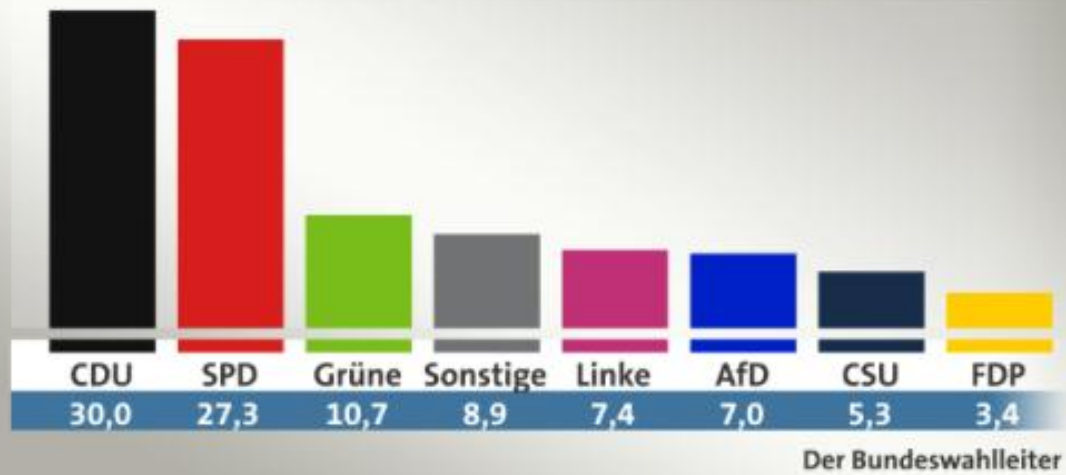
- Never mind with one German Neo-Nazi in the EP
 - Result of the German EP Electoral System Change
 - Decision by the German Federal Constitutional Court
 - to abolish the 5% clause in the EU
 - EP is not to elect the government!
 - 7 small parties (scattered)
 - 25 Members of the EP from more than 7 Countries rule for a Group
- Be more careful with the Alternative for Germany (AfD)
 - the first success for the party (7 Seats, 7%)
 - yet, will the AfD survive?
 - Anti EU/ Eurosceptic sentiment is obvious in Europe
 - Not a big problem for German politics
 - Grand Coalition (political consensus)
 - Stable Government and the Political System

Parteien unter fünf Prozent

Partei	Prozent	Stimmen	
FDP	3,36	986.253	
FW	1,46	428.524	
Piraten	1,45	424.510	
Tierschutzpartei	1,25	366.303	
NPD	1,03	300.815	
Familie	0,69	202.871	
ÖDP	0,63	185.119	
Die Partei	0,63	184.525	
REP	0,37	109.856	
Volksabstimmung	0,30	88.430	
BP	0,21	62.542	
PBC	0,19	55.377	
ProNRW	0,19	54.456	
AUF	0,17	51.048	
CM	0,10	30.124	
DKP	0,09	25.204	
MLPD	0,06	18.479	
BüSo	0,04	10.695	
PSG	0,03	9.852	

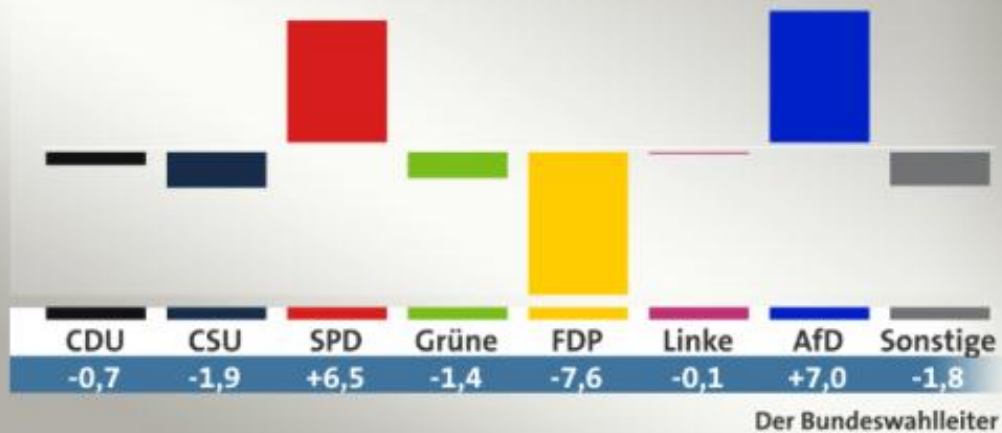
EUROPAWAHL 2014

in %



EUROPAWAHL 2014

Gewinne und Verluste



Implications of the results

- The result of the Elections by itself may not be a big problem for the politics in the EU' s system.
- But, the impact for domestic politics is a larger concern.
 - Challenges to European politics in each member state; Populism, nationalism and democracy
 - Front National (FN) in France
 - 2017 presidential election
 - United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP)
 - Euroscepticism
 - Scotland Independence Referendum

Changing European Politics

- European Union made the peace self-evident inside the EU
- Economic and social dissatisfaction in the process of adopting to the globalization
 - Changing welfare state
 - Lisbon Strategy and the success of the Germany's Schroeder Reform
 - Lowering the labor costs through the flexible labor market.
 - Hardship in change
 - Blaming the EU

3. Democracy and Europe/EU

- Do we have the “future vision” of Europe?
 - The end of the “Democratic deficit”
 - as a analogy of domestic parliament/ government relations
 - uploading the democracy model to the EU
 - “The End of the Integration” (K. Endo, 2013), integration in the EU goes on.
 - But the problem of democracy continues
 - even much more complicated because of the new rules by the Lisbon treaty.
 - the strengthened role of the EP
 - subsidiarity check clause
 - etc.

Difficulty with European Public Sphere or Demoicracy

- Single political sphere does not exist in the EU, only national political spheres
- Demos/people in plural, Demoi + kratos
 - Kaplyso Nikokaidis, Cheneval/Schimmelfennig
- Will the new EP change the situation?
 - EP, democracy without demos.
 - New EP campaign/ election of the top candidate Juncker were some steps toward the European discussion.
 - No grave change in the near future.
 - How can citizens be satisfied with this complicated situation?

Control of the EU/MS Government through domestic system: Domestication (institutional domestic constraints) by S. Harnisch

- Important role of the Federal Constitutional Court (FCC)
- FCC' s decisions bind the government.
 - Control by the Federal Parliament (Bundestag), Budget Committee, not by the special experts sub-committee
 - “comprehensive” and “as soon as possible” according to the Article 23, Basic Law (Constitution)
- German problem of the “Multilateralism Trap” (M. Kaim) and the real control by the parliament
 - International Cooperation > Domestic Discussion
- Loss of efficiency and flexible negotiation more difficult in the EU
- Role of the consensus in politics, Grand coalition

Questions

- What kind of strategies to strengthen the democracy in the EU?
 - Maybe, not the problem of the level of the democratic control, but the satisfaction of the citizens.
 - Efficiency vs. Legitimacy
- Future role of the Nationalist parties
 - stable growth and social stability would weaken the nationalist.
 - But, is it possible under the strong influence by the German model?
- The role of the first “democratically elected” president of the commission.
 - Can he establish a culture of leadership in consensus?