

Newsletter Issue 3/2024

European elections 6-9 June 2024

**USE YOUR VOTE
OR OTHERS WILL
DECIDE FOR YOU**

In the European Union, democracy may seem obvious to us today. But this has not always been the case.

Not so long ago, millions of Europeans lived through times when they could not vote or even speak up freely. When their very lives could be in danger simply for being different, for holding different beliefs or for wanting a different life.

Democracy is a precious gift passed on to us from previous generations. They aspired towards it and fought for it. Now it is up to us to maintain it, to make it stronger and pass it on to the generations to come.

The most effective way to do so is by voting - because the more people vote, the stronger democracy becomes.

On June 6-9 2024: Use your vote or others will decide for you.

(Source: European Parliament)



The European Parliament is directly elected by citizens of all Member States.

The political powers of the European Parliament include:

- Legislative powers: co-legislator together with the Council in most policy areas (comparable to bicameral national Parliaments with equal powers of each chamber, e.g. USA, Italy);
- Budgetary power: power as a general rule shared with the Council final decision resting with EP (if conciliation text is rejected by Council, Article 314(7)d TFEU);
- Power to elect the Commission President and to a vote of confidence on the whole Commission;
- Power of control of Commission and Council; power to set up committees of inquiry and to question other institutions;
- Power to pass, by a two-thirds majority of its members, a motion of censure against the Commission, thereby compelling the Commission to resign as a body; Article 234 TFEU (TFEU = Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union).

Photo references:
European Parliament. European Commission