



European elections in Luxembourg



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Illustration and layout: Bakform

ISSN: 2535-9215

February 2024

2nd, revised edition



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Introduction

European elections are held every 5 years.
We have written down **important information** here.

This booklet is for people who need easy-to-read texts.
And for people who help them
and want to explain things simply.
For anyone who wants to inform themselves quickly
about the European elections.

Everyone has the right to be informed.
This is also in the UN Convention.
The convention is an agreement on the rights of people
with disabilities.

The easy-to-read language

Easy-to-read information follows rules.
The rules are on the website
www.klaro.lu.

The words voter, citizen, inhabitant, MEP, candidate ...
all refer to women, men, all sexes.
This makes the text easier to read.

The **pink** words are **explained in the dictionary**
on pages 26 to 30.

The blue logo shows that this document has been proofread.

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1. EU - the European Union

What is the European Union?

The **European Union** is an association of **27 countries** on the continent of **Europe**.

The abbreviation is: EU.

The countries in the EU work closely together.

But **not all the countries** in **Europe** are in the EU.

The United Kingdom left the EU in February 2020.

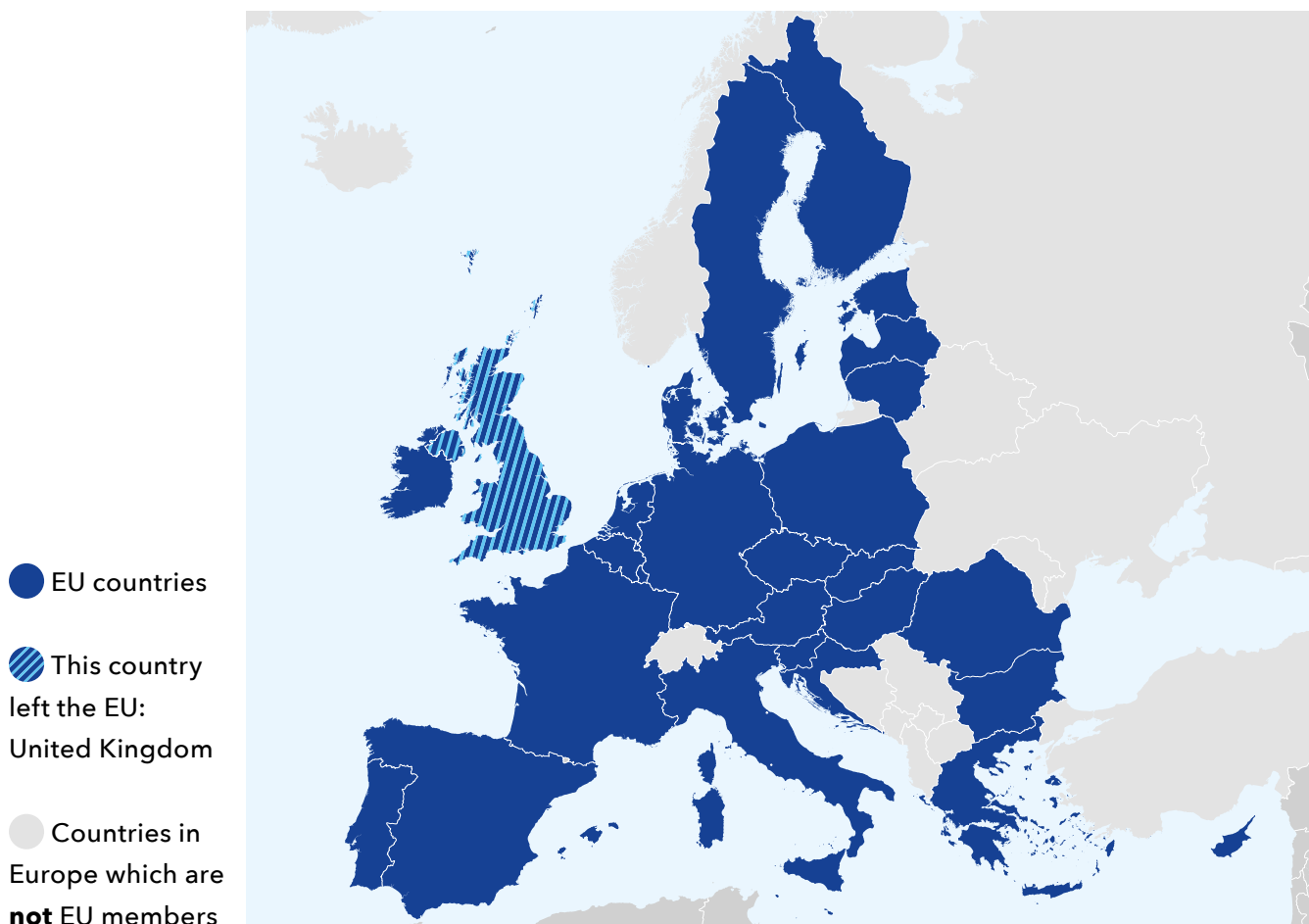
The process of the United Kingdom leaving the EU is called: **Brexit**.

Before the United Kingdom left the EU, there were many discussions.

The discussions were about this question:

How will the EU and the United Kingdom work together after Brexit?

Map: EU countries in Europe



What does the European Union do?

The EU wants to prevent war in Europe.

The EU wants to make trade between countries easier.

For example: trade in food or cars.

The EU also wants to protect **democracy**.

This means: the people decide.

The EU affects our daily lives.

For example, the EU deals with the following things:

- **Protecting buyers**

You can buy things from other countries.

There are common rules which apply to those things.

That means: the rules are the same for all countries.

The rules say:

- how to make things
- how to sell things.

The rules protect customers.

Example: sometimes your mobile phone stops working.

Then the shop must repair your phone.

But only until 2 years after
you bought the phone.

Or the shop gives you a new phone.



- **Opening borders**

In the EU there are 'open' borders for people and goods.

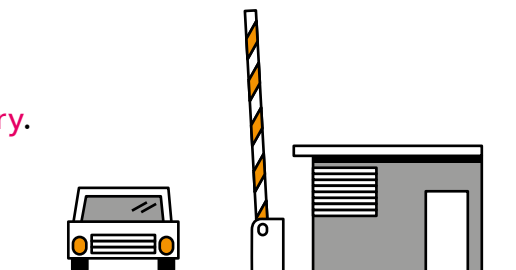
That means: there are almost no border checks
between EU countries any more.

EU citizens can travel more easily from one country to another.

They do **not** need to show an ID card.

They do **not** need to show a passport.

It is easier for them to work in another **EU country**.



- **Protecting the environment**

The EU looks after nature and the environment.
That is why there are now special light bulbs.
These LED or energy-saving light bulbs
need less electricity.



- **Helping young people**

EU-citizens can study anywhere in the EU.
Their degrees are recognised in the other EU countries.
A programme helps students.
If they want to study
in another country for a year.
The programme is called Erasmus:
it gives money to students.



Europe does not take every decision

Countries and municipalities are responsible for many things themselves.

In Luxembourg this means: the Parliament (the Chambre des députés) and the municipalities.

Therefore, Luxembourg also holds these elections:

- For **Parliament**: general elections.
Only Luxembourgers can vote in these elections.
- For the **municipalities**: local elections.

Luxembourgers and non-luxembourgers can vote in these elections.

The EU does **not** deal with schools in Luxembourg.

The **Parliament** takes decisions on schools in Luxembourg.

Because schools are a **national matter**: a matter for the country itself.

The Parliament knows best what the situation in Luxembourg is.

Example: what languages people learn at school.

The EU does **not** deal with permits to build new houses.

Local councils decide on this.

Because this is a **local matter**.

The EU only decides on things that should be the same everywhere in Europe.

Example: You are travelling from Luxembourg to another country in the EU.

You can make calls in that country at the same price as in Luxembourg.

It should **not** be too expensive to use your mobile phone abroad.

So, decisions are taken by: municipalities, countries and the EU.

That is why there are local elections, national elections and **European elections**.

Luxembourg is a small country.

Luxembourg **cannot** do everything itself.

Luxembourg needs other countries.

Luxembourg can talk with politicians from other countries.

Together, they decide the rules for the EU.

2. Who decides in the European Union?

There are different institutions in the European Union.
A lot of people work in those institutions.
They decide what happens in the EU.

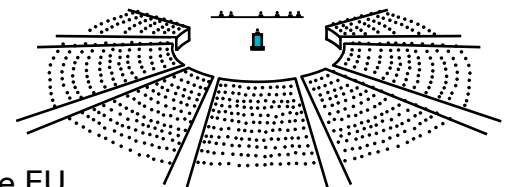
Decisions often take a long time in the EU.
Because there are a lot of countries in the EU which participate in decision-making.
Every country wants to achieve its objectives.
For that reason, countries discuss during a long time.

Now you get to know what the tasks of these institutions are:

1. the European Parliament
2. the Council of Ministers
3. the European Commission
4. the European Council

You can also read about who you can vote for.

The European Parliament



The **European Parliament** represents people in the EU.
Citizens from every country in the EU elect a new European Parliament every five years.
In the 2024 elections, **720 people** will be elected.
They are **Members of the European Parliament**, or MEPs.
They are women and men.
They are from all the EU countries.
Large countries with lots of people have more MEPs than small countries.
A small country like **Luxembourg has 6 MEPs**.
A large country like Germany has 96 MEPs.

The meetings are in **Brussels** (Belgium) and in **Strasbourg** (France).
The administration is in Luxembourg.



Meeting of all MEPs in Brussels



Meeting of all MEPs in Strasbourg

MEPs have **3 main tasks**:

- They **keep an eye on** the EU government.
This **government** is called: the European Commission.
- They discuss ideas for new laws in **Europe**.
They **decide the laws** together with the Council of Ministers.
That means: they vote on new laws.
The laws then apply in all of Europe.
- MEPs **decide the budget**
together with the Council of the European Union.
The budget is a plan or a document.
It says how much money the EU gets.
And how much money the EU can spend.

The Council of the European Union or Council of Ministers

The EU has a **Council of Ministers**.

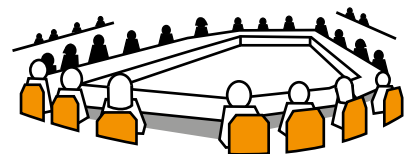
It is also called: Council of the European Union.

Ministers from the EU countries meet in the Council.

Also ministers from Luxembourg.

Not all the ministers are there every time.

It depends on the topic.



The ministers have for example the following tasks:

- They **vote EU laws** together with the European Parliament.
- They discuss decisions in their own countries.

For example, the decisions concern the job market, youth or refugees.

They try to make those decisions more consistent.

Every six months a different country takes over the leadership of the Council of Ministers.

We say: the country has the **presidency**.

That country organises the meetings of ministers.

Luxembourg has the presidency in 2029.

The European Commission

The **European Commission** works like a government.

The European Commission has these tasks:

- It suggests **new laws** for the EU.
- It **makes sure that all the EU countries follow the laws**.

The European Commission has a **President**.

The members of the European Parliament elect the President.

For this election each **European party** chooses one of their members.

The party wants this member for President.

That member is the party's most important candidate.

This candidate is also called leading candidate.

The European Commission has 27 **Commissioners**.

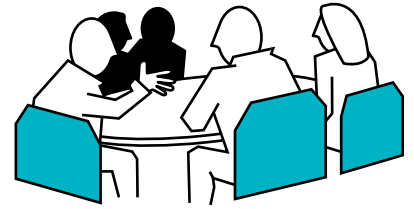
The Commissioners are the EU's **ministers**.

Each Commissioner comes from a different country and is responsible for a different area.

For example, there is a Commissioner for agriculture and a Commissioner for the environment.



The European Council



The **heads of state** or **heads of government** from the 27 EU countries meet in the **European Council**. Luxembourg's head of government (Prime Minister) goes to these meetings. In France, it is the head of state (President).

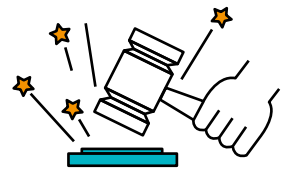
The members of the European Council normally meet four times a year.

The European Council has these tasks:

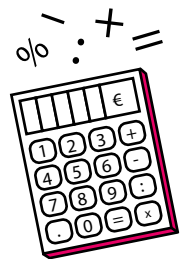
- It decides on the **topics to be worked on** in the EU.
- It sets the **overall objectives** for the EU, for example objectives for security in the EU.

Other EU institutions

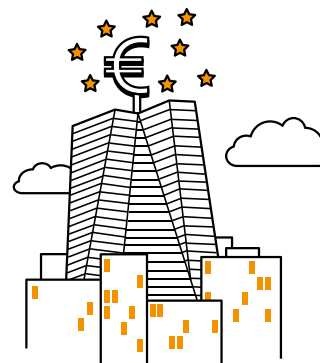
The **European Court of Justice** is in Luxembourg-Kirchberg. The European Court of Justice makes sure:
- that all countries follow EU laws and
- that all countries respect the basic rights of citizens.



The **European Court of Auditors** is in Luxembourg-Kirchberg. It keeps an eye on money in the EU institutions:
How much money the EU gets
and how much money the EU spends.
It makes sure that the money is spent as planned.



The **European Central Bank** is in Frankfurt (Germany). It is responsible for the European currency, the euro.



3. Electing the European Parliament

Who can be a candidate?

Being a **candidate** means: wanting to become a member of the European Parliament.

Citizens can vote for candidates.

In Luxembourgish we also say: „sech opsetze loosse“.

A candidate must:

- be of legal age (at least 18 years old).
- have the nationality of an EU country.
- enjoy their **civic rights**.

That means: a judge has **not** banned them from voting.

- be **resident** in Luxembourg.

That means: be registered in Luxembourg on the day the list of candidates is submitted.

To be elected means that the candidate can be an **MEP**.

Being an **MEP** in the **European Parliament** is a profession.

That means that MEPs **cannot** have another job.

They have to quit the job they had before the election.

MEPs receive their pay from the EU.

Who can vote?

You can vote in the **European elections** if:

- You are of legal age: at least 18 years old
- You possess your civil rights.

In other words: The judge did **not** limit your civil rights.

The judge has **not** forbidden you to vote.

- You have a legal guardian.
But then you do **not** have to vote.
- You have **the nationality of an EU country**.
- You are a **Non-Luxembourger**.

Then, you **must be registered in Luxembourg**.

This is necessary on the day
you register on the electoral roll.

All **voters** are on the **electoral roll**.

Every municipality has such a list.

People on this list **can and must vote**.

It does **not** matter what nationality they have.

Non-luxembourgers can have their name removed
from the electoral roll.

Luxembourgers **cannot** do this.

Luxembourgers are **automatically** on the electoral roll.

They must vote.

Non-Luxembourgers must have the nationality of an EU country.

They are **not** automatically on the electoral roll.

They must **apply** at the latest 55 days before the elections.

They must make an **application to the municipality** in which they live.

They must write a letter.

Or they can go on the Internet.

There is a special website.

It is called: **www.guichet.lu**.

This website is **not** written in easy-to-read language.

It is in German, French and English.



Non-Luxembourgers can only elect **MEPs of one country**:

either MEPs in Luxembourg

or MEPs in their home country.

The letter of invitation

Before the elections you will get an envelope by post.

The envelope contains:
the letter of **invitation**.

The letter invites you to vote.

The letter will also tell you:

- the date of the elections
- when and where you can vote
- the opening hours of the election office
- how many MEPs you can vote for.

N° bureau de vote : 01
N° électeur : 123

Einberufungsschreiben / Lettre de convocation
Europawahlen vom Sonntag, den 09. Juni 2024
Élections européennes du dimanche, 09 juin 2024

09.06.2024

09.06.2024

6 Europaabgeordnete

6 Députés européens

Ihr Wahlbüro

Nr/No
01

Votre bureau de vote

The **date of the elections** is written here.

The **opening hours** of the polling station are written here.

The **place to vote** at is written here.

The people who **do not have to vote** are written here.

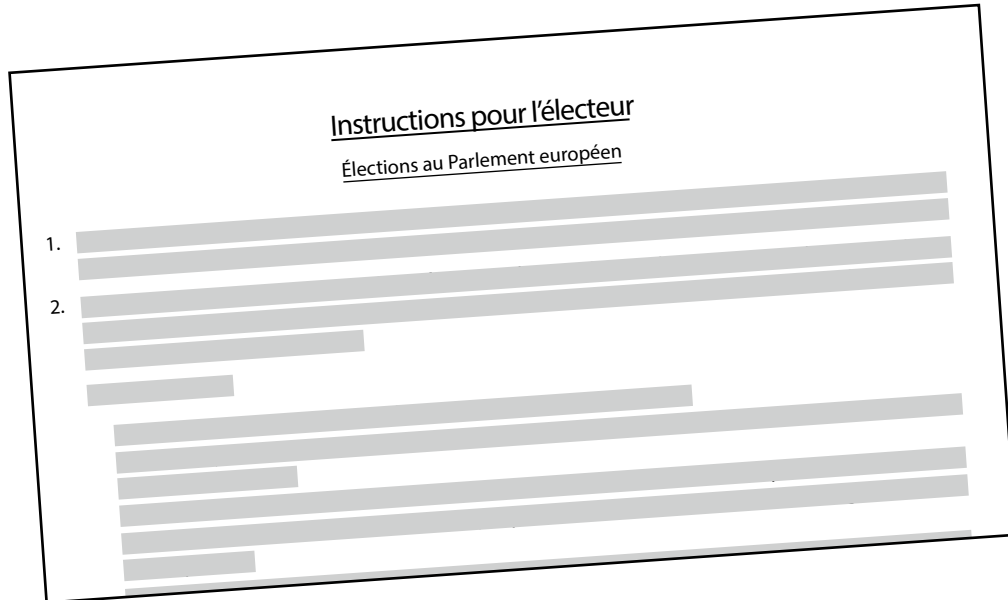
The instructions:

These are the rules for **voters**.

The rules are in 3 languages: Luxembourgish, German and French.

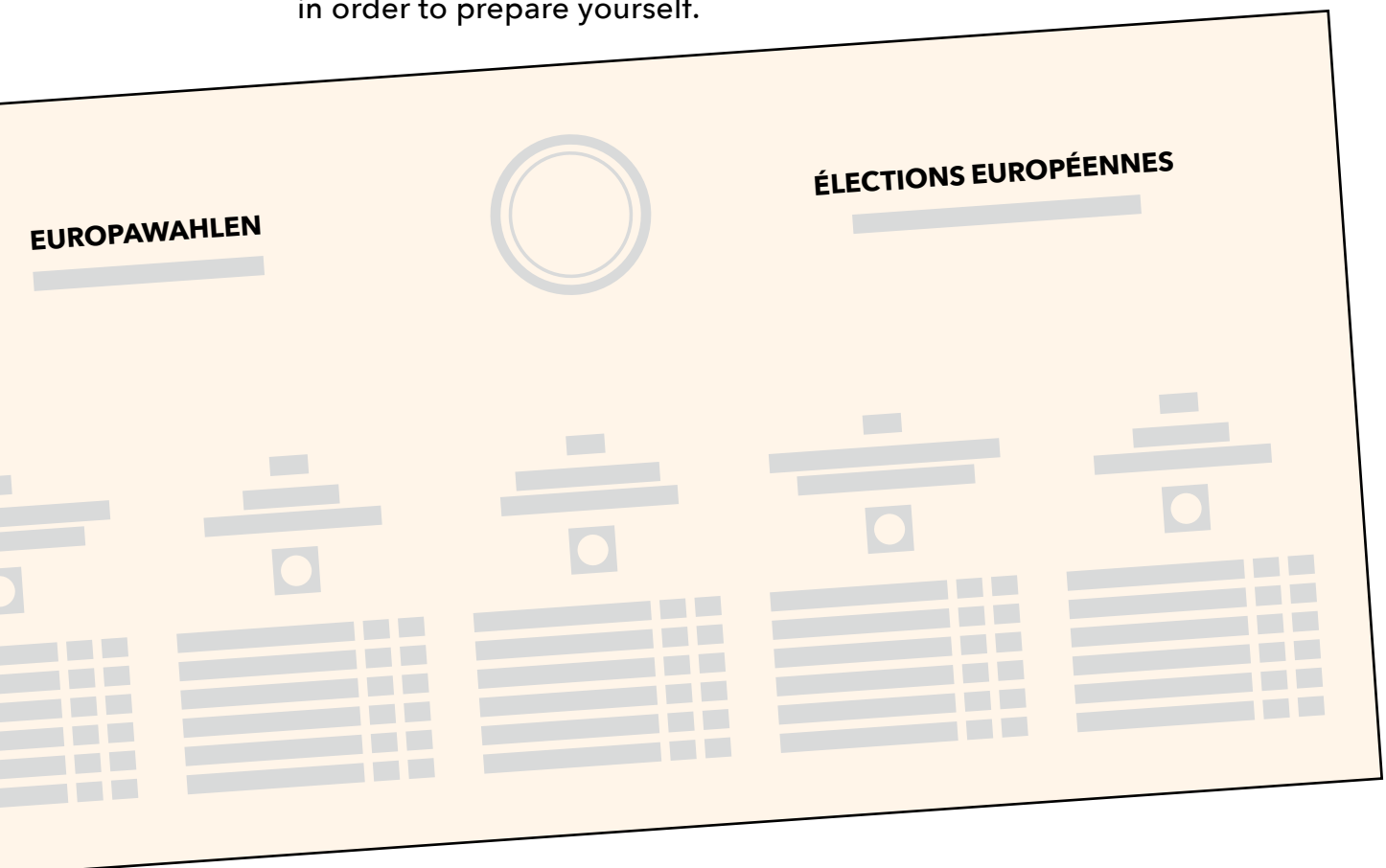
Voters must follow these rules.

Then the ballot paper is valid.



An example of a **ballot paper**:

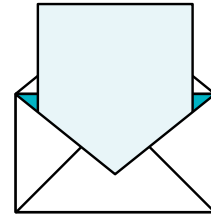
You can practise on that ballot paper in order to prepare yourself.



The vote by post

You can vote at an **election office**.

You can also choose to **vote by post**.



The application is possible **from 12 weeks** before the elections and at the latest:

- **25 days before the elections** if the ballot paper is sent to an address in Luxembourg or
- **40 days before the elections** if the ballot paper is sent to an address abroad.

You must ask your **municipality** for a form.

You can also find the form on the webpage **www.guichet.lu**.

You can fill in the form on paper.

Then you have to send the form to the municipality by post.

You can also fill in the form online on

www.guichet.lu.

You must write an address on the form.

If you live abroad, you must also add a copy of your identity card.

You will then receive a ballot paper by post.

The letter will contain:

- the **poll card**,
- the instructions for voters,
- an example of the **ballot paper**,
- the real ballot paper, which you send back,
- 2 empty envelopes.

You vote and send the real ballot paper through the post to the municipality.

The municipality sends the ballot paper at the latest:

- **15 days** before the election to an address in Luxembourg
- or
- **30 days** to an address abroad.

When do you have to send the vote by post?

The letter must be delivered to the election office

before 2 p.m. on the day of the elections.

Otherwise, your vote is **not** valid.

The vote does **not** count.

For this reason, you should send the letter
a few days in advance.

At the latest on Tuesday or Wednesday
before the Sunday of the elections.

How to make a decision

Voting means choosing, taking a decision.

You cannot vote for all the **candidates**.

When voting you must **choose candidates**.

Find out:

- What **parties** are there?
- What do the parties want to change?
- What are each party's ideas?
- Who are the candidates?

That means: who can you vote for?

Each party writes an **election manifesto**.

The manifesto tells you what the party wants to do
if it wins the European elections.

A party says, for example:

If our party wins, we will try to create more jobs
in the EU countries.

This is called an election promise.

The parties inform people about their manifestos:

- The parties put their manifestos in your **letter box**.
- The parties inform on their **websites**
and on **social media** (Facebook, Instagram, ...)
- The parties have **information stands**.
You can ask the candidates questions.
- The parties hold **election meetings**.
Anyone can go there.
It is a good opportunity to meet the candidates.
- The parties put posters up.
For example: in the streets.

There are reports about the parties

on **television**, the **radio** and the **Internet**.

Television and radio organise discussions with the candidates.



On the Internet you sometimes find false information.

Always ask yourself this question:

'Is what I am reading true or **not**?'

And 'Where does this information come from?'

Election promises are sometimes difficult to keep.

Some parties promise more than is possible.

For that reason, you should ask the party exactly
how it wants to keep its promises.

The ballot paper: How to vote

On the **ballot paper**, you vote for **candidates** or a party.

In Luxembourg, 6 MEPs can be elected = 6 votes.

On each list there are 6 candidates.

Option 1:

You vote for a party.

That means: You give all your votes to one party.

You blacken the **circle** above the list of your choice.

In other words, you color the circle in black.

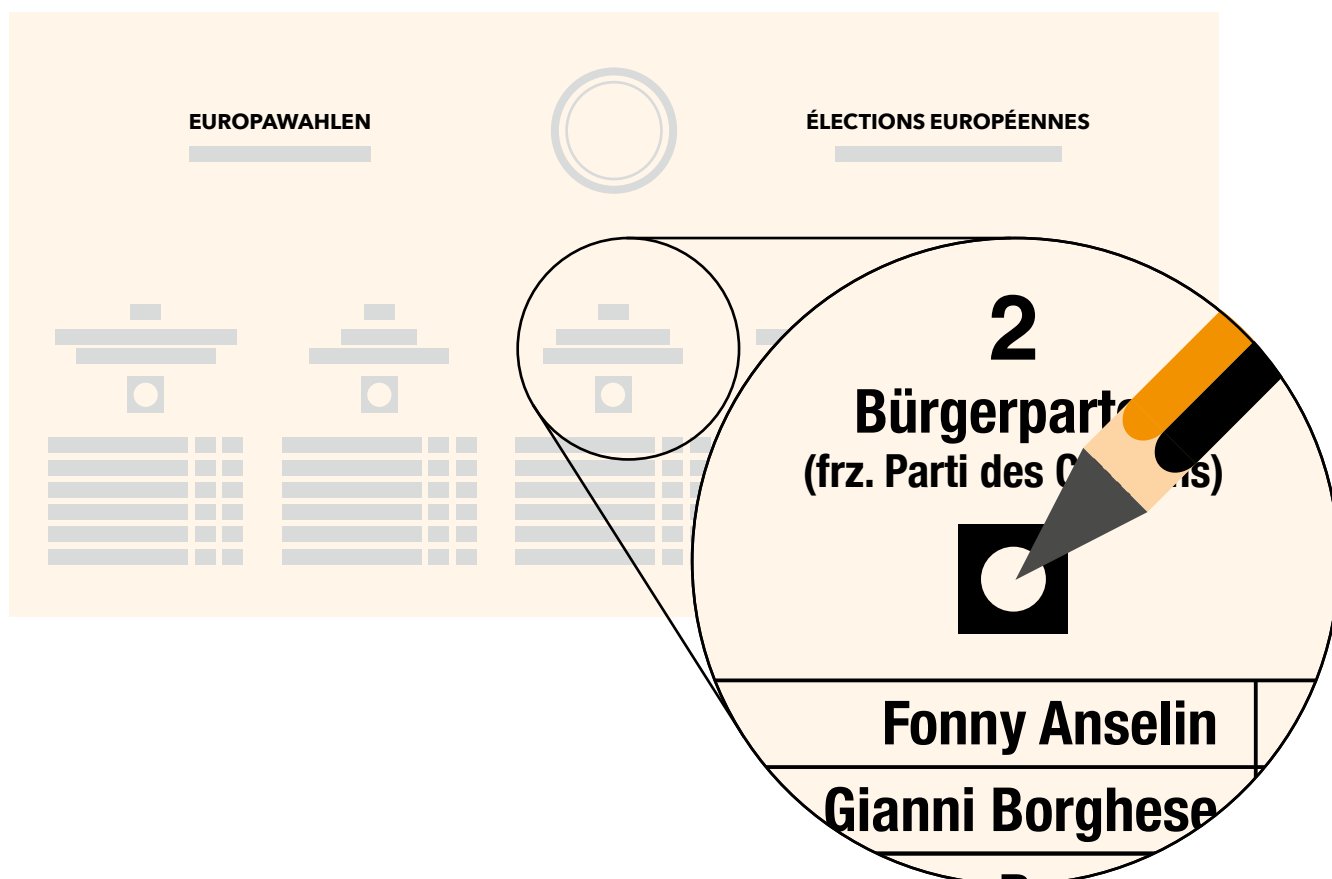
Or you draw a cross in the circle: **+** or **x**.

Each person on the list then receives **1 vote**.

Please note: You can **no longer make crosses** next to the candidates.

Example:

The **voter** can fill in or put a cross in the circle above a list.



Option 2:

You vote for candidates.

That means: you put a cross next to the names of the candidates who best represent your ideas.

You put a cross in 1 or 2 boxes after the names.

You put a cross in as many boxes as you have votes.

You put a cross next to the names of the candidates **on one list**.

Or you put a cross next to the names of the candidates **on several lists**.



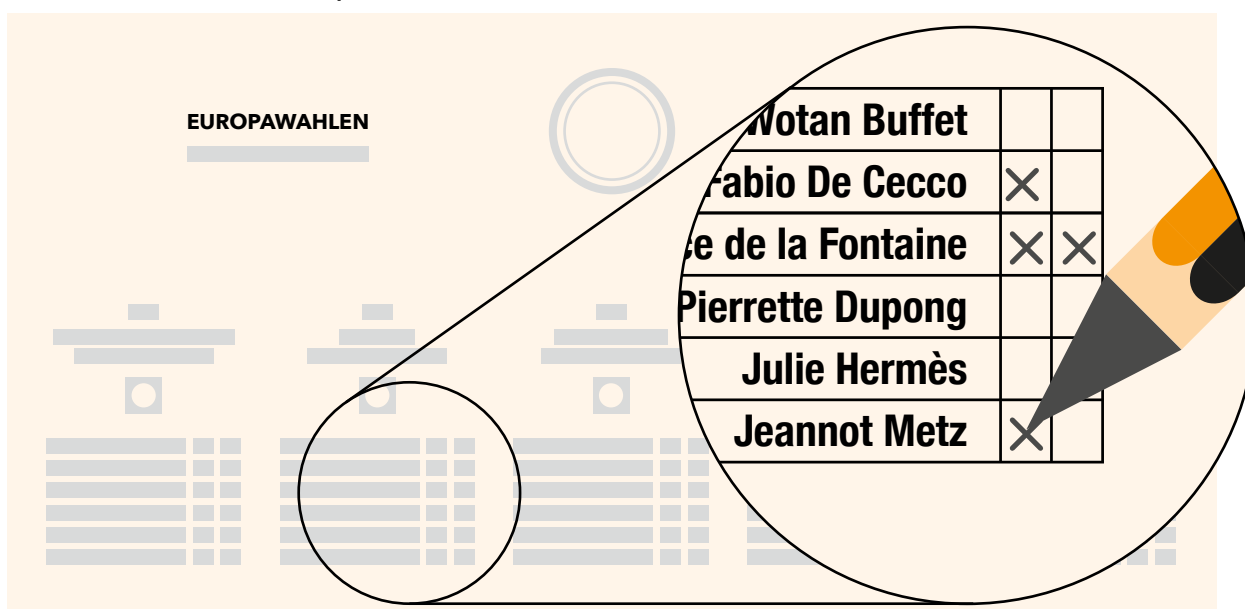
You have **6 crosses in total**.

You can put fewer than 6 crosses.

But you **cannot** put more than 6 crosses.

Example:

The **voter** can put a cross in the box after a candidate's name.



The rules for a valid **ballot paper**:

- You may only put crosses in as many boxes as there are MEPs to be elected.
- This means: you can put 6 crosses.
But you can put fewer crosses.
- You may only put a cross **in the boxes or in the circle**.
- You may **not** cross anything out or write or draw on the ballot paper.
- You may **not** make any marks, which make it possible to recognise you.
For example: your signature
- You may **not** put any other piece of paper or object in the ballot paper.
- You may only hand in the real ballot paper.

Other rules:

- You can only **vote once**.
- You **cannot vote on behalf of another person**.
If you vote for another person,
you may have to pay a fine.
Or you have to go to prison.
- You will receive an example of a **ballot paper** at home.
You can practise on that ballot paper in order to prepare yourself.
You can take that an example of a ballot paper
into the voting booth as a reminder.
However, you may **not** hand in that specimen ballot paper.
You may only hand in the real ballot paper
that you get at the **election office**.



If you make a mistake, you can get a **new ballot paper**
from a **member of the staff**.
The member will destroy the old ballot paper immediately.

Accessibility

A person with a disability can take a helper
into the voting booth with them.
It is the law.

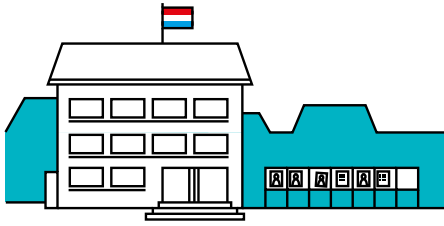


The **voter** alone decides who he wants to vote for.
The helper must keep the vote secret.

A blind or visually impaired person can use
a **tactile ballot paper** as a help to vote.
You get the tactile ballot paper from the CDV
(Centre pour le développement des compétences relatives à la vue).

The telephone number is: 00352 45 43 06 1
The e-mail is: info@cc-cdv.lu

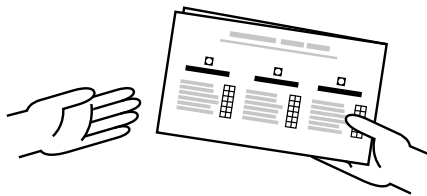
On election day



You can go to the election office
between 8am and 2pm.



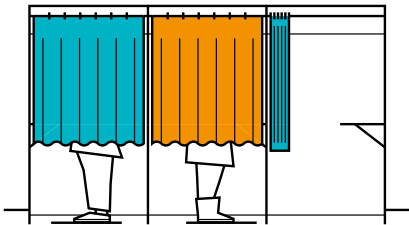
You show your **identity card**
or your passport.



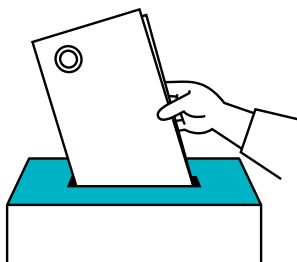
You receive the ballot paper with
the names of the candidates.

Voting is secret.

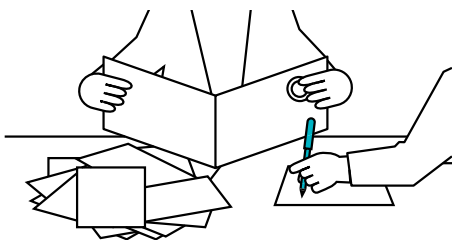
That is why you go into the voting booth.
You should **not** show anyone
who you are voting for.



In the voting booth you find a pencil.
You can also take your own pen or pencil.
You mark the candidates or the list.
Do **not** draw anything else
on the ballot paper.



Go to the staff of the election office.
They will show you a box.
This is the ballot box.
Show the stamp on the ballot paper.
Put the ballot paper in the ballot box.



The election office closes at 2 p.m.
The staff of the election office counts
the votes.

4. After the election

The election offices close at 2pm.

The **the staff of the election office** takes the ballot papers out of the **ballot box** and **counts the votes**.

There are reports on the elections on television, radio and the Internet.

The first results will be announced in the evening.

On the day after the elections, the full results for Luxembourg are known.

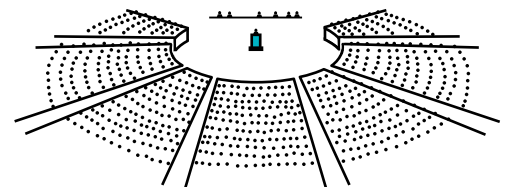
The result is shown in the newspapers, on television and on the Internet.

For example, on the official website **www.elections.public.lu**

Who gets into the European Parliament?

6 **MEPs** from Luxembourg are in the **European Parliament**.

The party with the most votes gets the most MEPs.



The parties from the various EU countries form groups.

That means: a party from Luxembourg works with parties from other EU countries.

These are parties with similar goals.

The individual parties become **European parties**.

In the European Parliament, these groups are called **European parliamentary groups**.

The MEPs represent the people of Luxembourg and, at the same time, all people in the EU.

That is so until the next **European elections** in five years.

Until then, every **citizen** can watch what's happening:

Are the MEPs really doing what they promised to do before the elections?

You are not happy with what they are doing?

Then, at the next European election

you can vote:

- for another party.
- or another politician.

Who becomes member of the European Commission?

The President of the European Commission:

The **European Parliament** elects

the President of the European Commission.

Normally, that is the leading **candidate** from the party with the most MEPs.

It can be a man or a woman.

The President of the European Commission

suggests **new Commissioners**.

He does that together with the leaders of the EU countries.

The Commissioners help the President of the Commission.

Each Commissioner has his own task.

For example, there is a Commissioner for Transport.

He is responsible for: trucks and truck-drivers.

The new Commissioners must present themselves to the **European Parliament**.

The European Parliament must accept the new Commissioners.

Then the new Commission can start working.

The Commission says what will be important for the years to come and what it wants to do.



5. Dictionary

We write only the masculine form: the candidate, the voter, the citizen, the MP.
This refers to all persons.

Pink words:

English

Blue words:

Luxembourgish

Black words:

French

Ballot box

Wal-Urn

Urne électorale

You put the ballot paper in the ballot box.

Ballot paper

Stëmm-Ziedel

Bulletin de vote

Paper with the names of the people or parties you can vote for.

Budget

Budget

Budget

The budget is a plan or document.
It shows how much money the EU can spend.
And where the money comes from.

Candidates

Kandidaten

Candidats

People who want to be elected.
Their names are on the ballot paper.

Citizens

Bierger

Citoyens

The people living in a village, a municipality or a country in Europe.
If you are at least 18 years old, you can or must vote.

Commissioner Kommissär Commissaire	EU ministers. Commissioners suggest new EU laws. They make sure that all EU countries follow the laws in the EU. Their boss is the President of the European Commission.
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Council of Ministers Minister-Rot Conseil des ministres	Another word is: Council of the European Union. Ministers from the EU countries meet in the Council of Ministers. They adopt EU laws together with the European Parliament.
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Democracy Demokratie Democratie	Democracy means: the people decide. Citizens elect representatives. They are politicians who take decisions for the country. These representatives are called Members of Parliament. • Elections are free. You can decide which party and which candidates you vote for. • Elections are secret. You decide who you vote for. • All votes are equal. No matter how old the voters are, no matter how old the voters are where they come from or how much money they have. Democracy also means for example that: • Judges must be independent. That means: nobody can tell a judge what decisions to take. • Everyone supports human rights.
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Election office Wal-Büro Bureau de vote	The place in the municipality where you go to vote. It is often a school, a sports hall or another building.
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Election office staff Memбере vum Wal-Büro Agents électoraux	People who work in election office on election day. They were chosen to carry out this task. They receive a payment. They hand out the ballot papers. They count the votes after the election.
EU country EU Land Pays de l'UE	A country that is a member of the European Union.
Europe Europa Europe	The continent on which we live. There are 47 states, this means countries. 27 of those countries are members of the European Union (EU).
European Commission Europäesch Kommissioun Commission européenne	Another word is: Commission. The government of the European Union (EU).
European Council Europäesche Rot Conseil européen	Its members are the heads of government or the heads of state of the EU countries. They decide the goals for the work of the EU.
European elections Europa - Walen Élections européennes	The elections to the European Parliament. They are every 5 years. They are held in all 27 countries of the European Union (EU).
European Parliament Europa-Parlament Parlement européen	It represents the citizens of Europe. There are 720 MEPs from 27 countries. The European Parliament is elected in the European elections.

European party Europäesch Partei Parti européen	A European party is a grouping of several parties. All the parties come from EU countries. They have similar goals.
European Union (EU) Europäesch Unioun (EU) Union européenne (UE)	It is an association of 27 countries in Europe. We also say: it is a community. The countries in the EU work closely together. They include: Luxembourg, Germany, France and Belgium.
Government Regierung Gouvernement	The government runs the country. The government consists of ministers. And state secretaries. The ministers have different areas of responsibility.
Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) Europa-Deputéiert Députés européens	The people elected to the European Parliament. They represent the citizens of the EU countries.
Minister Minister Ministre	A member of the government of a country. The government runs the country.
Party Partei Parti	A group of people with similar political ideas and goals. They form a joint list for the elections.
Poll card Convocatioun Convocation	Another word: letter of invitation. The letter invites you to vote. You will receive the letter at home. Through the post.

Tactile ballot paper Wal-Schabloun Modèle de vote tactile	A tactile aid for blind and visually impaired people. It can be ordered here: www.idv.lu (Centre pour le développement des compétences relatives à la vue) There is also a tactile ballot paper at the election office.
Vote by post Bréif-Wal Vote par correspondance	You must apply to vote by post at the municipality or on www.guichet.lu. The voter receives the ballot paper by post. He votes and returns the ballot paper by post.
Voter Wieler Électeur	People who are on the electoral roll. This means Luxembourgers and citizens of other EU countries.

More information

Websites:

- www.guichet.lu
- www.elections.public.lu
- www.zpb.lu
- www.klaro.lu
- <https://elections.europa.eu>

Here is more information on the European elections.

This information is in difficult language.



You can scan the QR code using the camera on your mobile phone.

Who made this booklet?

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The German original text was checked by staff of the APEMH to make sure that it is easy to read.

Publishers:

Klaro is the centre for easy-to-read language in Luxembourg: training, advice and checking and writing easy-to-read information.

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The **Zentrum fir politesch Bildung** wants to inform everyone about politics and democracy.

Democracy means here: the people decide.

The Zentrum wants to involve many children and adults in public life.

It helps them to participate.

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Fondation d'utilité publique RCSL G236



This booklet was published
with the help of the:

Ministry of Family Affairs, Solidarity,
Living Together and Migration

European Parliament Office
in Luxembourg.



LE GOUVERNEMENT
DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
Ministère de la Famille, des Solidarités,
du Vivre ensemble et de l'Accueil



European Parliament
Office in Luxembourg

