

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

MEMBERSHIP

Directly elected since 1979. The current size is 750 MEPs.

European Parliamentary elections are held every five years, and in the 2019 elections the Brexit Party came top of the poll.

NOTE Gravy train allegations over the years e.g. **PSARA v PARLIAMENT** - monthly lump sum expenses not open for public inspection.

POWERS

The EP is not able to legislate on its own account. Rather, it 'co-decides' in adopting EU legislation equally with the Council of Ministers in a large number of areas including:

- (1) consumer protection;
- (2) education;
- (3) culture; and
- (4) health.

NOTE In important areas such as agriculture, foreign policy and taxation the EP has no co-decision legislative powers but can merely give its opinion.

The EP can (1) reject a proposed Community budget (2) reject the appointment of a new Commission President (3) question and dismiss the Commission - as it threatened to do in the sleaze crisis of 1999 and the appointment of Rocco Buttiglione in 2004 (4) in certain circumstances - for example, transport and employment policies - the EP can veto proposals by the Council of Ministers.