



## The United Kingdom

### What is this document?

In June 2009 citizens from all European Union Member states will directly elect a new European Parliament. The European Parliament is one of the three main bodies that make up the European Union. To truly represent European citizens it is important that citizens feel informed and empowered to vote in the European Parliament elections. This document covers some key information British citizens need to vote and lobby Member of European Parliament (MEP) candidates. It includes:

1. Information on how the European Parliament voting system works in the UK
2. A breakdown of each electoral region
3. Information on how many candidates from each political party were elected in the last election and a list of candidates who may therefore be likely to be elected in the coming election.
4. What next?

### *The European Parliament and the UK The Basics*

- In the UK the European Parliament elections take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2009
- The UK currently has 78 MEPs, but in June 2009 the United Kingdom will elect 72 MEPs overall.
- The UK is divided up into 12 regions. In each region there are between 3 and 10 MEPs who represent the people living in that region.
- Individuals vote for one of the candidates standing in their region. The candidates are either put forward from one of the national parties or individuals can stand as independents.

### 1. What is the electoral system in the UK?

The European elections are the only elections in the UK with a form of proportional representation. Each party puts forward a list of candidates for each region called a regional list. This list is the party's order of preference for their candidates. The first candidate on the list gets elected first followed by the second and third candidates depending on the number of votes and so on. Each adult in Britain (apart from prisoners) has one vote. You can vote for one of the party's lists or for an independent individual in your region. The number of candidates that get elected from each party's regional list directly depends on the number of votes that each list gets.

## 2. The 12 Voting Regions of the UK

### Eastern:

Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Luton, Norfolk, Petersborough, Southend-on-Sea, Suffolk, Thurrock

### East Midlands:

Derbyshire, Derby, Leicester, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Nottingham, Rutland

### London:

The administrative area of Greater London

### North East:

Darlington, Durham, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Northumberland, Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton-on-Tees, Tyne and Wear

### North West:

Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool, Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Halton, Lancashire, Merseyside, Warrington

### South East:

Bracknell Forest, Brighton and Hove, Buckinghamshire, East Sussex, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Medway Towns, Milton Keynes, Newbury, Oxfordshire, Portsmouth, Reading, Slough, Southampton, Surrey, West Sussex, Windsor and Maidenhead, Wokingham

### South West:

Bath and North East Somerset, Bournemouth, Bristol, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, North Somerset, Plymouth, Poole, Somerset, South Gloucestershire, Swindon, Torbay, Wiltshire, Isles of Scilly, Gibraltar

### West Midlands:

Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, Telford and Wrekin, Warwickshire, West Midlands, Worcestershire

### Yorkshire and the Humber:

Kingston upon Hull, East Riding of Yorkshire, North East Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire, North Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, York

### Scotland

Scotland is a single electoral region containing all the unitary authorities in Scotland

### Wales

Wales is a single electoral region containing all the unitary authorities in Wales

### Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland is a Single electoral region Containing all the district councils of Northern Ireland<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> All information on this page, including the map from: 'UK MEPs', UK office of the European Parliament, [http://www.europarl.org.uk/uk\\_meps/MembersMain.htm](http://www.europarl.org.uk/uk_meps/MembersMain.htm), accessed 11/02/09

**3. How many MEPs can you expect for different political parties?**

Although no-one can tell what the results of the 2009 elections will be, it is possible to look at the last election and predict how many MEPs from each party might be voted in. Below is the breakdown of all the regions in the United Kingdom. Information includes the number of currently elected MEPs from each party and the names of the candidates from each party that may be elected in June. The 2009 MEP candidates who are also currently elected MEPs are marked in bold.

Eastern	Conservatives	UKIP	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Green
Current elected MEPs	3	2	1	1	0
MEP candidates standing likely to be voted in (one more than currently elected)	1. <b>Geoffrey Van Orden</b> 2. <b>Robert Sturdy</b> 3. Vicky Ford 4. John Flack	1. Stuart Agnew 2. Michael Baker 3. David Campbell Bannerman	1. <b>Richard Howitt</b> 2. Beth Kelly	1. <b>Andrew Duff</b> 2. Linda Jack	1. Rupert Read

East Midlands	Conservatives	Independent/non-attached	UKIP	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Green
Current elected MEPs	2	1	1	1	1	0
MEP candidates standing likely to be voted in (one more than currently elected)	1. <b>Roger Helmer</b> 2. Emma McClarkin 3. Rupert Matthews	No information	1. Lynette Afshar 2. Stephen Allison	1. <b>Glenis Willmott</b> 2. Roy Kennedy	1. <b>Bill Newton Dunn</b> 2. Ed Maxfield	1. Sue Blount

London	Conservatives	Labour	Green	Liberal Democrats	UKIP
Current elected MEPs	3	3	1	1	1
MEP candidates standing likely to be voted in (one more than currently elected)	1. <b>Dr Charles Tannock</b> 2. <b>Syed Kamall</b> 3. Marina Yannakoudakis 4. JP Floru	1. <b>Claude Moraes</b> 2. <b>Mary Honeyball</b> 3. <b>Robert Evans</b> 4. Anne Fairweather	1. <b>Jean Lambert</b> 2. Ute Michel	1. Sarah Ludford 2. Jonathon Fryer	1. Ralph Atkinson 2. <b>Gerard Batten</b>

North East	Conservatives	Liberal Democrat	Labour	Green	UKIP
Current elected MEPs	1	1	1	0	0
MEP candidates standing likely to be voted in (one more than currently elected)	1. <b>Martin Callanan</b> 2. Barbasa Musgrave	1. <b>Fiona Hall</b> 2. Chris Foote-Wood	1. <b>Stephen Hughes</b> 2. Fay Tinnion	1. Chris Haine	1. Sandra Allison

North West	Conservatives	Labour	UKIP	Liberal Democrats	Green
Current elected MEPs	4	3	1	1	0
MEP candidates standing likely to be voted in (one more than currently elected)	1. <b>Rt Hon Sir Robert Atkins</b> 2. <b>Den Dover</b> 3. <b>Sajjad Karim</b> 4. Jacqueline Foster 5. Alex Williams	1. <b>Arlene McCarthy</b> 2. <b>Brian Simpson</b> 3. Theresa Griffin 4. Stephen Carter	1. Nigel Brown 2. Graham Cannon	1. <b>Chris Davies</b> 2. Helen Foster-Grime	1. Peter Cranie

South East	Conservatives	Liberal Democrat	Green	Independent	UKIP	Labour
Current elected MEPs	4	2	1	1	1	1
MEP candidates standing likely to be voted in (one more than currently elected)	1. <b>Daniel Hannan</b> 2. <b>Richard Ashworth</b> 3. <b>Nirj Joseph Deva DL</b> 4. <b>James Elles</b> 5. <b>Therese Coffey</b>	1. <b>Sharon Bowles</b> 2. Catherine Bearder 3. Ben Abbotts	1. <b>Caroline Lucas</b> 2. Keith Taylor	No information	1. Harry Aldridge 2. Marta Andreasen	1. <b>Peter Skinner</b> 2. Janet Sully

South West	Conservatives	UKIP	Liberal Democrats	Labour	Green
Current elected MEPs	3	2	1	1	0
MEP candidates standing likely to be voted in (one more than currently elected)	1. <b>Giles Chichester</b> 2. Julie Girling 3. Ashley Fox 4. Mike Dolley	1. Jeffrey Beer 2. <b>Trevor Colman</b> 3. William, Earl of Dartmouth	1. <b>Graham Watson</b> 2. Kay Barnard	1. <b>Glyn Ford</b> 2. Isabel owen	1. Ricky Knight

West Midlands	Conservatives	Labour	Liberal Democrats	UKIP	Green
Current elected MEPs	3	2	1	1	0
MEP candidates standing likely to be voted in (one more than currently elected)	1. <b>Philip Charles Bradbourn OBE</b> 2. <b>Malcolm Harbour</b> 3. Anthea McIntyre 4. Michael Burnett	1. <b>Michael Cashman</b> 2. <b>Neena Gill</b> 3. Claire Edwards	1. <b>Liz Lynne</b> 2. Phil Bennion	1. Elizabeth Hazell 2. Malcolm Hurst	1. Felicity Norman

Yorkshire and the Humber	Conservatives	Labour	UKIP	Liberal Democrats	Green
Current elected MEPs	2	2	1	1	0
MEP candidates standing likely to be voted in (one more than currently elected)	1. <b>Edward McMillan-Scott</b> 2. <b>Timothy Kirkhope</b> 3. Fleur Butler	1. <b>Linda McAvan</b> 2. <b>Richard Corbett</b> 3. Emma Hoddinott	1. Jonathan Arnott 2. <b>Godfrey Bloom</b>	1. <b>Diana Wallis</b> 2. Stewart Arnold	1. Martin Hemingway

Scotland	Labour	Scottish National Party	Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party	Liberal Democrats	Scottish Green Party	UKIP
Current elected MEPs	2	2	2	1	0	0
MEP candidates standing likely to be voted in (one more than currently elected)	1. <b>David Martin</b> 2. Catherine Martin 3. Mary Lockhart	No information	1. <b>Struan Stevenson</b> 2. Belinda Don 3. Helen Gardiner	1. George Lyon 2. Euan Robson	1. Elaine Morrison	1. Peter Adams

Wales	Labour	Plaid Cymru	Conservative	Green	UKIP	Liberal Democrat
Current elected MEPs	2	1	1	0	0	0
MEP candidates standing likely to be voted in (one more than currently elected)	1. Derek Vaughan 2. Lisa Stevens 3. Gareth Williams	1. <b>Jill Evans</b> 2. Eurig Wyn	1. Dr Kay Swinburne 2. Evan Price	1. Jake Griffiths	1. David Bevan	1. Alan Butt Philip

Northern Ireland	Ulster Unionist Party	Independent	Sinn Fein	Green
Current elected MEPs	1	1	1	0
MEP candidates standing likely to be voted in (one more than currently elected)	1. <b>Jim Nicholson</b> 2. No information	1. No Information	1. <b>Bairbre de Brun</b> 2. No Information	1. Information not yet ranked

#### **4. What Next?**

Hopefully this document has helped you understand more about the European Parliament electoral process, distinguish which region you live in and who is likely to get elected in June. With this knowledge you may want to:

1. Research the parties and MEP candidates standing in your region
2. Contact MEP candidates asking them what they stand for or what they plan to do on a particular issue that interests you
3. Keep an eye out for more QCEA information on the European Elections which is in the process of being produced!