eupinions @CEPS Ideas Lab 2024   *March 4, 2024*

The War and the Vote: The Panel

Approaching another high-stakes-low-turnout election?

Warm-up Session at CEPS Ideas Lab 2024

Isabell Hoffmann

Introduction

In the midst of a tumultuous geopolitical climate, underscored by the ongoing war in Ukraine, the upcoming European Parliament elections in June will be a critical juncture for the EU. However, if experience serves well, we are approaching another high-stakes-low-turnout election – despite the fact that the EU will have to confront many challenges, both internal and external, over the next few years.

This session delves into the dramatic shifts within the EU's political landscape, where an increasing tilt towards right-wing governance is evident. Concurrently, we are observing a significant shift as traditional liberal parties, once dominant in the centrist sphere, are being increasingly challenged, even relegated to the peripheries of power. This political dynamic, both within and outside the EU, raises crucial questions about the future of leadership in the Union, which we will dive into in much more detail during this warm-up session.

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Part I: Support for Ukraine and EU defence policy

Our recent report "**The War and the Vote**" delves into the correlation of political orientation and support for Ukraine policies in the EU as well as seven member states. It was published in February 2024 and refers to survey data collected in December 2023.

1. Does the European Union need a common defence policy?
eupinions, December 2023: General distribution across the EU and seven member states, then by political orientation

2. Should the EU support Ukraine by delivering weapons?
eupinions, December 2023: General distribution across the EU and seven member states, then by political orientation

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Does the European Union need a common defence policy?

■ EU defence - Yes ■ EU defence - No

EU27
| 87% | 13% |

Belgium
| 86% | 14% |

France
| 81% | 19% |

Germany
| 86% | 14% |

Italy
| 90% | 10% |

Netherlands
| 84% | 16% |

Poland
| 85% | 15% |

Spain
| 94% | 6% |

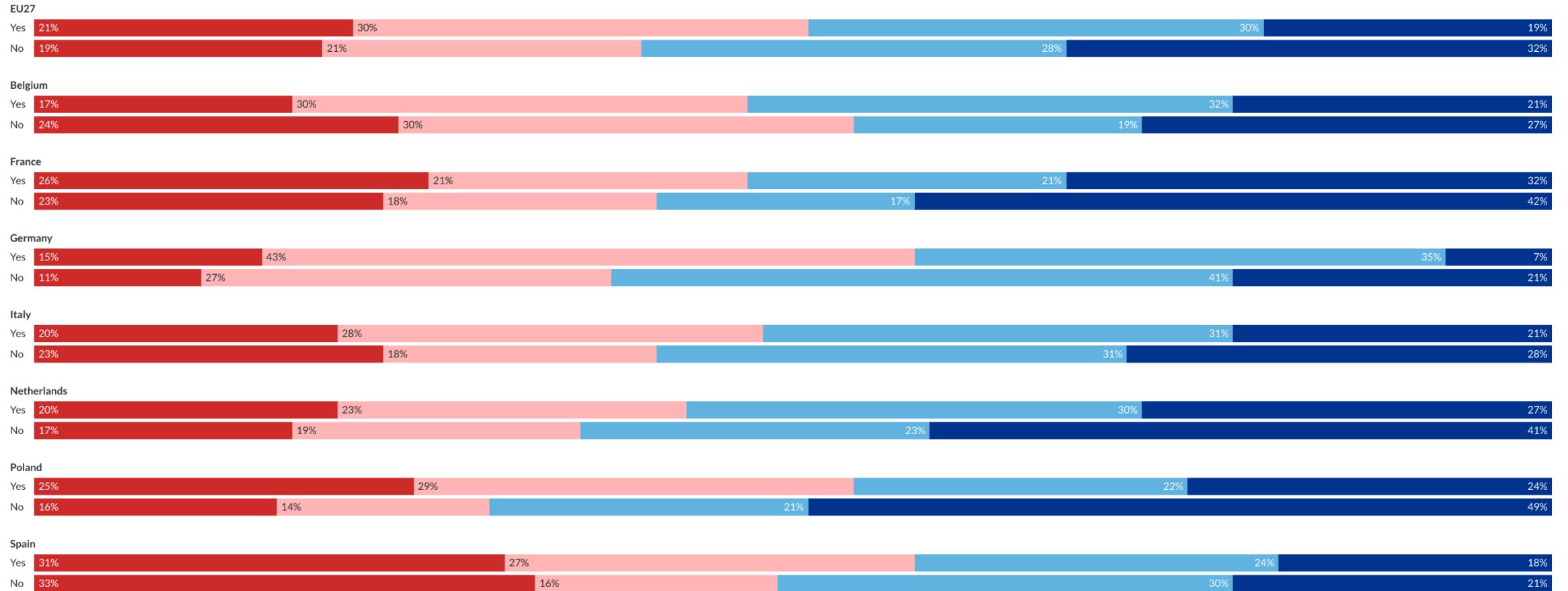*December 2023*

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Does the European Union need a common defence policy?
By political orientation

■ Left ■ Centre Left ■ Centre Right ■ Right

EU27

	Left	Centre Left	Centre Right	Right
Yes	21%	30%	30%	19%
No	19%	32%	28%	32%

Belgium

	Left	Centre Left	Centre Right	Right
Yes	17%	30%	32%	21%
No	24%	30%	19%	27%

France

	Left	Centre Left	Centre Right	Right
Yes	26%	21%	21%	32%
No	23%	18%	17%	42%

Germany

	Left	Centre Left	Centre Right	Right
Yes	15%	43%	35%	7%
No	11%	27%	41%	21%

Italy

	Left	Centre Left	Centre Right	Right
Yes	20%	28%	31%	21%
No	23%	18%	31%	28%

Netherlands

	Left	Centre Left	Centre Right	Right
Yes	20%	23%	30%	27%
No	17%	19%	23%	41%

Poland

	Left	Centre Left	Centre Right	Right
Yes	25%	29%	22%	24%
No	16%	14%	21%	49%

Spain

	Left	Centre Left	Centre Right	Right
Yes	31%	27%	24%	18%
No	33%	16%	30%	21%

December 2023

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Should the EU support Ukraine by delivering weapons?

■ Yes ■ No

EU27

| 55% | 45% |

Belgium

| 58% | 42% |

France

| 60% | 40% |

Germany

| 53% | 47% |

Italy

| 40% | 60% |

Netherlands

| 61% | 39% |

Poland

| 73% | 27% |

Spain

| 62% | 38% |

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Should the EU support Ukraine by delivering weapons?
By political orientation

■ Left ■ Centre Left ■ Centre Right ■ Right

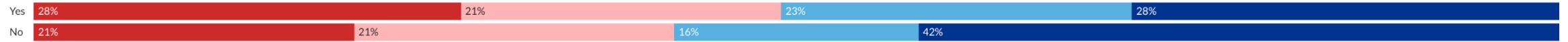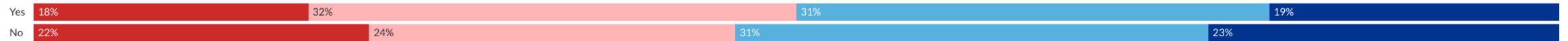**EU27**

Yes	22%	31%	28%	19%
No	19%	27%	31%	23%

Belgium

Yes	17%	33%	31%	19%
No	19%	27%	29%	25%

France

Yes	28%	21%	23%	28%
No	21%	21%	16%	42%

Germany

Yes	16%	48%	31%	5%
No	12%	32%	42%	14%

Italy

Yes	18%	32%	31%	19%
No	22%	24%	31%	23%

Netherlands

Yes	21%	24%	30%	25%
No	19%	19%	27%	35%

Poland

Yes	26%	28%	20%	26%
No	20%	22%	27%	31%

Spain

Yes	30%	26%	27%	17%
No	33%	27%	21%	19%

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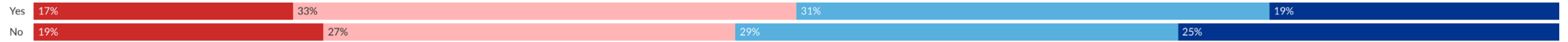
Part II: EP seat projections and right-wing surge

1. *European Parliament Seat Projection since August 2023*
EU Dashboard – Late February Projection

2. *Europe Elects seat projection for Euractiv*
EU Dashboard – Late February Projection
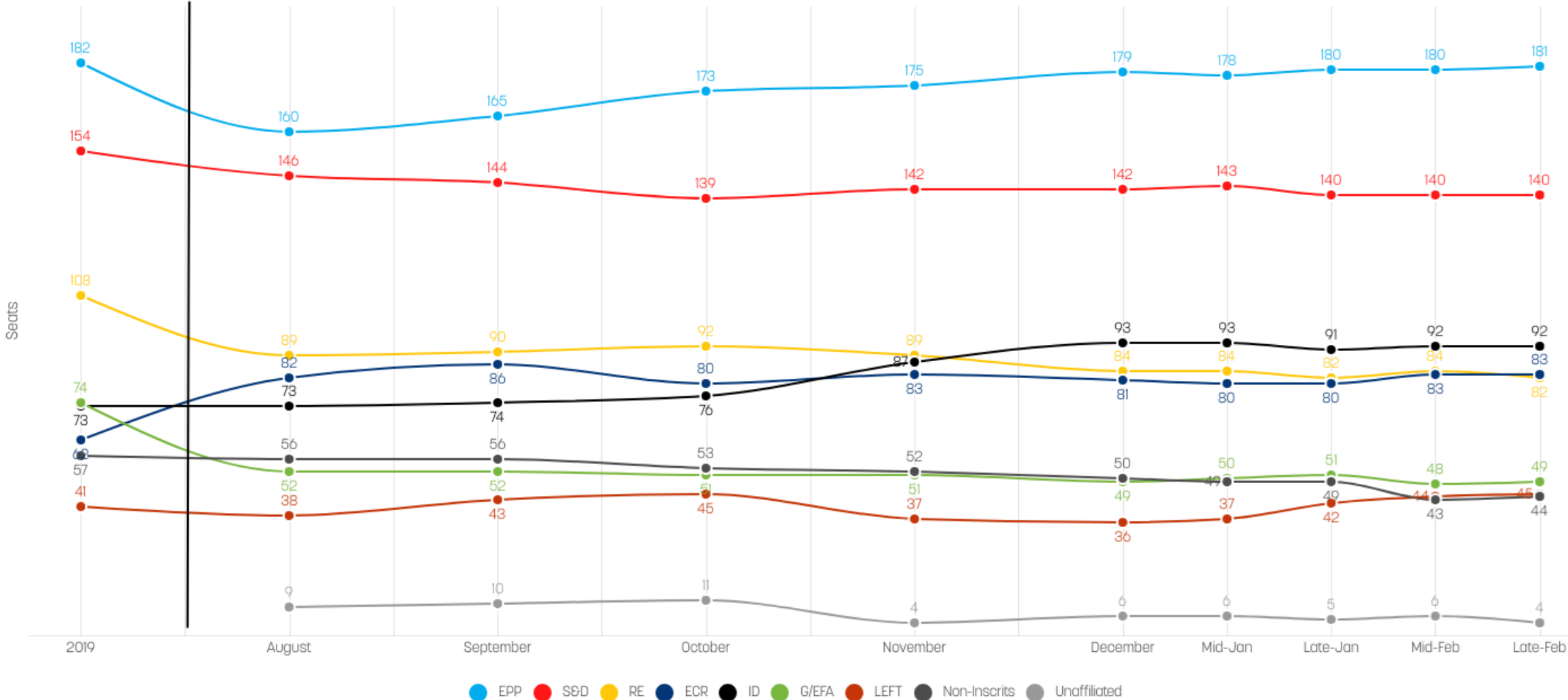
3. *Latest EU Parliament Group (Popular Vote)*

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EU Dashboard: Late February Projection

European Parliament Seat Projection since August 2023

Seats

	2019	August	September	October	November	December	Mid-Jan	Late-Jan	Mid-Feb	Late-Feb
EPP	182	160	165	173	175	179	178	180	180	181
S&D	154	146	144	139	142	142	143	140	140	140
RE	108	89	90	92	89	84	84	82	84	82
ECR	68	82	86	80	83	81	80	80	83	83
ID	73	73	74	76	87	93	93	91	92	92
G/EFA	74	52	52	51	51	49	50	51	48	49
LEFT	41	38	43	45	37	36	37	42	44	45
Non-Inscrits	57	56	56	53	52	50	49	49	43	44
Unaffiliated	9	9	10	11	4	6	6	5	6	4

● EPP   ● S&D   ● RE   ● ECR   ● ID   ● G/EFA   ● LEFT   ● Non-Inscrits   ● Unaffiliated

EU Dashboard: Late February Projection

Seats 2019

108 · 182 · 62 · 73 · 154 · 74 · 41 · 57 45

LEFT · G/EFA · S&D · Renew · EPP · ECR · ID · Non-Inscrits

Projected seats June 2024

82 · 181 · 83 · 92 · 140 · 49 · 44 · 4

LEFT · G/EFA · S&D · Renew · EPP · ECR · ID · Non-Inscrits · Unaffiliated

Largest EU Parliament Group (Popular Vote)

2019

Projected June 2024
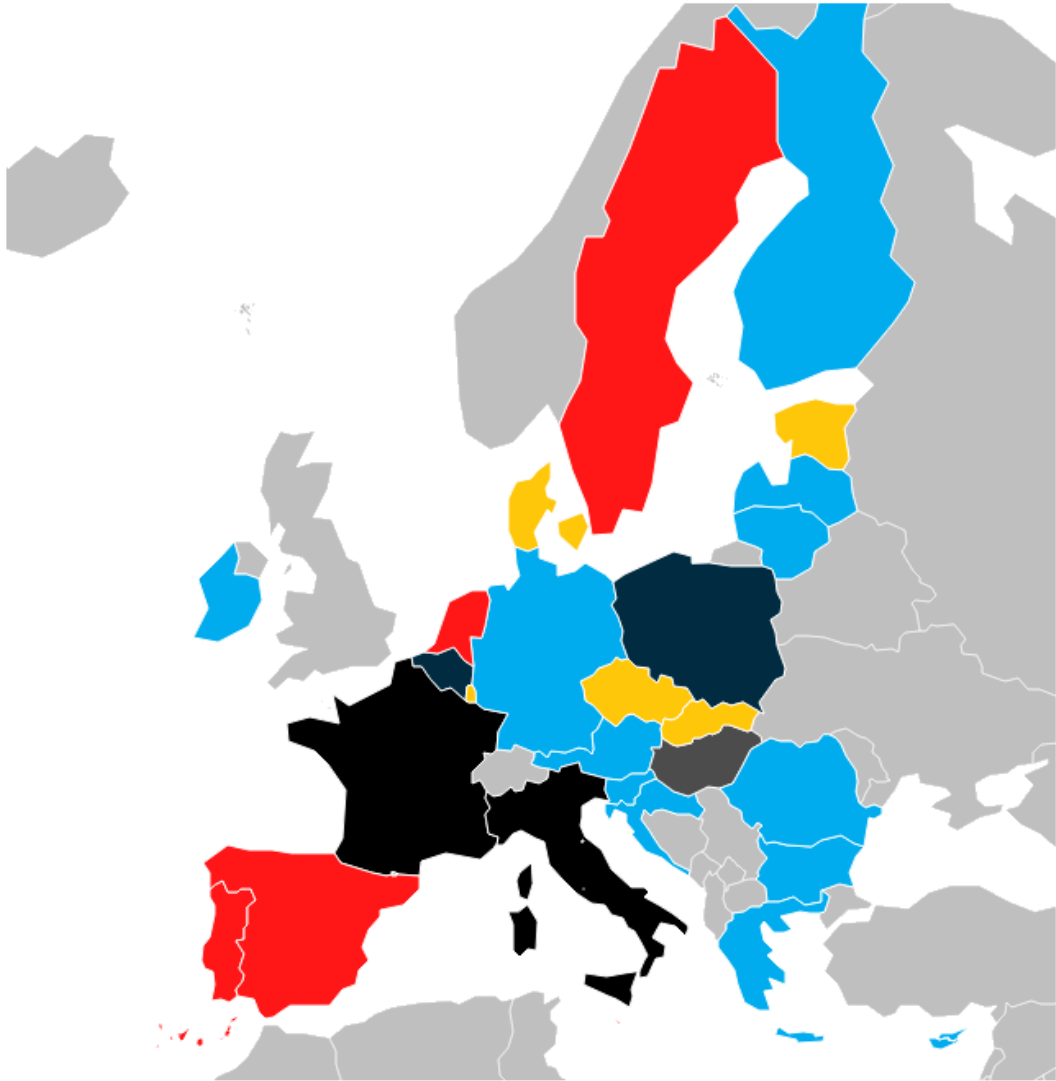
2019 legend: EPP · ECR · RE · ID · Non-Inscrits · S&D
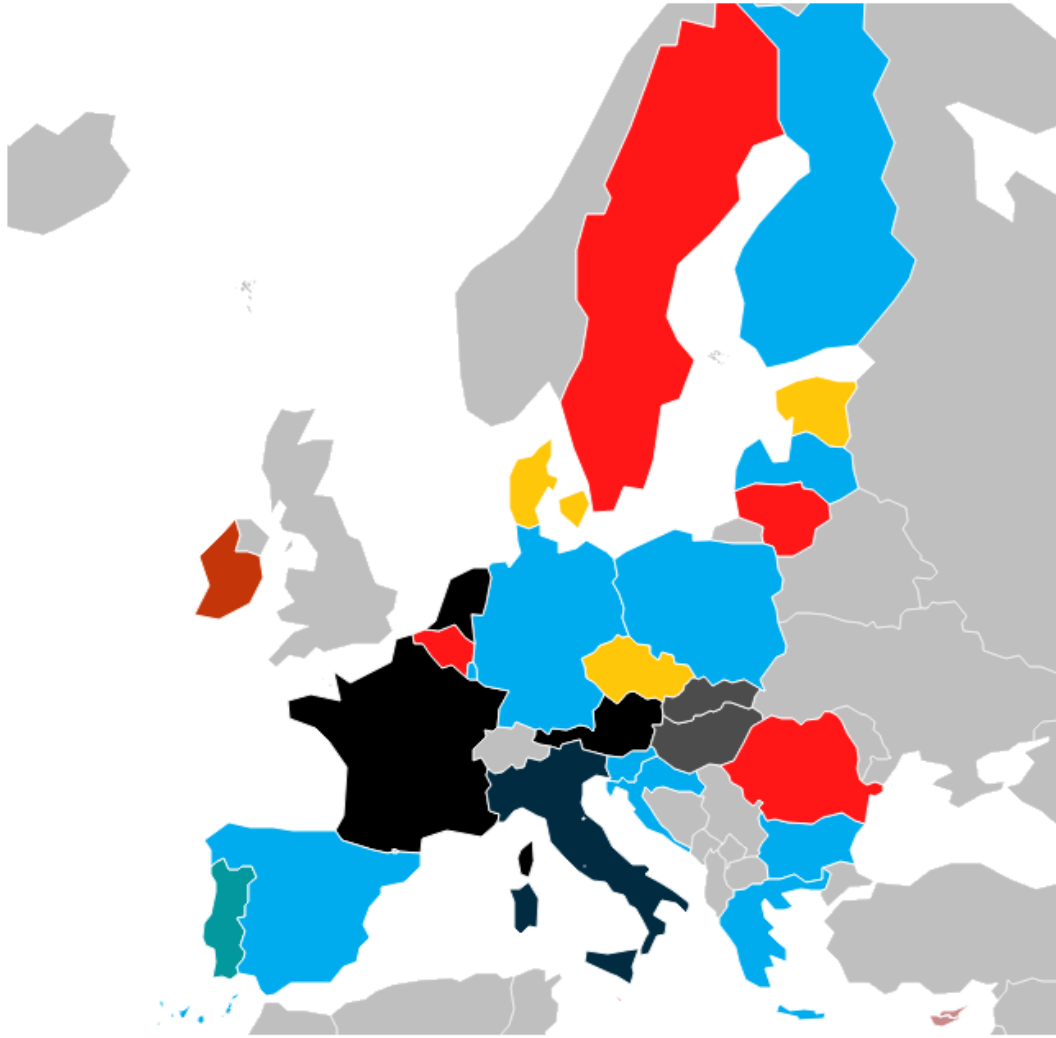
Projected June 2024 legend: ID · S&D · EPP · EPP/LEFT toss-up · RE · Non-Inscrits · LEFT · ECR · S&D/EPP toss-up

Part III: The voters' perspective – turnout, motivation and pressing issues to be addressed

The following questions deal with EU elections turnout, EU citizens' attitudes towards the upcoming elections, their willingness to participate and their motivation to do so:

1. Are you planning to vote in the European Parliamentary elections?
eupinions, December 2023: General distribution across the EU and seven member states

2. Imagine you could choose the three tasks the EU should focus on in the coming years.
eupinions, December 2023: General distribution across the EU and seven member states

3. What are the main reasons why you plan to vote in the European Parliamentary elections?
eupinions, December 2023: General distribution across the EU and seven member states

4. The European Parliament takes the concerns of European citizens into account.
eupinions, December 2023: General distribution across the EU and seven member states

5. EU elections turnout
European Parliament, December Eurobarometer 2023

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Are you planning to vote in the 2024 European Parliamentary elections?

Yes   **Maybe**   **No**

EU27

60%	25%	15%

Belgium

65%	22%	13%

France

52%	26%	22%

Germany

61%	24%	15%

Italy

63%	23%	14%

Netherlands

53%	32%	15%

Poland

67%	23%	10%

Spain

65%	24%	11%

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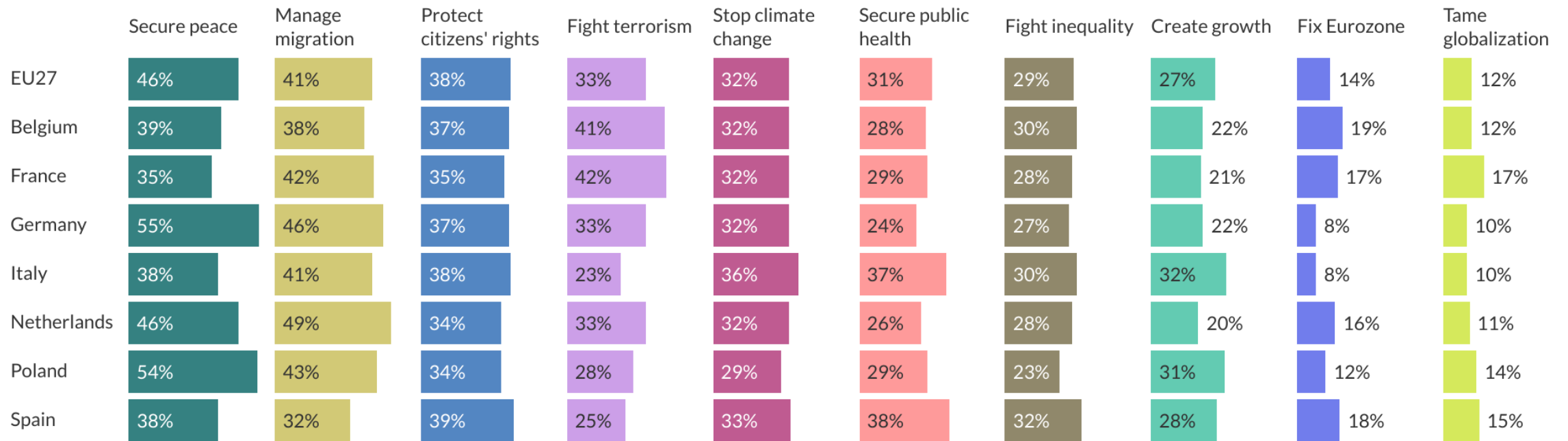
Imagine you could choose the three tasks the EU should focus on in the coming years. Please select only three tasks.

Legend: ■ Secure peace ■ Manage migration ■ Protect citizens' rights ■ Fight terrorism ■ Stop climate change ■ Secure public health ■ Fight inequality ■ Create growth ■ Fix Eurozone ■ Tame globalization
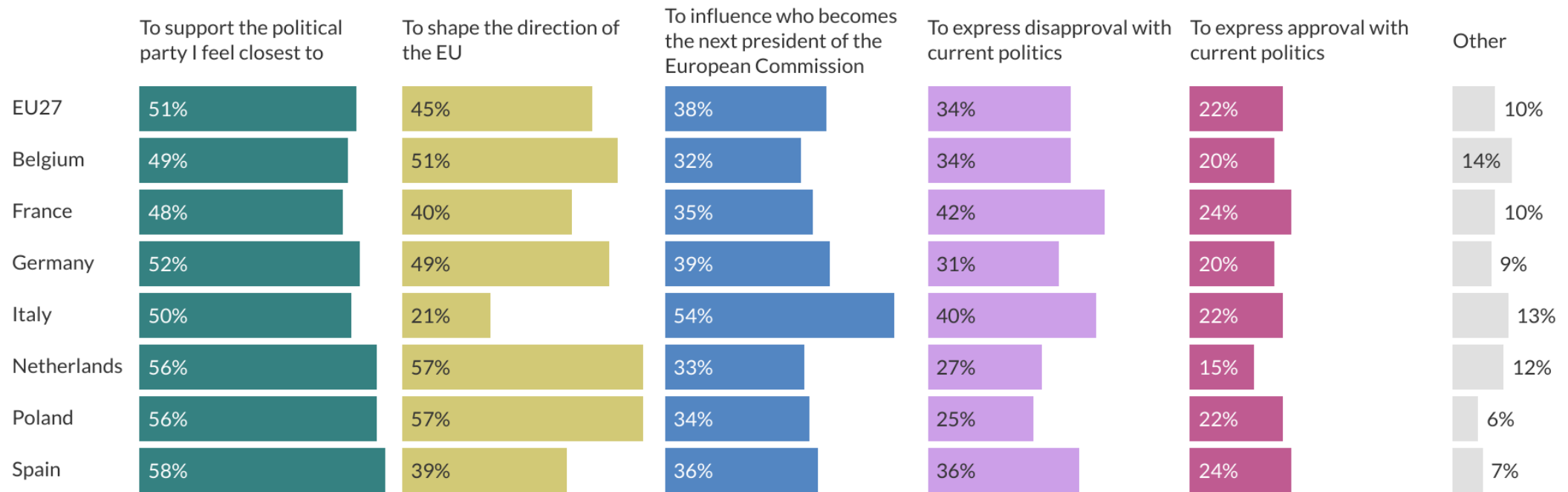
	Secure peace	Manage migration	Protect citizens' rights	Fight terrorism	Stop climate change	Secure public health	Fight inequality	Create growth	Fix Eurozone	Tame globalization
EU27	46%	41%	38%	33%	32%	31%	29%	27%	14%	12%
Belgium	39%	38%	37%	41%	32%	28%	30%	22%	19%	12%
France	35%	42%	35%	42%	32%	29%	28%	21%	17%	17%
Germany	55%	46%	37%	33%	32%	24%	27%	22%	8%	10%
Italy	38%	41%	38%	23%	36%	37%	30%	32%	8%	10%
Netherlands	46%	49%	34%	33%	32%	26%	28%	20%	16%	11%
Poland	54%	43%	34%	28%	29%	29%	23%	31%	12%	14%
Spain	38%	32%	39%	25%	33%	38%	32%	28%	18%	15%

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What are the main reasons why you plan to vote in the European Parliamentary elections? Select up to two reasons.

Legend:
- To support the political party I feel closest to
- To shape the direction of the EU
- To influence who becomes the next president of the European Commission
- To express disapproval with current politics
- To express approval with current politics
- Other

	To support the political party I feel closest to	To shape the direction of the EU	To influence who becomes the next president of the European Commission	To express disapproval with current politics	To express approval with current politics	Other
EU27	51%	45%	38%	34%	22%	10%
Belgium	49%	51%	32%	34%	20%	14%
France	48%	40%	35%	42%	24%	10%
Germany	52%	49%	39%	31%	20%	9%
Italy	50%	21%	54%	40%	22%	13%
Netherlands	56%	57%	33%	27%	15%	12%
Poland	56%	57%	34%	25%	22%	6%
Spain	58%	39%	36%	36%	24%	7%

December 2023

Please note: This chart had to be edited after publication due to a miscalculation. The results changed slightly, the proportion however stayed the same.

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The European Parliament takes the concerns of European citizens into account.

■ Agree ■ Disagree

EU27
| 50% | 50% |

Belgium
| 44% | 56% |

France
| 39% | 61% |

Germany
| 55% | 45% |

Italy
| 39% | 61% |

Netherlands
| 53% | 47% |

Poland
| 63% | 37% |

Spain
| 43% | 57% |

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EU elections turnout

58.98%	58.41%	56.67%	49.51%	45.47%	42.97%	42.61%	50.66%	68%
1984	1989	1994	1999	2004	2009	2014	2019	2024 Expected

Source: European Parliament, December Eurobarometer 2023

About eupinions

eupinions is an independent platform for European public opinion. We collect and analyse data on European public opinion and comment on what Europeans think about current political issues and megatrends.

Every quarter, we collect samples from each EU member state in 22 languages.

Our data is representative with regard to age, gender, education and country/region.

eupinions is a **Bertelsmann Stiftung** project. The data is collected by Latana.

Visit **www.eupinions.eu** for further information!

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Methodology note

The samples analysed in this report were drawn by Latana in December 2023 (n=13,299) across all 27 EU member states. Our samples take into account current population distributions with regard to age (16-70 years), gender and region/country. In order to obtain census representative results, the data were weighted using the most recent Eurostat statistics.

Any references to differences between countries in the report pertain only to the seven countries with sufficiently large sample sizes: Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Poland and Spain.

Given the sample size and design-effect considerations, the margin of error is 0.9% at a confidence level of 95%.

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