**European
Elections monitor**

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Significant breakthrough by the far right in Flanders, victory for the Socialist Party in Wallonia and Brussels: Belgium divided more than ever before

Results

The Belgian general election took place on 26th May revealing a greatly divided country.

The far-right made a significant breakthrough in Flanders in the shape of the Vlaams Belang (Flemish Interest, VB), a party chaired by Tom Van Grieken. Although the New Alliance (N-VA), a nationalist party chaired by Bart de Wever, is still the region's leading party with 25 seats, it lost some seats however (-8 seats in comparison with the previous parliamentary elections on 25th May 2014) and failed to rise above the 30% vote threshold. The Vlaams Belang came second with 18 seats (+15).

The Christian Democratic Party (CD&V), led by Wouter Beke, came third, but with fewer seats: 12 MPs (-6). Then come the Liberals and Democrats (Open VLD), a party led by Gwendolyn Rutten, with 12 seats (-2); the Socialist Party (SP.A), led by John Crombez, with 9 seats (- 4) and Groen, an ecologist party chaired by Meyrem Almaci with 8 seats (+2). The Labour Party (PTB/PvdA), far left, led by Peter Mertens, won seats in Flanders for the first time.

In Wallonia, the Socialist Party (PS), led by Elio di Rupo,

came first in the election despite a loss of seats: 20[1] (- 3). It came out ahead of the Reform Movement (MR), a liberal party led by outgoing Prime Minister Charles Michel, which recorded a loss of support, winning 14 seats (- 6); Ecolo, a party led co-led by Zakia Khattabi and Jean-Marc Nollet, won 13 seats (+ 7) and the Labour Party, making strong progress, won 12 seats (+10). The Humanist Democratic Centre (cDH), led by Maxime Prévot, came fifth (5 MPs, - 4).

In Brussels, the socialists also came out ahead, just in front of the French-speaking ecologists who witnessed a sharp rise in support. The Reform Movement came third, followed by DéFI-Democratic Federalist Independent, chaired by Olivier Maingain and by the Labour Party. The latter made a breakthrough in the Belgian capital, as it did in Wallonia.

Turnout totalled 90.01%. We should note that it is obligatory to vote in Belgium

1. Here the number of seats and for the following parties is quoted in this article for the whole of Belgium, since the French-speaking parties have won seats in Wallonia and in Brussels. The Flemish parties have also won seats in Brussel,s but fewer than the French-speaking parties.

Parliamentary elections results 26th May in Belgium

House of Representatives

Turnout: 90.01%

Political parties	Number of Seats
New Flemish Alliance (N-VA)	25
Socialist Party (PS)	20
Vlaams Belang (VB)	18
Reform Movement (MR)	14
Ecolo	13
Labour Party (PTB/PvdA)	12
Christian Democratic Party (CD&V)	12
Liberals and Democrats (Open VLD)	12
Socialist Party (SP. A)	9
Groen !	8
Humanist Democratic Centre (cDH)	5
DéFI-Democratic Federalist Independent	2
Others	0

Source : https://elections2019.belgium.be/fr/resultats-chiffres?el=CK&id=CKR00000

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