

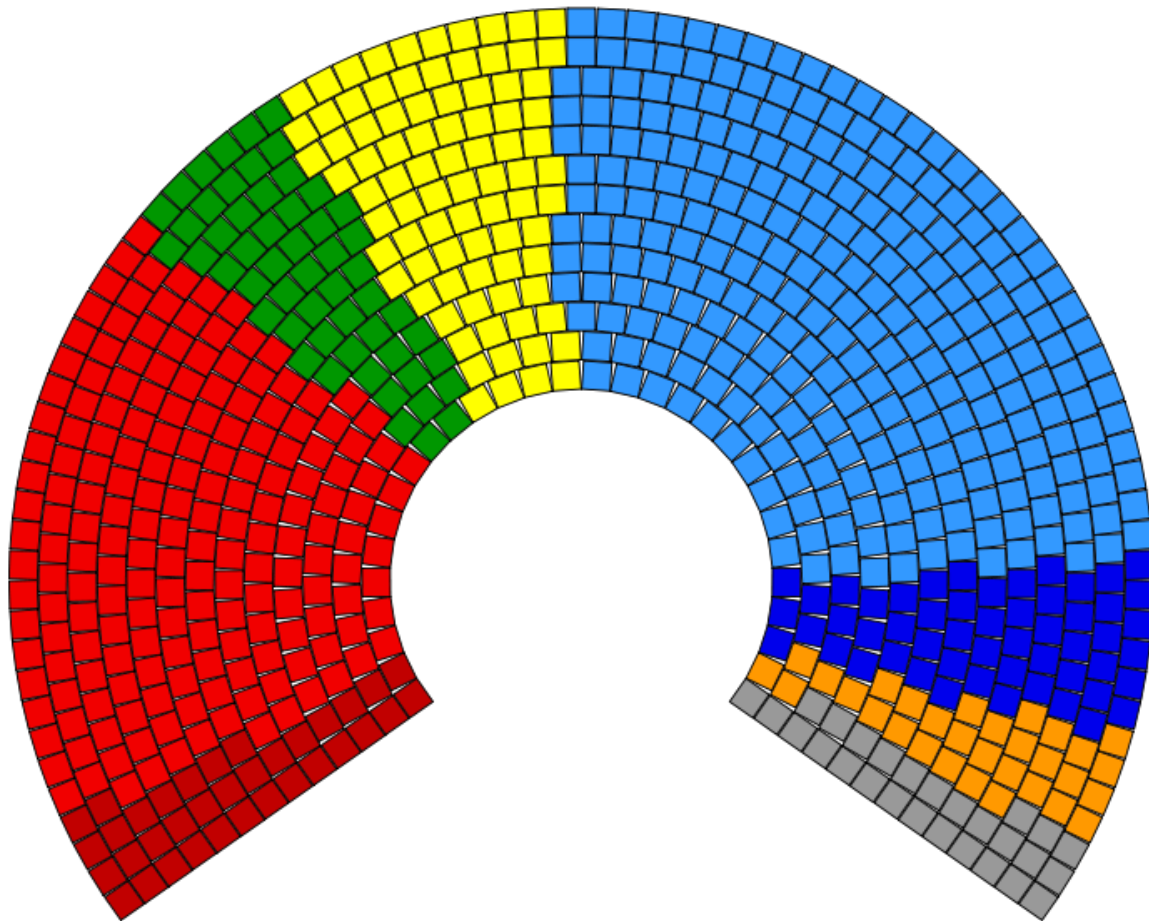
DRAFT

A DAY IN THE LIVES: COMPARING LEGISLATURES

U.S. Congress is often referred to as the most powerful and influential democratic legislature in the world. The European Parliament is one of the most powerful institutions in the European Union. EP members create and pass legislation and can amend the EU budget. In this lesson, students do online research to create a chart of the similarities and differences of both legislative bodies.

- A Day in the Life of a Member of the European Union Parliament
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PaXNCvQ3bWs>
- The Many Roles of a Member of Congress: E-learning Module, Center on Congress, Indiana University: <http://congress.indiana.edu/interactive-learning-modules>
- (Historical) One Day in the Life of a Busy Senator, NY Times, Nov. 9, 1902
<http://query.nytimes.com/gst/abstract.html?res=F70612FB35591B728DDDA00894D9415B828CF1D3>

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



EP Political Groups

	EPP: European Peoples Party (265)
	S&D: Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (184)
	ALDE (84): Alliance of Liberals and Democrats (84)
	ECR : European Conservatives and Reformists (54)
	Greens -EFA: Greens and European Free Alliance (55)
	EUL-NGL: European United Left/Nordic Green Left (35)
	EFD: Europe of Freedom and Democracy (32)
	Non-Inscrits (27)

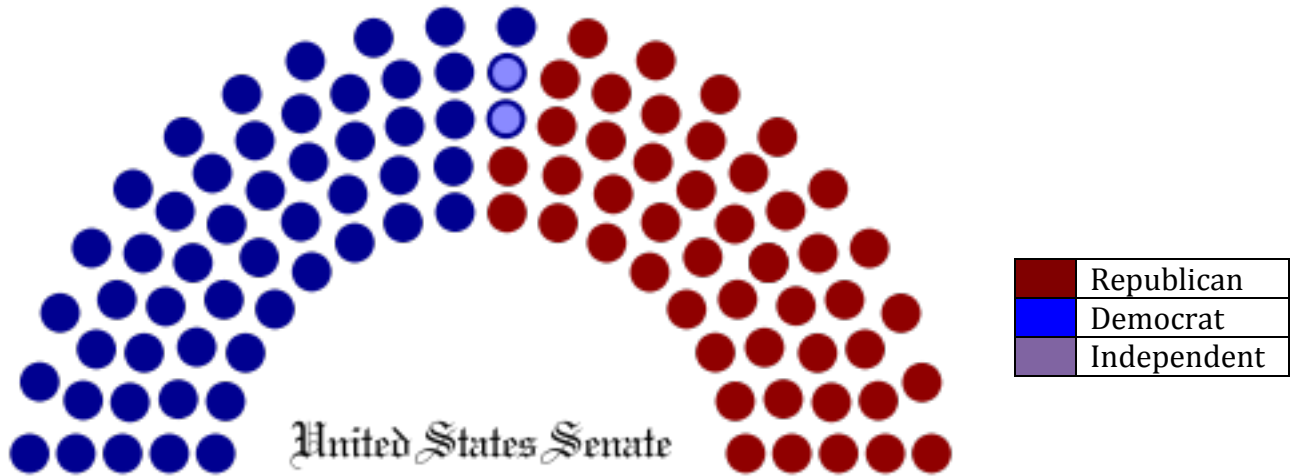
The European Parliament is the only directly-elected body of the EU. 736 Members are elected once every five years by voters in the 27 Member States of the EU on behalf of its 500 million citizens.

The Members of the EP sit in political groups – not by nationality, but by political affiliation from left to right.

There are currently 7 political groups in the European Parliament. 25 members are needed to form a political group, and at least one-quarter of the member nations must be represented within the group.

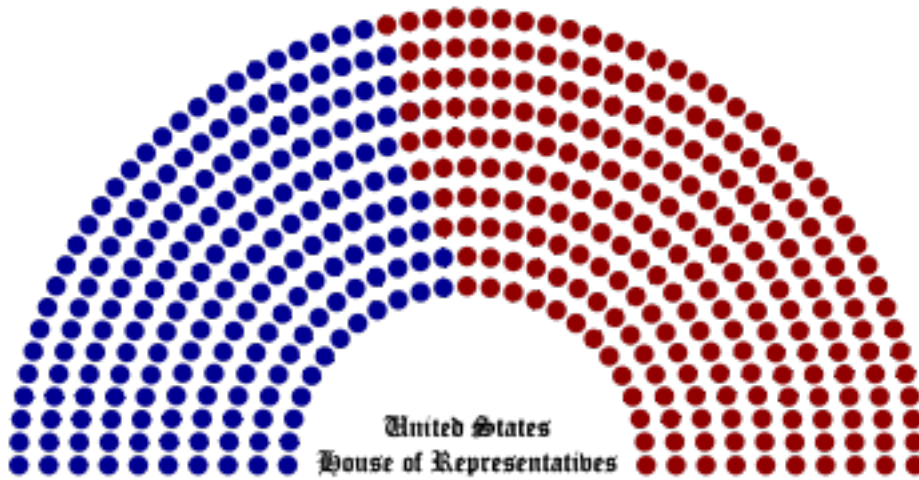
20 committees

UNITED STATES CONGRESS



US Senate website: <http://www.senate.gov/index.htm>

100 Senators; 20 Senate committees. Four joint committees with members from both houses.



The House explained: <http://www.house.gov/content/learn/>

435 House members; 21 permanent committees

**Legislative Branches:
The European Parliament and the U.S. Congress
Similarities and Differences**

	European Parliament Members	Congress: Representatives, Senators
1. Goals		
2. Languages		
3. Can initiate legislation?		
4. Terms of office		
5. # of members:		
6. Committees		
7. Political Parties		
8. Citizen ratings		
9. Voter turnout for elections		
10. Budget Responsibilities		
11. Veto powers		
12. Partisan voting patterns?		
13.		
14.		
15.		
16.		

**Sample Chart:
The European Parliament and the U.S. Congress
Similarities and Differences**

	European Parliament	Congress
1. Languages	23	1
2. Initiate legislation?	No	Yes
3. Terms of Office	5 years	Reps: 2 yrs; Senators 6
4. # of members:	736 MEPs in one chamber	Senate -100 members; House of Representatives – 435
5. Political Parties	7 political groups in the EP	Democrat, Republican
6. Citizen ratings	<p>See: Congress approval ratings: http://www.gallup.com/poll/145238/congress-job-approval-rating-worst-gallup-history.aspx</p> <p>How Europeans see the European Parliament http://www.europarl.europa.eu/parliament/public/static/Display.do?id=40&refreshCache=yes&language=en&pageRank=21</p>	
7. Voter turnout for elections		
8.		
9.		
10.		
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