



ΕΒΡΟΠΕΪΚΗ ΠΑΡΛΙΑΜΕΝΤ ΠΑΡΛΑΜΕΝΤΟ ΕΥΡΩΠΕΟ ΕΥΡΩΠΕΪΚΟ ΠΑΡΛΑΜΕΝΤ ΕΥΡΩΠΑ-ΠΑΡΛΑΜΕΝΤΕΤ
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2009 European Elections Information Campaign Frequently Asked Questions

BASICS

- A. 495 EU citizens
- B. 375 million voters
- C. 36 million first-time voters
- D. 27 Member States

Q: Why is the European Parliament organising an information campaign for the European Elections?

A: Many Europeans are uncertain about why they should vote in the European elections. Some don't even know when the elections are taking place! Although political parties are obviously responsible for the political campaigning, the European Parliament, as an institution, has an obligation to raise citizens' awareness and to explain to people why their vote is important.

The European Parliament's information campaign is politically neutral.

Q: What is the European Elections logo and what does it mean?



The logo represents one of the twelve stars of the European flag. Blue and yellow are the two colours of the European Union. White represents the neutrality of our institutional campaign. An important idea in

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developing the logo was to stress the openness of the European Parliament as the EU's democratically elected body. This is why the star is left open on one side.

The slogan was devised to encourage voters to think about the choices that have to be made on issues that affect their everyday lives, such as energy, family life and consumer rights.

Information campaigns have been organized by the European Parliament before previous elections, but never in the current pan-European and integrated way.

Q: What is the main message of the campaign?

The core message is twofold: EU policies have important consequences, including for everyday concerns, and citizens can make a choice between different policy options by voting. Voting contributes to the election of a MEP or to the representation of a political party which best reflects the voter's views, as for all other democratically-elected parliaments.

Q: Does the campaign benefit some political parties more than others?

Certainly not. The campaign is politically neutral. It raises questions related to EU issues and sets out the European Parliament's role and powers, but it does not take sides or support one argument over another.

Q: What can I find on the elections website?

A wide range of information is available, in 22 languages, on www.elections2009.eu. There is an interactive map of the 27 EU countries, with links to country-specific data, including national electoral laws. Another section highlights 10 good reasons to vote. You will also find profiles of the political groups currently represented in the European Parliament..

You will also find clear and straightforward information about the roles and powers of the European Parliament, with fact-sheets and "Top Stories" on legislation dealt with by Parliament over the past five years and challenges that will face newly-elected MEPs. A digital "elections press kit" containing this and other information has been published, and many more sections will be regularly updated and added to the website.

Q: Will citizens be able to participate in this website?

Yes! People can comment on the articles and take part in online polls.

Q: When will the campaign be visible?

A: The online campaign started with the launch of the special website www.elections2009.eu, in February.

The campaign is now being presented to the media in Brussels and in the capitals. From then on there will be events in dozens of European cities: debates, ceremonies, artistic installations, special events and other citizen-centred activities will be held across the EU. The European Parliament's information offices in the 27 Member States will co-ordinate these country-specific events.