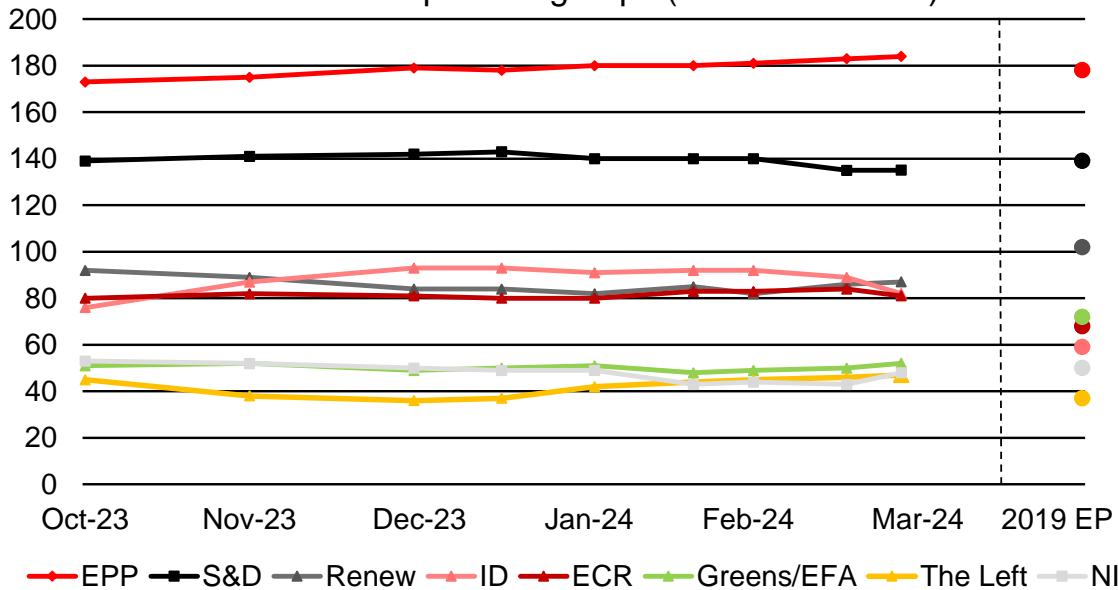


## Two months to go before the European election

European Parliament (EP) election: projections for the main political groups (number of seats)



NI stands for non-inscrits, which is a term used to describe an MEP who does not belong to one of the recognized political groups. For the 2024 election, the number of EP seats has been increased by 15, to 720. The current composition of the outgoing parliament elected in 2019 (2019 EP) envisages 705 seats, following the withdrawal of the UK from the EU. As pan-European polls are not available, the data take into account aggregation based on national opinion polls. Source: European Parliament, national opinion polls, UniCredit Research

- The upcoming European Parliament (EP) election is due to take place on 6-9 June 2024. Our *Chart of the Week* provides an update of indications from opinion polls, in terms of the number of seats political groups are expected to win compared to six months ago and compared to the number of outgoing MPs elected in 2019.
- Compared to six months ago, the main trends appear to be the following. There has been an increase in the number of seats projected to be won by the center-right European People’s Party (EPP), and, according to national polls conducted in the main EU countries, this looks to mirror an improvement in the prospects of the Italy’s Forza Italia, the Spanish Partido Popular and the German CDU-CSU. In March, the EPP formally nominated President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen as its Spitzenkandidat.
- In contrast, polls suggest there has been a decline in the number of seats likely to be won by the center-left Socialists and Democrats Group (S&D). Moreover, Renew Europe has continued to lose ground over the last six months, as the French Renew coalition has suffered a further decline in popularity, especially compared to the French Rassemblement National, which belongs to the Identity and Democracy Group (ID). In Germany, Italy and Spain, the popularity of parties affiliated with Renew Europe does not seem to be taking off. While seat polls had shown gains by the ID compared to six months ago, those gains have partly faded in the latest polls. Lastly, progress by the European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR) has slowed to a halt recently.
- When recent polling is compared with the composition of the outgoing European Parliament, it seems to confirm a decline in support for the liberal-centrist grand coalition formed by the EPP, the S&D and Renew, mainly in favor of the ECR and ID groups. Still, the grand coalition is likely to hold, albeit with a contained margin compared to the 361 seats needed for a parliamentary majority. The Greens/European Free Alliance (Green/EFA) is also set

to lose seats in the new parliament. At the same time, and despite their ideological differences, the EPP and ECR are unlikely to be able to win enough votes to form a majority coalition. Even when one considers that the ID group might do well, a potential coalition composed of the EPP, ECR and ID might not gather enough votes to win a majority and, above all, continues to appear unlikely, in our view. It remains that, even if the right-wing groups (ECR and ID) are not part of the governing coalition despite an increase in their representation, they might play a key role in shaping alliances in the new parliament on issues where there is dissent within the ranks of EPP, S&D and Renew, potentially affecting future EU policy, particularly on immigration and the EU's green transition.

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