



Special report

# The voting records of the declared candidates for President of the European Parliament

**This special [VoteWatch.eu](http://VoteWatch.eu) report looks at the voting records of the three declared candidates for President of the European Parliament: Nirj Deva, Martin Schulz, and Diana Wallis. It is published ahead of a public debate between the candidates organised by European Voice, VoteWatch.eu, EU40 and Burson-Marsteller.**

This debate will take place on Wednesday 11 January in Brussels. The new President will be elected by MEPs in a secret ballot on Tuesday 17 January, in Strasbourg. If other candidates put themselves forward between now and 11 January, an updated version of this report will be published on the [www.votewatch.eu](http://www.votewatch.eu) website.

We have selected a set of key issues that have gone through the EP plenary in the first half of the 2009-2014 term and where there were interesting differences between the candidates. We show how each candidate voted (or did not vote). We also present aggregate statistics on how often MEPs participated in votes in the EP plenary, but also how often the majority of MEPs voted the same way as they did. Statistics show the overall figures, as well as breakdowns by policy areas.

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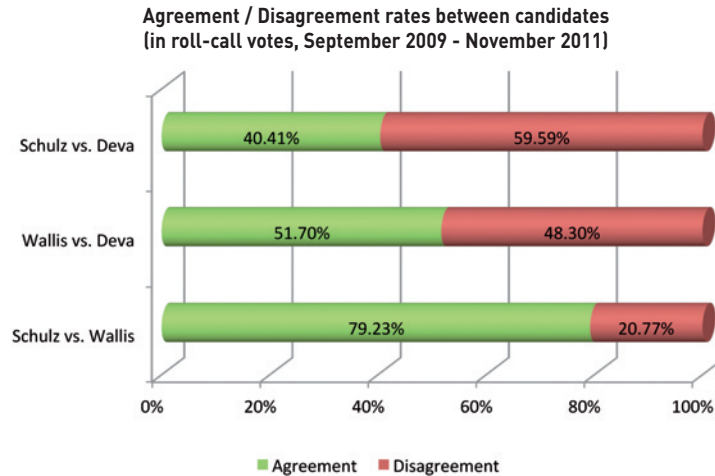
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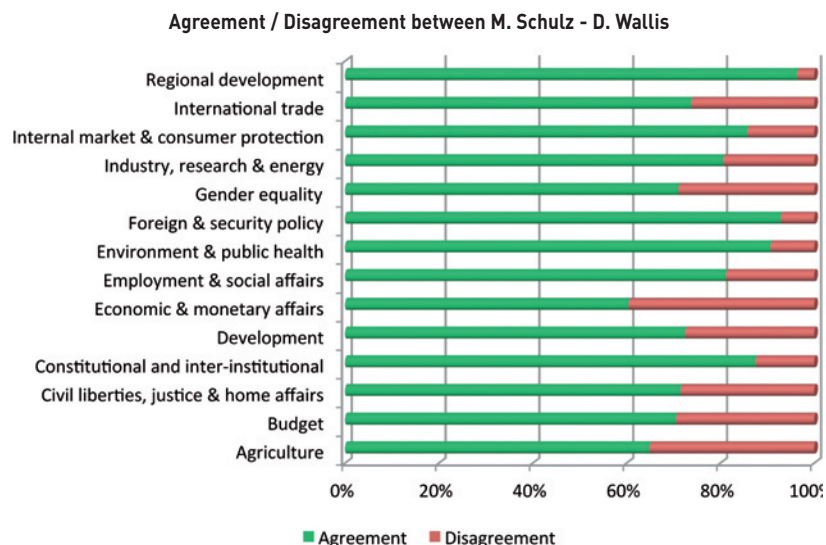
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## HOW DO THE CANDIDATES COMPARE TO EACH OTHER?

We first look at how different the three candidates are in terms of policy preferences. We compare their positions on all roll-call votes cast in the EP plenary between September 2009 and November 2011: there are 2401 votes in total, minus those where at least one of the candidates was absent or did not vote.

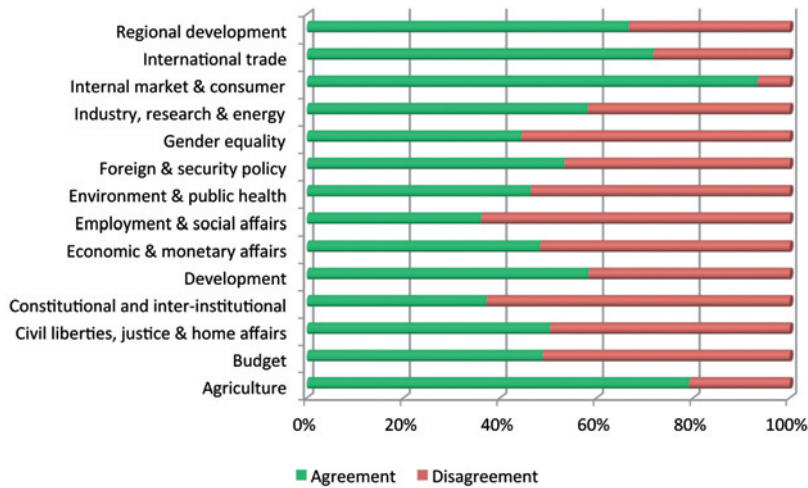


**Martin Schulz** and **Diana Wallis** hold similar positions on almost 80% of the issues voted, while they disagree on the remaining 20%. They each disagree much more with **Nirj Deva** than with each other.



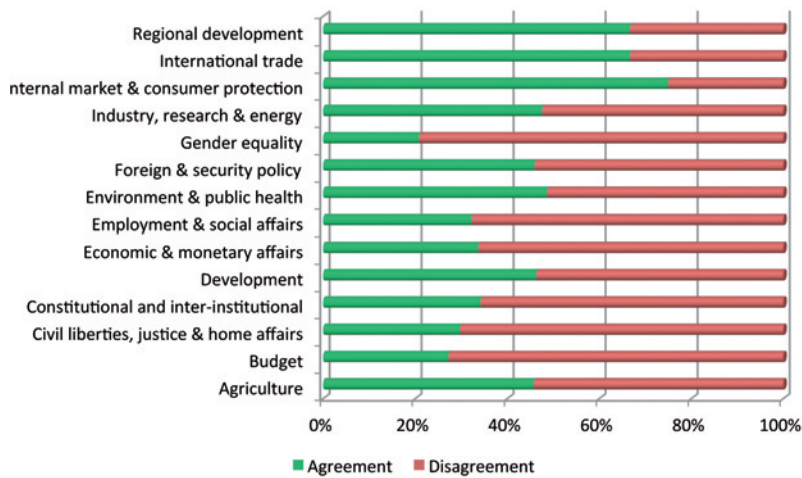
A detailed analysis by policy area shows that **Martin Schulz** and **Diana Wallis** have very similar policy preferences on foreign and security policy, environment and public health and regional development, while they disagree most on economic and monetary affairs and agriculture.

Agreement / Disagreement between D. Wallis - N. Deva



Diana Wallis and Nirj Deva vote in opposite directions most frequently on employment and social affairs, constitutional affairs and gender equality. The only area where there is a high rate of consensus between the two candidates is internal market and consumer protection.

Agreement / Disagreement between M. Schulz - N. Deva



The differences between Martin Schulz and Nirj Deva are most evident on gender equality, budgetary issues and economic and monetary affairs. The area where they agree most is internal market and consumer protection.

HOW DID THE CANDIDATES VOTE ON A NUMBER OF KEY ISSUES?

Next, we examine the candidates' positions on individual pieces of legislation (or non-binding resolutions that generated lively public debates and competition between the political groups) in the first half of the 2009-2014 EP term.

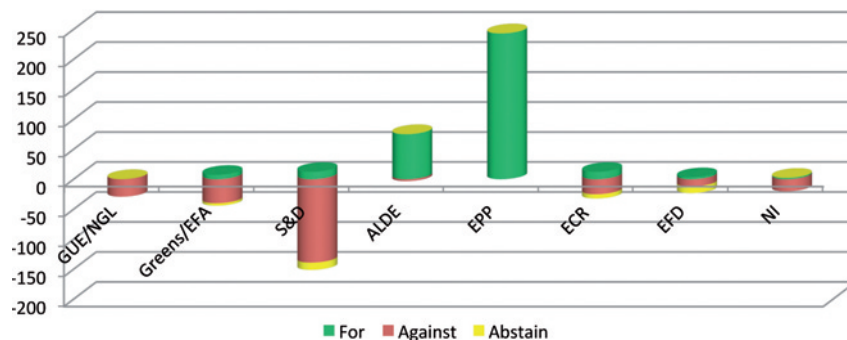
The symbols should be read as follows:

	<b>VOTE IN FAVOUR</b>		<b>ABSTENTION</b>
	<b>VOTE AGAINST</b>		<b>DID NOT VOTE</b> (whether present in the Chamber or not)

Surveillance of budgetary positions and surveillance and coordination of economic policies

					
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Surveillance of budgetary positions and surveillance and coordination of economic policies (Wortmann-Kool report) 354 to 269, with 34 abstentions



Background

The EP and Council regulation on **Surveillance of budgetary positions and surveillance and coordination of economic policies** is part of the legislative package establishing the framework for **European economic governance**, also referred to as the **'six-pack'**. The package was finally voted on on 28 September 2011, following several postponements. The legislative proposals were adopted largely due to solid support from the EPP and ALDE groups, whose members voted in favour of all six legislative texts.

Despite opposition from other political forces, the EPP and ALDE groups succeeded in securing a majority thanks to a high level of internal discipline, combined with defections from other groups.

The S&D group supported only one of the six proposals, on Prevention and correction of macro-economic imbalances.

The Greens/EFA group supported three of the proposals, but voted against the remaining three.

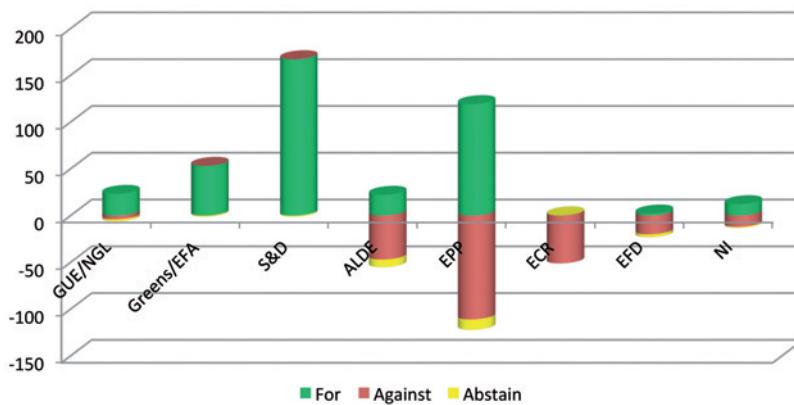
MEPs within the ECR group were split, and only one proposal found a majority in favour within the group: Requirements for budgetary frameworks of Member States.

The GUE/NGL group voted against all six proposals, while the EFD MEPs were split.

## Tax on Financial Transactions at European level (within the Multiannual Financial Framework)



Financial Transactions Tax (FTT) at EU level, in the MFF, am 70 - after paragraph 169  
397 to 246 with, 28 abstentions



### Background

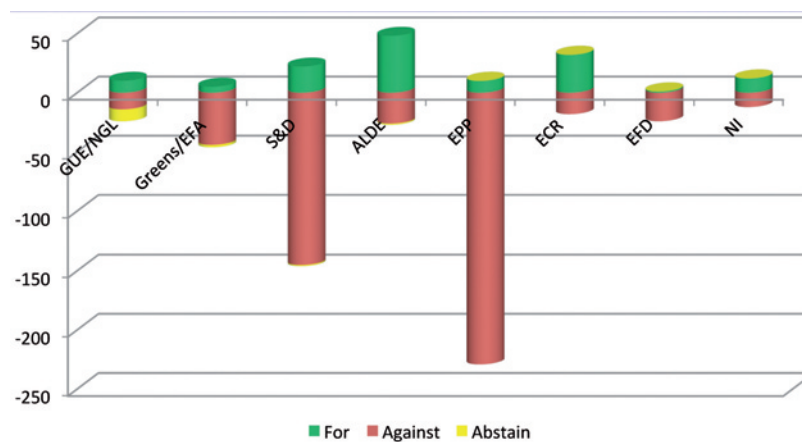
This vote was part of the European Parliament’s position on the EU’s Multiannual Financial Framework voted on 8 June 2011. A majority of MEPs supported amendment 70, expressing support for the introduction of a tax on financial transactions (FTT) at European level. The amendment stated that: “[EP] **Points out that the EU should take the initiative of applying within its borders a tax on financial transactions, while it should continue to fight for the application of such a tax on a global scale; considers that an FTT could constitute a substantial contribution by the financial sector to the economic and social cost of the crisis to public finance sustainability; it could also contribute partially to the financing of the EU budget as well as lowering Member States’ GNI contributions; the EU should also act as an exemplar in relation to the movement of funds towards fiscal havens**”.

This provision was supported by the political groups on the left (S&D, Greens/EFA, GUE/NGL) as well as by part of the ALDE Group (French, Italians, Romanians) and part of the EPP group (French, Spaniards, Greeks, Poles and half of the Germans).

## Reduction of the of Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) budget (within the MFF)



Limited cuts in the CAP, within the MMF amendments 18 to paragraph 81  
144 to 512 with 14 abstentions



### Background

Amendment 18 to paragraph 81 in the MFF voted (and defeated) on 8 June 2011 aimed at urging the European Commission to take into account the possibility of limited cuts in the CAP:

#### Paragraph 81

##### Motion for a resolution

81. Insists that, *given the wide array of tasks and objectives that the CAP is called to respond to, the amounts allocated to the CAP in the budget year 2013 should be at least maintained during the next financial programming period;*

##### Amendment 18 tabled by the ALDE group

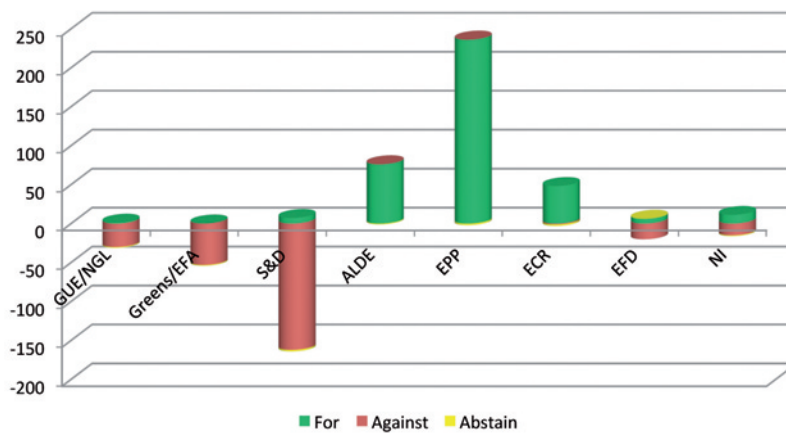
81. Insists that limited and precise cuts in the CAP may become possible, depending on the outcome of the current CAP reform;



## Support for Free Trade Agreement with India (non-legislative resolution)



Free Trade Agreement with India  
390 to 276 with 10 abstentions



### Background

The centre-right political forces defeated the left and pushed through on 11 May 2011 a resolution in support of the FTA with India, as Christian Democrat, Conservative and Liberal MEPs voted in favour. In the opposing camp were the Socialists and Democrats, Greens and radical-left MEPs. However, 13 Socialists, primarily from the UK, defected from their group and supported the FTA.

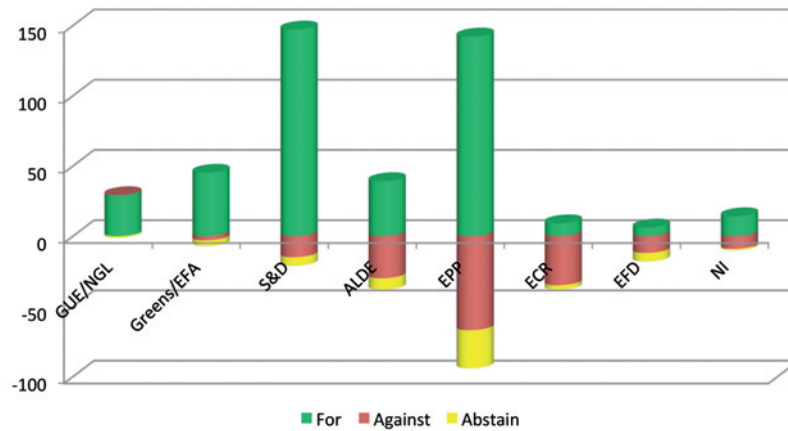
The non-legislative resolution expresses Parliament's disappointment of the slow progress in negotiations for the free trade agreement and calls on both parties to finish the work by the end of this year. The text mentions that the aim of the agreement should be full reciprocal duty elimination for all industrial goods, including sensitive sectors such as passenger cars.

India is the leading beneficiary of the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP), which allows developing countries to export goods to the EU at preferential tariff rates. Negotiations for a free trade Agreement were launched in June 2007.

## Maternity Leave Directive



Maternity Leave Directive  
390 to 192 with 59 abstentions



### Background

The Directive on Maternity Leave was adopted by the European Parliament on 20 October 2010. The text provides for the extension of the maternity leave from 14 to 20 fully paid weeks and a number of other measures favourable to mothers and pregnant women, as well as strengthening the role of the paternity leave.

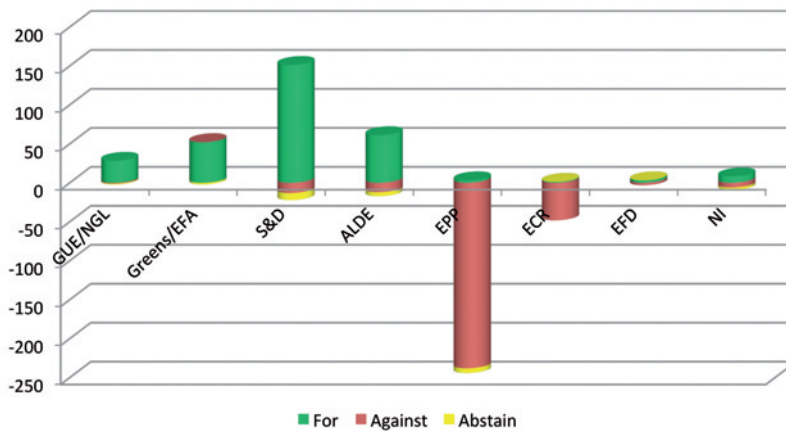
The left backed the proposal, arguing that its provisions would provide for more protection for women and encourage population growth. The right, on the other hand, opposed it, arguing that such provisions would lead to significant additional burdens, particularly for small businesses, and to indirect discrimination of women on the labour market, as employers would avoid hiring young women likely to benefit from an extended period of paid maternity leave.

In the end, a majority made up by mostly of S&D and EPP MEPs, together with the radical left (GUE/NGL), succeeded in passing the resolution. However, there were important splits inside both the S&D and the EPP, based on nationality, while the ALDE group was split exactly in half, with 33 MEPs voting for, 33 against and 9 abstaining. The ECR voted against.

## Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) – resolution tabled by the centre-left



Anti-Counterfeit Trade Agreement (ACTA) - resolution tabled by the centre-left  
306 to 322 with 26 abstentions



### Background

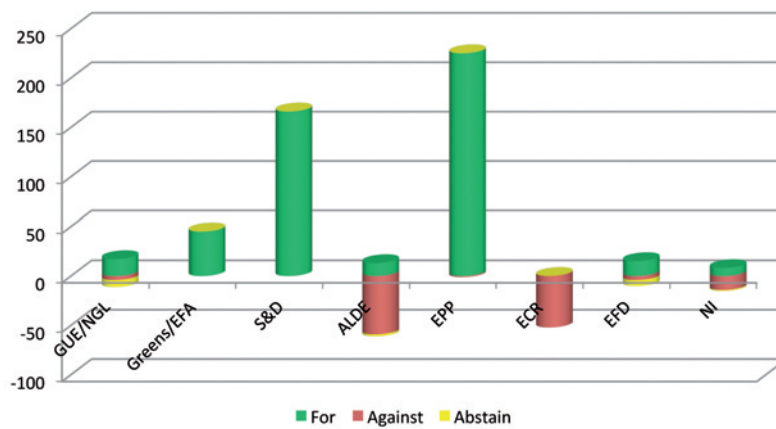
On 22 September 2010 the EP gave informal backing to the Commission’s position on the Anti Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) negotiations, the multilateral agreement that deals with, among other things, measures to be taken to protect intellectual property against illegal downloading from the internet.

The issue raised strong competition between conservative and progressive forces, with the former getting the upper hand. The EPP and ECR groups succeeded in having their resolution adopted (by show of hands – so without a registered roll call) in the European Parliament’s plenary, after rejecting a more critical resolution put forward by the centre-left.

## State-aid rules on services of general interest



State aid rules on services of general economic interest  
488 to 134 with 59 abstentions



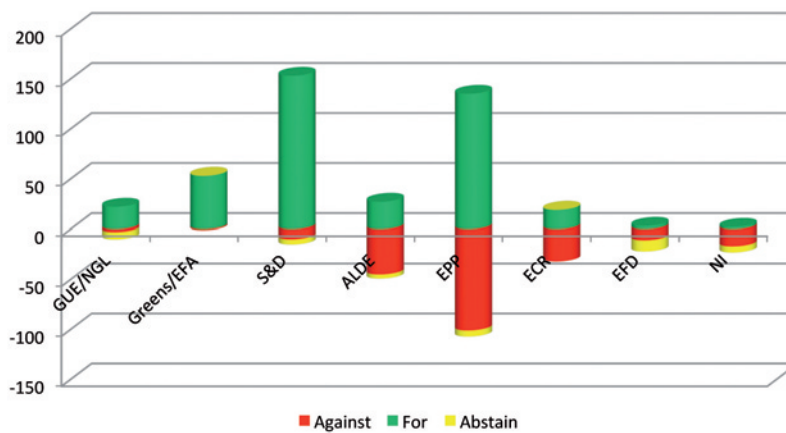
### Background

On 5 November 2011 the EP voted a non-legislative resolution calling on the Commission to put forward a legal framework for strengthening the provisions governing services of general interest. The report points out the need to take into account the diversity of social services, notably through further exemptions from notification and a specific rule exempting small compensation payments from state aid rules. While most of the political groups supported the report, the ALDE and ECR groups voted against it.

## Proposal for a new category of EU regions (within the Multiannual Financial Framework)



Proposal to create a new category of regions, in the MMF, paragraph 73  
411 to 222 with 40 abstentions



### Background

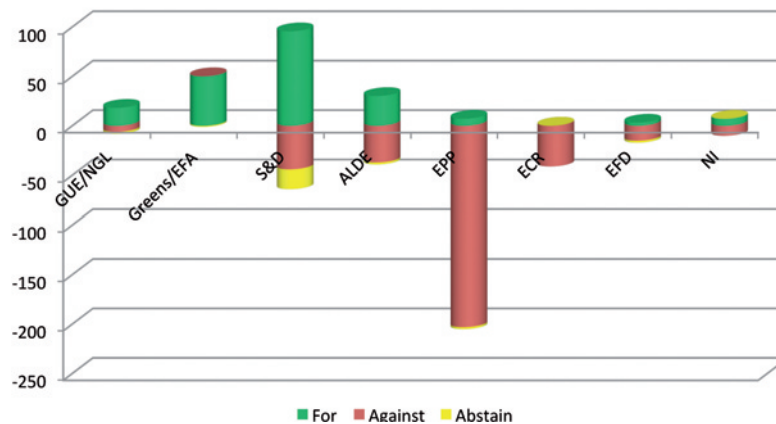
Paragraph 73 of the MFF report voted on 8 June 2011 calls on the Commission to "establish an intermediary category for the next programming period for regions whose GDP per capita stands at between 75% and 90% of EU GDP, in order to provide them with a clearer status and more security in their development; asks the Commission to provide further information on the budgetary consequences of such an option; calls on the Commission to also draw up concrete proposals to reinforce equity between those regions and other regions on the same level of development".

The ALDE Group wanted this paragraph deleted and drafted an amendment to that purpose, but failed to rally a majority in its favour. The vote was widely influenced by MEPs' nationality: the EPP Group was split down the middle, with most MEPs from member states in Southern, Eastern and Central Europe (including Poles, Hungarians, Romanians, Austrians, French, Spaniards, and Portuguese) supporting the idea of this new type of regions, while others (including German, Swedish, Dutch and Italian MEPs) opposing it. The S&D Group supported the new definition, except for the Italian delegation, which opposed it. In the ALDE Group, the French, German and Italian delegations voted against the group's own amendment, supporting this new type of region.

## Proposal to phase out nuclear energy in the EU



Proposal to phase out nuclear energy, in the FP of the European Atomic Energy Community  
Am. 36  
210 to 356 with 29 abstentions



### Background

A majority of MEPs adopted on 17 November 2011 the Framework programme of the European Atomic Energy Community for nuclear research and training activities, with only the Greens / EFA and the GUE / NGL groups voting against at the final vote.

A key vote was cast on amendment 36, drafted by the Greens / EFA group, that aimed at underlining the view that EU should renounce nuclear energy at the soonest.

#### Text proposed by the Commission

*Nuclear power will play a strategic role in the Union's energy mix for at least the next half century, contributing to achieve the Union's target on emission of greenhouse gases, and improving the Union's independence, security and diversity of energy supply. This could be achieved within the strictest commitments towards responsible use of nuclear energy, covering safety and security.*

#### Amendment by the Greens / EFA

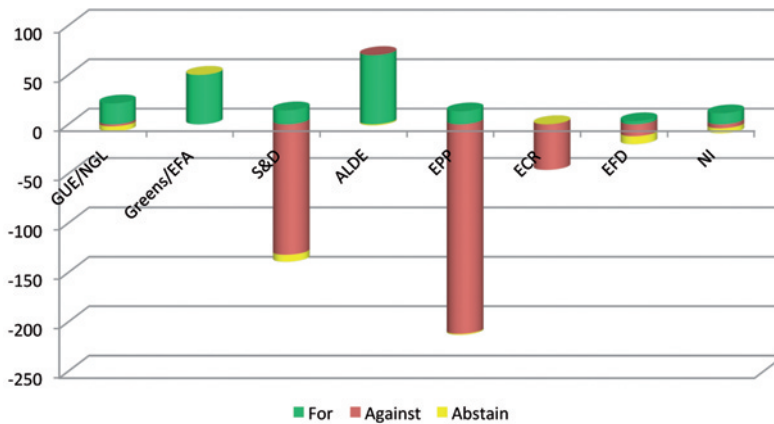
*While nuclear power still plays a role in electricity generation in some Member States, the Union must move resolutely towards a non-nuclear economy.*

The amendment was supported by the GUE / NGL and Greens / EFA, as well as by two thirds of the S&D members and almost half of the ALDE MEPs. However, it failed to reach the majority of votes, as the EPP, ECR, EFD groups, as well as most of the ALDE MEPs voted against it.

## EU request to Russia for an immediate shutdown of Chernobyl-type nuclear reactors



EU-Russia summit, request for closure of Chernobyl-like reactors  
am 1 - paragraph 11  
180 to 409 with 25 abstentions

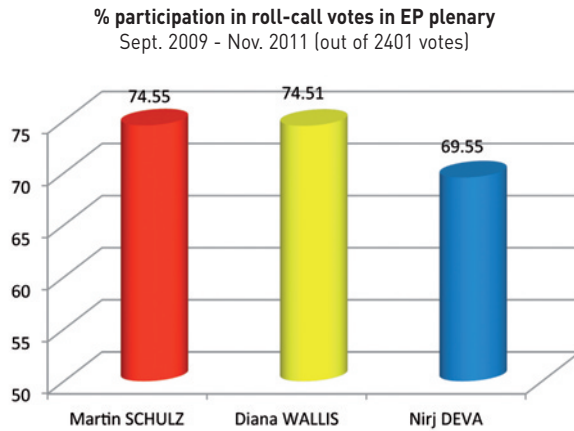


### Background

The House has voted on 9 June 2011 its message to the EU-Russia summit. Amendment 1 to paragraph 11, tabled by the Greens / EFA group, stated that "...[EP] considers that **an immediate shutdown should apply** to Chernobyl-type nuclear reactors still in use". Along with the Greens / EFA, the amendment received the support of the ALDE and GUE / NGL groups, as well as 14 S&D members and 13 EPP members, but failed to reach a majority.

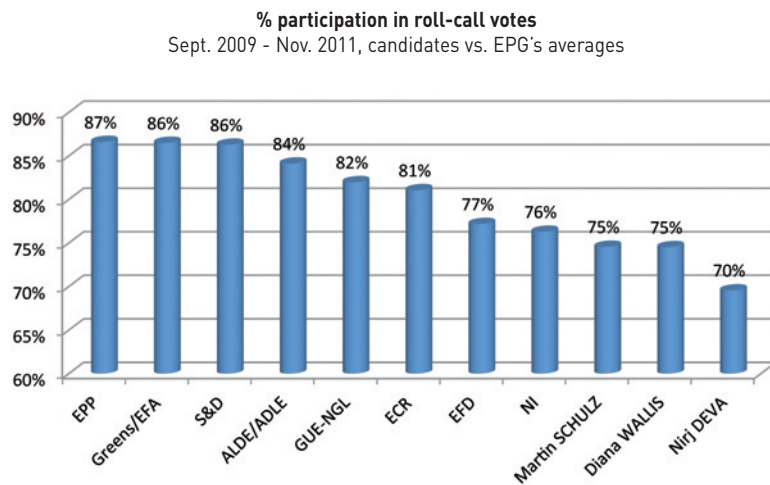
**WHAT IS THE CANDIDATES' PARTICIPATION RATE IN VOTING SESSIONS?**

As shown in the previous sections, candidates haven't always taken part in the votes on key issues. So what is their participation rate in roll call votes overall?



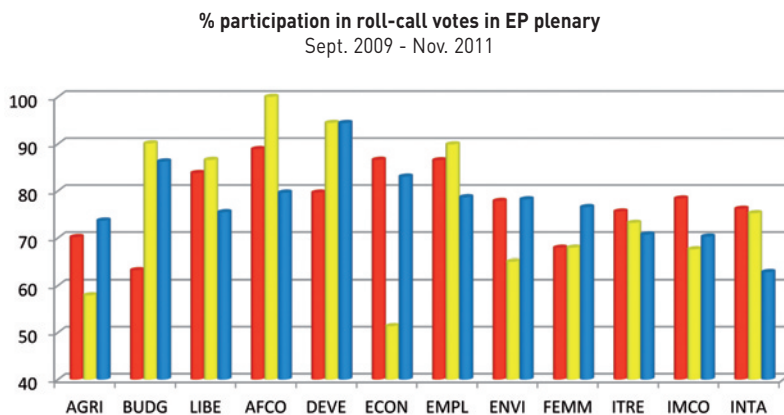
Martin Schulz and Diana Wallis participated in three-quarters of all roll-call votes cast between the beginning of the current EP term in September 2009 and the end of November 2011. In absolute terms, Martin Schulz took part (yes, no or abstain) in 1790 votes, one more than Diana Wallis (1789 votes). Nirj Deva lags behind, with a participation rate of 69.55% (1670 out of 2401).

When compared to the average participation rate in votes by all MEPs from all European political groups, we can see that all three candidates tend to cast their vote less often than their colleagues:



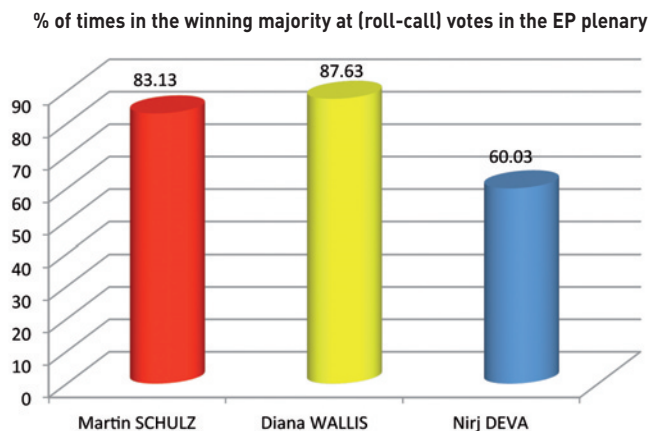


A breakdown by some of the policy areas where most roll-call votes were cast shows that, depending on the candidate, participation in votes per policy area differed:



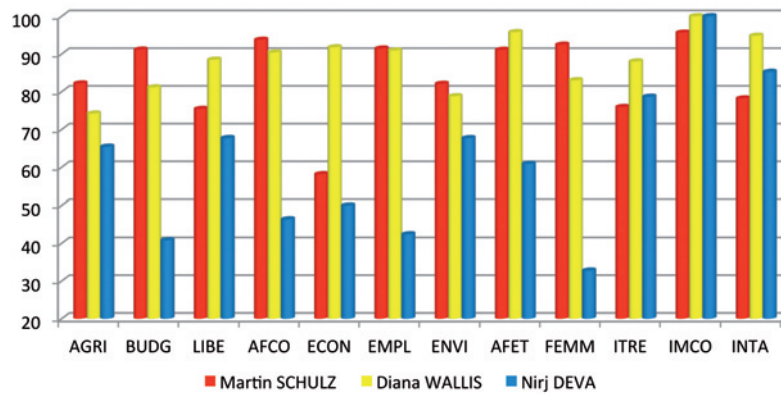
**HOW REPRESENTATIVE ARE THE CANDIDATES OF THE EP AS A WHOLE ?**

The representativeness of each candidate for the EP as a whole can be measured by looking at the extent to which the majority of MEPs voted in the same way as they did. So far (between September 2009 – November 2011), more MEPs voted they same way as Diana Wallis at 87,63 % of votes, than as Martin Schulz at 83,13 % of votes, or as Nirj Deva at 60,03% of votes.



When looking at results by policy area, we see that the majority of MEPs voted more often like Diana Wallis on civil liberties, justice, home affairs, economic and monetary affairs, industry, research and energy and international trade. On the other hand, the majority of the House voted more often like Martin Schulz on agriculture and rural development, budget, gender equality and environment, while on the remaining areas the results are very balanced. Nirj Deva has been on the majority side much less often than the other two candidates.

% of times in the winning majority at (roll-call) votes in the EP plenary, by policy area



## About us

**Votewatch.eu** is an independent organisation set up to promote better debates and greater transparency in EU decision-making by providing easy access to, and analysis of, the political decisions and activities of the European Parliament and the EU Council of Ministers. **Votewatch.eu** uses the European Parliament's own attendance, voting and activity data - available through the Parliament's website - to give a full overview of MEP activities, broken down by nationality, national political party and European party grouping.

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More detailed information is available on [www.VoteWatch.eu](http://www.VoteWatch.eu).



VoteWatch.eu issues reports on political behaviour in the European Parliament every six months, and the work of individual MEPs and their political and national groups can be monitored continuously via the [VoteWatch.eu](http://VoteWatch.eu) website.

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[www.VoteWatch.eu](http://www.VoteWatch.eu)

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