

This edition of the newsletter will focus on the following:

1. The new session of the European Parliament
2. Lobby Week 2010

### 1. The new session of the European Parliament

The first session of the new parliament took place on 14 September in Strasbourg. The final composition of the parliament is as shown below:

European People's Party (EPP) – 265

Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D) - 184

Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) – 84

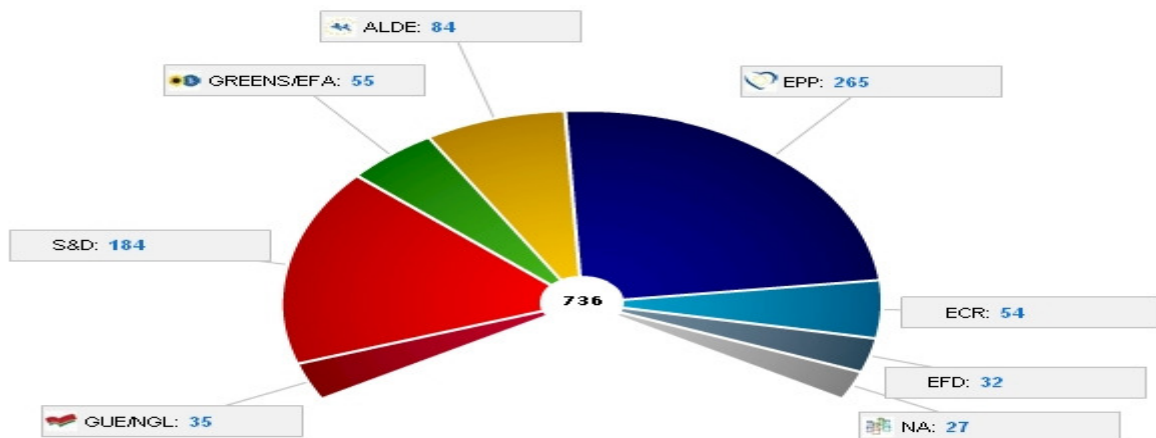
The Greens/European Free Alliance (GREES/EFA) – 55

European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR) – 54

Confederal group of the European united Left/Nordic Green Left (GUE/NGL) – 35

Europe of Freedom and Democracy Group (EFD) – 32

Non-attached members - 27



Make up of the 2009-2014 European Parliament

The parliament voted on the 16 September for the re-election of José Manuel Barroso as President of the European Commission for a second five-year term. Information about the new parliament together with MEPs and their profiles is available at <http://www.europarl.europa.eu>.

### How is the composition of the parliament likely to affect its work?

The following trends should be noted:

1). The European People's Party (EPP) clearly stands out because of its number of seats which give that party a central role. The number of votes required for a majority in the parliament is 369 (to increase to 378 after the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty). This means that no majority is possible without the involvement of the EPP. The same point applies also at the level of the parliamentary committees. The Internal Market Committee of the parliament is presided over by Malcolm Harbour, the most pro-European member of the Conservative party, who should logically attach this party to the EPP in the event of a vote. Note also that the classic Left no longer offers an alternative majority.

- 2). German MEPs are pre-dominant in the new parliament. France is also strongly represented, less so in the Socialist Group. The British Conservatives have left the EPP and consequently will be unable to influence greatly the decision making process. The axis formed by France, Germany and Italy, has been reinforced.
- 3). 50% of MEPs were not members of the last parliament. The newcomers always have a tendency to express themselves strongly in the first few months, leading to a certain commotion. Notably also 27 MEPs were either prime ministers or ministers of government in their own country.
- 4). Until the Lisbon Treaty is ratified the European Commission will work on daily and urgent matters but is not likely to open new dossiers. Therefore it is not likely that there will be many new initiatives before January 2010.
- 5). The "new" EU Member States are now well established and likely to take a more active role. Of course the recently elected president of the parliament Jerzy Buzek is Polish.
- 6). The parliament receives funding for its work and the groups benefit from large public subsidies. The parties all have consultants working for them who do preparatory work on different dossiers. There is also a high level of expertise amongst the civil servants who work at the parliament. For lobbying work to be effective it is important not just to concentrate on the parliamentarians and their team, but to enlarge the field.

## **2. Lobby Week 2010**

Member associations will recall the lobby day which took place last year when representatives from member associations, together with the CEPI Secretariat, met with MEPs to discuss issues of concern to the real estate professions. It is planned to follow up on the success of this event by holding a lobby week in January 2010. Preparation is under way for this event at the Secretariat and a mail and invitations are being sent out. Policy messages will be prepared and discussed at the next General Assembly in Luxembourg, November 19, 20 and 21 next.

The topics being explored by the Secretariat are the following:

- 1). Major concerns related to energy efficiency.
- 2). Article 15 of the Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications. This is due to be reviewed and the Secretariat is in discussion with the Commission on the subject. In particular EU Member States are required to report on the Directive in October and the European Parliament has commissioned an implementation study. The Commission has invited CEPI to look into the legislative texts in view of the debate in preparation.
- 3). The need for more information and analysis about the property market and why it is important for European policy makers. This is not new. The recent signature of a collaboration agreement with the University of Regensburg will give us the opportunity to refine and reinforce the argument.

These ideas will be expanded upon and fully presented to member associations. Further information will also be supplied separately about the format and content of lobby week. In the meantime it is important that all member associations identify their contacts in the new parliament and supply the information to the Secretariat. The Secretariat will work closely with member associations on this important dossier.