



THE LONDON SCHOOL  
OF ECONOMICS AND  
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■



# What's At Stake in the 2014 European Parliament Elections?

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# What I will talk about

Why EP Elections are not (usually) about “Europe”

Why “Europe” might matter this time

The likely outcome in May 2014 (in EP and UK)

Will Schulz or Juncker be “elected” as Commission President?

Potential policy implications of the 2014 elections

# Why EP elections are not (usually) about “Europe”

## “Second Order *National* Elections”

mid-term national contests

about national parties, party leaders, and issues

not about *European* parties, politicians, or issues

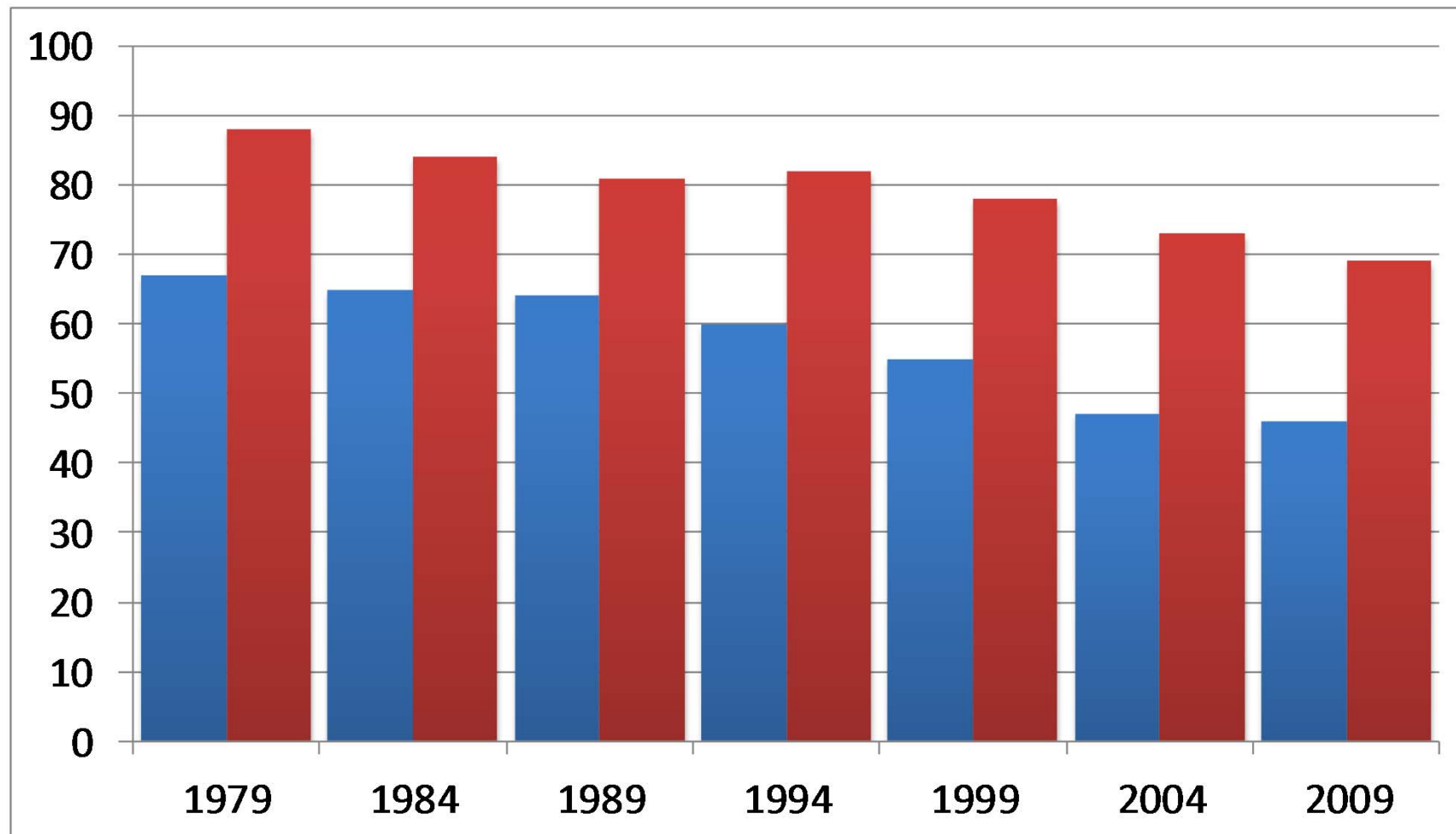
### -> 2 effects

1. lower turnout than in general elections

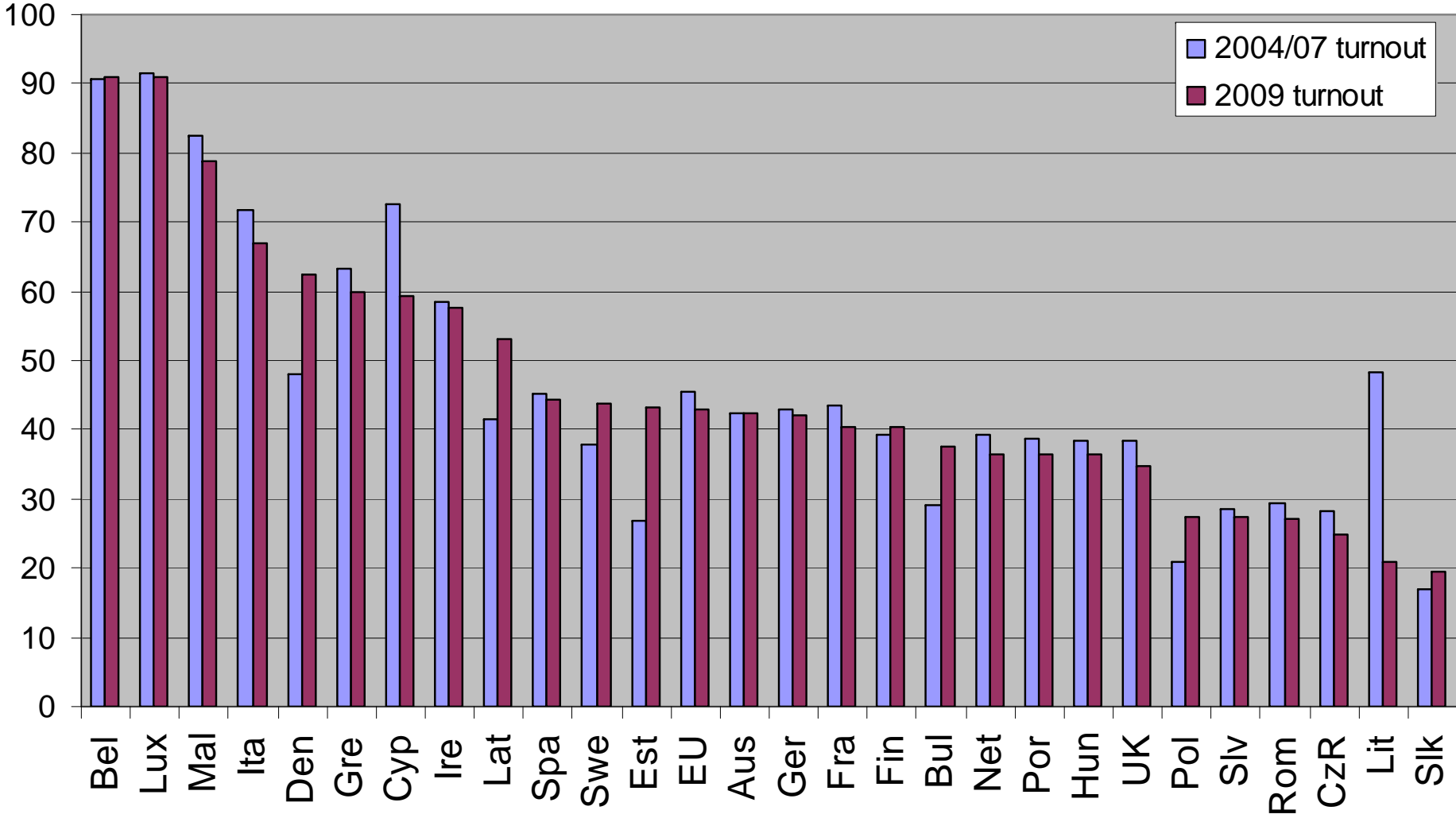
2. votes against governing parties & large parties,  
and for protest parties, on right and left

# Turnout

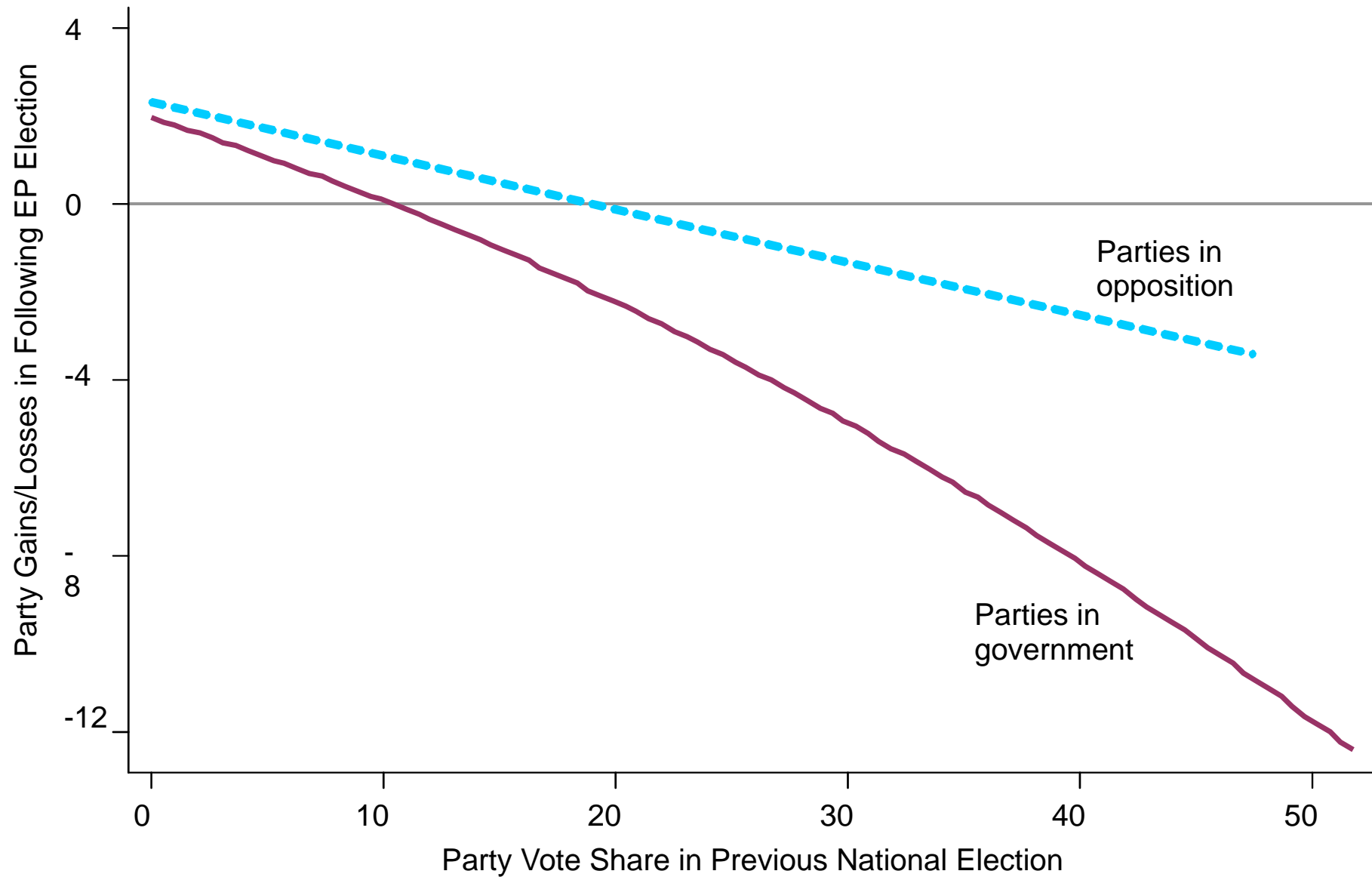
in EP elections and previous general elections



# Turnout by member state



# Governing and large parties lose



# Why “Europe” matters this time

**Higher salience in many countries than at any time before Eurozone crisis**

Austerity “imposed” from Brussels (Gre, Ire, Por, Spa)  
“Bailouts” (Ger, Net, Fin, Slk)

Anti-EU migrant sentiment (UK, Fra, Bel, Net, Ger, Aus)

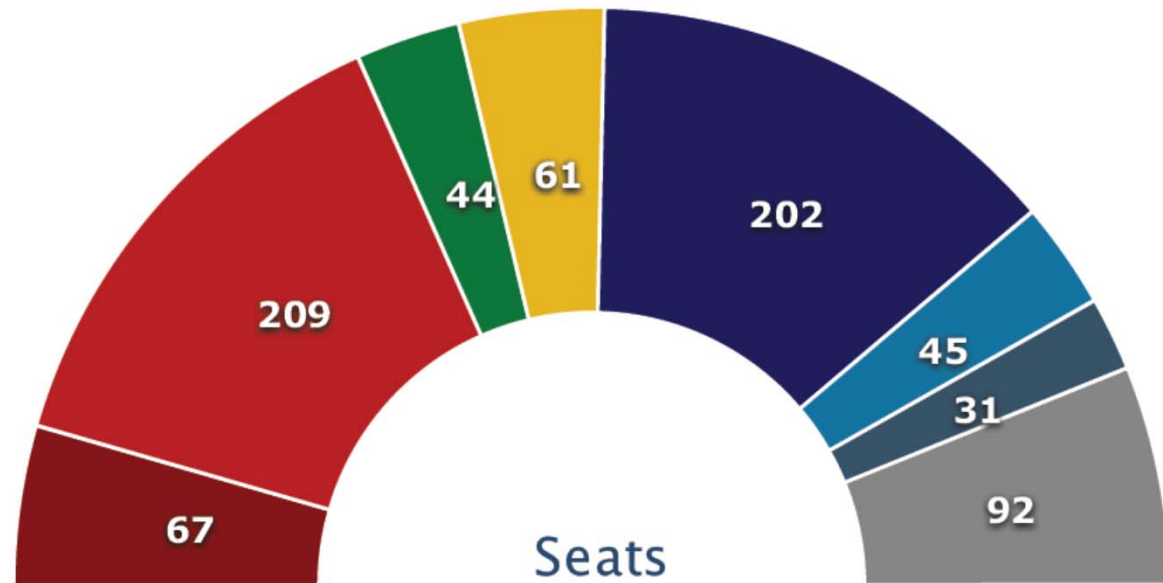
-> rise of anti-EU opposition on Left (e.g. Syriza, IU, Sinn Fein), and Right (UKIP, Le Pen, Wilders, AfD, True Finns)

## **Election of the Commission President**

Rival candidates: Schulz (S&D), Juncker (EPP), Verhofstadt (ALDE), Tsipras (GUE), Keller/Bové (Greens)

# Likely outcome in May 2014

- GUE-NGL
- S&D
- Greens/EFA
- ALDE/ADLE
- EPP
- ECR
- EFD
- NI

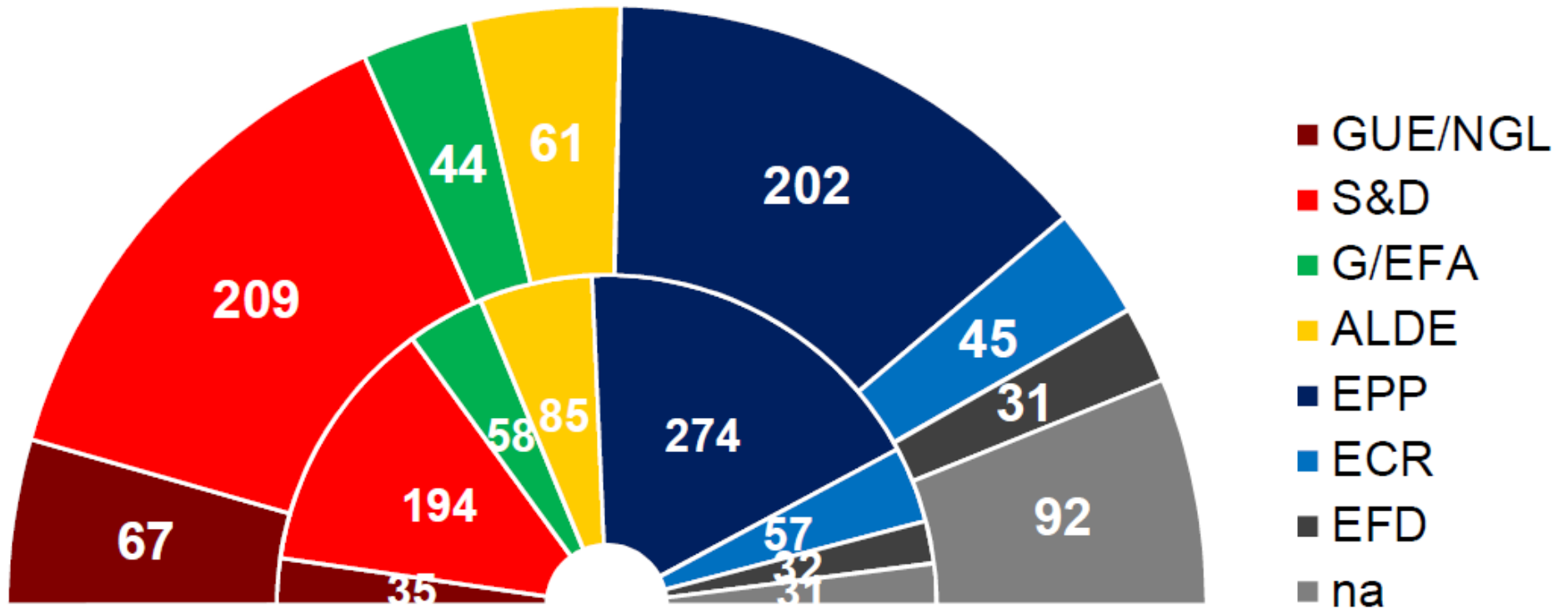


Update: 05/03/2014

@PollWatch2014



# Change from Current EP

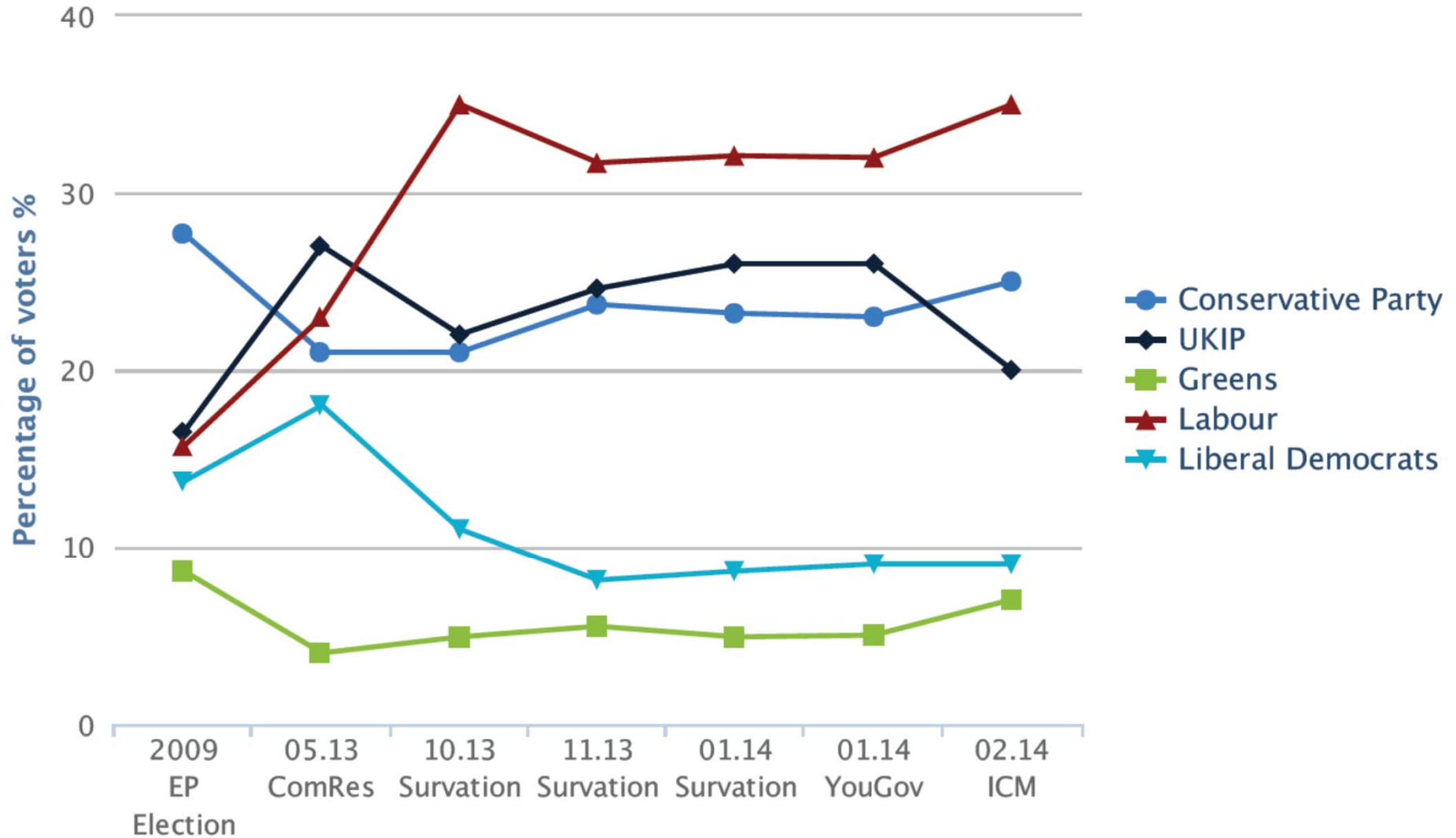


Outgoing EP  
(766 seats)

Incoming EP  
(751 seats)

# Polls in the United Kingdom

source: [www.epc.eu](http://www.epc.eu)



# Current PollWatch2014 forecast for UK

Party	Group	Latest Poll(s) % 14.01.2014 / 10.02.2014	Our prediction	
			%	Seats
Labour Party	S&D	33.5%	33.5%	29
Conservative Party	ECR	24%	24%	18
UK Independence Party	EFD	23%	23%	17
Liberal Democrat Party	ALDE/ADLE	9%	9%	2
Green Party	Greens/EFA	6%	6%	1
Scottish National Party	Greens/EFA	0%	2.1%	2
Democratic Unionist Party	NI	0%	0.9%	1
Sinn Féin	GUE-NGL	0%	0.8%	1
Plaid Cymru - Parti of Wales	Greens/EFA	0%	0.7%	1
Social Democratic and Labour Party	S&D	0%	0.3%	0
Ulster Unionist Party	ECR	0%	0.3%	1

# Will Schulz or Juncker be “elected” as Commission President?

## Yes

EP will force the hand of the governments (e.g. EP will “go first”)

Governments will be reluctant to go against a “democratic” process

A grand-coalition bargain will be done across several posts

The Commission President can be constrained by the European Council President & other Commission appointees

## No

Schulz and Juncker are unacceptable to several gov'ts (UK, Swe)

Governments will prefer someone else (Lagarde, Thorning-Schmidt,?)

The Lisbon procedure makes it difficult for sitting PMs to run

Governments will not want to be bullied by EP

# Potential policy implications

## **Large anti-federalist/populist coalition (200+):**

Anti-big business / financial interests

Opposed to deeper Economic and Monetary Union

Anti free trade (e.g. opposed to TTIP)

Pressure to reform free movement