

Voice of the People

Manuscript
EU and the Role of the Parliament
With answers from politicians at the Parliament
TVSYD, Brussels

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Translation

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Sigrid Dahl, Denmark:

“Isn’t it a problem, that Danish people have so little interest in, what’s going on within the Parliament? Just look at how few people went voting the last time. What can be done to make people more interested in what is going on?”

SIGN:

At the latest election to the European Parliament in 1999 only 50% of the Danes went voting. It’s also the average of the rest of the election turnout in all the other EU countries

Claudes Turmes, Member of the Parliament, Luxembourg:

What is important is, that medias registre, that there is a switch of power. 70% of all decisions which have been taken today in national parliaments, in Paris, in London, are decisions to transpose EU directives into national law. So 70% of the decisions are already taken at European level. But the medias try to give the feeling, that’s still very national. Secondly we need a strict control of national parliaments over the national governments. Because the national governments are co-deciding the desolutions together with the European parliament. But when a minister goes to Brussels in a lot of countries there are no parliamentary control. There are parliamentary control for 30% of national politics and no parliamentary control for the 70%.

Henrik Lyse, Buyer, Denmark:

”The European Union is so big, and it’s so difficult to say, what kind of consequences things have to me. That’s probably the problem for people around here. They really don’t think about, what things mean to the individuals”

SIGN:

At this election Denmark will get 14 members at the Parliament. A country like Poland with it’s almost 39 millions inhabitants gets 54

Claudes Turmes, Member of the Parliament, Luxembourg:

Citizens of France have also difficulty in seeing what exactly French politics is doing for his daily life. I think, that our daily lives and the globalised economy are very influenced by whether we have a good local authority, which is taking care of the issues, which are local and then we need good governments at national levels, to influence the matters, which are of national matter. We need at European level good government.

Jacob Crüger, black smith, Denmark:

“I think, everything about the European Union is kind of a jungle. Brussels controls it all, so I really don’t know what to think about it.

That is also, what people are telling us...

Yes, that’s correct. We know, we have had the enlargement, and we hear a little about this and that. But how things are connected we really don’t know”

SIGN:

The Parliament has today 8 political parties across borders. All citizens from the European Union could be elected, if you have the right to vote and are representing a party

Claudes Turmes, Member of the Parliament, Luxembourg:

It’s a complete illusion that on issues like Iraq war, climate changes, and terrorism you can be successful at national level. This world is through technology and through information every day more global. So we need that industry, economic acts, the financial world is organized at global level. If we do not organize politicians at global level, and Europe has the critical mass to influence world policy, if it’s done in a good way. A strong Europe is the only way for the positive values of democracy and the European culture. The democracy, the social welfare, cultural diversity to be defended. It’s not small countries, governments that can take care of it