

## Voting turnout rose higher than in the previous elections

Voting turnout in the European Parliament elections was 41.1 per cent. Voting turnout rose in the whole country by 9.7 percentage points compared with the European Parliament elections 1999. Now the number of voters was over 400,000 higher than in 1999.

Voting turnout rose in the whole country but it grew more than average in the constituencies of Southern Finland (by over 11 percentage points) and Vaasa (by more than 10 percentage points). Voting turnout was highest in the constituency of Helsinki, where it rose to 52.2 per cent. The second best voting turnout, 45.8 per cent, was attained in the constituency of Uusimaa. The voting turnout of 40 per cent was also exceeded in the constituencies of Vaasa (44.4%) and Varsinais-Suomi (41.6%). Voting was least active in the constituencies of North Karelia (32.7%) and North Savo (34.5%). Of individual municipalities, voting turnout was highest in the country in Kauniainen (69.1%) and lowest in the municipality of Rautavaara (24.7%).

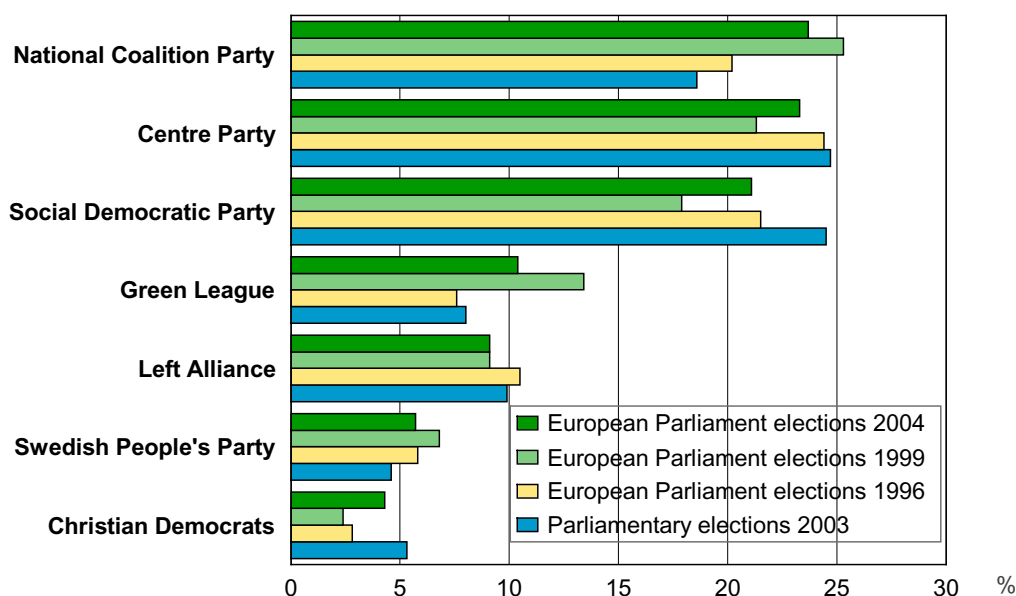
## Over two thirds of the votes to the National Coalition Party, Centre Party and Social Democratic Party

The National Coalition Party, Centre Party and Social Democratic Party gained altogether 11 of the 14 seats allocated to Finland and retained their previous seats in the European Parliament. The Centre Party and National Coalition Party both gained four seats and the Social Democratic Party three. The Left Alliance and the Swedish People's Party in Finland also retained their former positions, both gaining again one MEP. Finland's loss of two seats in the European Parliament resulted in the defeat of the Green League and Christian Democrats in Finland. The Green League now has only one MEP, thus losing their other seat in the European Parliament and the Christian Democrats failed to keep the one seat they gained in the previous elections.

Finland's representatives are divided in the European Parliament into the following groups:

- Four MEPs of the National Coalition Party to the Conservatives (PPE-DE)
- Four MEPs of the Centre Party and one MEP of the Swedish People's Party to the Liberals (ELDR)
- Three MEPs of the Social Democratic Party to the Socialists (PSE)
- One MEP of the Green League to the Greens (Verts/ALE)
- One MEP of the Left Alliance to the Left-wing group (GUE/NGL)

## Votes cast for the major parties in European Parliament elections 2004, 1999 and 1996 and in Parliamentary elections 2003, %



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	European elections 2004	European elections 1999	European elections 1996	Parliamentary elections 2003
National Coalition Party	23.7	25.3	20.2	18.6
Centre Party	23.3	21.3	24.4	24.7
Social Democratic Party	21.1	17.9	21.5	24.5
Green League	10.4	13.4	7.6	8.0
Left Alliance	9.1	9.1	10.5	9.9
Swedish People's Party	5.7	6.8	5.8	4.6
Christian Democrats	4.3	2.4	2.8	5.3

[Votes cast for the parties and percentages by party in European Parliament elections in 2004, 1999 and 1996 and in Parliamentary elections 2003 \(Excel table\)](#)

**Further information from Statistics Finland's Internet service:**

[http://tilastokeskus.fi/tk/helvaalit/index\\_en.html](http://tilastokeskus.fi/tk/helvaalit/index_en.html)

[http://tilastokeskus.fi/tk/helvaalit/vaalit2004eur/index\\_en.html](http://tilastokeskus.fi/tk/helvaalit/vaalit2004eur/index_en.html)

**Source:** Statistics Finland's election statistics