



# **The EP 2024 Election**

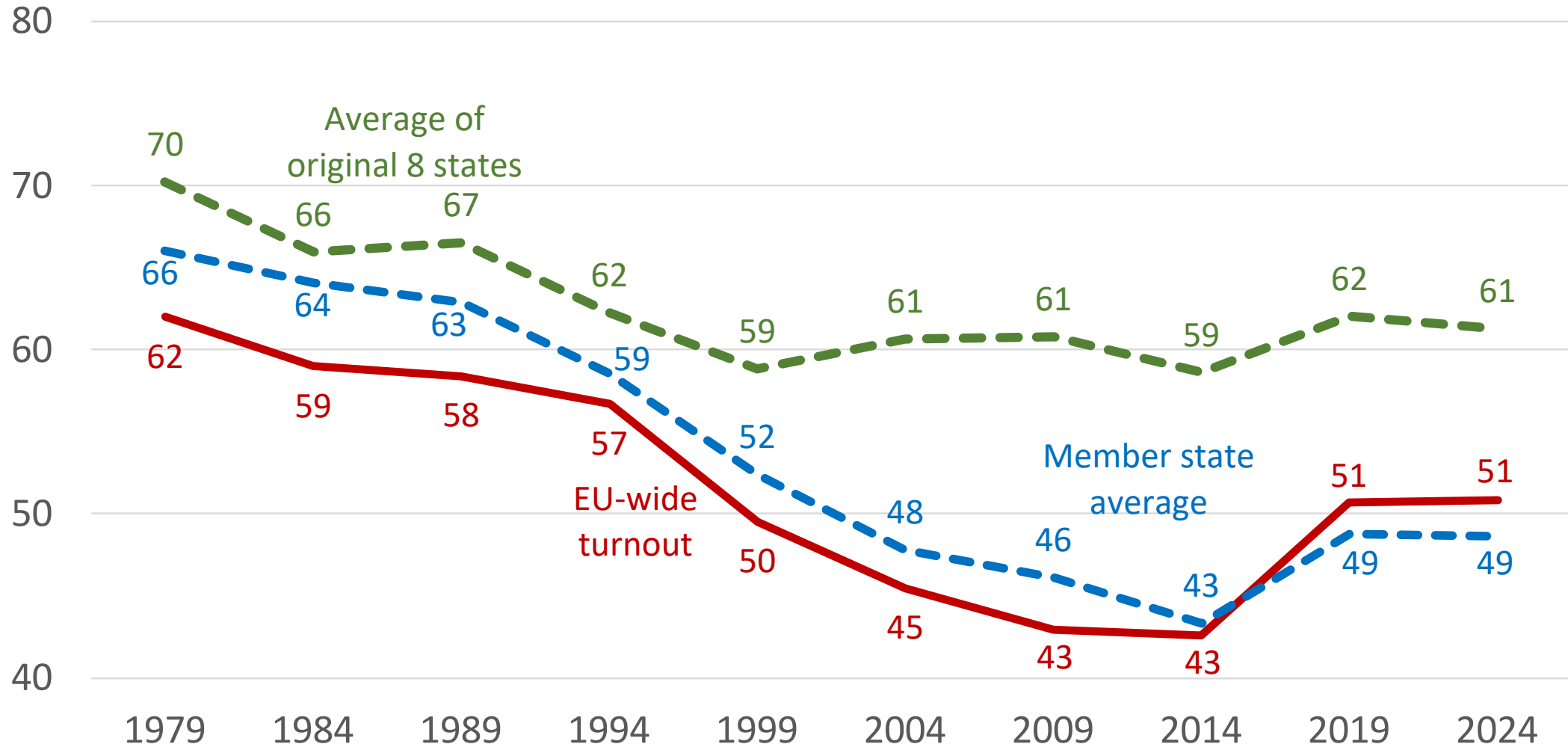
## **Outcome and Potential Consequences**

**Prof. Simon Hix**

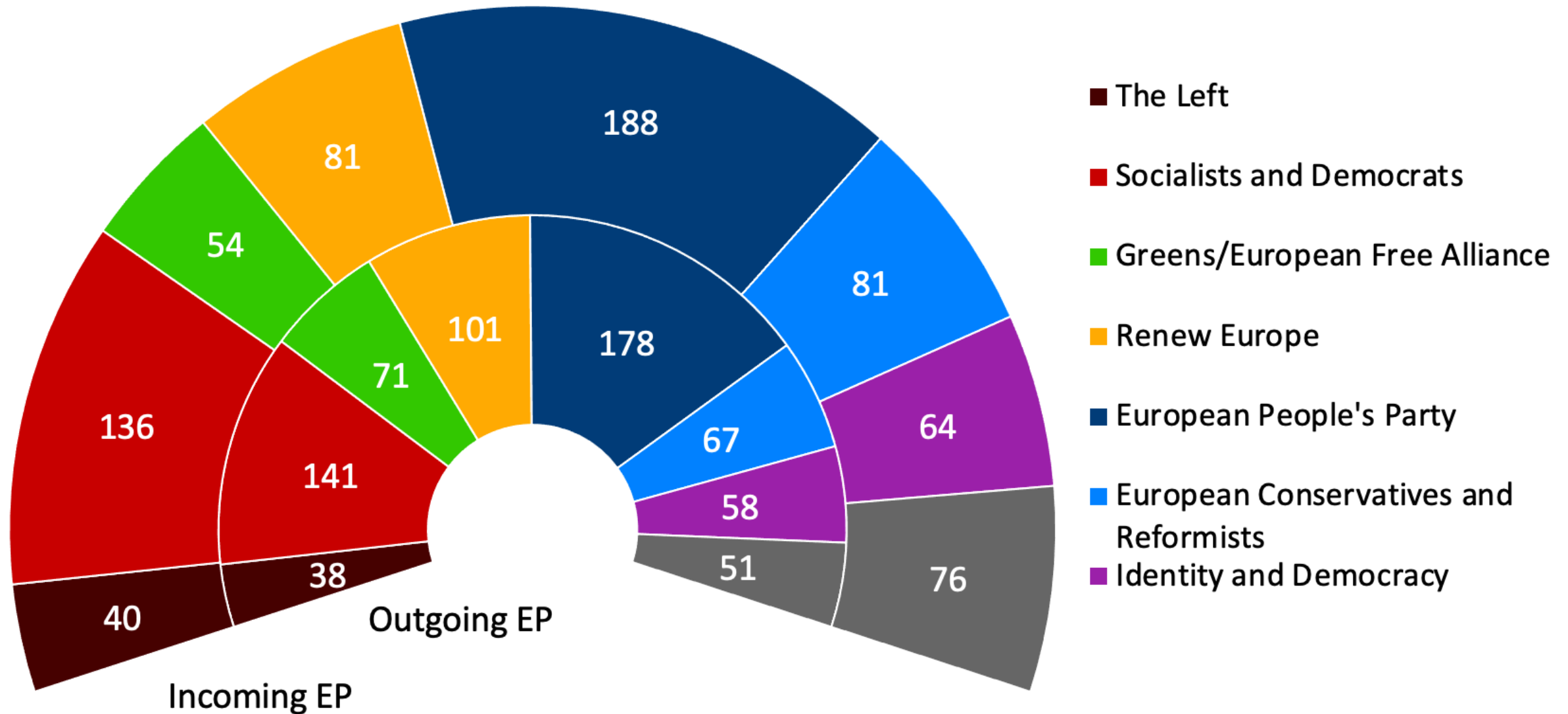
European University Institute, Florence

# Turnout Was Flat ...

Turnout in EP Elections (%)



# New Chamber: A Shift to the Right



Source: EuropeElects.eu projections, based on expected group membership

# New groups?

**Rule to form a political group:** at least **23 MEPs** from a quarter (**7**) of member states

## Re-alignment on the Right?

**82 ECR:** FdI-25, PiS-20, Vox-6, Rec-5, NVA-3, ODS-3, SD-3

**64 ID:** RN-30, Lega-8, FPÖ-6, PVV-6, VB-, Konf-3

**49 non-attached:** AfD-15, Fidesz-10, AUR-5, Volya-3, SALF-3

## A Nationalist Left group?

**6 BSW**

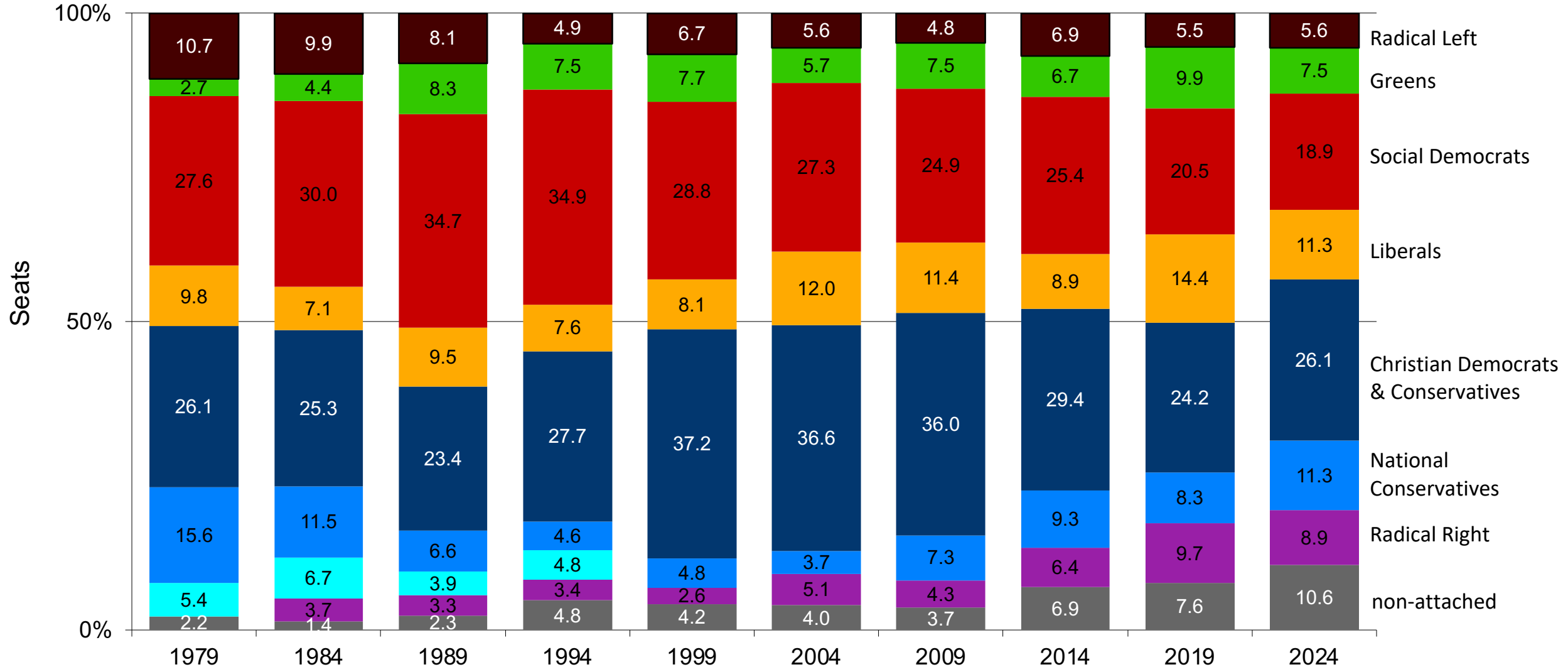
**8 M5S?** (or join Greens?)

**11 in non-attached?:** Smer-5, Hlas-1, KKE-2, SD-NS-1, PE-1, Irish ind-1

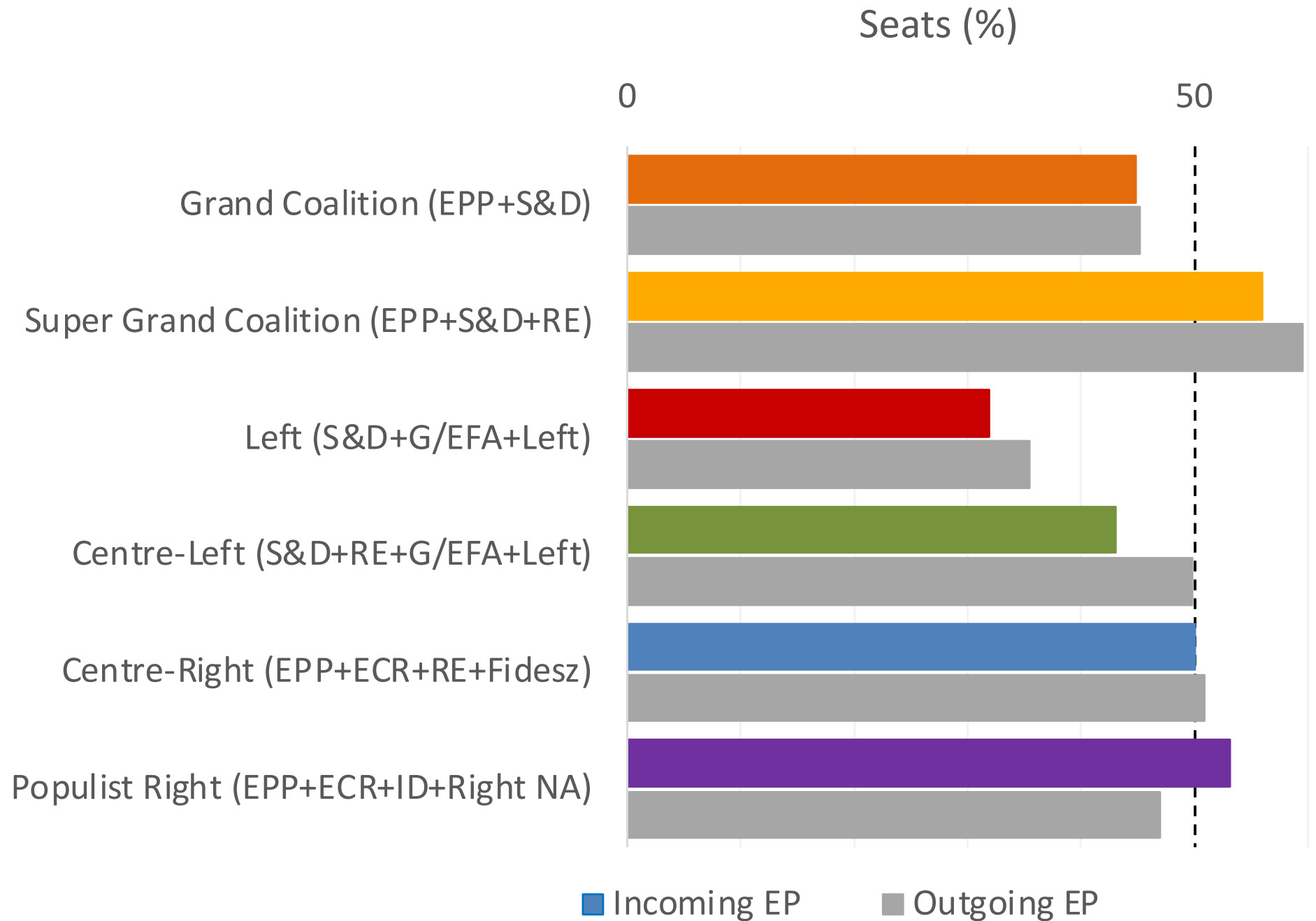
**From current Left group?** (e.g. group already divided on EU policy on Russia)

# How Significant is the Shift?

Composition of the European Parliament Over Time



# Coalition Sizes

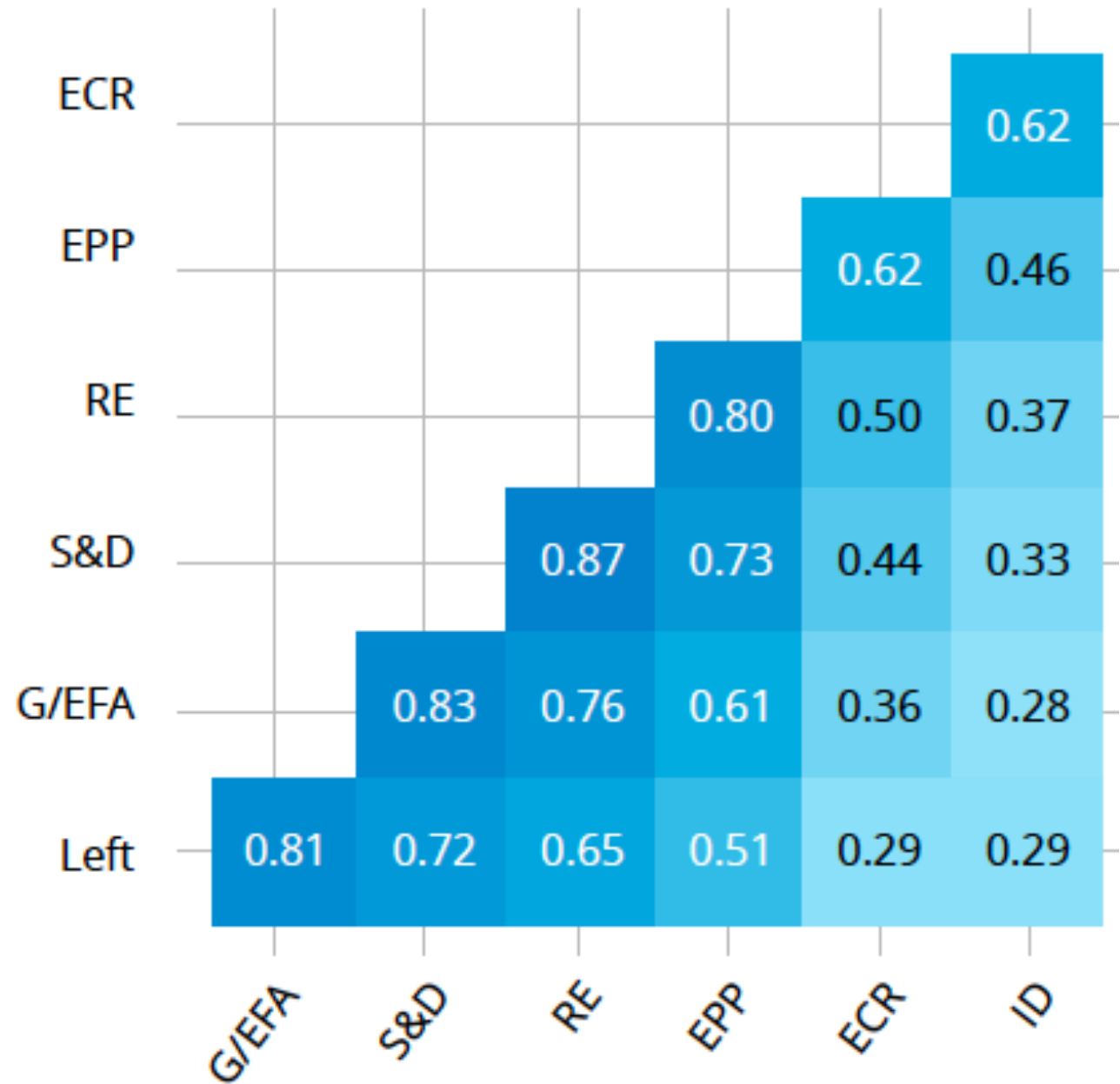


# Coalition Patterns in 2019-24 EP

% of times the plurality of one  
group voted the same as the  
plurality of another group

**All recorded (roll-call) votes**  
(17,428 votes)

**=> 2019-24 EP was “left-leaning”**

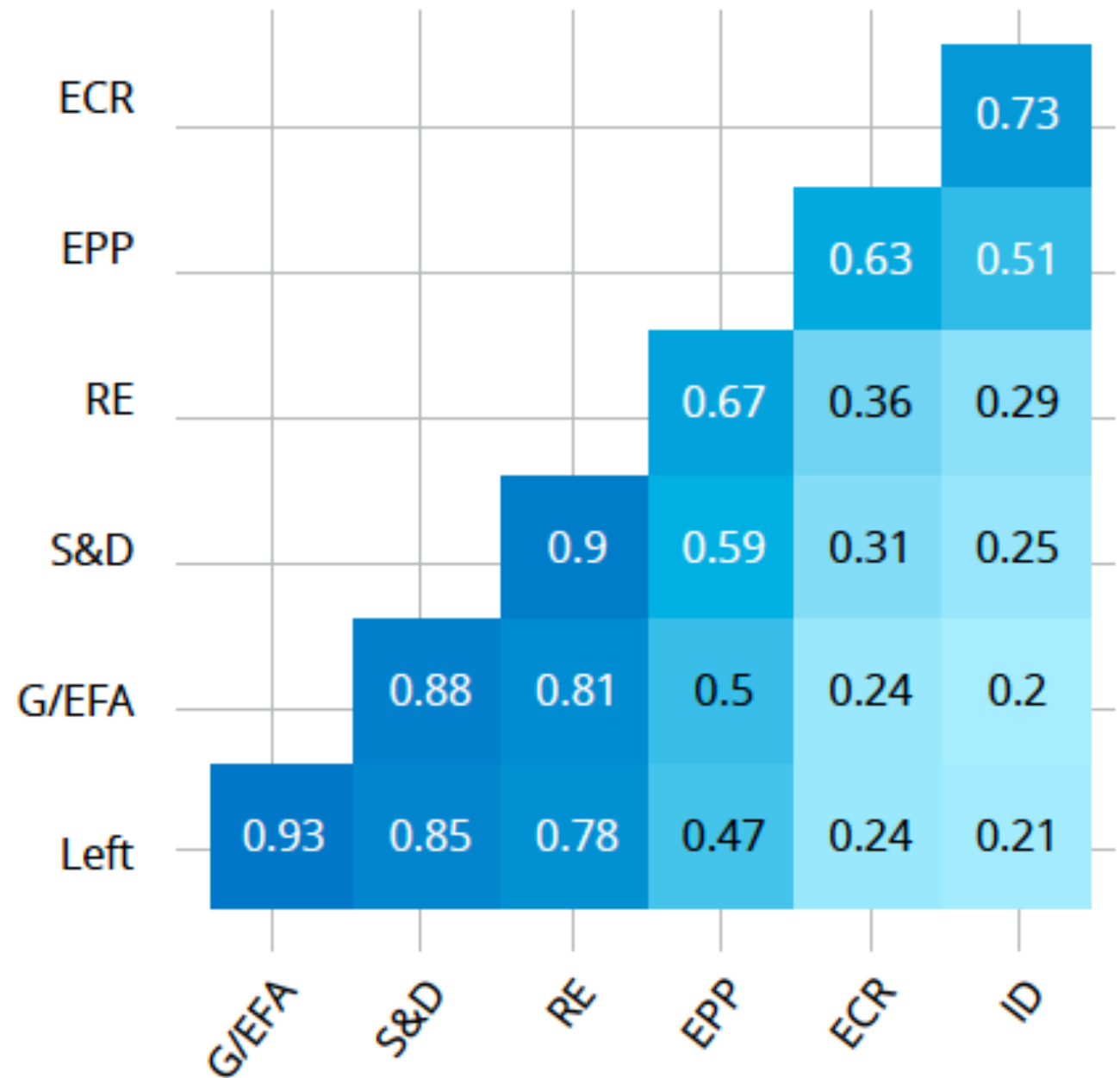


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**Environment, Public Health  
and Food Safety**

**=> clear centre-left coalition**





# Will President Von der Leyen be re-elected?

The vote is by **secret ballot**, and requires an **absolute majority** (50+1 of all MEPs)

Coalition in 2019 vote: EPP + S&D + RE = 58% of MEPs

But the vote was: 383 For, 327 Against, 22 Abstain => **8 votes more than 50%**

=> *Low cohesion in EPP, S&D and RE*

With a smaller “super grand coalition” (56%) and same level of cohesion,

=> Von der Leyen would not be re-elected

=> She will need other groups to support her, e.g. G/EFA or ECR

But, will S&D and G/EFA want to go into “opposition”?

*Nb. few S&D parties in European Council: Germany, Spain, Denmark, Malta*

# In Sum

The 2024 EP election has produced the most right-wing EP ever:

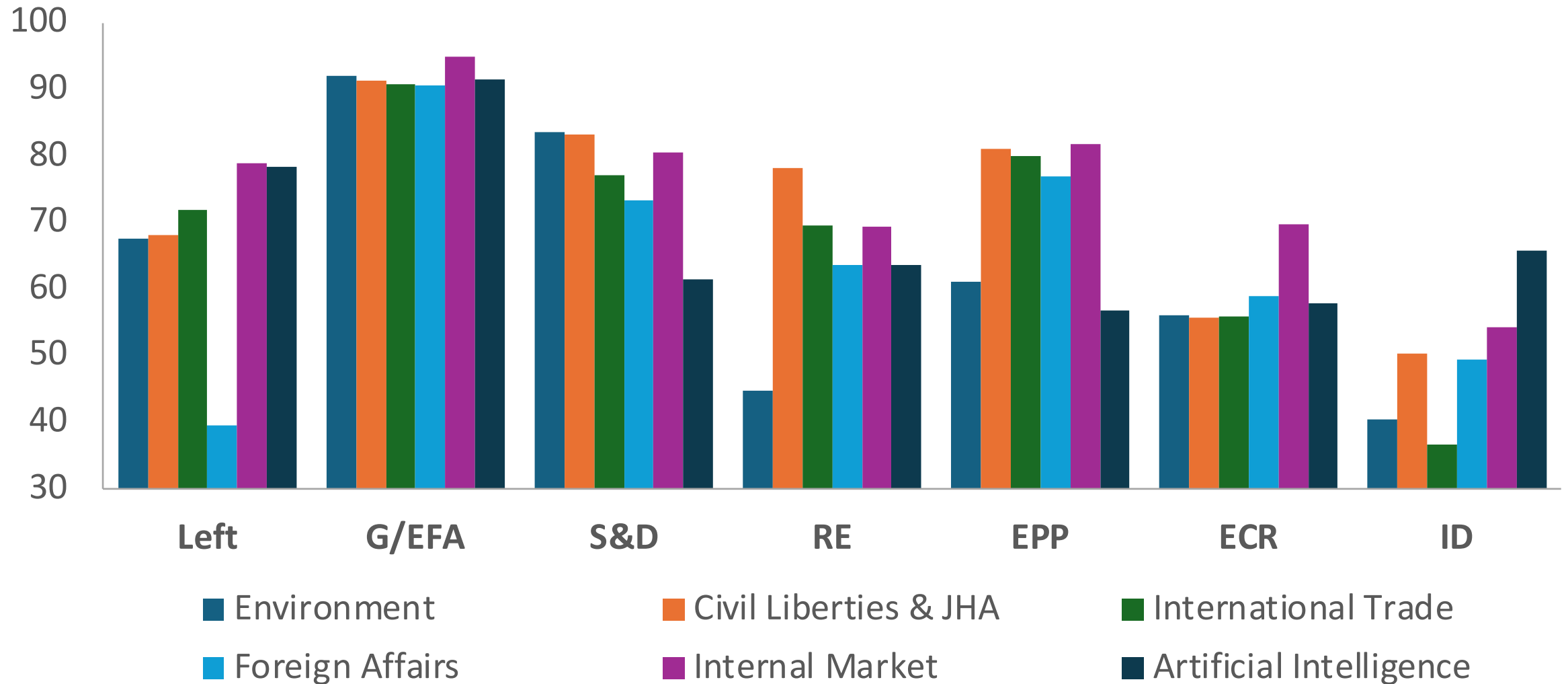
- 1) **“Median MEP” in EPP** not RE for first time
- 2) Largest bloc of MEPs **to the Right of EPP**
- 3) A **populist right bloc** (EPP+ECR+ID+others) has >50% of the seats

## Policy implications:

- EPP will be “pivotal” => politics *inside* EPP will become critical
- Highly unstable coalitions, fragmented EP, weaker “super grand coalition”
- A right-wing majority on environment and migration issues
- These effects will depend on the cohesion of EPP and ECR

A **“Von der Leyen majority”** will be difficult to build -> I expect S&D to support her initially, but their support to erode over the course of the parliament

# Voting Cohesion in 2019-24 EP



Note: 100 = party united in all votes on a policy issue, 0 = party evenly split in all votes on a policy issue