

# Codebook for VoteWatch European Parliament and EU Council voting data

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VoteWatch collected two types of data:

- 1) The votes by Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) in all roll-call (recorded) votes between July 2004 and June 2022, as well as information about each of these votes; and
- 2) The votes cast by the member state governments of the EU when voting in the Council of Ministers of the EU (or “EU Council”), between July 2009 and February 2022.

This file gives a basic description of the data in these datafiles.

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## European Parliament Voting Data

For each session of the European Parliament in this period (EP6 is 2004-2009, EP7 is 2009-2014, EP8 is 2014-2019, and EP9 is 2019-2022), there are two datafiles: one containing the raw roll-call voting data (*EP6\_RCVs*, *EP7\_RCVs*, *EP8\_RCVs*, *EP9\_RCVs*); and the other containing information about each of the votes in the roll-call data files (*EP6\_Voted docs*, *EP7\_Voted docs*, *EP8\_Voted docs*, *EP9\_Voted docs*).

In the **RCV files**, the columns are as follows:

<i>Column no.</i>	<i>Column name</i>	<i>Description</i>
1.	WebisteEplD	The individual MEP identifier code for each MEP
2.	Fname	MEP first name
3.	Lname	MEP last name
4.	FullName	MEP full name
5.	Activ	Whether the MEP was a member for the whole EP (Yes, No)
6.	Country	Member state of the MEP
7.	Party	National party of the MEP
8.	EPG	EP political group of the MEP
9.	Start	Date the MEP started in a particular EP session
10.	End	Date the MEP finished in a particular EP session
11 to <i>N</i> .	1 to <i>N</i>	How the MEP voted in a roll-call vote, numbered 1 to <i>N</i> , where <i>N</i> is the number of roll-call votes in the EP session

Each RCV file contains a sheet (labelled "Legend") showing the coding of columns 11 to N:

- 0 not an MEP [at the time of the vote]
- 1 for
- 2 against
- 3 abstention
- 4 absent
- 5 did not vote
- 6 motivated [only for EP6: MEP was absent, but this was explained by a certificate]

In the **Voted docs files**, the columns are as follows:

*In EP6\_Voted docs file:*

<i>Column name</i>	<i>Description</i>
euro_act_id	No. of the vote (in the matching RCV file)
date	Date of the vote
title	Title of the file
procedure	Procedure (see below)
reading	Simplified coding of procedure type (budgetary, leg., non-legislative)
type_of_vote	Description of the type of vote (e.g. motion, proposal etc.)
type_of_vote_en	Description of the type of vote (if previous column not in English)
rule	Decision rule: s=simple majority, q=qualified majority (of all MEPs)
rappporteur	Name of MEP who was the rapporteur
url	url link to vote on EP website
committee_code	EP committee connected to procedure (if relevant)
main_policy_name	Main policy area of vote
subject	Description of subject of vote (e.g. which paragraph or section)
final_vote	Final vote on the procedure (1=yes, 0=no)
author_name	Political group sponsoring the vote
am_no	Amendment number
result_code	Outcome of the vote (+ =pass, - =fail)
yes	Number of YES votes
no	Number of NO votes
abstain	Number of ABSTAIN votes
did_not_vote	Number of DID-NOT-VOTE votes
absent	Number of ABSENT votes
absent_motivated	Number of MOTIVATED votes

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*In EP7\_Voted docs, EP8\_Voted docs, EP9\_voted docs files:*

<i>Column name</i>	<i>Description</i>
Vote ID	No. of the vote (in the matching RCV file)
File	File number during EP session
Order of vote	Order of the vote on the particular file on a particular day
Date	Date of the vote
Title	Title of the file
Procedure	Procedure (see below)
Leg/Non-Leg/Bud	Simplified coding of procedure type (budgetary, leg., non-legislative)
Type of Vote	Description of the type of vote (e.g. motion, proposal etc.)
Voting Rule	Decision rule: s=simple majority, q=qualified majority (of all MEPs)
Rapporteur	Name of MEP who was the rapporteur
Code	EP document code
interinstitutional file number	Official EU institutional file number
Link	url link to vote on EP website
Committee responsible	EP committee connected to procedure (if relevant)
De	Main policy area of vote
Subject	Description of subject of vote (e.g. which paragraph or section)
Final vote?	Final vote on the procedure (1=yes, 0=no)
Am No.	Amendment number
Author	Political group sponsoring the vote
RCV	Indicating the at the vote was by "roll-call"
Vote	Outcome of the vote (+ =pass, - =fail)
Yeas	Number of YES votes
No	Number of NO votes
Abs	Number of ABSTAIN votes

Procedure codes:

ACI	Interinstitutional agreement procedure
APP	Consent procedure
AVC	Assent procedure (historic)
BUD	Budgetary procedure
BUI	Budgetary initiative
CNS	Consultation procedure
COD	Ordinary Legislative Procedure (ex Codecision)
COS	Procedure on strategic paper (historic)
DCE	Written declaration (historic)
DEA	Delegated acts procedure
DEC	Discharge procedure
IMM	Members' initiative
INI	Own-initiative procedure
INL	Legislative initiative procedure
INS	Institutional procedure
NLE	Non-legislative enactments
REG	Parliament's Rules of Procedure
RPS	Implementing acts

RSO	International organisation decision
RSP	Resolutions on topical subjects
SYN	Cooperation procedure (historic)
*	Legislative procedure where Parliament is consulted
**	Formally used for cooperation procedure
***	Legislative procedure where Parliament has co-legislative power
I	First reading
II	Second reading
III	Third reading

For reference, see the European Parliament rules of procedure:

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/lastrules/TOC\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/lastrules/TOC_EN.html)

## EU Council Voting Data

In the **EU Council votes July 2009 to Feb 2022** file, the columns are as follows:

<i>Col. no.</i>	<i>Column name</i>	<i>Description</i>
1.	Vote Number	Vote number in file (1 to 1385)
2.	Order of vote in the meeting	Vote order in Council meeting
3.	Council meeting number	Council meeting
4.	Council configuration	Council configuration
5.	Doc. number of Addendum to Minutes	Council document number
6.	Date of meeting	Date of meeting
7.	Name of act	Official name of act
8.	Type of legislation	Type of legislation (Directive, Reg. etc.)
9.	MS STATEMENTS	Did a m.state issue a statement (Y,N)
10.	PreLex link	PreLex url
11.	interinstitutional file number	EU file number
12.	Manual EP policy Area	Policy area, using EP policy types
13.	procedure	Legislative procedure (see above)
14.	Date started	Date procedure started
15.	Date adopted	Date procedure ended
16.	Voting stage (1st, 2nd, 3rd reading)	Legislative stage
17.	Total number readings (1,2,3)	Total readings
18.	OEIL link	Link to EP Legislative Observatory page
19.	How was the process ended ?	Code for how process ended (unclear)
20.	Total number of meetings	Total Council meetings
21.	Process remarks	Added notes
22.	Subject of vote	Formal subject of vote
23.	Type of item (if ever B, then B)	Type of Council (A,B, using Council codes)
24.	Current status	Current status (at September 2022)
25.	if n, what type	Explanation of not-approved, if relevant
26.	Council document no	Council document number
27.	Working groups	Council working group
28.	No of WGs	Number of working groups

29.	Council configuration for deliberation (if different from the one taking the vote)	(self explanatory)
30.	Attendance	Council Presidency document report
31.	No and link to document	Number of Council document
32.	Voting rule	Voting rule (QMV or Unanimity)
33.	All in favour?	All voted in favour (Y, N)
34.	vote sheet	Url link to Council voting record
35.	only in...	Where vote can be found if not in record
36.	written procedure	(empty)
37.	Video	(empty)
38.	Votewatch EP	(empty)
39.	link	(empty)
40 to 67.	M.state name (in green)	Statement of m.state (if applicable)
68. to 95.	M.state name (in yellow)	How m.state voted (see below)

The Excel file contains a sheet (labelled "Legend") showing the coding of columns 68 to 95, of how a member state government voted:

For	1 or blank
Abstain	2
Against	3
Not voting	4