



## **Conclusions of the debate on the European Elections of May 2019**

***At the meeting of the CEMR Policy Committee held in Mamaia, Romania, on 11 and 12 June, a debate took place on the outcome of the elections to the European Parliament, and this is what we concluded:***

1. From 23 to 26 May 2019, over 400 million European voters were called to the polls to vote for the new Members of the European Parliament. A turnout of 51% of voter participation was recorded, the highest level since the first direct election in 1979, and also over 50% turnout in half of the member states. Nevertheless more needs to be done to engage the public in democratic participation.
2. As an outcome of the elections, the European Parliament is now more diverse and this will impact on the legislative work of the European Union.
3. There is a slight improvement in the gender balance from 36% to 40% of women.

**We, members of the Policy Committee, call for:**

1. An increase of citizens' interest in Europe and the EU and its impact on daily lives. Particular attention shall be given to young people and their preferred communication tools.
2. A follow-up of the European Parliament's recognition of the key role local governments play in preparing, designing, financing and implementing key European Union policies, and to significantly strengthen their role in shaping future EU policies.
3. The members of the new European Parliament to continue the constructive work on the Multi-Annual Financial Framework and relevant legislation, fostering the integration of the Sustainable Development Goals.
4. Key positions in the European Parliament to be filled in a balanced way by women and men MEPs.
5. The European Parliament to ensure a balanced composition of the next European Commission.

**We express our readiness to be a strategic partner of the European Parliament, as stated in the EP resolution from July 2018, in particular on issues that have an impact on our territories, and look forward to a fruitful cooperation for the next five years for the benefit of Europe's citizens.**