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# Europe: Fact Sheet on Parliamentary and Presidential Elections

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## Introduction

This report provides a map of parliamentary and presidential elections that are scheduled to be held at the national level in Europe in 2024, and a table of recent and upcoming parliamentary and presidential elections at the national level in Europe. It includes dates for direct parliamentary elections only, and excludes indirect elections.<sup>1</sup>

Europe is defined in this product as the 50 countries under the portfolio of the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs. The report does not include the Holy See (Vatican City), as there are no direct presidential or parliamentary elections held there. Electoral rules and governance structures can vary widely across European countries.

Twenty European countries have held or are scheduled to hold direct presidential and/or parliamentary elections in 2024; this includes six countries that have called or held snap elections<sup>2</sup> in 2024—Azerbaijan, Portugal, Croatia, Bulgaria, the United Kingdom (UK), and France. Some dates may be subject to change due to snap elections, parliamentary votes of no confidence, or other factors. Ukraine was originally scheduled to hold a presidential election by March 2024 (parliamentary elections were to occur by October 2023). However, Ukrainian law does not allow elections to occur under martial law, which has been in effect since the February 24, 2022, Russian invasion.

Included in the list of national elections in Europe are elections that the governments of Azerbaijan, Belarus, and the Russian Federation have announced. These three governments do not hold elections that international observers consider to be free or fair.<sup>3</sup>

Parliament, or the legislative body, may be unicameral, with one legislative chamber, or bicameral, with a lower and upper chamber. In bicameral systems, the lower chamber is usually directly elected by the people and is the more powerful of the two (for example, the House of Commons in the United Kingdom). The upper chamber is frequently appointed or indirectly elected, and has more limited powers (for example, the House of Lords in the United Kingdom). Both the lower and upper chambers are directly elected in six countries (Czech Republic, Italy, Poland, Romania, Spain, and Switzerland).

The presidential election process in European countries varies.<sup>4</sup> In many European countries, presidents or heads of state are elected directly by the people in a popular vote; in 13 countries,

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<sup>1</sup> A direct election is an election where a political party or elected representative is chosen directly through a vote of the citizens. An indirect election is one where the citizen’s vote for an intermediate body that is empowered to select the elected official(s).

<sup>2</sup> In a parliamentary system, a snap election is an election that is held prior to its regularly scheduled date.

<sup>3</sup> Although dates are included for elections that the governments of Azerbaijan, Belarus, and the Russian Federation have announced, these three governments do not hold elections that international observers consider to be free or fair. Azerbaijan, Belarus, and Russia are considered “authoritarian” governments according to Freedom House’s *Freedom in the World 2023*. See *Freedom in the World 2023* country scores at <https://freedomhouse.org/countries/freedom-world/scores>. For more information on Belarus and Russia, see CRS In Focus IF10814, *Belarus: An Overview*, by Cory Welt and CRS Report R46518, *Russia: Domestic Politics and Economy*, by Cory Welt and Rebecca M. Nelson.

<sup>4</sup> In **parliamentary republics**, the president as head of state typically has a ceremonial and largely nonpolitical role. In these republics, executive power arises from the legislature and is vested in a prime minister as head of government. In some parliamentary republics, the prime minister is chosen as part of political party negotiations following parliamentary elections; in others, the prime minister may be chosen by the president and/or approved by the parliament. The role of prime minister is often fulfilled by the leader of the majority party or majority coalition of parliament. In **presidential republics**, presidents are elected directly by the people and serve as both the head of state and the head of government. Cyprus and Turkey (Türkiye) are the only countries in Europe with a full presidential system. See **Table 1**, footnotes l and m for more information on Turkey. **Semi-presidential republics**, such as France, (continued...)

presidents are indirectly elected by Members of Parliament.<sup>5</sup> There are 12 monarchies in Europe, including the Holy See.<sup>6</sup> In lieu of a president, monarchs typically serve as the head of state with limited or ceremonial powers.<sup>7</sup> In these instances, presidential elections are denoted as N/A or nonapplicable in the table below.

CRS has gathered the information presented in this report from numerous sources, including the U.S. Department of State, Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA's) World Factbook, International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) Election Guide, Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), and other news sources.

**Figure 1** includes a map and calendar of the European parliamentary and presidential elections held or to be held in 2024.

**Table 1** provides the dates of the last and next parliamentary and presidential direct elections in Europe. The “last election/runoff” column displays the dates of the most recent direct parliamentary and/or presidential elections. In many instances, the “last election/runoff” column includes more than one date, as parliamentary and/or presidential elections may occur in two rounds with the top two candidates from an initial election advancing to a runoff election if no candidate receives a majority (this is the system in France).

The “next election” column indicates the projected date when the next direct national election is expected to be held, based on law or practice. In most European countries, general elections occur at least once every four to six years. Unless laws or decisions in a particular country set a specific election day, dates are calculated based on the dates of the most recent election and length of the term. Elections that are expected to occur by a specific month/year are listed in the table according to that month/year.

## European Elections in 2024

Twenty European countries have held or are scheduled to hold either presidential and/or parliamentary elections in 2024.

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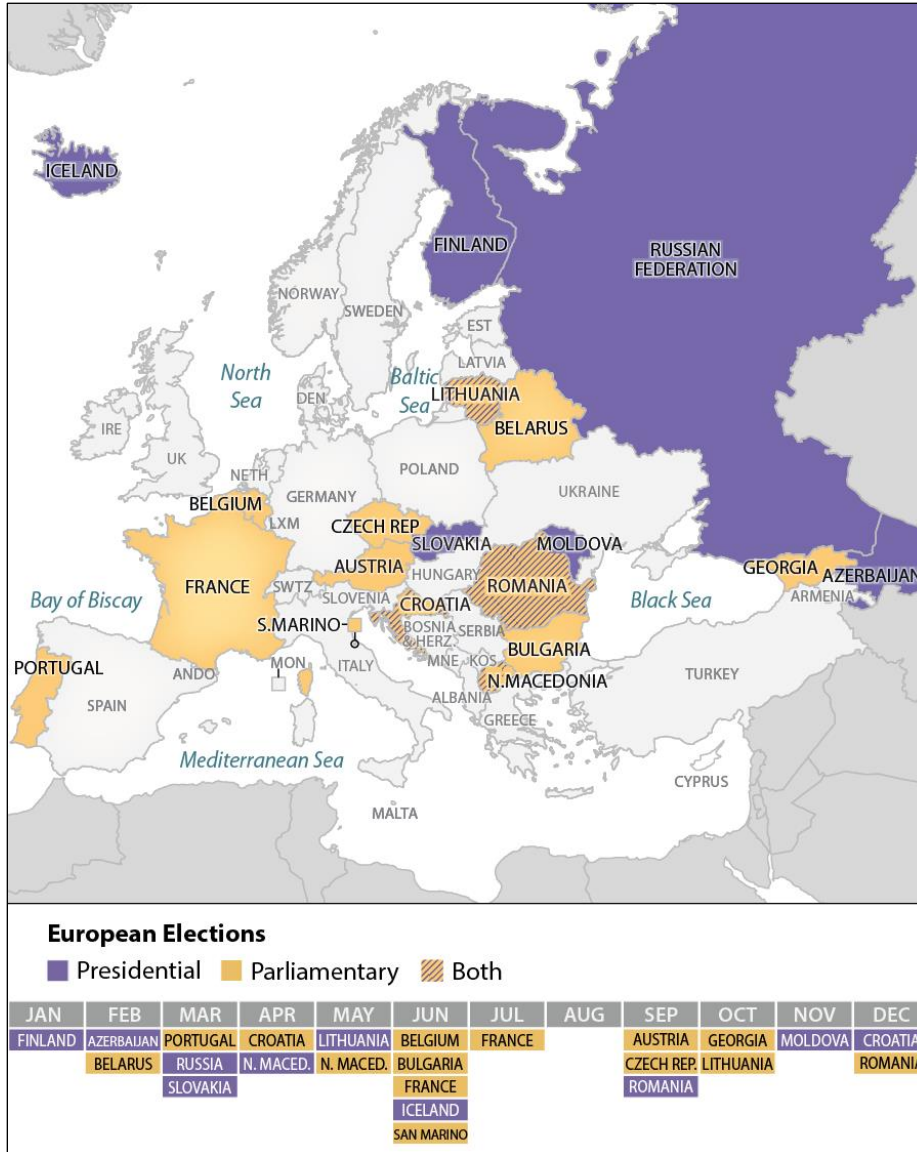
are a hybrid of these systems, providing for both a directly elected president and a prime minister responsible to parliament.

<sup>5</sup> The 13 countries are Albania, Armenia, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Malta, San Marino, and Switzerland.

<sup>6</sup> Per the CIA World Factbook, Denmark, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom are considered constitutional monarchies. Belgium is referred to as a parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarchy. The Holy See is labeled an ecclesiastical elective monarchy (or “absolute monarchy”). Andorra is considered a “parliamentary democracy” that retains its heads of state in the form of a co-principality; “the two princes—the president of France and the Spanish bishop of Urgell—serve with joint authority as heads of state.” For more information see <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/>.

<sup>7</sup> Some parliamentary systems, such as that of the United Kingdom, coexist with hereditary monarchies. In these systems, called parliamentary constitutional monarchies, monarchs typically serve as the head of state with limited or ceremonial powers. Prime ministers serve as the head of government, and may be appointed formally by the monarch, based on election results and often with the approval of parliament.

Figure I. European Elections in 2024



**Source:** Created by CRS, using data from the U.S. Department of State, Central Intelligence Agency’s (CIA’s) World Factbook, International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) Election Guide, Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), and other news sources.

**Notes:** Table is current as of June 11, 2024. Table includes direct elections only. Ukraine is not included, as elections cannot occur while under martial law. Europe is defined as the 50 countries (excluding the Holy See) under the portfolio of the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs.

# European Parliamentary and Presidential Elections

**Table I. European Parliamentary and Presidential Elections**

| Country                 | Parliamentary Elections   |   | Presidential Elections                |               |
|-------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------------|---------------|
|                         | Last Election/<br>Runoff  | Next Election   | Last Election/<br>Runoff              | Next Election |
| Albania                 | Apr. 25, 2021   | Apr. 2026   | Indirect                              | Indirect      |
| Andorra                 | Apr. 2, 2023  | Apr. 2027   | N/A                                   | N/A           |
| Armenia                 | June 20, 2021   | June 2026   | Indirect                              | Indirect      |
| Austria                 | Sept. 29, 2019  | Sept. 2024  | Oct. 9, 2022                          | Oct. 2028     |
| Azerbaijan <sup>a</sup> | Feb. 9, 2020  | Feb. 2025   | Feb. 7, 2024 <sup>b</sup>             | Feb. 2031     |
| Belarus <sup>a</sup>    | Feb. 25, 2024   | Feb. 2028   | Aug. 9, 2020                          | Aug. 2025     |
| Belgium                 | June 9, 2024  | June 2029   | N/A                                   | N/A           |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina  | Oct. 2, 2022  | Oct. 2026   | Oct. 2, 2022                          | Oct. 2026     |
| Bulgaria                | June 9, 2024 <sup>c</sup>   | June 2028   | Nov. 14, 2021/<br>Nov. 21, 2021       | Nov. 2026     |
| Croatia                 | Apr. 17, 2024 <sup>d</sup>  | Apr. 2028   | Dec. 22, 2019/<br>Jan. 5, 2020        | Dec. 2024     |
| Cyprus                  | May 30, 2021  | May 2026  | Feb. 5, 2023/<br>Feb. 12, 2023        | Feb. 2028     |
| Czech Republic          | Chamber of Deputies:<br>Oct. 8-9, 2021<br>Senate:<br>Sept. 23, 2022 -<br>Oct. 1, 2022 | Chamber of Deputies:<br>Oct. 2025<br>Senate: Sept. 2024 | Jan. 13-14, 2023/<br>Jan. 27-28, 2023 | Jan. 2028     |
| Denmark                 | Nov. 1, 2022  | Oct. 2026   | N/A                                   | N/A           |
| Estonia                 | Mar. 5, 2023  | Mar. 2027   | Indirect                              | Indirect      |
| Finland                 | Apr. 2, 2023  | Apr. 2027   | Jan. 28, 2024/<br>Feb. 11, 2024       | Jan. 2030     |
| France                  | June 12, 2022/<br>June 19, 2022   | June 30, 2024/<br>July 7, 2024 <sup>e</sup>             | Apr. 10, 2022/<br>Apr. 24, 2022       | Apr. 2027     |
| Georgia                 | Oct. 31, 2020/<br>Nov. 21, 2020   | Oct. 26, 2024   | Oct. 28, 2018 <sup>f</sup>            | Indirect      |
| Germany                 | Sept. 26, 2021  | Sept. 2025  | Indirect                              | Indirect      |
| Greece                  | June 25, 2023   | June 2027   | Indirect                              | Indirect      |
| Hungary                 | Apr. 3, 2022  | Apr. 2026   | Indirect                              | Indirect      |
| Iceland                 | Sept. 25, 2021  | Sept. 2025  | June 1, 2024                          | June 2028     |
| Ireland                 | Feb. 8, 2020  | Feb. 2025   | Oct. 26, 2018                         | Oct. 2025     |
| Italy                   | Chamber of Deputies & Senate:<br>Sept. 25, 2022                                       | Chamber of Deputies & Senate:<br>Sept. 2027             | Indirect                              | Indirect      |

| Country                                       | Parliamentary Elections  |   | Presidential Elections          |                       |
|---|--|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
|   | Last Election/<br>Runoff   | Next Election   | Last Election/<br>Runoff        | Next Election         |
| Kosovo  | Feb. 14, 2021  | Feb. 2025   | Indirect                        | Indirect              |
| Latvia  | Oct. 1, 2022   | Oct. 2026   | Indirect                        | Indirect              |
| Liechtenstein                                 | Feb. 7, 2021   | Feb. 2025   | N/A                             | N/A                   |
| Lithuania                                     | Oct. 11, 2020/<br>Oct. 25, 2020  | Oct. 13, 2024   | May 12, 2024/<br>May 26, 2024   | May 2029              |
| Luxembourg                                    | Oct. 8, 2023   | Oct. 2028   | N/A                             | N/A                   |
| Malta   | Mar. 26, 2022  | Mar. 2027   | Indirect                        | Indirect              |
| Moldova                                       | July 11, 2021  | July 2025   | Nov. 1, 2020/<br>Nov. 15, 2020  | Nov. 2024             |
| Monaco  | Feb. 5, 2023   | Feb. 2028   | N/A                             | N/A                   |
| Montenegro                                    | June 11, 2023  | June 2027   | March 19, 2023/<br>Apr. 2, 2023 | Mar. 2028             |
| Netherlands                                   | Nov. 22, 2023 <sup>g</sup>   | Nov. 2027   | N/A                             | N/A                   |
| North Macedonia                               | May 8, 2024  | May 2029  | Apr. 24, 2024/<br>May 8, 2024   | Apr. 2029             |
| Norway  | Sept. 13, 2021   | Sept. 2025  | N/A                             | N/A                   |
| Poland  | Sejm & Senate:<br>Oct. 15, 2023  | Sejm & Senate:<br>Oct. 2027                           | June 28, 2020/<br>July 12, 2020 | June 2025             |
| Portugal                                      | Mar. 10, 2024 <sup>h</sup>   | Mar. 2028   | Jan. 24, 2021                   | Jan. 2026             |
| Romania                                       | Chamber of<br>Deputies & Senate:<br>Dec. 6, 2020                       | Chamber of<br>Deputies & Senate:<br>Dec. 2024         | Nov. 10, 2019/<br>Nov. 24, 2019 | Sept. 15, 2024        |
| Russian Federation <sup>a</sup>               | Sept. 19, 2021   | Sept. 2026  | Mar. 15-17, 2024                | Mar. 2030             |
| San Marino                                    | June 9, 2024   | June 2029   | Indirect                        | Indirect              |
| Serbia  | Dec. 17, 2023 <sup>i</sup>   | Dec. 2027   | Apr. 3, 2022                    | Apr. 2027             |
| Slovakia                                      | Sept. 30, 2023   | Sept. 2027  | Mar. 23, 2024/<br>Apr. 6, 2024  | Mar. 2029             |
| Slovenia                                      | Apr. 24, 2022  | Apr. 2026   | Oct. 23, 2022/<br>Nov. 13, 2022 | Oct. 2027             |
| Spain   | Congress of<br>Deputies & Senate:<br>July 23, 2023                     | Congress of<br>Deputies & Senate:<br>July 2027        | N/A                             | N/A                   |
| Sweden  | Sept. 11, 2022   | Sept. 13, 2026  | N/A                             | N/A                   |
| Switzerland                                   | National Council &<br>Council of States:<br>Oct. 22, 2023 <sup>j</sup> | National Council &<br>Council of States:<br>Oct. 2027 | Indirect                        | Indirect              |
| Turkey <sup>k</sup><br>(Türkiye) <sup>m</sup> | May 14, 2023   | May 2028  | May 14, 2023/<br>May 28, 2023   | May 2028              |
| Ukraine                                       | July 21, 2019  | Deferred <sup>n</sup>                                 | Mar. 31, 2019/<br>Apr. 21, 2019 | Deferred <sup>n</sup> |

| Country        | Parliamentary Elections  |                           | Presidential Elections   |               |
|----------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
|                | Last Election/<br>Runoff | Next Election             | Last Election/<br>Runoff | Next Election |
| United Kingdom | Dec. 12, 2019            | July 2, 2024 <sup>a</sup> | N/A                      | N/A           |

**Source:** Created by CRS, using data from the U.S. Department of State, European Council, Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA's) World Factbook, International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) Election Guide, Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), and other news sources.

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- a. Although dates are included for elections that the governments of Azerbaijan, Belarus, and the Russian Federation have announced, these three governments do not hold elections that international observers consider to be free or fair. Azerbaijan, Belarus, and Russia are considered "authoritarian" governments according to Freedom House's *Freedom in the World 2023*. See *Freedom in the World 2023* country scores at <https://freedomhouse.org/countries/freedom-world/scores>. For more information on Belarus and Russia, see CRS In Focus IF10814, *Belarus: An Overview*, by Cory Welt and CRS Report R46518, *Russia: Domestic Politics and Economy*, by Cory Welt and Rebecca M. Nelson.
- b. Azerbaijan originally had a presidential election scheduled for 2025. In December 2023, President Ilham Aliyev called for a snap presidential election for February 7, 2024.
- c. On April 9, 2024, Bulgaria's President Rumen Radev appointed a caretaker government and set June 9, 2024, as the date for the country's sixth parliamentary election since April 2021.
- d. Croatia was due to hold a parliamentary election by July 2024. In March 2024, the government set April 17, 2024 as the election date.
- e. France was due to hold a parliamentary election by June 2027. However, following elections to the European Parliament on June 9, 2024, French President Emmanuel Macron dissolved the lower house of France's parliament and announced early parliamentary elections, now scheduled to be held in two rounds on June 30 and July 7, 2024.
- f. In Georgia, constitutional amendments in 2017 changed the presidential election to an indirect election. The 2018 presidential election in Georgia was the last in which the president was directly elected. Beginning in 2024, Members of Parliament and local government representatives are to elect Georgia's president. See CRS Report R45307, *Georgia: Background and U.S. Policy*, by Cory Welt.
- g. Parliamentary elections in the Netherlands were to occur in 2025. However, in July 2023, the four-party coalition government collapsed and the caretaker government announced a snap parliamentary election for November 2023.
- h. Parliamentary elections in Portugal were to occur in 2026. However, on November 9, 2023, Portugal President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa announced a snap parliamentary election for March 10, 2024, following the resignation of its prime minister amid a corruption investigation.
- i. Parliamentary elections in Serbia were to occur in 2026. However, on November 1, 2023, President Aleksandar Vucic dissolved parliament and announced that early parliamentary elections and partial local elections would be held on December 17, 2023.
- j. Each canton in Switzerland organizes its elections for the Council of States. The first round of the election to the Swiss Council of States is held at the same time as elections to the National Council in all cantons, with one exception. The canton of Appenzell Innerrhoden holds its elections on the last Sunday in April. Depending on the results of the election, a second round or runoff election may be required in some cantons.
- k. On April 16, 2017, a constitutional referendum was held on amending the Turkish Constitution, including abolishing the office of the prime minister and replacing the country's existing parliamentary system with a presidential system. The referendum passed. On June 24, 2018, Turkey held a snap election, reelecting



- i. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. He was again reelected in a two-round contest in May 2023. U.S. and European Union officials have expressed a number of concerns about authoritarian governance and erosion of rule of law and civil liberties in Turkey. State Department, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2023, Turkey*; European Commission, *Türkiye 2023 Report*, November 8, 2023. For more information, see CRS Report R44000, *Turkey (Türkiye): Major Issues and U.S. Relations*, by Jim Zanotti and Clayton Thomas.
- m. “In late 2021, President Erdogan directed the use of “Türkiye” (the country’s name in Turkish) in place of “Turkey” or other equivalents (e.g., the German “Türkei,” the French “Turquie”) in Turkish government documents and communications. In June 2022, the United Nations accepted the Turkish request to change the country’s name at the body to “Türkiye.” In January 2023, the State Department spokesperson said that the department would use the revised spelling “in most formal diplomatic and bilateral contexts” where appropriate. The U.S. Board on Geographic Names retained both “Turkey” and “Republic of Turkey” as conventional names, and the spokesperson said that the State Department could use those names if it is in furtherance of broader public understanding. State Department Press Briefing, January 5, 2023.” See CRS Report R41368, *Turkey (Türkiye): Background and U.S. Relations*, by Jim Zanotti and Clayton Thomas.
- n. Ukraine was originally scheduled to hold a presidential election by March 2024 (parliamentary elections were to occur by October 2023). However, Ukrainian law does not allow elections to occur under martial law, which has been in effect since the February 24, 2022, Russian invasion.
- o. Parliamentary elections in the United Kingdom were due by January 2025 at the latest. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak previously had said that he would call elections in the second half of 2024.

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