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EU elections 2009: Let the internet tell you who to vote for

Posted By: [Shane Richmond](#) at [Jun 2, 2009](#) at 13:57:31 [General]
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Tags: [EU Profiler](#), [European elections 2009](#), [internet](#), [Vote Match](#), [voting](#)

While most people will [go into the polling booth on Thursday](#) and put a cross next to the same party they always vote for or, perhaps, for the party to which they have recently switched, there are always some who prefer to do a little research first.

It used to be the case that the dedicated few would have to pore over paper manifestos, should they be able to get hold of them. Now the manifestos are online but if you don't have time to read them, you needn't worry. There are websites that will tell you which party best matches your views based on your answers to a few simple questions.

[Vote Match](#), created by the pressure group [Unlock Democracy](#), matches voters to parties based on a questionnaire submitted to all parties to find out their policies on key topics. Unfortunately, The Conservative Party and the Labour Party [declined to answer the questionnaire](#) so their answers were based on their public policy statements. The BNP, however, rejected the whole process as "inappropriate" and were left out. Also missing are NO2EU, the Christian Party and the English Democrats.

Still, if you don't mind those omissions, the Vote Match site will take you through 30 questions and then tell you which party's views most closely match yours and give you a table showing how the seven parties included on the site answered all 30 questions.

Alternatively, you can try [EU Profiler](#), which is "the work of a consortium of institutions in Italy, The Netherlands and Switzerland". Like Vote Match, it asks you 30 questions and, then matches you with a party. [EU Profiler](#) determined party positions on key policy areas by asking the parties, as Vote Match did, and also by analysing their published documents.

The organisers said: "Where there were discrepancies, the party was asked to provide more support for its declared position, and a final answer was settled upon. While the parties themselves were consulted throughout, the final decision lay with the country team, offering a better chance of complete impartiality."

It's worth using both sites and comparing the results. I found [EU Profiler's](#) presentation of results to be the most engaging but Vote Match's analysis page was more thorough, showing me where each party stands on each issue.

Of course, sites like these aren't perfect. Some questions are hard to answer by simply agreeing or disagreeing. [Morus](#), at [Political Betting](#), writes: "I have some experience of designing polling questions, and there are several that I thought were (if not unanswerable) then perhaps not best designed to elucidate differences in political position given the Agree/Disagree/No Opinion format."

He gives some very good examples. However, though I wouldn't recommend blindly following the results these sites give you, I think they have value. These sites could give you a starting point in the unlikely event that you have no idea who to vote for at all or, more likely, they could help if you're struggling to choose between two parties. Then again, they could just be a fun, five minute diversion.

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**Sheumais**

Thanks for that Shane, it's helped me decide who gets my vote on Thursday and it's not one of the established parties.

June 02, 2009
02:08 PM GMT

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**Stephen Gash**

Vote for any party that does not have MPs at Westminster. Any party you like other than them. Nobody will know.

Every party with MPs at Westminster is institutionally Anglophobic and has maintained an apartheid system against the English, since devolution.

Every single MP is tainted with the expenses scandal because the system has been in place since 1983, and has been increasingly corrupted since then. If they can sort it out now they've been caught out, then they could have sorted it out years ago.

Not a single MP is innocent in this regard and each party leader is responsible because none did anything about it.

So let's give these parties a hammering in the EU-elections because the EU-parliament is only an expensive yacking shop anyway. However, it would be much improved without Labour, Conservatives, Lib Dems, SNP, and the rest of the Westminster cronies being there.

We need an English Parliament to focus on England and a much smaller UK Parliament in a federal system. Better still, independence for England.

June 02, 2009
02:46 PM GMT

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**DominicJ**

53 UKIP

June 02, 2009
02:51 PM GMT

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**DominicJ**

UKIP again, about a third of the way between UKIP and BNP.

That ones crap though

Apparently The BNP, Labour and The Tories all share the same socioeconomic policy, there only difference is on integration.

June 02, 2009
03:03 PM GMT

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**Sheumais**

"Every party with MPs at Westminster is institutionally Anglophobic and has maintained an apartheid system against the English, since devolution."

Really? Had you noticed England has already been divided into regions and some of those regions are more heavily subsidised than Scotland or Wales? The regional assemblies may not be directly elected and therefore accountable to those they claim to represent, but they exist nonetheless.

June 02, 2009
03:19 PM GMT

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**Tom Hamilton**

I consider myself a Christian and a reasonable man and certainly not racist by any stretch of the imagination, I was surprised to some extent that my result showed BNP.

June 02, 2009
03:46 PM GMT

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**Tom Hamilton**

...I certainly won't be voting BNP, too many fascist, racist jobs, I don't trust them. Despite this I object to having my mind made up for me by the politically correct managers in my job... I would be sacked if I voted for them.

June 02, 2009
03:51 PM GMT

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**JunkkMale**

Interesting.

I think Vote Match rather lets itself down with its 'who wouldn't you...' question. Feeling bolshie at Westminster's antics I think I rather lopped out the major parties even getting a look in, and could not go back to correct this. I might even try again.

EU Profiler was going so well until the end, at which point I had no clue what to do with the chart presented, clicked on the wrong thing and lost it all.

At least before then I had confirmed who I was not going near with a barge pole.

June 02, 2009
04:59 PM GMT

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**joseph**

78 MEP's represent us in the european parliment ,these are different from our local representatives ,why are we having the election on the same day as the local elections.any answers?.

June 02, 2009
05:43 PM GMT

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**MikeC**

Vote Match may be useful - EU Profiler is probably to EU oriented. I like the suggestion of voting only for parties with no Westminster MPs.

It is important to vote for parties intent on at least reforming the corrupt EU Commission and all its Directorates and subsidiaries. The main Parties have had their Commissioners and signally failed to do that job. Thus they can hardly be relied on to anything in the future - to tied into the **GRAVY TRAIN**

June 02, 2009
06:12 PM GMT

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I was unsure how to vote in many of them because they were of the form "The EU should legislate in favour of

SoftMicro [I agree with]".

I didn't know whether to vote according to my agreement with the policy, or to vote according to my annoyance that the EU should presume to be able to legislate in the first place...

June 02, 2009
06:24 PM GMT

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MikeC

Tried Match Vote. It actually selected the only two candidates that I would vote for. One supports abolition as the only solution. He is my first choice

June 02, 2009
06:28 PM GMT

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Anthony Bootle

My questionnaire has given me the Monster Raving Lunatic Party, as the one that meets all my criteria, problem is we have no candidate.

June 02, 2009
06:45 PM GMT

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Ben

48 UKIP and 31 Tory for me. Hmm.

June 02, 2009
08:47 PM GMT

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