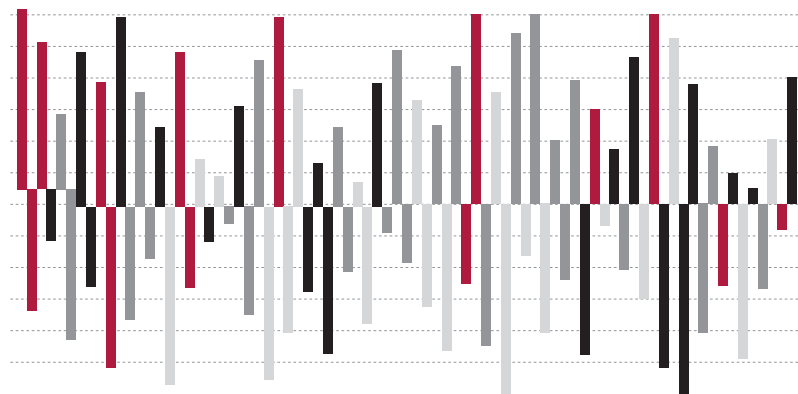




THE SENATE 2014 TO 2019



SENATE

**ASSEMBLY OF THE REGIONS
AND COMMUNITIES**

25 MAY 2014

The Sixth State Reform enters into force. New powers are conferred on the Regions and Communities. A new financing model is initiated. It is a turning point in the history of Belgium. The centre of gravity in the Belgian federal system shifts in the direction of the Regions and Communities. This is why the legislator reforms the Federal Parliament as well. From now on, one assembly will look after the interests of the substates at the federal level.:



3 COMMUNITIES

- the Flemish Community
- the French Community
- the German-speaking Community

3 REGIONS

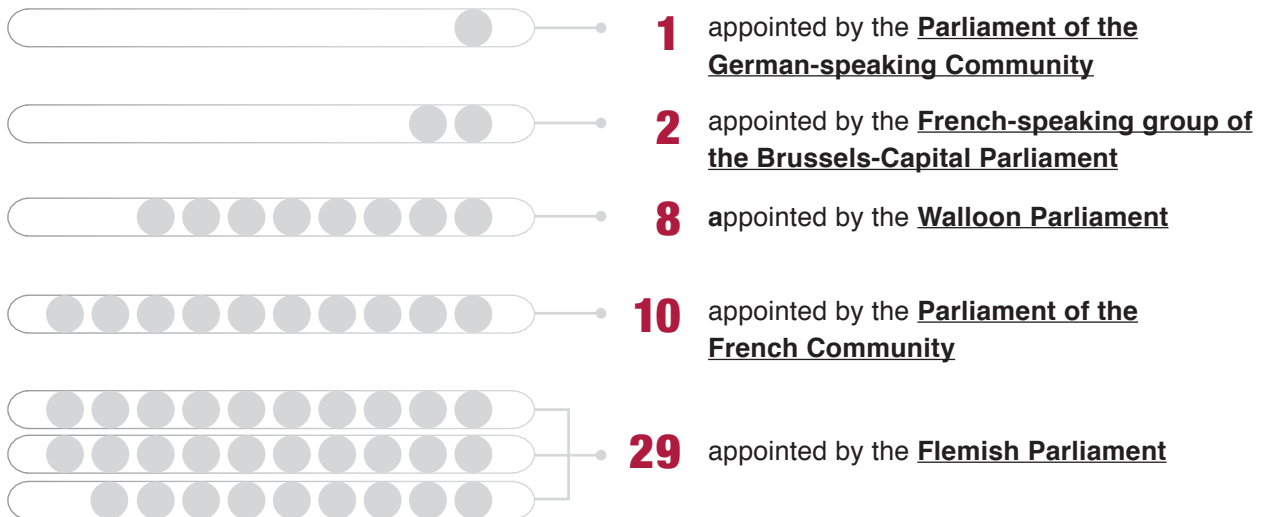
- the Flemish Region
- the Walloon Region
- the Brussels-Capital Region

THE NEW SENATE



The substate senators are members of a substate parliament and of the Senate. Their mandate of senator is non-remunerated.

Appointed by the substate senators. The co-opted senators are paid half of a parliamentary remuneration.



The Constitution stipulates that the Senate is a non-permanent body. The Senate meets less often than other assemblies. There are 10 plenary sessions per year. The committees meet every two weeks.

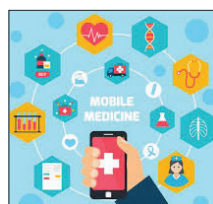
13 INFORMATION REPORTS WITH 682 RECOMMENDATIONS

Information reports are extensive reports on policy issues in which the State and the Regions and Communities have to cooperate with, or consult or at least inform each other so as to be able to pursue a coherent policy.



Equality between men and women

(file 6-97)
adopted on 6 March 2015



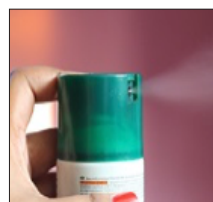
mHealth

(file 6-261)
adopted on 12 May 2017



Transposition of EU law into Belgian law

(file 6-131)
adopted on 21 May 2015



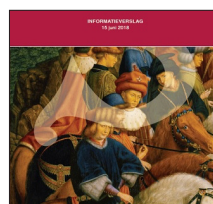
Endocrine disruptors

(file 6-303)
adopted on 23 March 2018



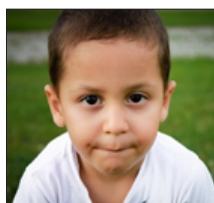
Legislative regulation of co-parenting

(file 6-98)
adopted on 11 December 2015



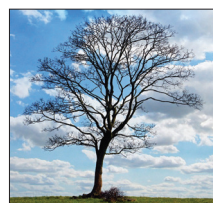
Fight against art theft

(file 6-357)
adopted on 15 June 2018



Fight against child poverty

(file 6-162)
adopted on 26 February 2016



Improvement of air quality

(file 6-391)
adopted on 13 July 2018



Improvement of public transport

(file 6-201)
adopted on 20 May 2016



'Smart' digital society

(file 6-413)
adopted on 29 March 2019



Publication of measures for self-employed entrepreneurs and SMEs - Administrative simplification

(file 6-320)
adopted on 19 January 2018



Right of reply on the Internet

(file 6-413)
adopted on 29 March 2019



Burden sharing for climate goals

(file 6-253)
adopted on 27 January 2017

21

ADOPTED ENACTMENTS & BILLS



On the legislative front, the Senate retains responsibility only for laws that concern the fundamental organization and functioning of the federal State and its components.

Examples:

THE CONSTITUTION

Extension of the detention period from 24 to 48 hours

SPECIAL MAJORITY LAWS

Extension of the constitutive autonomy



ORDINARY LAWS

Declaration of mandates and assets by elected officials

12 RESOLUTIONS

Examples:



- Employment of persons with disabilities on the regular labour market
- Dr Ahmadreza Djalali, who has been sentenced to death in Iran
- Pollution of the North Sea - Microplastics in cosmetics
- Extension of the 30-km zone
- Fight against anti-Semitism
- Simple and informative income tax return
- Total ban of the ivory trade



5 REASONED OPINIONS ON CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Sometimes, a parliament holds that its interests are infringed by the discussion of a proposal or bill in another parliament. If they cannot settle their dispute by consultation, the Senate issues a reasoned opinion.

Examples:

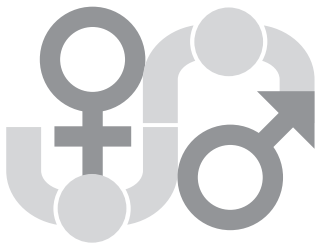
- [Untaxed additional income](#)
- [Quotas for care providers](#)



SPECIAL REPORTS

- [Radicalization](#)
- [Animal rights](#)
- The right to universal postal, communication and mobility services

 **2,115** WRITTEN QUESTIONS



The Senate is the only Belgian assembly with a **guaranteed representation of both sexes**. The Senate may consist of maximum two thirds of senators of the same sex. Between 2014 and 2019, the Senate was for a long time composed of a perfect balance between:

30 women
30 men

331



PERSONS HEARD



1

INSTITUTIONAL DATABASE



Senlex went online on 13 November 2018. Accessible free of charge by everyone, this database provides all official information for each article of the Constitution and the special laws: the text itself, the parliamentary preparations and all relevant opinions and decrees. <https://senlex.senate.be/fr>

64

MEETINGS OF THE FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS



European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker



ACTIVITIES
OF THE IPU
BILATERAL SECTIONS



MEETINGS OF THE
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
OF THE
COUNCIL OF EUROPE



MEETINGS OF THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY UNION

Through the Senate, the members of the regional parliaments can also attend certain interparliamentary meetings, such as those of the IPU.



**OSCE-
OBSERVER MISSIONS
DURING ELECTIONS**

38
MEETINGS WITH
AMBASSADORS

150,000
VISITORS 



13 OPEN-HOUSE DAYS

59
VISITS BY VIPS



German Federal President Joachim Gauck



*Nobel physics laureate
François Englert*

39

COLLOQUIA

3

EXHIBITIONS

11

**NOON
LECTURES**

.be 
2014-18
www.be14-18.be



SenLex



BOOK PRESENTATIONS



STUDY DAYS ON THE SEPARATION OF POWERS

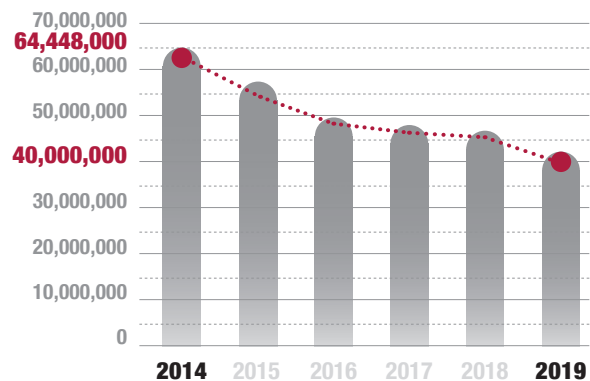


CONFERENCES OF THE BELGIAN ASSEMBLY PRESIDENTS



NEWS-LETTERS

SENATE ENDOWMENT



24 ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

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Book **TOURS**
Ask **QUESTIONS**

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