

THE EUROPEAN POLICIES OF ESTONIA

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CHAPTERS:

- ❖ The Profile of Estonia
- ❖ Why and What Europe
- ❖ The Ukraine-Russia War crisis
- ❖ Euroscepticism



► Profile of Estonia



PLACE ON THE MAP

The Republic of Estonia, is a country by the Baltic region in Northern Europe. It is bordered to the north by the Gulf of Finland, to the west by the Baltic sea, to the south by Latvia and to the east by lake Peipus and Russia. Across the Baltic Sea lie Sweden and Finland.

➤ Profile of Estonia

OVERVIEW

- ❖ Capital: Tallin
- ❖ Population: 1.374.687 (2024)
(67,8% Estonians, 22% Russians)
- ❖ Geographical size: 45.336 km²



➤ Profile of Estonia

HISTORY

- ❖ Independence from Russia and Germany:
Declaration of independence 23-24 February 1918
- ❖ Joined the League of Nations 22 September 1921
- ❖ German and Soviet occupations 1940-1991
- ❖ Independence restored 20 August 1991
- ❖ Entered the European Union May 2004
- ❖ Eurozone member since 1 January 2011
- ❖ Schengen area member since 21 December 2007



➤ Profile of Estonia

ECONOMY

- Estonia's GDP is 81% per capita.
- It ranks below the EU average. It amounts to 0.2% of the EU's total GDP.
- Low debt: 19.6%
- Unemployment : 6.4%

- ❖ The global economic recession of 2007:
Impacted Estonia with a contraction in
- ❖ GDP, which led to governmental budget
Adjustments to stabilize the economy.

EU-27 average	100
ITALY	97
CYPRUS	95
SLOVENIA	91
CZECH REPUBLIC	91
SPAIN	88
LITHUANIA	86
PORTUGAL	83
ESTONIA * * *	81
POLAND	80
ROMANIA	80
HUNGARY	76
CROATIA	76
SLOVAKIA	73
LATVIA	71
GREECE	67
BULGARIA	64

➤ Profile of Estonia

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

❖ Key sectors of economy:

- Oil shale energy
- Telecommunications /electronics
- Textiles
- Chemical products
- Shipbuilding
- Transportation

❖ Estonia has aimed for self-sufficiency,

Producing about 75% of its electricity.

trade with the EU :

exports: 71.2%


imports: 73.3%

MEMBER-STATE	EU SHARE IN TOTAL EXPORTS (%)	EU SHARE IN TOTAL IMPORTS (%)
Czech Republic	79.7	73.0
Luxembourg	78.2	85.6
Slovakia	76.1	77.8
Poland	75.5	63.9
Hungary	75.3	71.1
Netherlands	74.5	39.9
Estonia	71.2	73.3
Belgium	69.9	59.1
Austria	68.6	77.3
Romania	68.3	70.1
Croatia	68.0	70.1
Latvia	67.3	72.7
Slovenia	65.5	53.5
Portugal	65.4	69.8
Bulgaria	65.3	58.1
Lithuania	65.2	62.2
Spain	62.4	51.6
EU-27 average	62.1	58.8
Euro area average	60.4	57.0

➤ Profile of Estonia

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

❖ Trade with Russia:

- Since the full-scale war in Ukraine and the introduction of sanctions, imports of goods and services from Russia have decreased, while exports have increased.
 - Since February 2022 Estonian imports from Russia have plummeted from 393 million euros (4.7% GDP) in the fourth quarter of 2021 to 40.5 million euros (0.4% of GDP) in the first quarter of 2024.
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ESTONIA'S POLITICAL SYSTEM



RIIGIKOGU

- Estonia is a parliamentary republic with a single- chamber parliament.
- Its prime minister ,who is the head of government, is nominated by the president and approved by the parliament. He or she is in charge of executive power vested in government.
- The president, who is the head of state, is elected by the parliament for a 5-year term.
- The parliament is called Riigikogu and is the representative legislative authority of the Republic of Estonia.
- Estonia's political system has been characterized by coalition governments as no single party has managed to secure an absolute majority in the Riigikogu.
- The current prime minister is Kristen Michal of the Reform Party. He took office in 23 July 2024 following the resignation of Kaja Kallas. She was the first female prime minister of Estonia from 2021-2024.
- The current President is Alar Karis.

▶ Political Parties of Estonia:

- ❖ Reform Party
- ❖ Conservative People's Party (EKRE)
- ❖ Center Party
- ❖ Estonia 200 (Eesti 200)
- ❖ Social Democratic Party
- ❖ Pro Patria (Isamaa)

✓ **On the elections, which took place on 5 March 2023, these six parties won seats.**

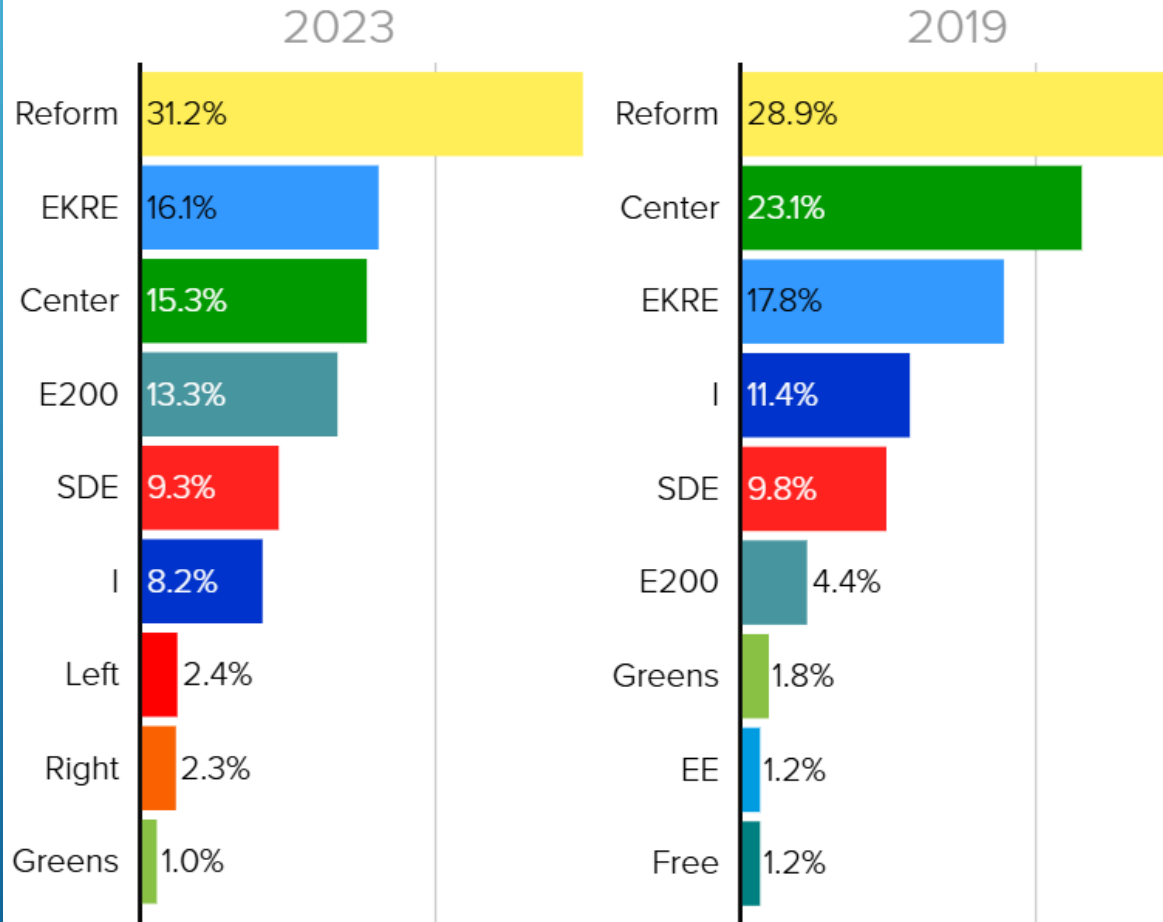
□ **on 10 April**: Mrs Kallas announced a coalition government comprising:

- Her Reform Party,
- Estonia 200
- And Social Democratic Party



POLITICAL PARTIES

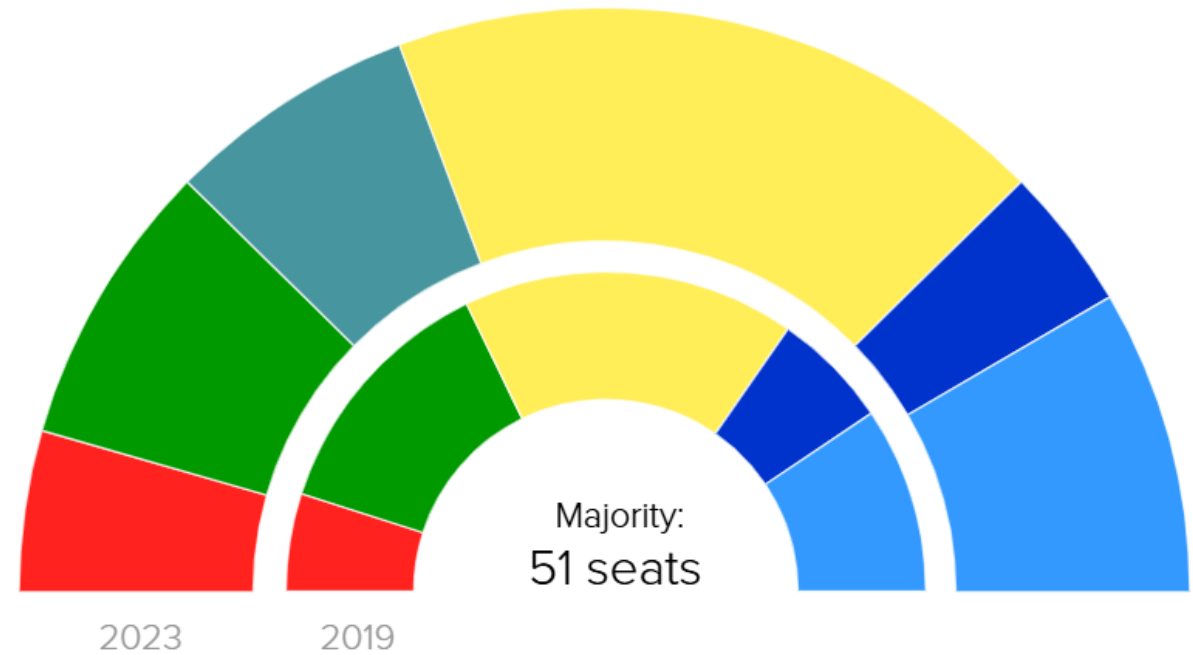
Estonia has pioneered in e-government, offering nearly all public services online and becoming the first country globally to enable nation wide binding Internet voting in 2005 local elections. During the 2023 parliamentary elections, over the half of the votes were cast online.



SOURCE: POLITICO research

POLITICO

On March 5, 2023, voters elected the 101 seats of the Estonian Riigikogu. Incumbent Prime Minister Kaja Kallas' center-right Reform Party finished first. The Center Party lost some ground and newcomers Estonia 200 won 14 seats.



SOURCE: POLITICO research

POLITICO

POLITICAL PARTIES

❖ Representation in the European Parliament:

➤ EPP- European People's Party(Christian Democrats):

- Isamaa

➤ Renew Europe:

- Estonian Center Party

- Reform Party

➤ S&D –Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats:

- Social and Democratic Party

➤ Patriots of Europe:

- EKRE



Why enter the EU

- ▶ Political stability
- ▶ Increased trade via access to the single market
- ▶ In order to return to the West, secure its place among free and prosperous nations and make sure it would be supported by the EU in facing future external threats

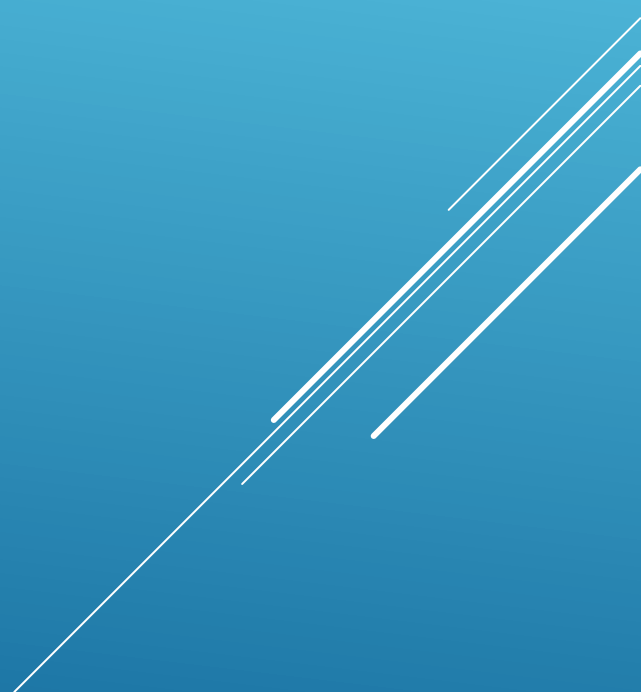


WHAT EU ESTONIA WANTS

- ▶ Estonia is a supporter of EU's enlargement.
- ❖ Supports Ukraine's entrance to the EU and NATO.
- ❖ On 14 December 2023, during the accession negotiations supported Ukraine and shared its reform and accession experiences.
- ▶ Stands for strict but fair conditions of enlargement
- ▶ Maintain social order in Europe, that respects human rights and dignity.
- ▶ Significant changes in external security and relations(such as technological developments ,strong transatlantic relationship, collective defence in NATO)



THE UKRAINE- RUSSIA WAR CRISIS

- ▶ Estonia was one of the first countries to provide Ukraine with defence assistance, even before the beginning of Russia's full-scale war on 24 February
 - ▶ Estonia has provided political, economic, military and humanitarian aid
 - ▶ More than 40.000 refugees from Ukraine have applied for temporary protection in Estonia
 - ▶ In August 2022 a special school was established for Ukraine students- the Freedom School
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- A decorative graphic consisting of several parallel white lines of varying lengths, slanted upwards from left to right, located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

EUROSCEPTICISM

- Significant majorities in Estonia (69%) view the European membership positively.
- In Estonia the anti-EU sentiment mainly comes from the country's Russian speaking population
- The far-right People's party(EKRE)it's a eurosceptical party, which want to protect Estonia's independence and sovereignty. It's against any action that might concentrate any power to the EU.

COUNTRY	% AGREE	% DISAGREE
POLAND	47	45
ITALY	42	51
CROATIA	41	51
AUSTRIA	41	50
ROMANIA	39	55
SLOVENIA	37	58
BULGARIA	35	46
CYPRUS	35	59
BELGIUM	34	63
CZECH REPUBLIC	32	61
HUNGARY	32	62
FRANCE	31	57
EU-27 AVERAGE	30	63
GREECE	27	66
MALTA	26	68
SLOVAKIA	24	66
PORTUGAL	24	70
SPAIN	23	71
ESTONIA ←	21	69

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!



SOURCES

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