





Bulgaria¹

National Parties	Group in the European Parliament	Link to the party's official site	Link to the official campaign site	Link to the programme	Slogan	Link to the detailed list
Citizens for the European Development of Bulgaria (GERB) Grazhdani za Evropeysko Razvitie na Balgariya		www.gerb.bg	x	http://www.gerb.bg/bg/program	x	http://www.gerb.bg/bg/deputy/eurodeputy-candidates
Democratic United Forces (ODS) Obedineni Demokraticхни Sili		www.sds.bg	http://www.sds.bg/bg/publications/read/822?type=13	http://www.sds.bg/bg/publications/read/822?type=13	x	http://www.sds.bg/bg/publications/read/762?type=13
Party of Democrats for a Strong Bulgaria (DSB) Demokrati za Silna Balgariya		www.dsb.bg	http://www.dsb.bg/?page=campaign&sub=353	http://www.dsb.bg/?page=campaign&sub=353-376	x	http://www.dsb.bg/?page=press&sub=news&id=26
Socialist Party (BSP)² Balgarska Socialisticheska Partija		www.bsp.bg	http://www.bsp.bg/bg/news/7?PHPSESSID=2cc34221fa065d00c5a482e7a1d8aa92	http://www.bsp.bg/bg/article/689	ХОРАТА НА ПЪРВО МЯСТО Нова посока за Европа (People firsts, a new direction for Europe)	http://www.bsp.bg/bg/article/689

¹ Updated 27/05/09

² The parties highlighted in blue are the governing parties

Movement for Rights and Freedom (DPS) Dviženie za Prava i Svobodi		www.dps.bg	http://www.dps.bg/cgi-bin/e-cms/vis/vis.pl?s=001&p=0429&n=&vis=	http://www.dps.bg/cgi-bin/e-cms/vis/vis.pl?s=001&p=0437&g=	x	http://www.dps.bg/cgi-bin/e-cms/vis/vis.pl?s=001&p=0431&g=
Ataka	NI	www.ataka.bg	x	x	x	x

Source : Data collated and processed by the Robert Schuman Foundation, Fondation Robert Schuman ©

Analysis of the electoral campaign 5 weeks before the elections:

Author : Corinne Deloy

Election date: 7th June

Number of MEPs to be elected: 17

The Bulgarians are not showing much interest in the European election since they are extremely interested in the general elections that will follow shortly after the European vote (they are to take place on 5th July at the latest). It has to be said that although most Bulgarians believe that their country's membership of the EU is a good thing they still do not perceive what their role might be in the Union. Moreover the recent modification (approved on 14th April) of the electoral law (and the numerous debates on this subject that lasted several weeks) have led to confusion in the issues at stake in the future elections. Bulgarians do not really know how they will vote in June whether it be in the European or general elections. The vital electoral threshold to achieve to be represented in parliament has been set at 8% for coalitions comprising two parties or more (before it lay at 4% for parties and coalitions). It has stayed at 4% for parties. The rightwing believes that this amendment in the electoral law is directed against them and obeys no political principle. On 15th April, President of the Republic, Gueorgi Parvanov placed his veto on the amendment that established the new threshold indicating that it might be a vector of political instability.

Bulgaria is being severely hit by the economic crisis and witnessed several riots last autumn and winter. Pensioners, students and civil servants and even housewives expressed their discontent and demanded that the government hear their complaints and take measures to counter the effects of the economic crisis and also against corruption that is rotting the country. With foreign investments now declining (down by 15% to 20%), inflation that is due to remain high in 2009 (12.2% in 2008, 6.7% forecast in 2009), a heavily affected trade balance, the government led by Serguey Stanichev (Socialist Party, BSP) has little room to manoeuvre. The latter is undertaking a rigorous budgetary policy even though he recently increased retirement pensions and civil servants' pay. The opposition also accused the government of neglecting deficits in view of the upcoming election in June. The Socialist Party is being beaten in the polls by a party that is not represented in Parliament, Citizens for the European

Development of Bulgaria (GERB) led by Boiko Borisov. The Socialists formed a leftwing coalition on 14th April with several other parties (the Bulgarian Social Democrats, the Social Humanism Movement, the Agrarian Union, the Rom Party, the Communist Party and the Patriotic Party of a New Dawn (DAWN)) in view of the European elections.

For their part the United Democratic Forces (ODS) led by Nadezhda Mikhailova, formed a coalition with the Democratic Party for a Strong Bulgaria (DSB) led by former Prime Minister (1997-2001), Ivan Kostov. This coalition may soon open up to other parties such as New Democracy, a dissident movement of the National Movement for Stability and Progress (MNSE), a member of the government. According to the polls the GERB is due to win the European elections with 26% of the vote. It is due to be followed by the Socialist Party (16%), the Movement for Rights and Freedom (MDL) with 9%, the far right party Ataka (6%) and the rightwing coalition United Democratic Forces-Democratic Forces for a Strong Bulgaria (5%).