

No. 26/89
August 1, 1989

Contact: Ella Krucoff
(202) 862-9540

ENRIQUE BARON CRESPO ELECTED EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT PRESIDENT

Enrique Baron Crespo became President of the newly elected European Parliament when it held its first meeting in Strasbourg July 25.

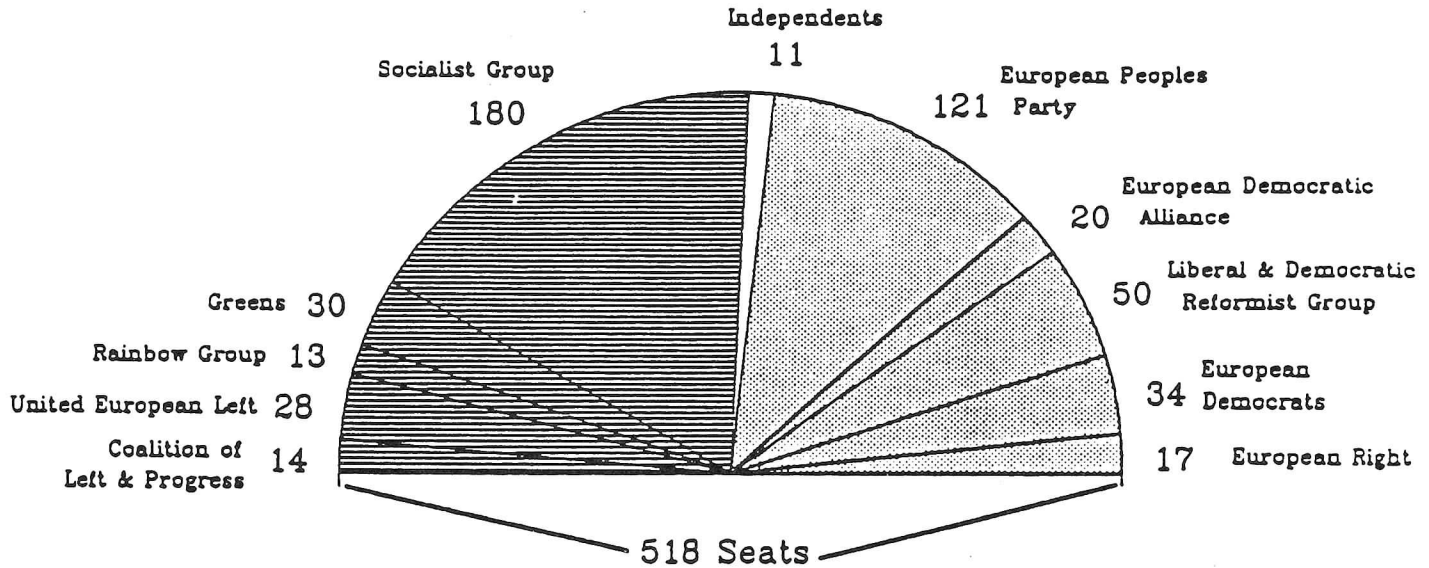
A Spanish socialist, Baron was given a clear mandate by 301 of the 518 parliamentarians, making him the first President elected in a single ballot. Baron is also the first Spaniard to head a European Community institution and the only other socialist President of the Parliament since Pieter Dankert (January 1982 to July 1984). He succeeds Sir Henry Plumb, the British conservative President of the Parliament since January 1987.

In his acceptance speech, Baron said that the European Community should encourage the development of parliamentary democracy in countries such as Hungary and the Soviet Union.

Baron has been a member of the European Parliament since 1986 and Vice President of the Parliament since 1987. Before entering European politics, Mr. Baron was a member of the Spanish Parliament (1977-1987), Minister for Transport, Tourism and Communications (1982-1985), and Spokesman on economic affairs for the socialist parliamentary party (1977-1982).

../..

Composition of the European Parliament



July 1989

Source: E.P

POLITICAL GROUPS

(by order of importance)

Socialist Group
European People's Party
Liberal, Democratic and Reformist Group
European Democratic Group
Greens

European United Left
European Democratic Alliance
European Right
Coalition of Left and Progress
Rainbow Group

LEADERS

Jean-Pierre Cot
Egon Klepsch
Valery Giscard d'Estaing
Christopher J. Prout
Alexander Langer
Maria Amelia Mota Santos

Luigi Colajanni
Christian de la Malene
Jean-Marie Le Pen
Rene-Emile Piquet
Jaak Vandemeulebroucke
(to be confirmed)