POLITICO Pro Intelligence

A novel digital platform for customizable analysis of political, policy and legislative data

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ABSTRACT

POLITICO Europe has created a powerful platform at the intersection of technology and journalism which allows subscribers to search, track and understand legislative developments across different EU institutions. From pre-legislative and consultation phase to critical votes, amendments and more, the Pro Intelligence platform provides subscribers with bespoke information that is integrated with POLITICO's specialist policy journalism. It does this by offering editorial content, data and digital tools integrated in one place. That allows the user to create a customizable window into the topic or policy area they are engaged with. Pro Intelligence is also useful for POLITICO's journalists as a tool for researching stories, visualizing trends and gaining insights on legislators and legislation.

CCS CONCEPTS

Information systems → Information retrieval → Document representation; Human-centered computing → Visualization → Visualization techniques;
Information systems → World Wide Web → Web mining → Data extraction and integration → Surfacing

KEYWORDS

Legislative tracking; data visualization; politics; policy; Twitter; audience engagement; subscription.

1 Introduction to POLITICO

POLITICO Europe (a joint venture established in 2015 between POLITICO in the US and German publisher Axel Springer) is a primarily digital news organization, focusing on European politics. It has a significant emphasis on the policy-making and regulatory activity of the institutions of the European Union. Headquartered in Brussels, it has offices in London, Berlin and Paris, and a network of stringers across Europe. The company's more than 160 staff includes 70 journalists of 22 different nationalities.

POLITICO's business model relies heavily on its high-end Pro subscription services which provide specialist policy news in a handful of niche verticals including technology, financial services, trade and health care. Subscribers — often but not exclusively working in government affairs — rely on our coverage to provide them with actionable intelligence on EU legislative and policy developments, as well as at the level of national governments/legislatures.

2 Pro Intelligence

In 2018, POLITICO Europe began developing Pro Intelligence, an online platform to complement our specialist Pro news offering, that combines journalistic content with data in a single platform. It allows subscribers to search, track and analyze legislative developments across EU institutions as well as national legislatures in the U.K., U.S., France and Germany. By combining data, editorial content and digital tools in one place, the platform provides a powerful, customizable experience that allows users to extract bespoke information on relevant policy developments in real time.

DEC 10, 2019
Overijse, Belgium
10:18 PM

Good evening, James!

MY UPCOMING CALENDAR

Nothing scheduled.

MY UPDATES

No new updates.

PRO NEWS   Latest from   all policy areas ▾

Amid national pride, Italy's airline limps on
Alitalia is entering the latest phase of its drawn-out tragedy.
Dec 10, 2019, 8:45 PM • by Saim Saeed
PRO Article   Competition   Mobility

Charles Michel calls for concessions on EU budget positions
Dec 10, 2019, 8:21 PM • by Lili Bayer
PRO Alert   EU Budget

COP25 talks in bitter fight over carbon trading
Drafting rules for a global carbon trading system is crucial to the success of the Paris Agreement.
Dec 10, 2019, 8:21 PM • by Kalina Oroschakoff, Zack Colman
PRO Article   Energy and Climate   Sustainability

Von der Leyen's Green Deal faces tough political battles
The vast policy plan meant to transform the Continent's economy is set to face resistance in national capitals and EU institutions.
Dec 10, 2019, 8:01 PM • by Maïa de La Baume, Paola Tamma, Kalina Oroschakoff
PRO Article   Agriculture and Food   Energy and Climate   EU Budget   Financial Services   Mobility

PRO ANALYSIS

Profiles of a climate emergency

More than 11,000 scientists from 153 countries recently signed a declaration published in the journal BioScience, stating that Earth is "clearly and…
Published Dec 9, 2019
Energy and Climate   Sustainability

Mounting challenges face leaders at COP25

We scrape more than 1 million pages on sites connected with the EU and national legislatures each day, programmatically reading, extracting, and organizing relevant information in the Pro Intelligence platform.

We think the greatest value for the user is in being able to combine smooth access to relevant data with journalistic analysis. And though the concept of integrated news and data is not new (think Bloomberg, WSJ, etc.), it has not been done at this scale in the field of political/policy journalism.

Other services (Dods, Issue tracker, consultancies etc.) provide clients with a feed of relevant policy information, but Pro Intelligence flips the traditional "legislative tracking" model. The platform gives users the tools to work in the way they want to, circumventing traditional means of intelligence gathering and providing slices of exactly what they want to receive.

It also rethinks the received idea that political data is confined to election time and ongoing polling of voters' attitudes. Approaching legislation and legislators as individual entities producing information opens vast opportunities to interpret legislative data in new ways (through aggregation, natural language processing etc.) and provide new insights to users.

Axel VOSS   ⬥ Following ▾

Overview   Similarity   Rapporteurships   Activities   Votes   Amendments   Tweets

EPP

Christlich Demokratische Union Deutschlands
European People's Party, European Parliament

Germany

BASIC INFORMATION

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FACEBOOK
Link

WEBSITE
Link

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Assistant: Tel.: 0032 2 28 47302

STRASBOURG

Votes with party	Votes with majority	Roll-call Attendance
96.08%	**77.89%**	**98.22%**

Latest Activities   Assignments   Staff

📅 APR 15, 2019
Protection of persons reporting on breaches of Union law (debate)   Speech
Axel VOSS   EPP

Schutz von Personen, die Verstöße gegen das Unionsrecht melden (Aussprache)   Speech
Axel VOSS   EPP

📅 MAR 26, 2019
Contracts for the supply of digital content and digital services - Contracts for the sale of goods (debate)   Speech
Axel VOSS   EPP

Contracts for the supply of digital content and digital services - Contracts for the sale of goods (debate)   Speech
Axel VOSS   EPP

PRO NEWS

Morning Tech, presented by Ericsson: Google's copyright decision — Kaljurand on terrorist content — UPU grand finale
PRO   Sep 26, 2019, 5:02 AM

Morning Tech, presented by Microsoft: The next Commission's digital leadership — Internet Governance Forum — Stengg on the DSA
PRO   Sep 11, 2019, 4:55 AM

Cyber Insights: Goulard is cyber czar — e-Privacy names — Huawei's legal endeavours
PRO   Sep 10, 2019, 1:35 PM

The aim is to provide value to users that is more than the sum of the editorial content and legislative data combined. Automatically surfacing the right data, directly within editorial content at the right moments, keeps users engaged longer and deeper in one place — making POLITICO their one-stop-shop for policy insight.

In addition, automatically connecting editorial with other content types (like legislation, cases, and people profiles) extends the "shelf life" of our news and analysis.

2.1   Information types

Pro Intelligence combines and organizes many sources. Users can access and search across ten distinct, but connected information types, all in the same interface.

- Procedures/Bills — proposed legislation from legislatures included within Pro Intelligence.

- Initiatives/Consultations — pre-legislative stakeholder consultations for feedback from the European Commission.

- Cases — European Court of Justice and European General Court cases, as well as European Commission Competition cases, including access to all related case documents, events, and press releases.

- People — currently serving (and historic where available) legislators, MEPs, and MPs from legislatures included within Pro Intelligence, scraping EU Who is Who.

- Committees — legislative committees, including membership, schedule, and current business from legislatures included within Pro Intelligence.

- Activities — parliamentary questions and speeches from MEPs, translated and fully searchable.

- Transcripts — transcripts from the UK Parliament House of Commons and House of Lords, fully searchable.

- Press Releases — press releases issued by the European Parliament, European Commission, Council of the European Union, select EU Agencies, as well as press releases from U.K. government departments and agencies.

- Tweets — tweets and retweets from legislators included within Pro Intelligence, supplemented by a selection of Twitter accounts ranging from agencies, journalists, institutions, and other stakeholders.

- News — POLITICO Pro news within Pro policy areas and free news.

3　Journalistic use cases

POLITICO's journalists use Pro Intelligence to follow newsworthy legislative files, cases, keywords, companies and people. Automatically alerting the newsroom to changes in job status among high-ranking officials within the EU institutions, for example, has provided personnel information useful to subscribers.

The platform also provides a convenient way to track and quantify the rise in importance of key topics in legislative discussions as well as to analyze and understand the links between parties and individual legislators.

Pro Intelligence also offers tools to visualize the result of votes in the European Parliament and other legislatures. By cutting the vote results using different criteria, the platform can show at a glance how different national cohorts of MEPs and different party grouping cast their ballots.
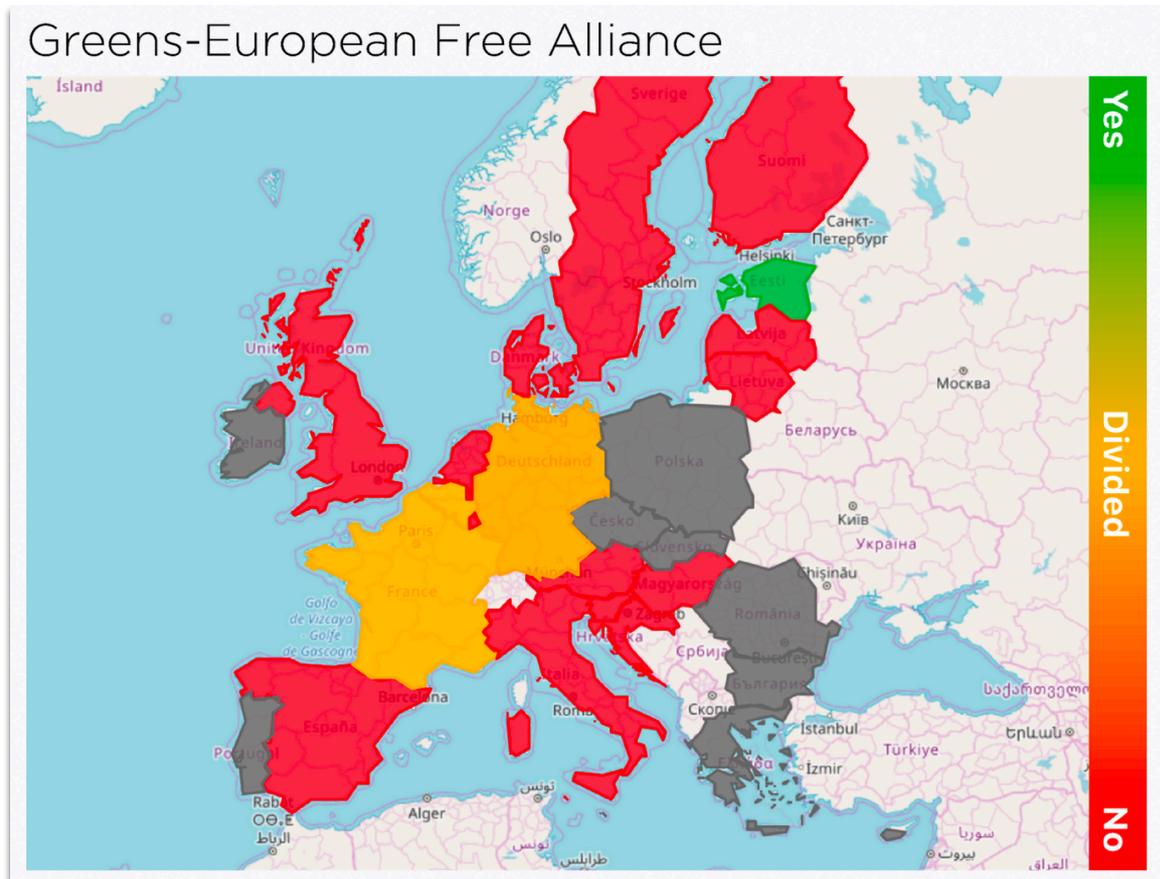
Visualization of the voting patterns of the Greens-European Free Alliance political group on copyright legislation in 2018.

THERESA MAY'S BREXIT DEAL CRUSHED

Against (432)   For (202)
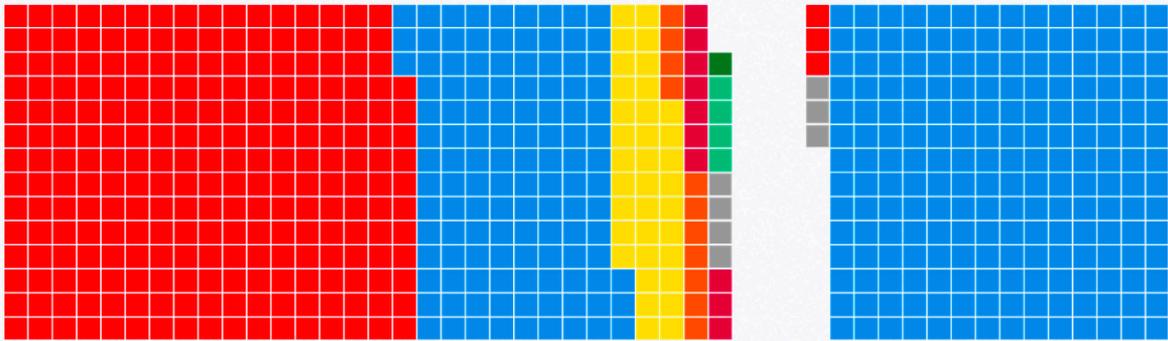
- ● Conservative Party
- ● Democratic Unionist Pary
- ● Green Party
- ● Labour Party
- ● Liberal Democrats
- ● Plaid Cymru
- ● Scottish National Party
- ● Independent

Article 50 triggering vote on February 1, 2017:

Against (114)   For (498)
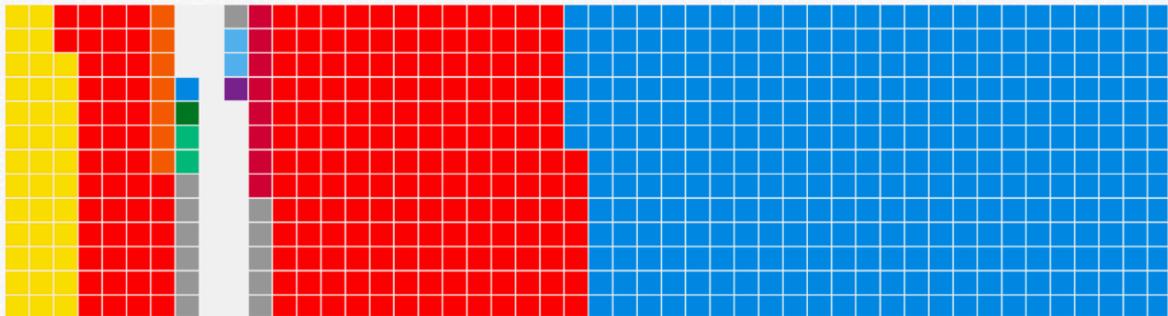
Comparison of two votes in the UK parliament: the first in 2017 on whether to begin the Brexit process. The second in 2019 on the deal struck with Prime Minister Theresa may with the European Union.

4   Future plans

Following a recently-completed redesign of Pro Intelligence to improve the user experience and better integrate POLITICO's editorial content, we are working to add more sources and to improve connections between content types. We also hope to add more tools to help users interpret and understand the data.