Political leaders must do more to ensure gender balance

The results of the European Parliament mid-term elections last week reveal that this institution still has a long way to go for gender parity. As you pointed out in your editorial last week (‘Parliament fails the gender test’, 19–25 January), the Parliament will once again be chaired by a man, and the number of women among its vice-presidents (only three out of 14) has dropped to the level of 2004, underlining the progress made in recent years.

In 2009, European voters sent a clear message in support of parity democracy: the number of women MEPs increased by five percentage points, to 35%. Two and half years later, the unwillingness of the political groups of the Parliament to do their share, by ensuring the election of women in internal leadership posts, means that this message has not been heard.

The backlash on parity democracy in the Parliament is worrying, as the EU decision-making bodies need democracy and transparency more than ever. Citizens’ trust in the capacity of institutions to do their share, by ensuring the election of women in internal leadership posts, means that this message has not been heard. MEPs increased by five percentage points, to 35%. Two and half years later, the unwillingness of the political groups of the Parliament to do their share, by ensuring the election of women in internal leadership posts, means that this message has not been heard.

The backlash on parity democracy in the Parliament is worrying, as the EU decision-making bodies need democracy and transparency more than ever. Citizens’ trust in the capacity of institutions to do their share, by ensuring the election of women in internal leadership posts, means that this message has not been heard. MEPs increased by five percentage points, to 35%. Two and half years later, the unwillingness of the political groups of the Parliament to do their share, by ensuring the election of women in internal leadership posts, means that this message has not been heard.