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Events & People

Battle For Your Vote...

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The thud thud thud of heavy hip-hop beats pulses through the building. Young people clap and cheer, voices rising, dancing together, clutching plastic cups of pale beer. In the centre a stage is lit up: MC Ryan Miller spits into his microphone with excitement as he separates two feuding rap artists....

... But this is not some hip-hop club in the centre of Brussels. This is the European Parliament, Yehudi Menuhin open space.



On 9 April, EU40 and MTV Voices coordinated “Battle for Your Vote”: 8 MEPs teamed with four rappers going head-to-head on topics surrounding the European elections.

Audience members chose the topics and after a quick huddle the teams went to war, battling over Europe's borders, future innovation and technology and of course youth unemployment.

Winners and losers of each round were determined by the amount of noise the audience made... which made for a very rowdy night in the EP!



And it was clear from early on that the crowd was not overly impressed with one MEP's shout of “Vote for us if you want money!” as boos began to fill the Menuhin space...

Rapper DeKay made a valiant effort to turn the tide but the battle was already lost and the Greens sailed through easily to the next round.

“Where is the whistle blower?? He is in Brussels,” yelled Ismail Ertug from S&D, blowing into his own whistle loudly as his group’s rapper Mils prepared to take on ALDE’s LeeN.

But S&D suffered a landslide defeat as Mils insisted on straying away from the topics at hand. LeeN made it look all too easy as he smashed out lyrics like “Let’s take some business back from America!” to whoops and cheers from the crowd.

ALDE’s MEP Jorgo Chatzimarkakis busted some serious dance moves... (at 1:21 on [video](#)).



Then LeeN and Mos Prob for the Greens went head to head in a dramatic showdown for the final. Furiously, the rappers debated youth unemployment back and forth. While Mos Prob focused on internship equality, LeeN attacked the banks.

After an impassioned battle, in the end it was ALDE who came away the ultimate victors, champions of rap at EP ;).

“Maybe next time, they’ll let the MEPs do the rapping!” joked Ska Keller for the Greens.

The full video of the event is available [here](#).

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