



[The Far-Right Makes Gains in Recent European Elections](#)

European Parliament elections commenced on the 6th of this month, and the shake-up of the EU's 720-seat body has significantly altered the political landscape of Europe. The once centrist parliament now bears a right-leaning tilt, a testament to the substantial gains made by major parties such as the German Alternative for Germany (AFD) and French National Rally (RN). This trend of far-right party ascension, prevalent in most of the 27 participating countries, provides a clear indication of the potential outcomes in future domestic elections.

Most notably, France's President Emmanuel Macron saw more losses for his party, which has been under siege due to a lack of addressing issues of value to voters. The National Rally Party took home nearly 40% of the vote, which spurred Macron to immediate action. In an unexpected move, the French PM dissolved France's National Assembly to hold a special vote slated to occur on June 30th and July 7th. This decision comes after persistent criticism of Macron from French voters due to unpopular policy decisions that have dissatisfied much of the country. In his address to the French people shortly after the EU parliament vote closed, Macron stated "I have heard your message, and I will not let it go without a response." The planned election appears to be an attempt to avoid a complete freeze of the French government due to conflicting views on the country's governance. It has the potential to completely change France's stance on both foreign and domestic policy. This move comes at a tremendous risk to Macron, who has three years left in office. The National Rally Party, headed by 28-year-old Jordan Bardella, has captured the attention of French voters and has become a powerhouse in the European Union. With Bardella serving as president and Marine La Pen heading the party in the EU and national assembly, the right-leaning party has made notable gains in recent years. With the upcoming vote in the national parliament and the recent victory in the EU, the RN appears to be highly confident in its ability to retain and increase its political standing in France after the upcoming vote. The party currently leads the charge on anti-immigration, which has a long history of accusations of xenophobia despite Bardella's predecessor's (Marine La Pen) past efforts to shift the party closer to the center.

France is not the only member of the European Union experiencing a domestic shake-up following the recent EU election. Belgium's Prime Minister Alexander De Croo stepped down after his party's complete loss, and center-right parties took up positions nationwide. Germany also saw a political change, with the scandal-plagued AFD taking second place. Other countries, such as Italy, saw the Brothers of Italy led by Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and their right-leaning parties gain better footholds. The Brothers of Italy Party managed to rake in 28% of the Italian vote, an increase from the previous 26% back in 2022. This has helped further solidify Meloni's place as a leader in the EU Parliament.

The power shift in Germany comes with significant concerns for many Germans who have been participating in protests against the party following a slew of controversies surrounding the AFD. These concerns come as no surprise, considering the news surrounding the party and its leaders, who have found themselves in sticky situations after scandals led to the party being ejected from the EU's ID party. Spying allegations, foreign influence scandals, Nazi sympathy, and 'secret' discussions about deporting immigrants have all drawn controversy for the AFD. On the surface, the AFD appears to be a party ripe with thinly veiled extremism, and its increased ability to influence the European Union is worthy of skeptical observation.

The major gains for the center and alt-right parties of Europe, leading to nearly 50% of the EU Parliament being controlled by right and far-right-leaning ones, are likely to lead to increased cooperation between centrist parties and conservatives. This shift of power has potentially far-reaching implications for the whole of the continent, particularly regarding pertinent contemporary issues such as the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian war, the approach to climate, and immigration policy.