

## EUROPEAN ELECTIONS IN FRANCE

The good unexpected surprise was the voters' turnout which reached 50 % instead of 40 % in 2014. There may have been a surge of interest for EU matters but also a way for voters to express their feelings about the current government.

It was a success for the Rassemblement National (RN of Marine le Pen) but no significant setback for La République En Marche (LAREM of Emmanuel Macron) : the gap was only 0.9 %.

The polls showed a big increase for Les Verts which came in third place. It was a major defeat for traditional parties of both the right (LR of Les Républicains) and the left (Socialists and LFI La France Insoumise). Those parties were virtually eliminated from the political scene.

What about the European Parliament ? There will most likely be a coalition of the centres to form a majority. Populist parties from France, Italy, Hungary and other nations will have a hard time forming an homogeneous groupe since they disagree on some essential matters.

Now comes the time for negotiations to agree on candidates for the positions of President of the Commission and Council.

A big question mark remains Brexit (to be or not to be ?) and the looming nomination of Boris Johnson as head of the Tory party and new Prime Minister to replace Theresa May.

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