



# **Political Studies** Association

## *The European Elections across Continental Europe*

### Media Briefing

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## Outline

Why "Europe" matters more this time

Likely outcome in the elections

Battle for the Commission President

Potential policy implications

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## Why "Europe" matters more this time

**Higher salience in many countries than at any time before**

Eurozone crisis

Austerity "imposed" from Brussels (Gre, Ire, Por, Spa)

"Bailouts" (Ger, Net, Fin, Slk)

Anti-EU migrant sentiment (UK, Fra, Den, Net, Ger, Aus)

-> rise of anti-EU opposition on Left and Right

**Election of the Commission President**

Rival candidates: Schulz (S&D), Juncker (EPP), Verhofstadt (ALDE), Tsipras (GUE), Keller/Bové (Greens)

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## Latest UK Polls and Forecast



Party	Group	Latest poll(s) %		Prediction
		27.04.2014 / 04.05.2014	%	Seats
UK Independence Party	EFDD	31.9%	31.9%	23
Labour Party	S&D	27.5%	27.5%	24
Conservative Party	ECR	20.4%	20.4%	15
Liberal Democrat Party	ALDE/ADLE	8.8%	8.8%	3
Green Party	Greens/EFA	7.2%	7.2%	2
Scottish National Party	Greens/EFA	0%	2.1%	2
Democratic Unionist Party	NI	0%	0.9%	1
Sinn Féin	GUE-NGL	0%	0.8%	1
Plaid Cymru - The Party of Wales	Greens/EFA	0%	0.7%	1
Ulster Unionist Party	ECR	0%	0.3%	1
Social Democratic and Labour Party	S&D	0%	0.3%	0

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### Rise of the Eurosceptic Populist Right

	Latest Polls (position)	2009
UK – UKIP	32% (1 <sup>st</sup> )	17%
Denmark – DF	25% (1 <sup>st</sup> )	15%
France – FN	24% (1 <sup>st</sup> )	6%
Hungary – Jobbik	22% (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	15%
Belgium – N-VA	21% (1 <sup>st</sup> )	6%
Austria – FPÖ	19% (3 <sup>rd</sup> )	13%
Lithuania – TT	18% (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	12%
Finland – True Finns	18% (3 <sup>rd</sup> )	10%
Netherlands – PVV	17% (1 <sup>st</sup> )	17%
Greece – Golden Dawn	7% (4 <sup>th</sup> )	1%
Germany – AfD	6% (5 <sup>th</sup> )	0%
Sweden – SD	4% (6 <sup>th</sup> )	3%

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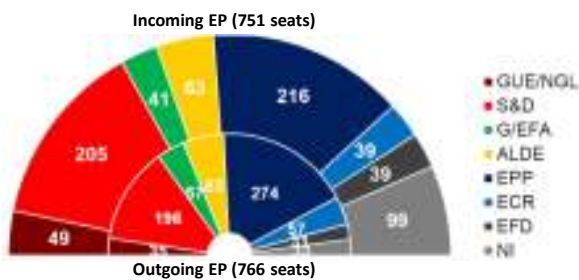
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### PollWatch2014 Forecast 7 May 2014




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### Lisbon Rules for “Electing” Com Pres

#### Article 17 (para 7)

“Taking into account the elections to the European Parliament and after having held the appropriate consultations, the European Council, acting by a qualified majority, shall propose to the European Parliament a candidate for President of the Commission. This candidate shall be elected by the European Parliament by a majority of its component members. If he does not obtain the required majority, the European Council, acting by a qualified majority, shall within one month propose a new candidate who shall be elected by the European Parliament following the same procedure.”

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**Will Schulz or Juncker be “elected” as Commission President?**

**Arguments Suggesting “Yes”:**

- EP will force the hand of the governments, e.g. EP will “go first”
- Juncker or Schulz will be reluctant to “step aside”
- Key governments will be reluctant to go against a “democratic” process, and will want to set a precedent
- A grand-coalition bargain will be done across several posts
- The Commission President can be constrained by the European Council President & other Commission appointees

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**Will Schulz or Juncker be “elected” as Commission President?**

**Arguments Suggesting “No”:**

- Governments will not want to be bullied by EP
- Schulz and Juncker are unacceptable to several governments  
e.g. UK, Sweden
- Governments will prefer someone else  
e.g. Katainen, Lagarde, Thorning-Schmidt, etc.
- Juncker wants to be President of the European Council
- The Lisbon procedure makes it difficult for sitting PMs to put their names forward before the election (it might be different next time)

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**Potential policy implications**

**Large anti-federalist/populist coalition (200+):**

- Opposed to liberalisation of services in the single market
- Opposed to deeper Economic and Monetary Union
- Opposed to free trade (e.g. anti TTIP)
- In favour of reforming rules on free movement of persons

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