

EPP Party Barometer

August 2020

The Situation of the European People's Party in the EU

(as of: 12 August 2020)

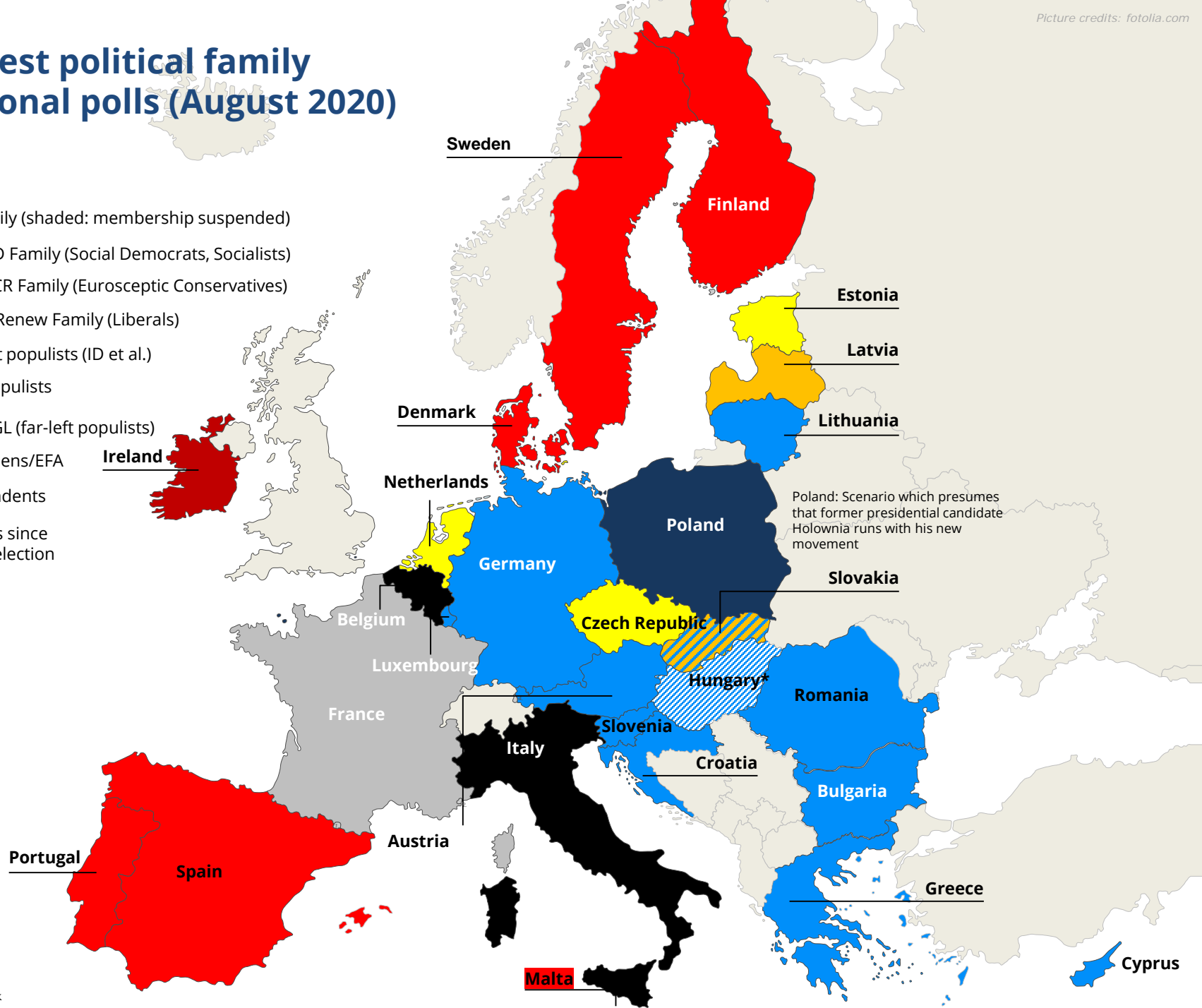
prepared by
Dr Olaf Wientzek

Summary and latest developments

- In national polls, the EPP is the strongest political family in **11** countries (including the Hungarian Fidesz), the socialist political family in **6**, the liberals/Renew in **3**, far-right populists (ID) in **2**, the Eurosceptic/national conservative ECR in **1**, and the European Left / left-wing populists in **1**. Added together, independent parties lead in Latvia. **Slovakia is a special case:** depending on where the Slovakian 'Ordinary People' party, represented in the EPP Group but not belonging to the EPP, is located, either the Independents or the EPP get another country added. No (parliamentary) polls/elections have taken place in France since the EP elections
- The picture is similar if we look at the **strongest single party and not the largest party family (Slide 5):** Then the EPP leads in **11-12** countries (including Fidesz), the Socialists in **6-7** (in Latvia the EPP and Socialists are equal), Liberals in **3**, right-wing populists (ID) in **2**, EKR and European Left / left-wing populists in **1** each. **See above re: Slovakia.**
- **10 (9 without Orban) of the 27 Heads of State and Government** in the European Council currently belong to the **EPP family**, **7** to the **Liberals/Renew**, **6** to the **Social Democrats / Socialists**, **1** to the **Eurosceptic conservatives**, and **2** are **formally independent**. The Slovakian Head of Government's party belongs to the EPP bloc but does not belong to the EPP as a party.
- In many countries the lead is extremely narrow, or in some polls another party family is ahead (especially Sweden, Finland, Lithuania, Latvia, Ireland, Belgium, Poland).

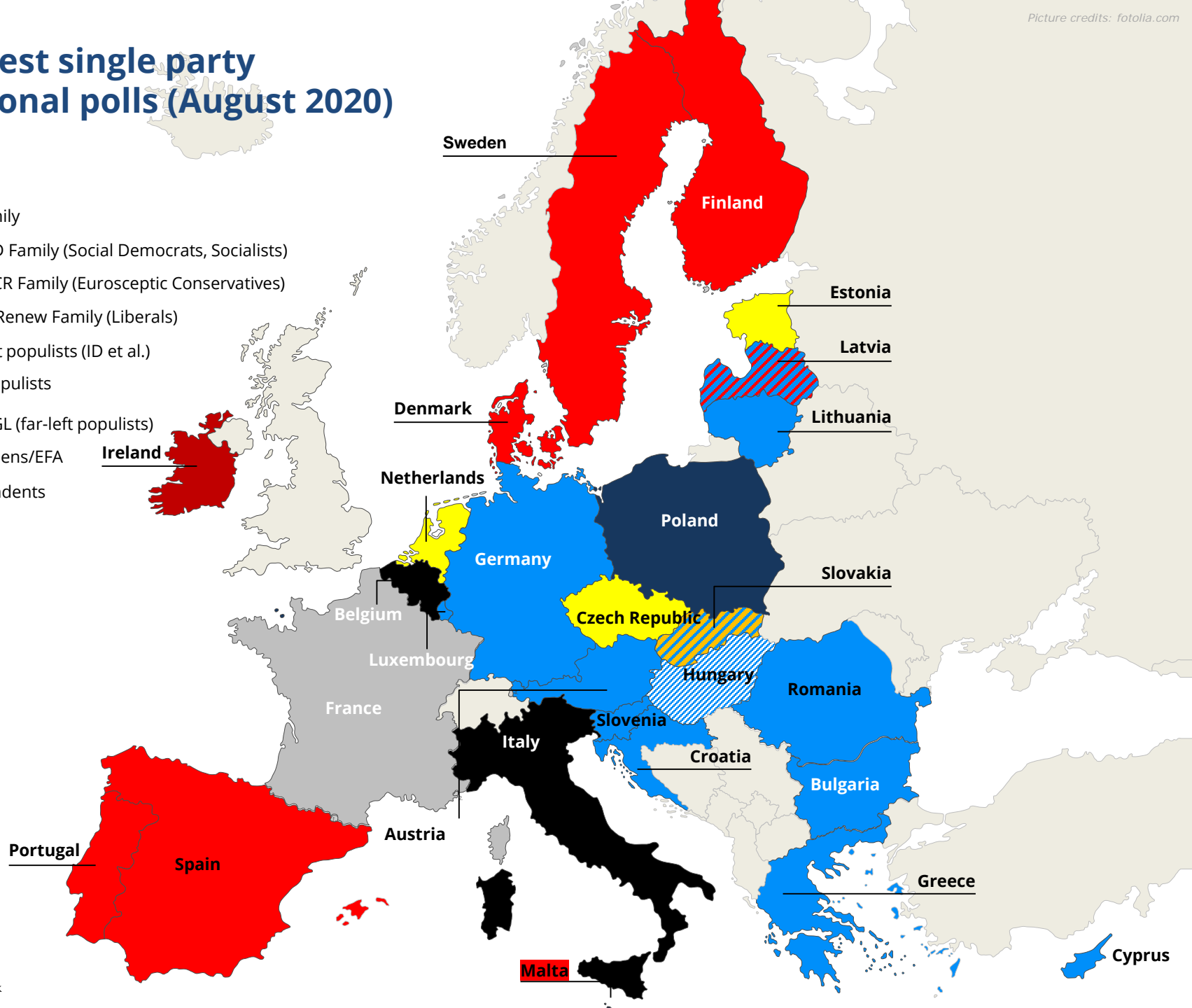
Strongest political family in national polls (August 2020)

- EPP family (shaded: membership suspended)
- PES/S&D Family (Social Democrats, Socialists)
- ACRE/ECR Family (Eurosceptic Conservatives)
- ALDE + Renew Family (Liberals)
- Far-right populists (ID et al.)
- Misc. populists
- GUE/NGL (far-left populists)
- The Greens/EFA
- Independents
- No polls since the EP election



Strongest single party in national polls (August 2020)

- EPP Family
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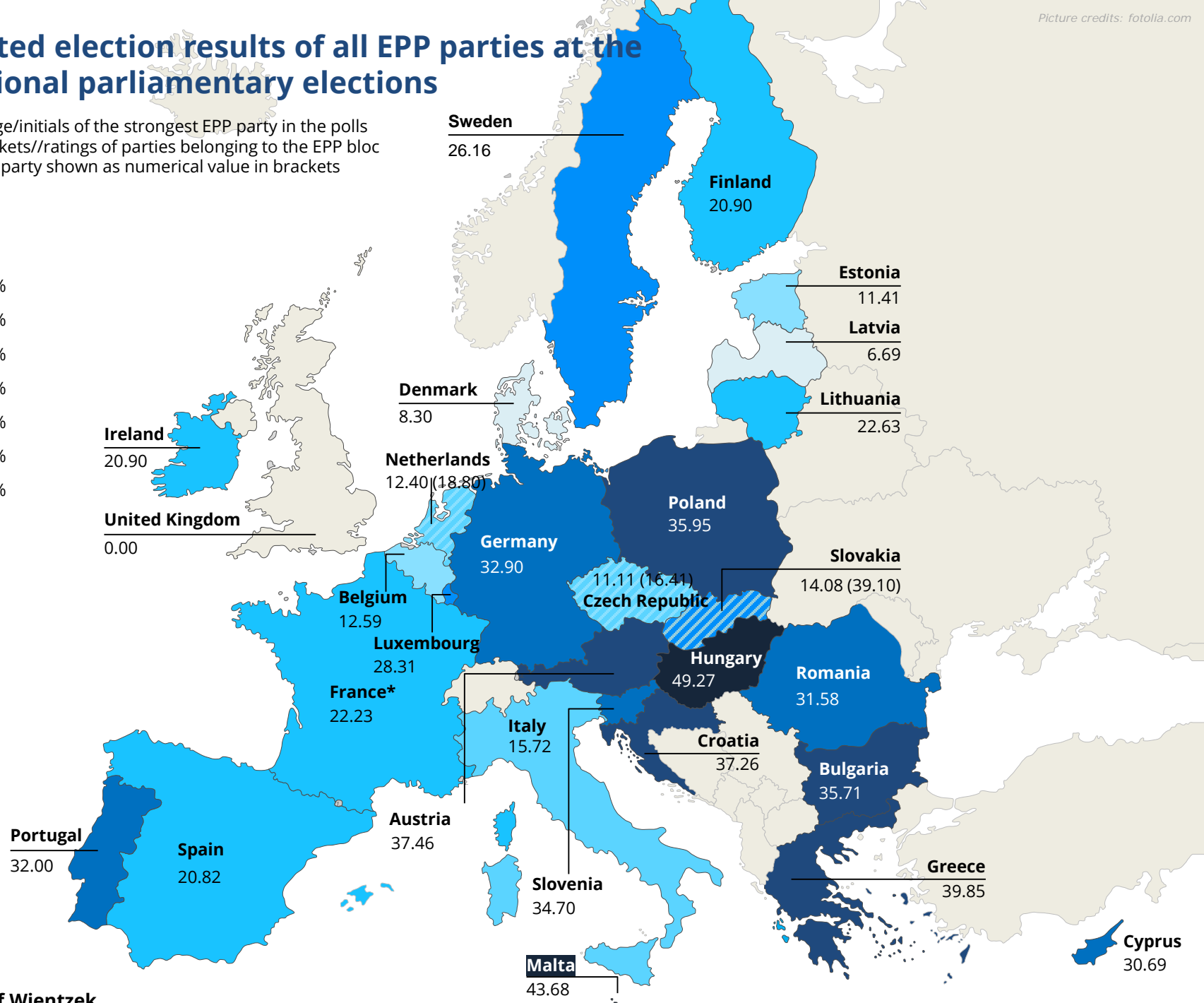
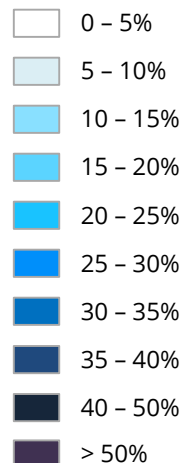


Strength of the EPP family in EU member states

Cumulated election results of all EPP parties at the last national parliamentary elections

as a percentage/initials of the strongest EPP party in the polls
in bold & brackets//ratings of parties belonging to the EPP bloc
but not to the party shown as numerical value in brackets

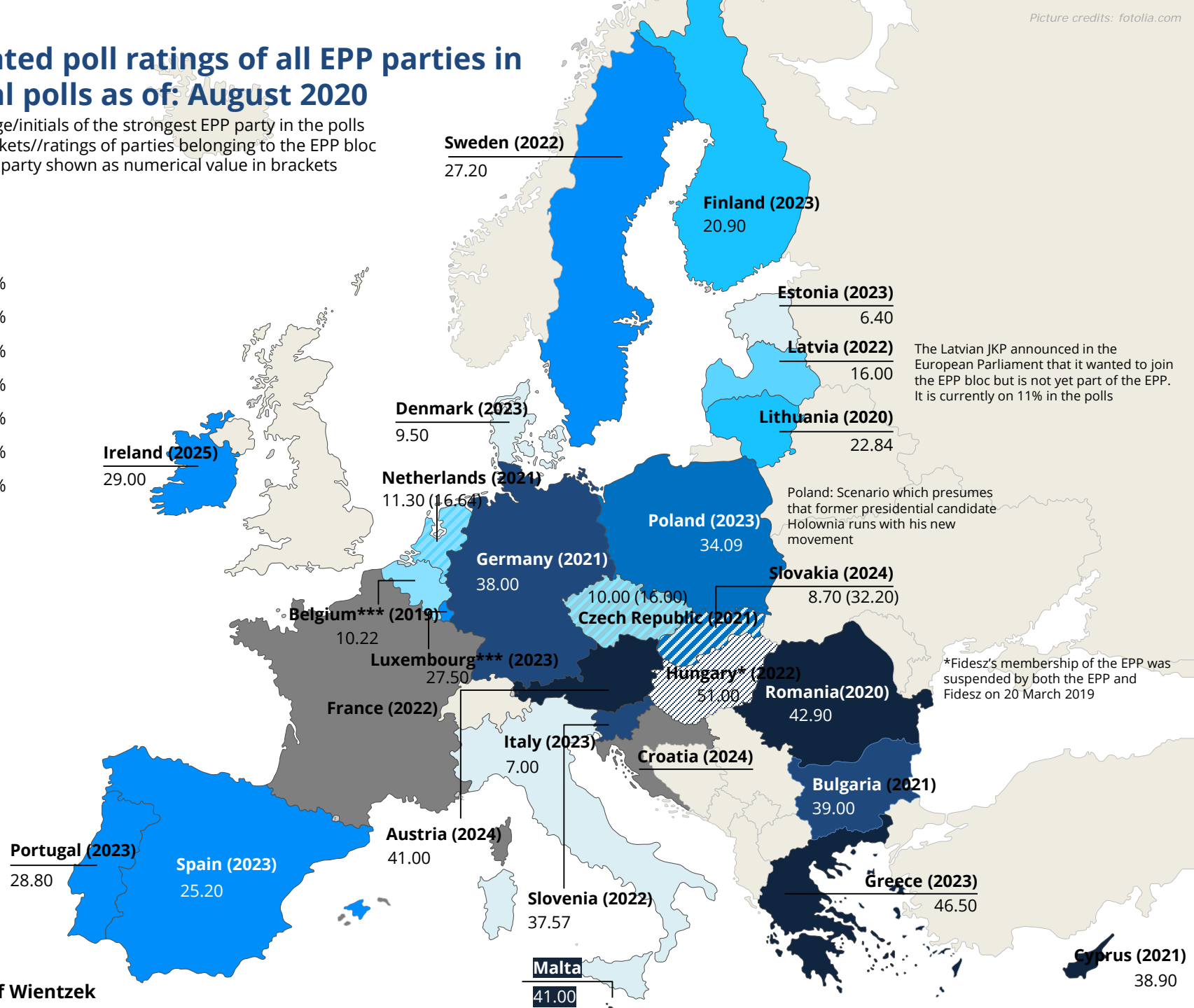
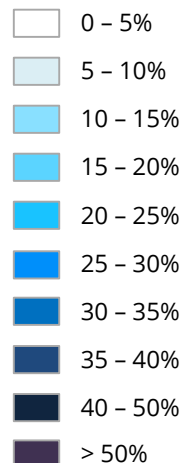
Legend



Cumulated poll ratings of all EPP parties in national polls as of: August 2020

as a percentage/initials of the strongest EPP party in the polls in bold & brackets//ratings of parties belonging to the EPP bloc but not to the party shown as numerical value in brackets

Legend

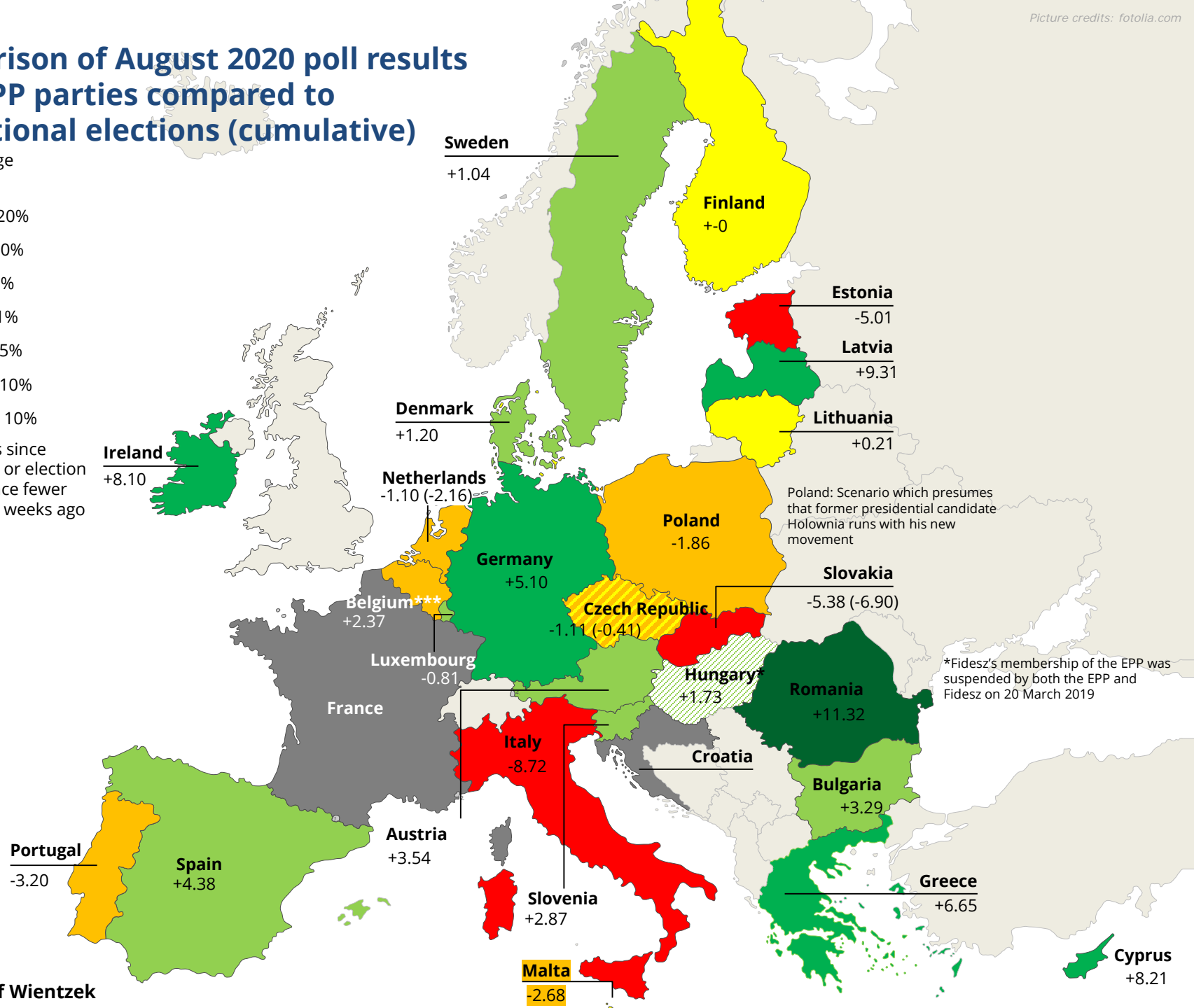


Comparison of August 2020 poll results of all EPP parties compared to last national elections (cumulative)

as a percentage

Legend

- 10 to -20%
- 5 to -10%
- 1 to -5%
- 1 to +1%
- +1 to +5%
- +5 to +10%
- Above +10%
- No polls since election or election took place fewer than six weeks ago



**Will the “corona crisis
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- **Short answer:** For the most part yes, but not to the same extent as in May
- **Long answer:** In 16 of the 27 EU countries, the party of the incumbent head of state or government can report a significant boost in support compared to March 2020 (in the case of France, only support for the president can be measured), so one can to a certain extent speak of a solidarity effect
 - In only a few countries has the largest ruling party lost support
 - Romania (although coming from a very high level), Slovakia (although the government only took office until March), Bulgaria (current protests are focussed on non-corona issues)
 - **It is evident that the corona crisis boost is already subsiding in some countries.** This is also happening in countries where this effect is still persisting – but now to a lesser extent than in May
 - in Germany, the increase in support for the larger governing party is – in comparison to other European countries – very pronounced
 - Junior coalition partners profit much less frequently from the COVID-19 solidarity effect
 - In some countries with a low polling frequency (Cyprus, Luxembourg, Belgium), the term “corona crisis effect” should be used with great caution.
 - In general, changes in the polls may also involve aspects that are NOT related to corona

Comparison of the poll ratings of the head of state/government's party or the largest governing party (IT, LIT), March vs. August 2020

A number of polls were considered here. Ratings prior to the coronavirus and current poll ratings are compared. Shaded: Polls exhibit a mixed picture

Legend

■ Very negative (losses of more than 10%)

■ Negative (losses of 5 to 10%)

■ Lower losses (2 to 5%)

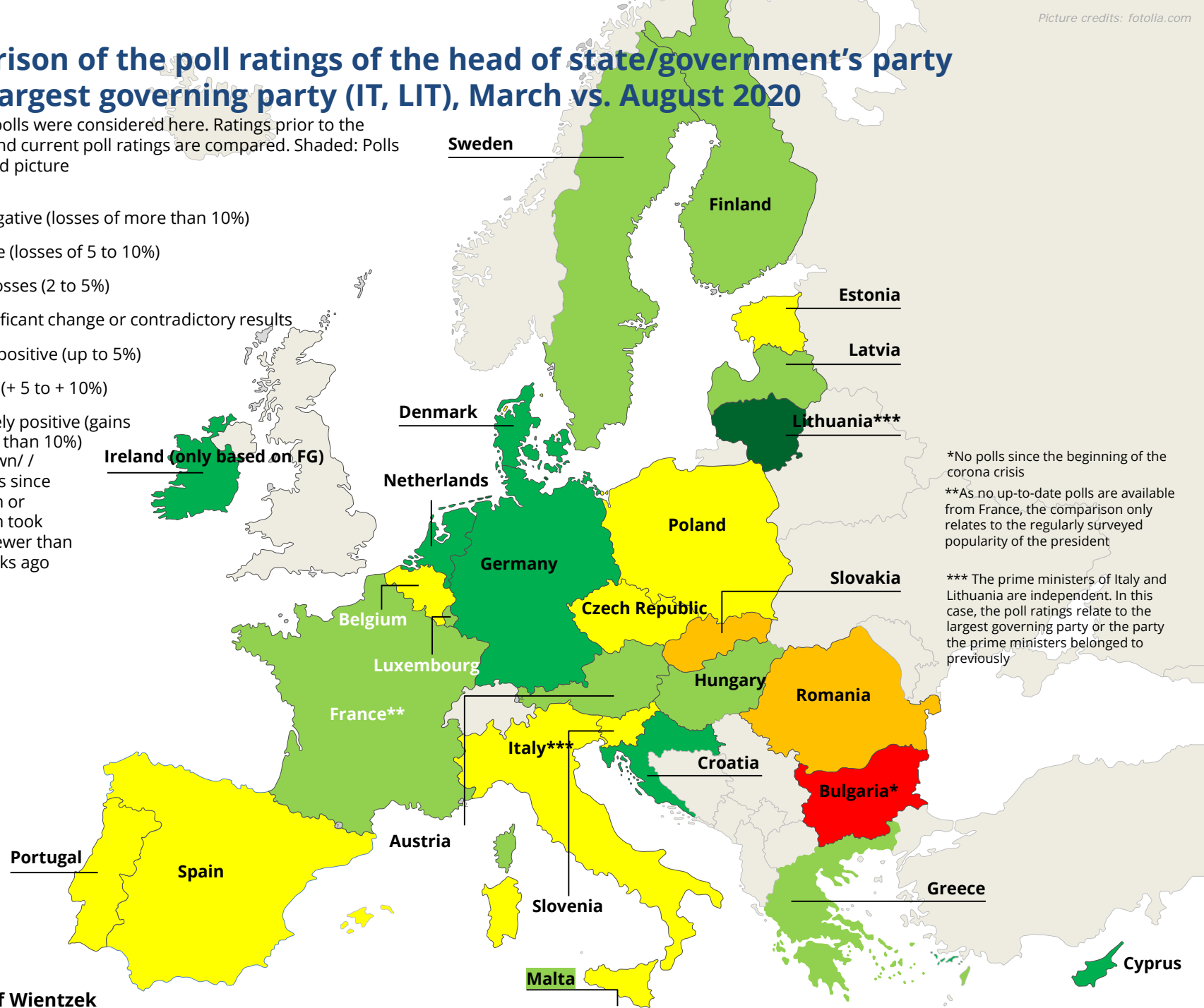
■ No significant change or contradictory results

■ Slightly positive (up to 5%)

■ Positive (+ 5 to + 10%)

■ Extremely positive (gains of more than 10%)

■ Unknown/ /
No polls since election or election took place fewer than six weeks ago



The EPP family's participation in government

The participation of EPP family parties in government, as of 12 August 2020₁



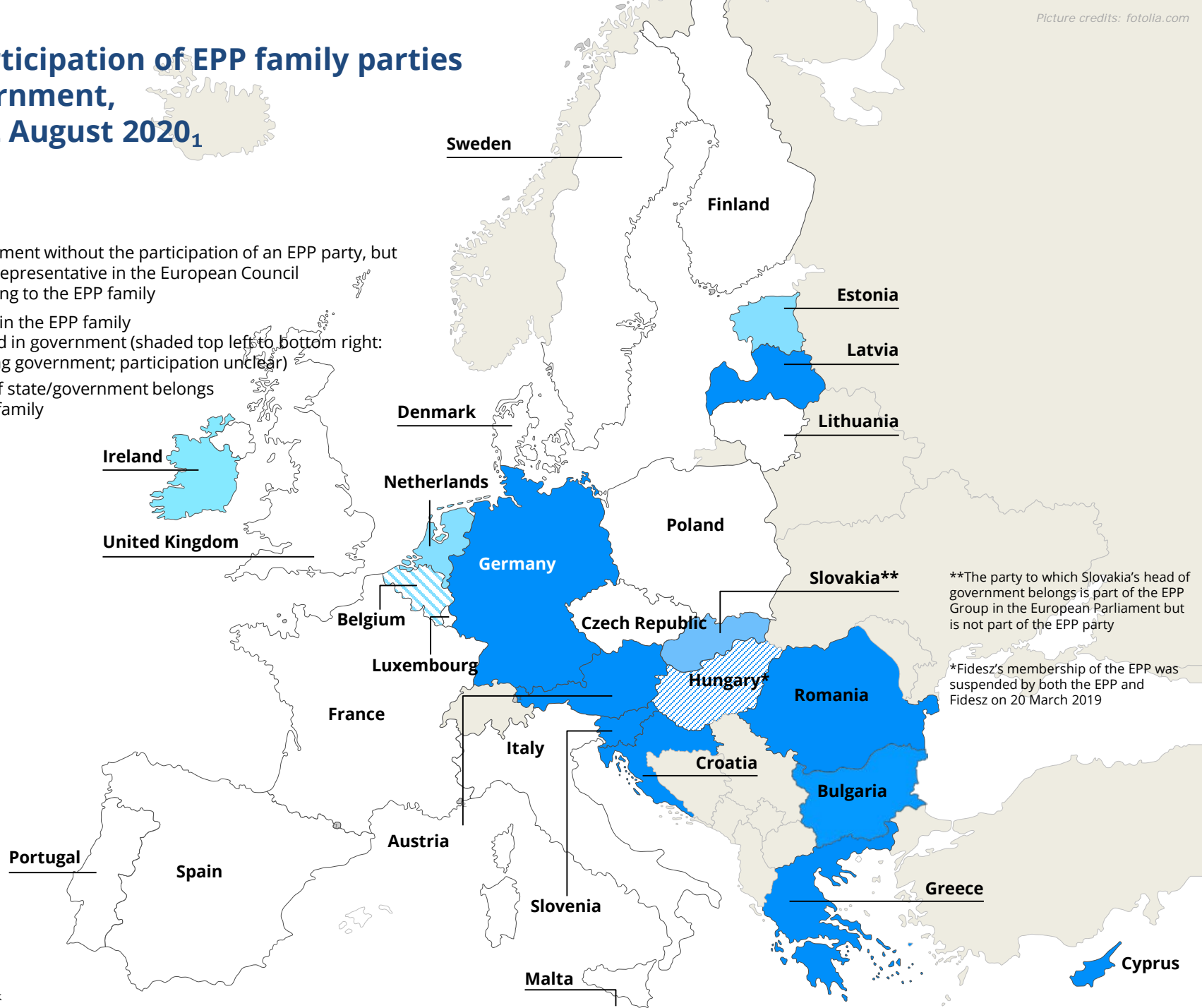
Government without the participation of an EPP party, but with a representative in the European Council belonging to the EPP family



Parties in the EPP family involved in government (shaded top left to bottom right: outgoing government; participation unclear)



Head of state/government belongs to EPP family



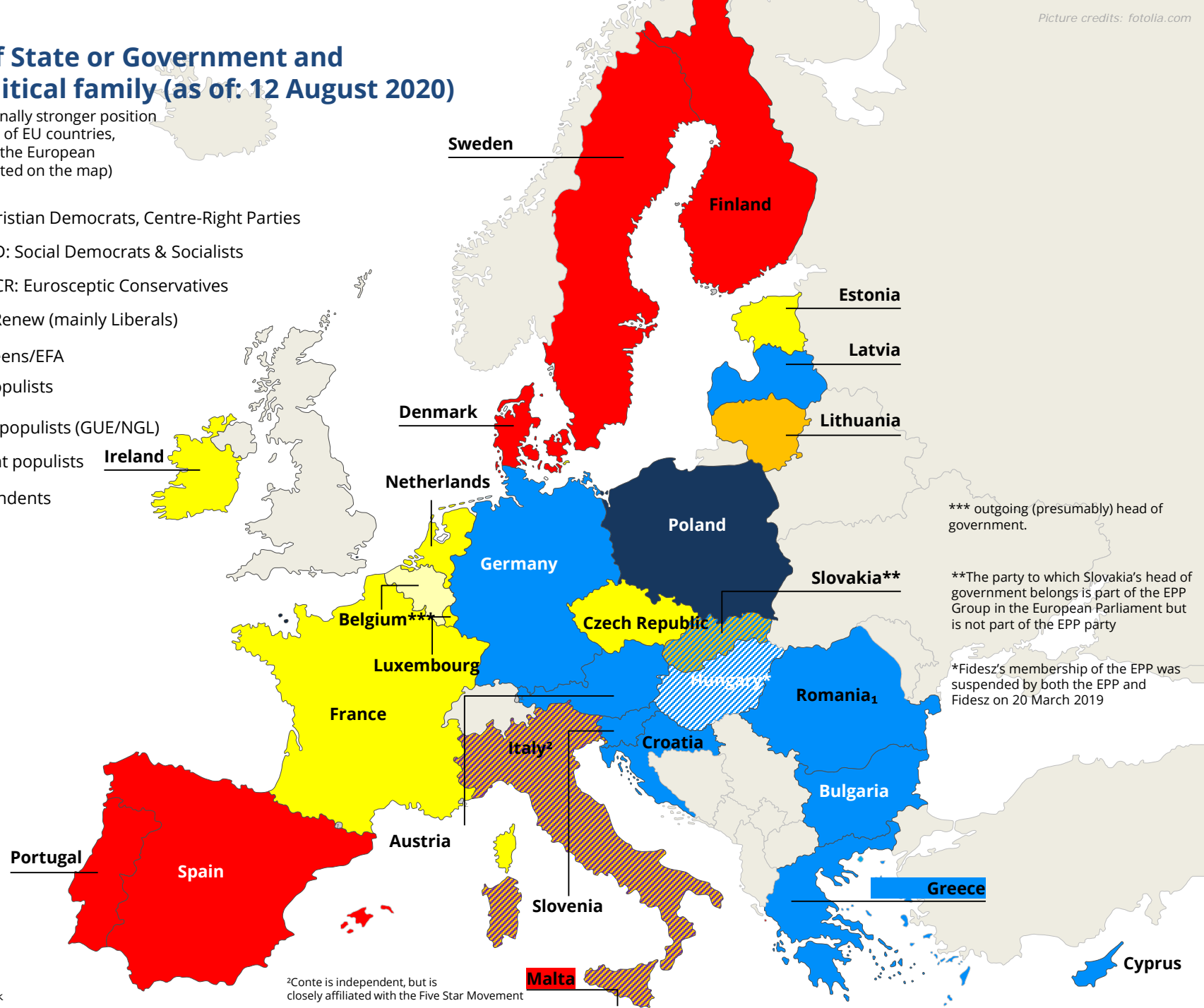
**The party to which Slovakia's head of government belongs is part of the EPP Group in the European Parliament but is not part of the EPP party

*Fidesz's membership of the EPP was suspended by both the EPP and Fidesz on 20 March 2019

Heads of State or Government and their political family (as of: 12 August 2020)

(The constitutionally stronger position and, in the case of EU countries, participation in the European Council is reflected on the map)

- EPP: Christian Democrats, Centre-Right Parties
- PES/S&D: Social Democrats & Socialists
- ACRE/ECR: Eurosceptic Conservatives
- ALDE +Renew (mainly Liberals)
- The Greens/EFA
- Misc. populists
- Far-left populists (GUE/NGL)
- Far-right populists
- Independents



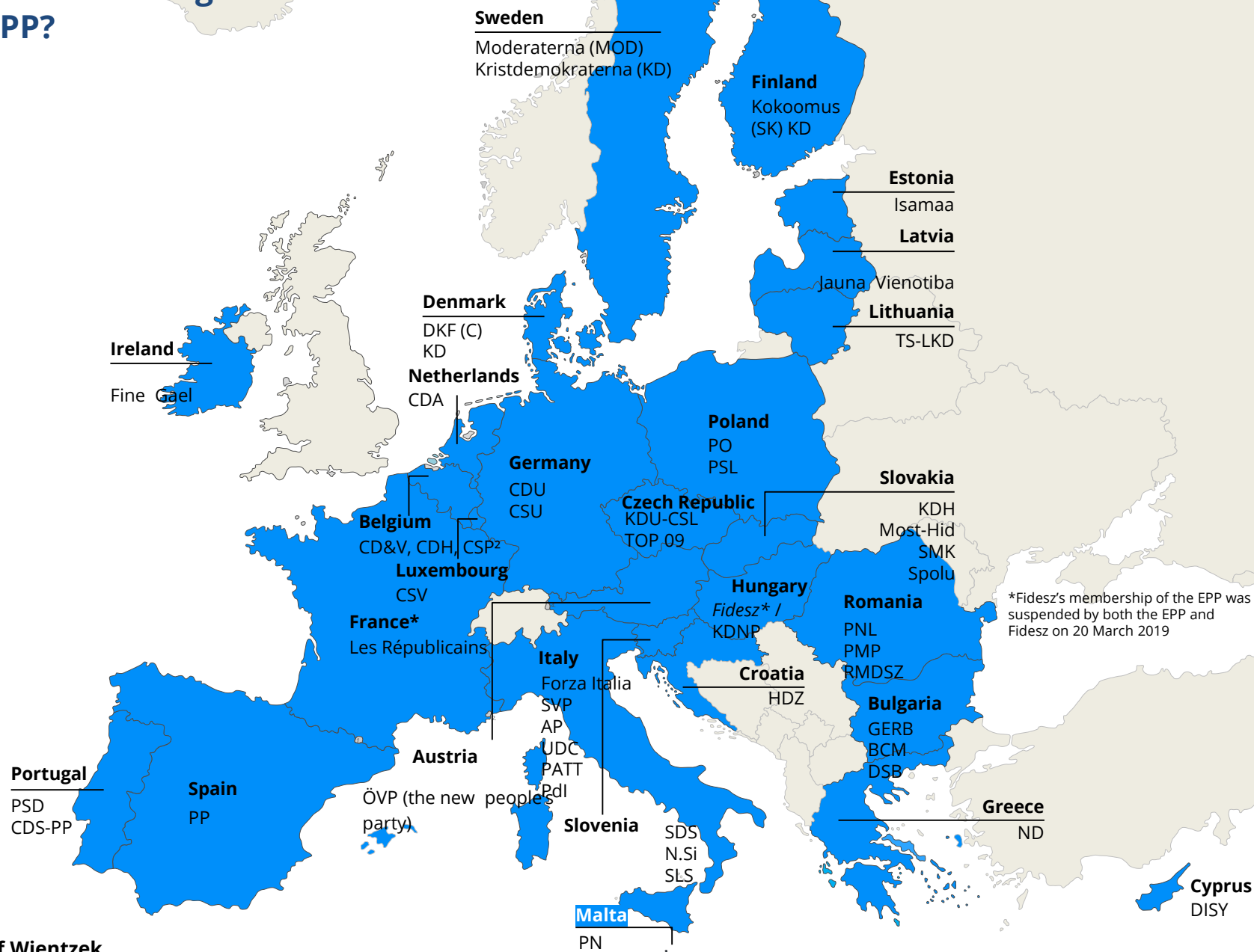
*** outgoing (presumably) head of government.

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²Conte is independent, but is closely affiliated with the Five Star Movement

The EPP Family in the EU – Which parties belong to the EPP?



Notes

- * In Poland, the two EPP parties each led alliances that also included non-EPP parties
- ** In France, no polls for national parliamentary elections have been conducted since the parliamentary elections in June 2017. The results relate to the second round of the parliamentary elections.
- *** Polls conducted at regional level. In order to obtain an adequate result at national level, these results were each weighted according to the number of eligible voters (there is compulsory voting). Despite compulsory voting and the relatively similar number of voters at elections in the different regions, small deviations may occur. In Belgium, the CD&V, CSP and CDH partner parties only compete regionally. The results in the individual regions are weighted accordingly. The CSP only competes in European elections. At national elections, it is a part of the CDH since the Belgian parliament is composed according to regions (Flanders, Wallonia, Brussels) and not according to language community. In Luxembourg, polls are conducted regionally. The results are weighted according to the number of voters (there is compulsory voting) in order to calculate a party's national strength. Despite compulsory voting and the relatively similar number of voters at elections in the different regions, small deviations may occur.

Further notes:

In several countries (including Slovenia, Bulgaria and Latvia), undecided and non-voters are included as part of the total sum (100%) in the polls. The poll results are extrapolated accordingly. Example: Party A has 13% in the polls. 30% of respondents will not vote and 20% of the respondents are undecided. Accordingly, support for Party A is reported to be 26%.

In **Germany**, the CDU and CSU are not listed as two separate parties owing to the fact they form a single parliamentary bloc and that their poll results are always added together.

In several countries, parties are part of the EPP bloc without belonging to the EPP. Some of them even belong to other party families, for example, CU and 50 Plus in the Netherlands, STAN in Czech Republic and Olano in Slovakia. Their respective results are given in brackets.

Some of the parties in the ACRE family are right-wing populist or have strong right-wing populist elements. As the ACRE family is now (or is for the time being) a mainstream party family, the parties belonging to it are listed as part of the ACRE family and not as "right-wing populist". By contrast, the "right-wing populist" category contains parties belonging to the ENF in the European Parliament, as well as other right-wing populist or right-wing extremist forces.

- 1 The list usually refers to the heads of government. Heads of state (where the government's political affiliation is divergent) are only shown (separately) when they are represented in the European Council (e.g. Klaus Johannis in Romania). In the case of France, the EPP is not shown as participating in government as the EPP's official party there is not part of the government.
- 2 The EPP does not have a member party in the United Kingdom. It has had two British MEPs in its European Parliament bloc since 2018 after two Tory MEPs defected from the ECR to the EPP bloc. However, in Change UK, a party stood at the election which had, among others, EPP MEPs among its ranks. The CSP does not belong to the EPP but is part of the EVP bloc.

Sources for polls: Ipsos (Belgium), Alpha Research (Bulgaria), Yougov (Denmark), Forsa (Germany), Norstat (Estonia), Tal. (Finland), IfoP (France), Pulse/RC (Greece), B&A (Ireland), EMG/Euromedia (Italy), Promocija Pius (Croatia), Factum (Latvia), Spinter tyrimai (Lithuania), Sondesfro (Luxembourg), Sagalytics (Malta), de Peil (Netherlands) RA (Austria), Ibris (Poland), Aximage (Portugal), IMAS (Romania), Demoskop (Sweden), AKO (Slovakia), Mediana (Slovenia), NC Report (Spain), Kantar (Czech Republic), Publicus (Hungary), Symmetron (Cyprus)

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