

# EPP Party Barometer March 2019

## The Situation of the European People's Party in the EU and an Outlook on the EP Elections

(as of 29 March 2019)

Created by

**Olaf Wientzek**

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

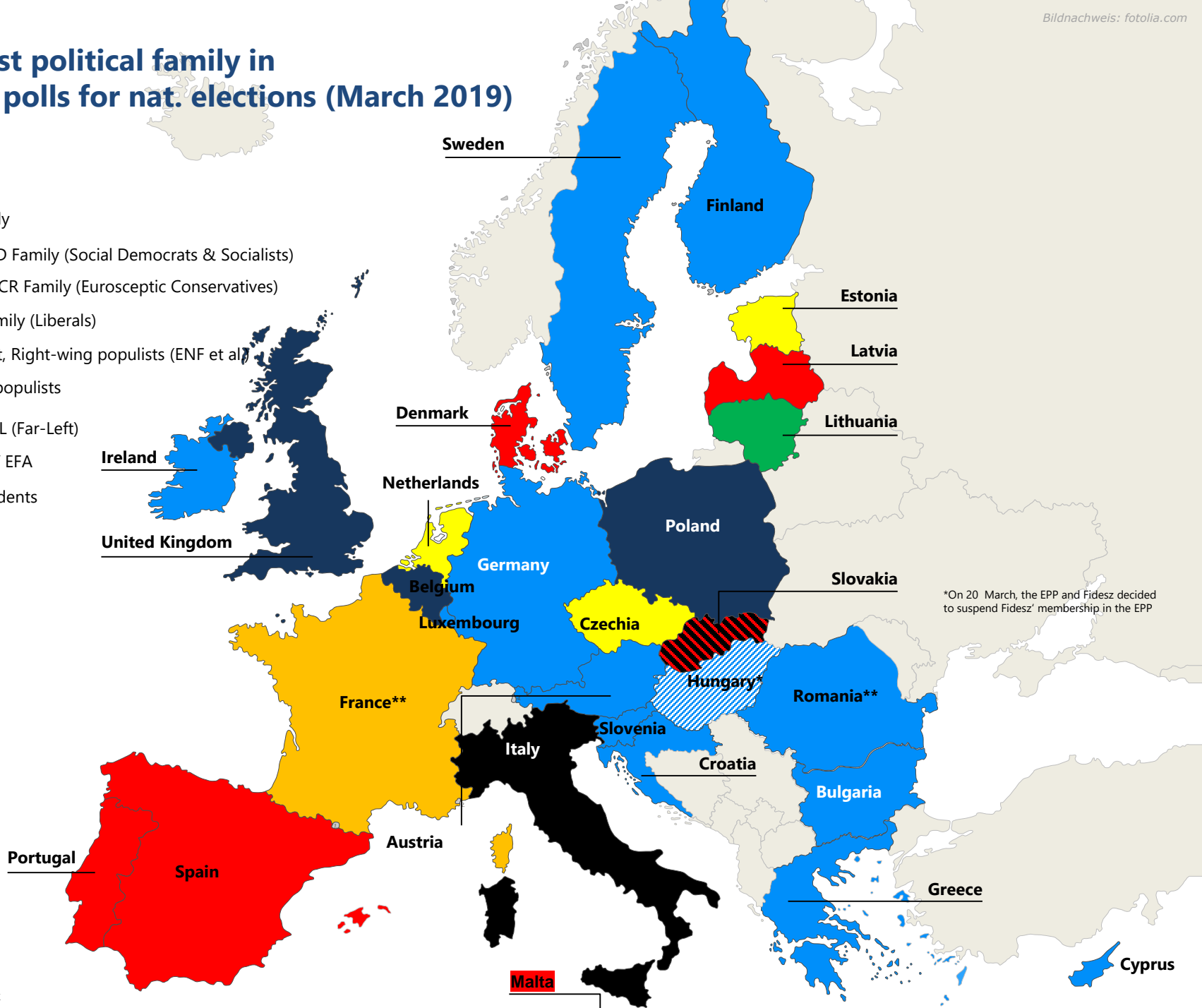
# Summary and latest developments

- The maps show the electoral results for parties belonging to the European People's Party (and in one case the Socialists).
- The maps indicate the political affiliation of Heads of State and Government of EU member countries. They also indicate which party family is leading in the national polls.
- Parties belonging to the EPP family are (in national polls) the strongest political family in **13\*** countries. The Socialist family is leading in **5/6 (0/+1 compared to the last barometer)**, the Eurosceptic Conservatives in **3 (-1)**, the Liberal family in **3**. Independent movements (France), the Greens (Lithuania) and the far-right (in Italy) are the strongest political family in one country each. In Slovakia, Smer (S&D) and combined far-right parties are on the same level.
- If one looks only at the political colour of the strongest political force (and not the entire party family), an EPP party is leading in **9\*** countries, the Socialists in **9**, the ALDE in **4**, the ECR in **3**, Greens, independents (Macron) and right-wing populists in **one** each
- In many countries, the advantage of the leading political family in the opinion polls is very slim (**France, Netherlands, Slovenia Slovakia, Finland, Belgium, Lithuania. Sweden**).
- The EPP family enjoys a relatively strong support in the opinion polls (at or above 30%) in **Germany, Hungary\*, Romania, Austria, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Portugal, Greece, Ireland, Malta and Cyprus**
- In the European Council, **9\*** Heads of State and Government belong to the EPP family, **8** to the Liberals, **5** to the Socialists/Social Democrats, **2** to the Eurosceptic Conservatives, **one** to the European Left. **3** are formally independent

\* On 20 March, the EPP Political Assembly (supported by Fidesz) decided to suspend the EPP membership of Fidesz. Without the party, the EPP would be the strongest pol. family in 12 countries, provide the strongest single party in 8 countries and have 8 Head of State and Government in the EC.

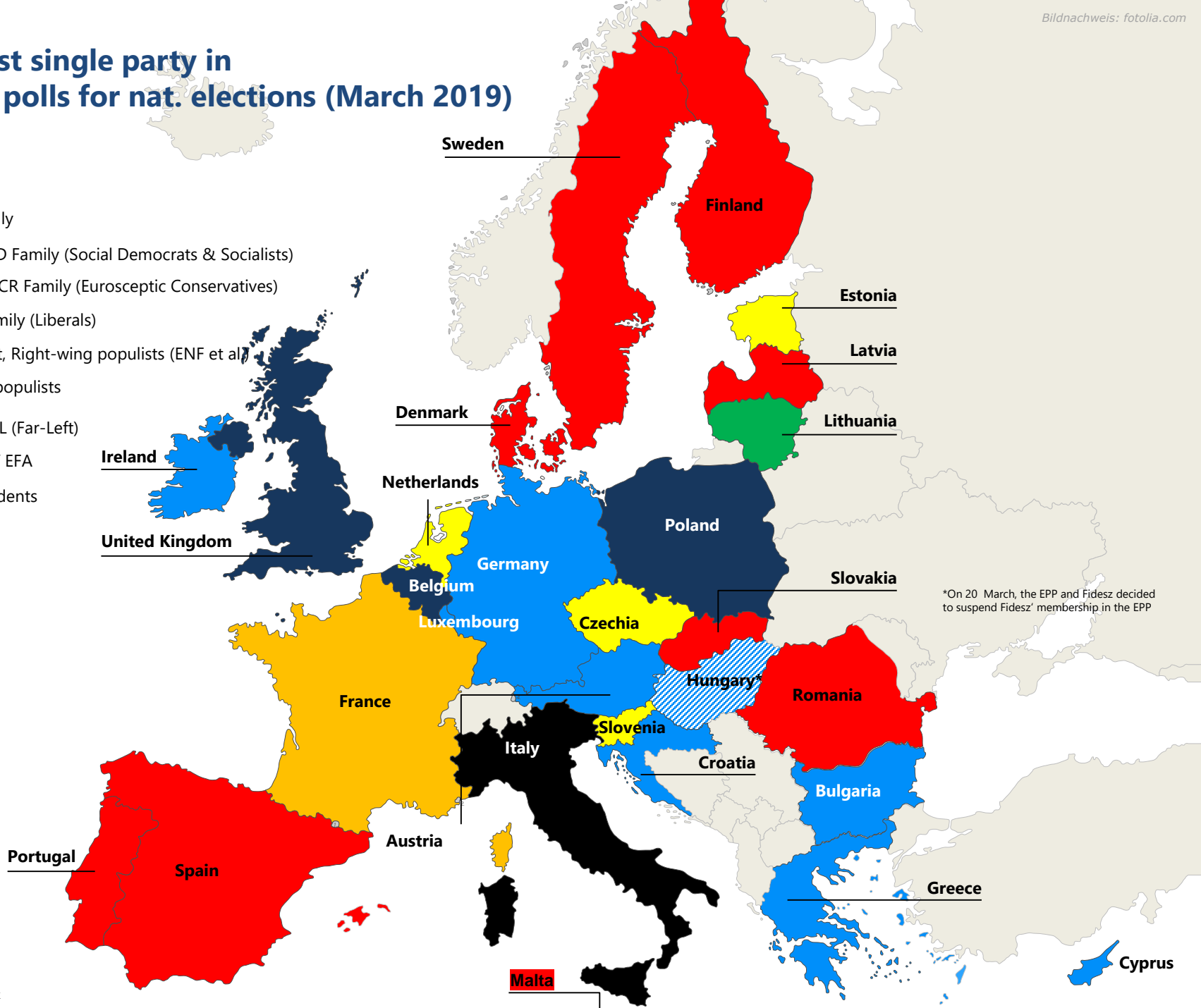
# Strongest political family in opinion polls for nat. elections (March 2019)

- EPP Family
- PES / S&D Family (Social Democrats & Socialists)
- ACRE / ECR Family (Eurosceptic Conservatives)
- ALDE Family (Liberals)
- Far-Right, Right-wing populists (ENF et al)
- Diverse populists
- GUE/NGL (Far-Left)
- Greens / EFA
- Independents



# Strongest single party in opinion polls for nat. elections (March 2019)

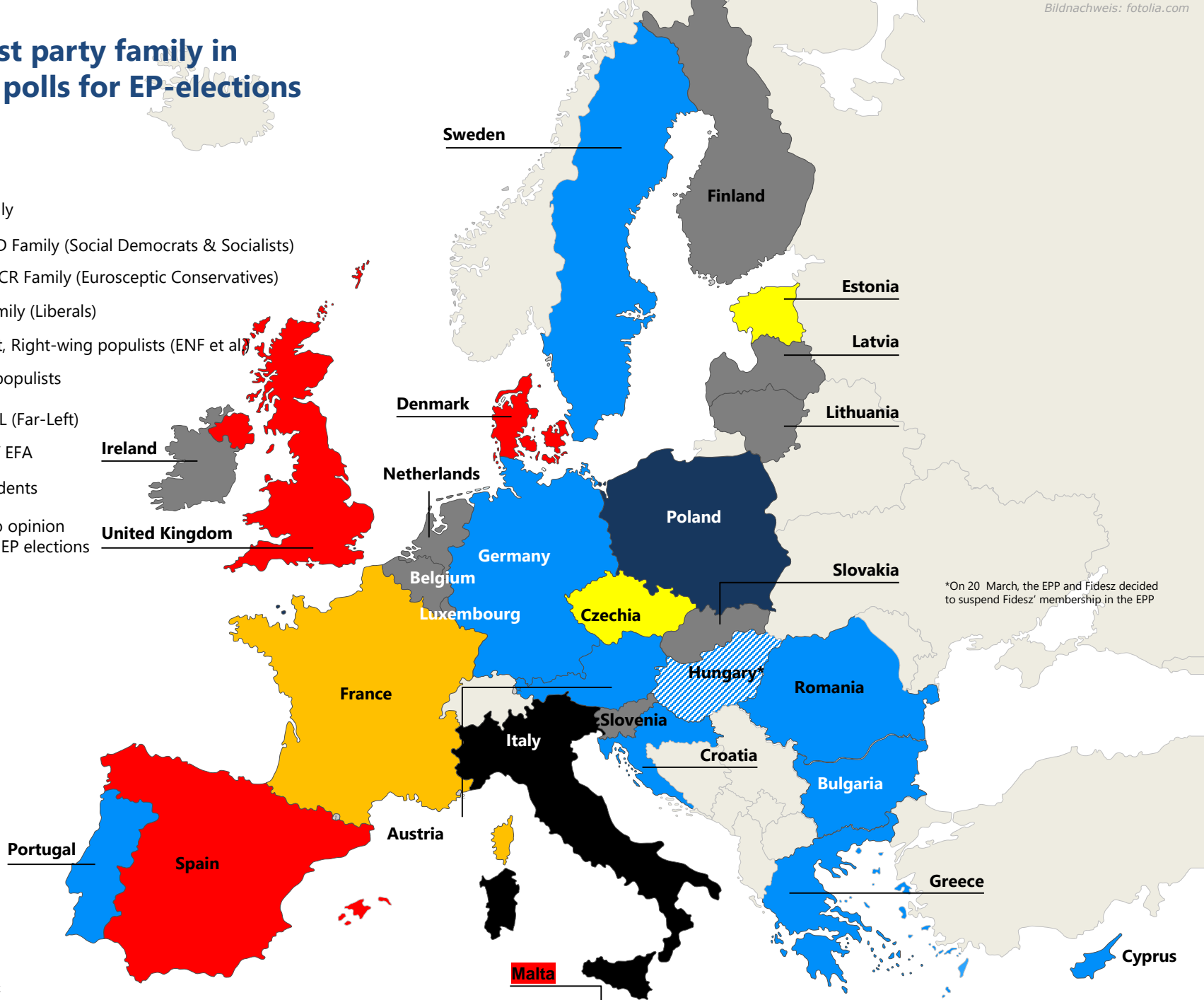
- EPP Family
- PES / S&D Family (Social Democrats & Socialists)
- ACRE / ECR Family (Eurosceptic Conservatives)
- ALDE Family (Liberals)
- Far-Right, Right-wing populists (ENF et al)
- Diverse populists
- GUE/NGL (Far-Left)
- Greens / EFA
- Independents



\*On 20 March, the EPP and Fidesz decided to suspend Fidesz' membership in the EPP

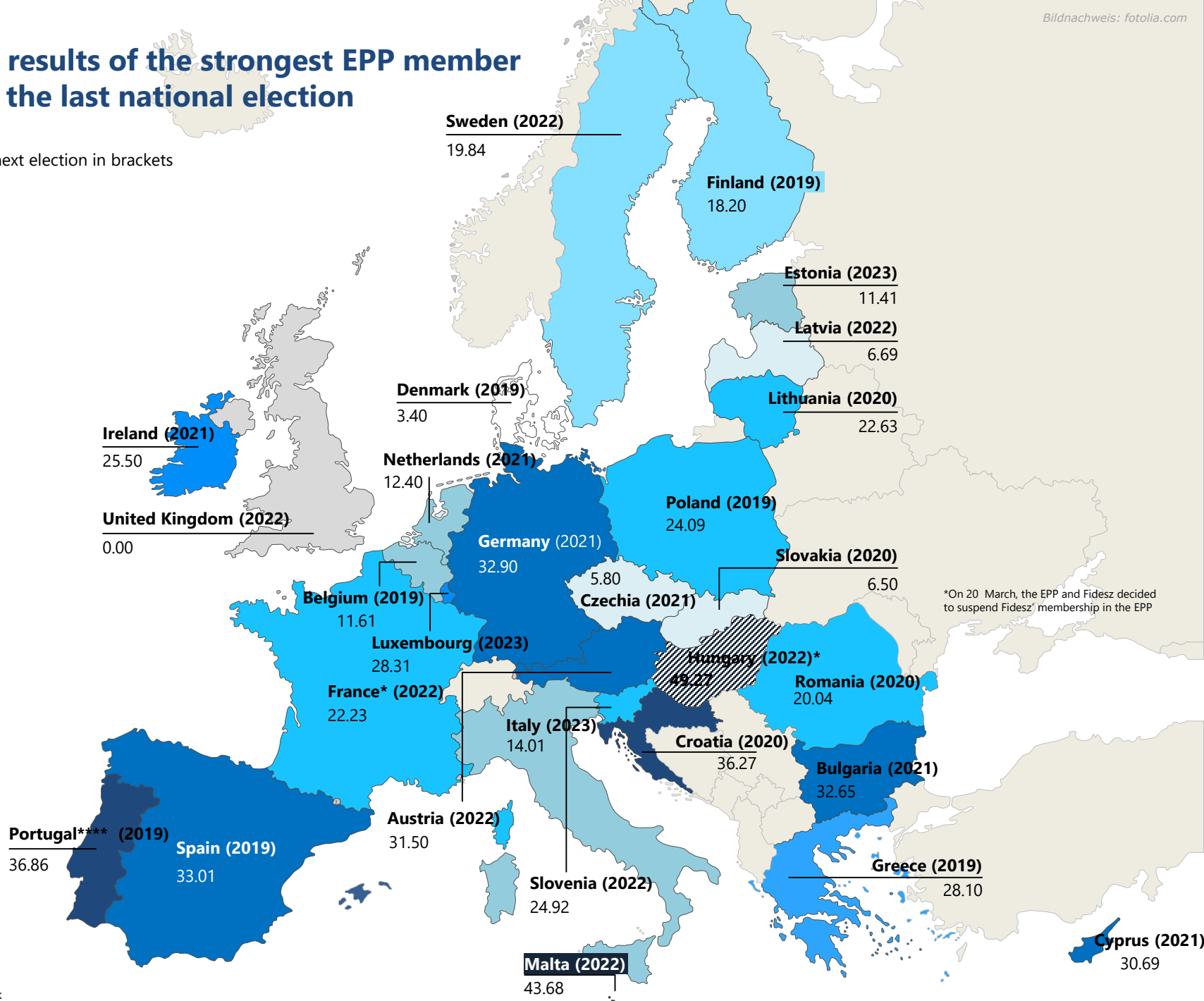
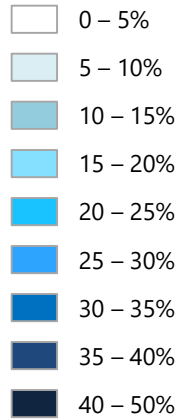
# Strongest party family in opinion polls for EP-elections

- EPP Family
- PES / S&D Family (Social Democrats & Socialists)
- ACRE / ECR Family (Eurosceptic Conservatives)
- ALDE Family (Liberals)
- Far-Right, Right-wing populists (ENF et al)
- Diverse populists
- GUE/NGL (Far-Left)
- Greens / EFA
- Independents
- So far no opinion polls for EP elections



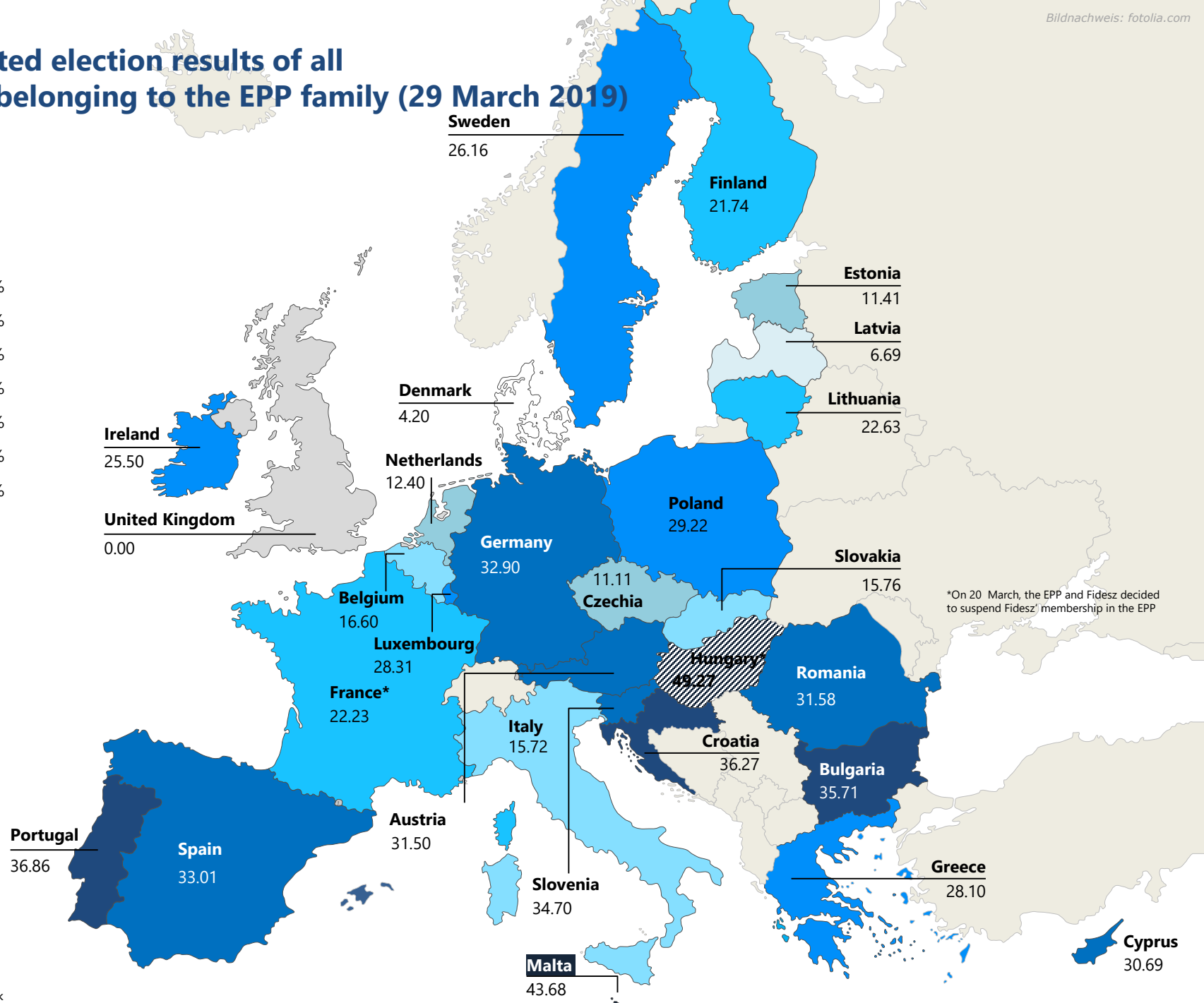
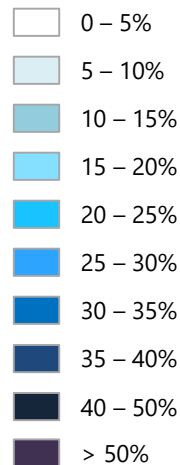
# Election results of the strongest EPP member party in the last national election

in % / year of next election in brackets



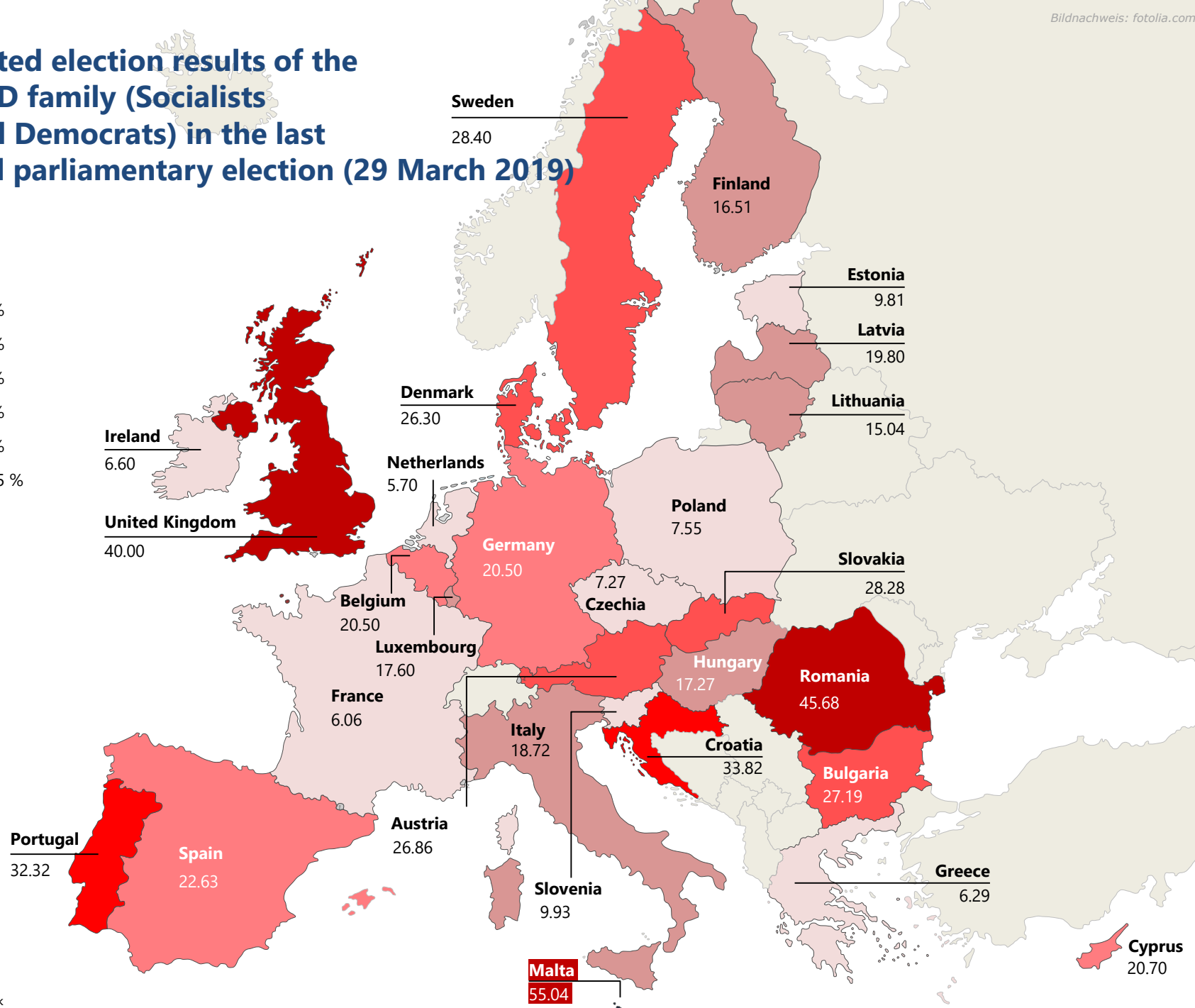
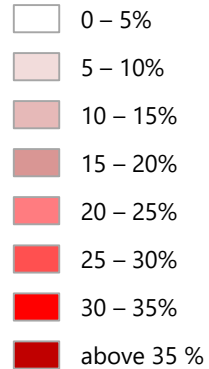
# Cumulated election results of all parties belonging to the EPP family (29 March 2019)

In %



# Cumulated election results of the PES/S&D family (Socialists & Social Democrats) in the last national parliamentary election (29 March 2019)

In %





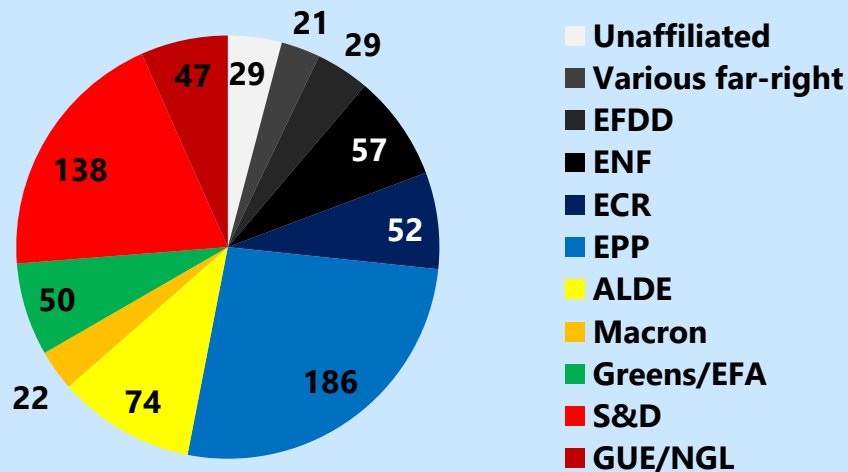
# Outlook on the EP elections in 2019

- **Introductory remarks:**
  - A low turnout (or a different mobilisation rate among competing parties) may have a strong impact
  - The prominence of the „Spitzenkandidat“/national top candidates may influence voter preferences
- **With caution, the following statements can be made:**
  - Despite (significant) losses in several bigger member states, the EPP would likely remain the strongest political family (**174-199 seats**) in the EP (**24.7-28.2%** of seats), 162-186 seats without Fidesz
  - In relative terms, **the share of the EPP group (currently 28.9% of the seats) would (in case of Brexit) only moderately be reduced (-0.7% up to -4.2%),** as the EPP Group would suffer less from the departure of the British MEPs than other political groups (in comparison the S&D would be at ca. **19.6%**, down from **25%**)
  - Parties of the far-right (**ENF**) and the far-left (**GUE/NGL**) would have a potential of about **20-23%** of the seats.
  - **It is still unclear where the 5-Star-Movement will position itself.**
  - A coalition of EPP and S&D would not have a majority on its own but would need a **third partner**
  - **Depending on the scenario, 66-73% of MEPs would continue belonging to moderate political groups** (EPP, S&D, Liberals+Macron-led movement („Europe en Marche“), Greens)
  - **In comparison to the previous barometer** the EPP increases slightly, the ECR as well. The ENF loses a few seats. The EPP would still clearly remain the biggest group. There is no scenario in which **Socialists, Liberals and Greens have a majority of their own**– especially keeping in mind that for a more solid majority in the EP, a coalition will rather need up to 380-400 seats
  - Due to several unknown variables (Will Macron form a group on his own or will he join the Liberals? Will the various far-right parties manage to unite? Will the 5-Star-Movement form a group on its own? Will Fidesz remain in the EPP Group after the elections? Will the UK participate in the EP elections?), **five different scenarios** will be developed

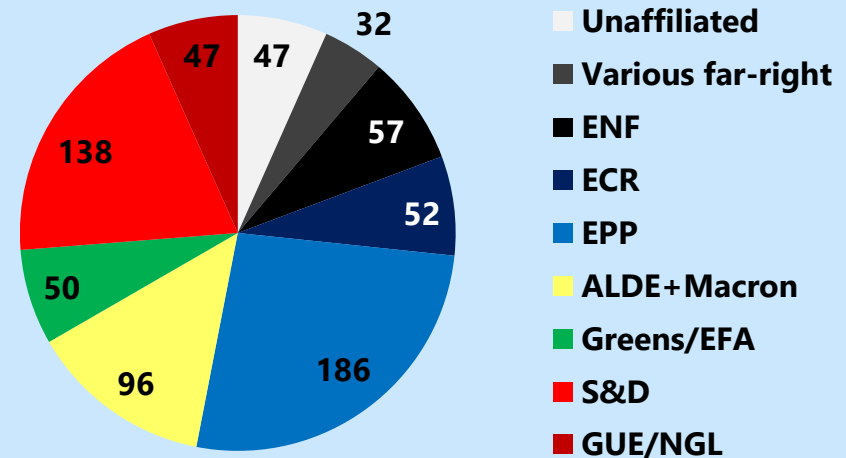
# Possible seat distribution in the coming EP – Scenario 1 – Status Quo

**Presumptions:** Party membership in the groups remains constant, the Eurosceptic EFDD Group (UKIP+5-Star-Movement) may or may not survive, Macron may form a joint group with ALDE. Fidesz remains in the EPP.

**Scenario 1.1: EFDD group survives**



**Scenario 1.2: Macron joins the ALDE group, EFDD dissolves**



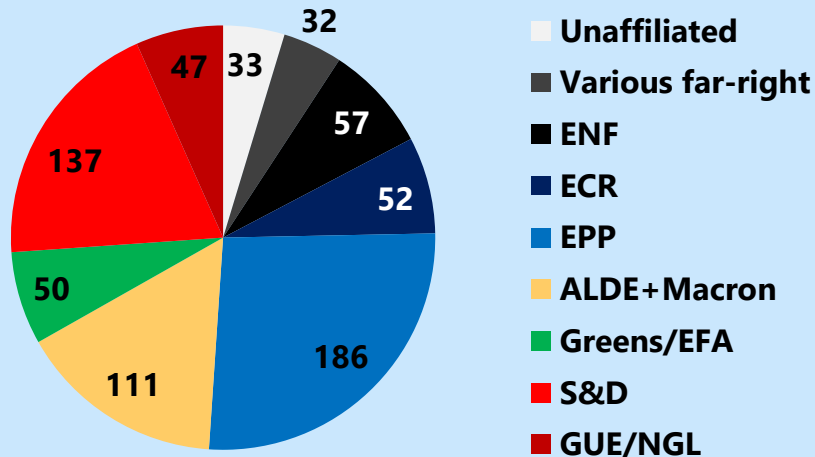
**With caution, the following statements can be made:**

- A future majority would probably have to rely on the EPP, the S&D and ALDE. Other three-party-constellations (EPP+Social Democrats+Greens) would arithmetically be possible but are politically unlikely

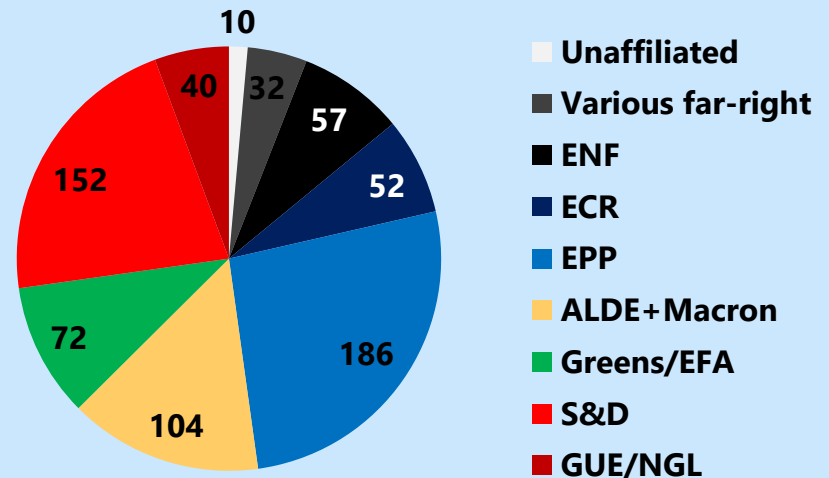
# Possible seat distribution in the coming EP – Scenario 2 – Europe en Marche

**Presumptions:** a new Europarty created by Macron („Europe en Marche“) successfully assembles liberal and left-liberal pro-European forces; 2.2.: some of the unaffiliated forces join other Europarties, Wiosna and Syriza join S&D, the 5-Star-Movement joins the Green/EFA Group. Fidesz remains in the EPP.

*Scenario 2.1.: Macron-ALDE group absorbs many unaffiliated*



*Scenario 2.2.: S&D, Greens absorb parties as well*



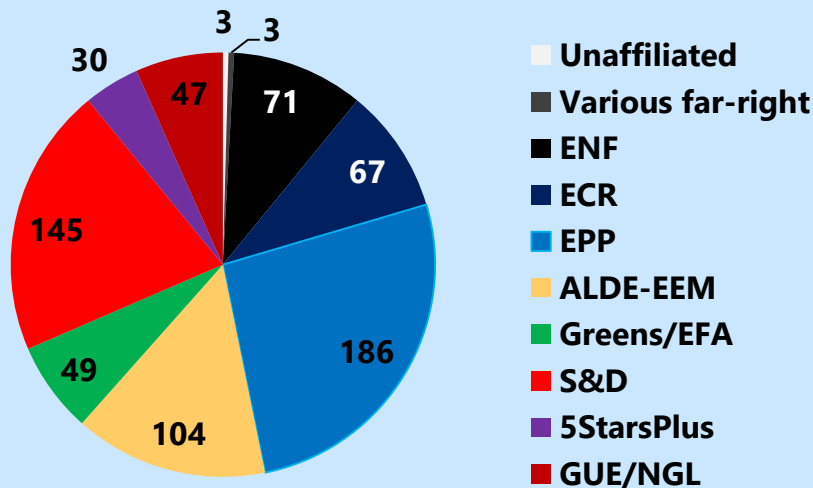
**With caution, the following statements can be made:**

- A joint political group of Macron and ALDE would become one of the three big groups, but would remain smaller than the S&D group
- If (scenario 2.2) pro-European groups manage to integrate many of the yet undecided parties, the pro-European groups might receive up to 73% of the seats

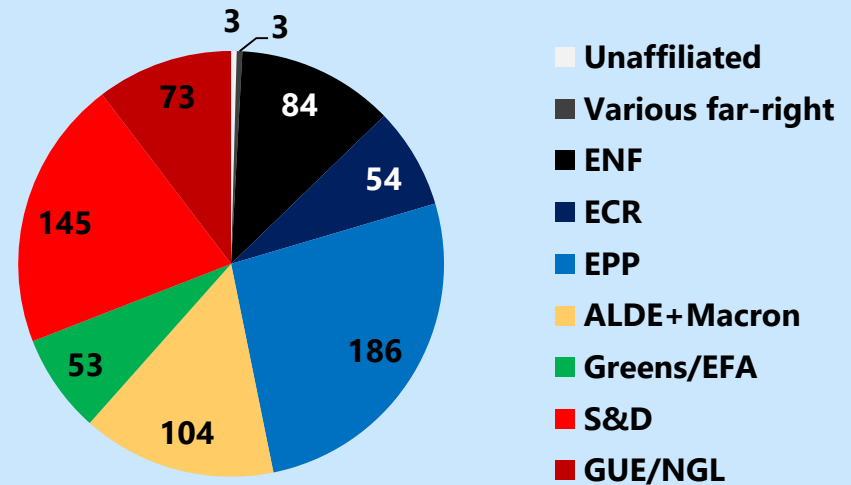
# Possible seat distribution in the coming EP – Scenario 3 – United Radicals

- **Presumption:** far-right and far-left parties manage to reunite in fewer groups and absorb unaffiliated parties. Scenario 3.1.: The 5-Star-Movement manages to create a group on its own, the ECR absorbs some of the far-right parties. Scenario 3.2.: The ENF manages to absorb more far-right parties than the ECR. Fidesz remains in the EPP.

*Scenario 3.1.: 5stars manage to form a group, strong ECR*



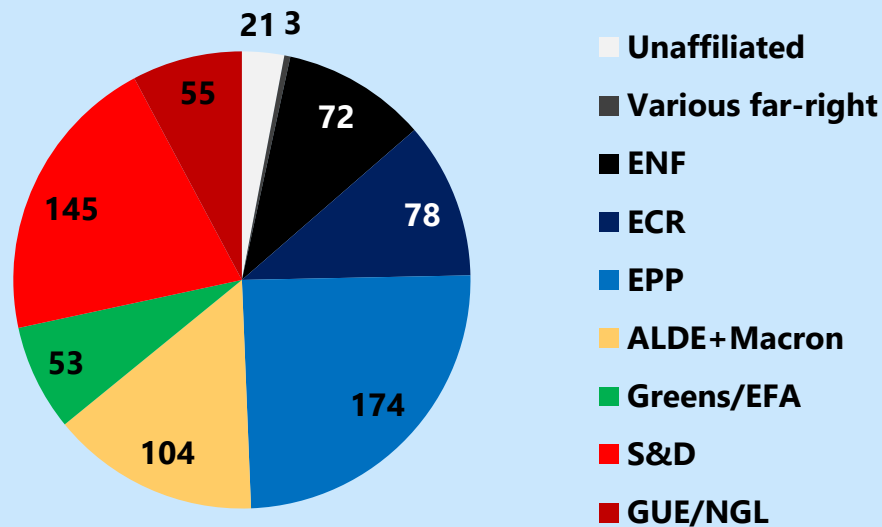
*Scenario 3.2.: The ENF absorbs most of the far-right*



- **With caution, the following statements can be made:**
  - The perspectives for a new group headed by the Five-Star-Movement remain uncertain.
  - Parties from the far-left and the far-right would have a potential of approx. 20-23%

# Possible seat distribution in the coming EP – Scenario 4 – EPP without Fidesz

- **Presumption:** Fidesz is eventually excluded/leaves the EPP and joins the ECR Group in the EP.



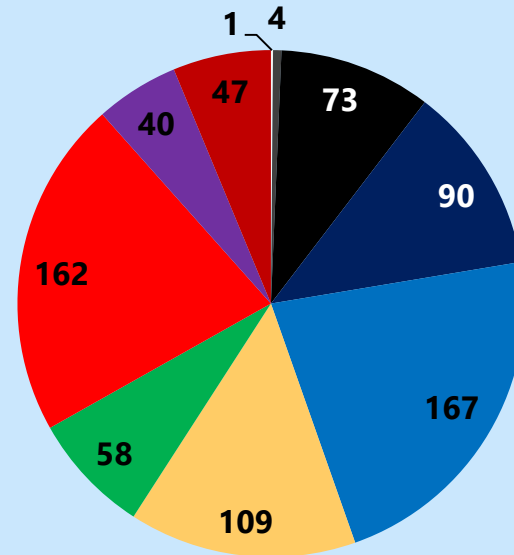
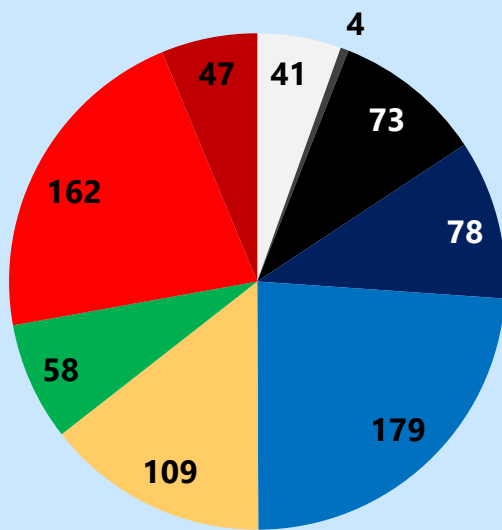
- **With caution, the following statements can be made:**
  - ECR incl. Fidesz could – if Lega was to join (+27 seats) – become approx. as strong as the Liberals+Macron
  - The EPP Group would remain the strongest political group, even though the gap towards the Socialists would shrink

# Possible seat distribution in the coming EP – Scenario 5 – No Brexit (yet)

- **Presumption:** The United Kingdom participates in the EP elections. The EP would thus have 751 seats and those countries who were expecting additional seats will keep merely their old number of seats. Scenario 5.2.: Fidesz joins the ECR, MEPs from the UK do not join the EPP and the 5-Star/UKIP/Brexit-group remains (without AfD).

*Scenario 5.1.: No Brexit, Fidesz with EPP*

*Scenario 5.2.: Fidesz joins the ECR; 5-Stars and UKIP/Brexit form a pol. group*



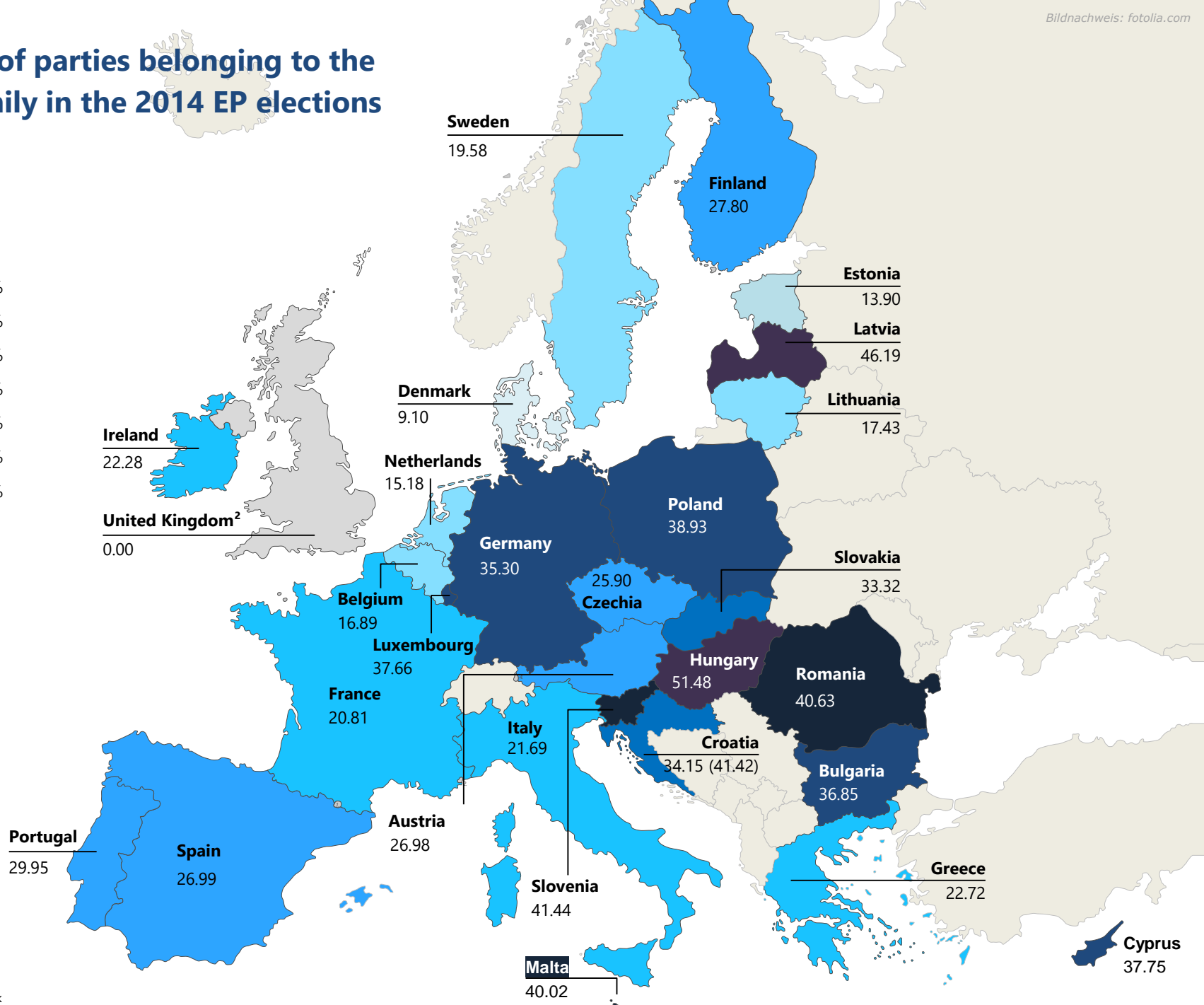
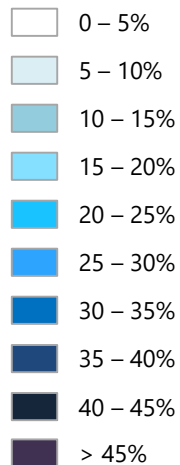
- **With caution, the following statements can be made:**
  - In 5.1. the EPP Group would remain the largest group. In 5.2. the S&D would come close to the EPP
  - **For now, a possible UK result in the EP elections seems to be very difficult to predict, as opinion polls seem rather volatile (and turnout may become a crucial issue)**

# Outlook on the EP elections in 2019 - Summary

- **Based on current opinion polls and weighing the different scenarios, the following seat distribution seems likely:**
  - **EPP: 180-190 seats (without Fidesz 168-177 seats)**
  - **S&D: 140-150 seats, without Brexit up to slightly more than 160 seats**
  - **ALDE (plus Macron): 100-110 seats**
  - **Greens/EFA: 50-55 seats, with 5-Star-Movement approx. 70 seats**
  - **ECR: ca. 60 seats, with Fidesz above 70 seats**
  - **GUE/NGL: 50-60 seats**
  - **ENF: 70-75 seats**
  - **Potential Five-Star-Movement-group:** rather unlikely as they may not meet the target for group formation (25 MEPs from at least 7 countries), **potential: 25-35 seats, in case of UKIP joining ca. 40 seats possible**
  - **EFDD rather unlikely to survive as a parliamentary group** (not necessarily due to the numbers but for political reasons)

# Results of parties belonging to the EPP family in the 2014 EP elections

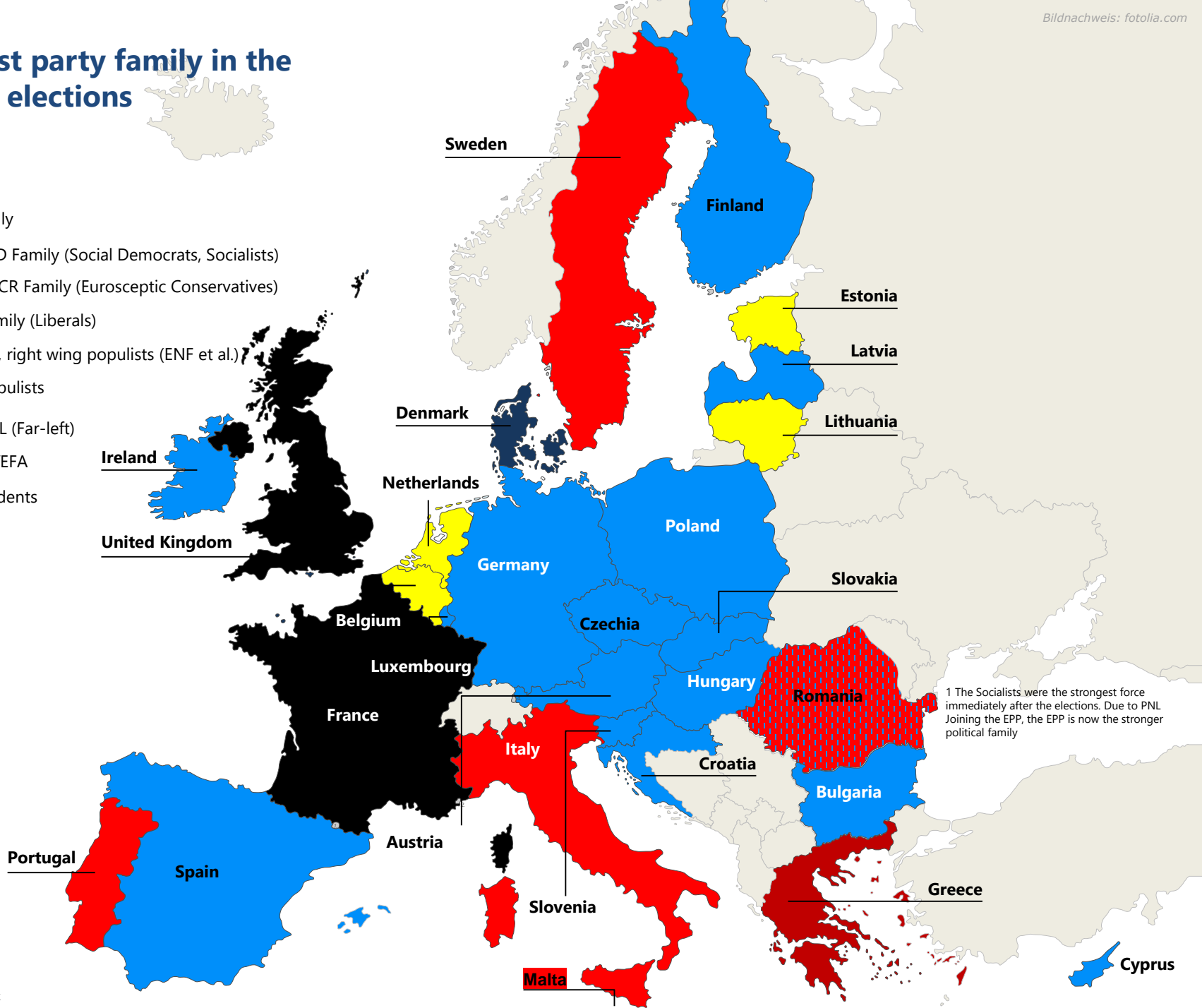
in %






# Strongest party family in the 2014 EP elections


- EPP Family
- PES / S&D Family (Social Democrats, Socialists)
- ACRE / ECR Family (Eurosceptic Conservatives)
- ALDE Family (Liberals)
- Far-right, right wing populists (ENF et al.)
- Misc. populists
- GUE/NGL (Far-left)
- Greens /EFA
- Independents




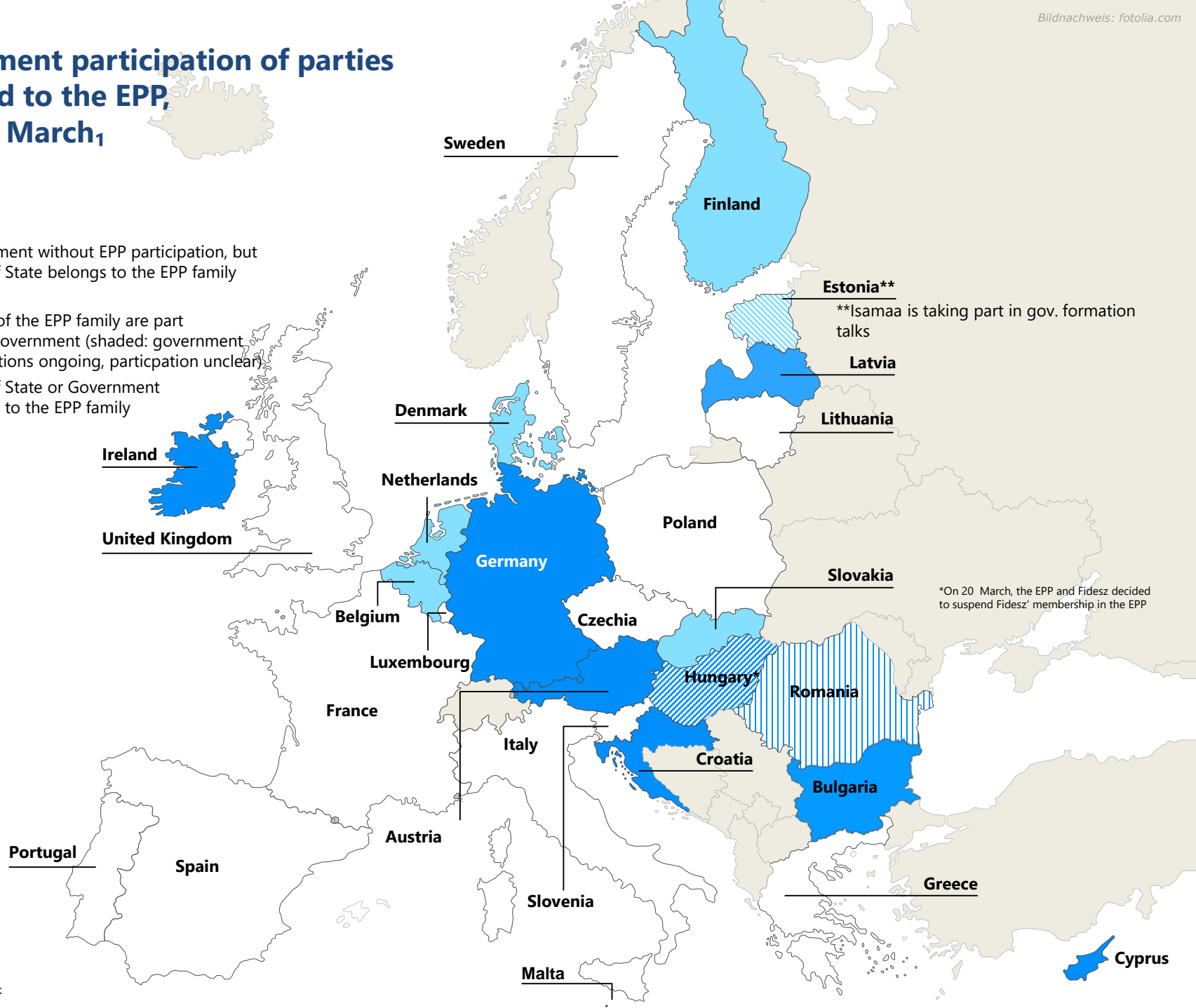
# **Government participation of the EPP family**

# Government participation of parties affiliated to the EPP, as of 29 March<sub>1</sub>

 Government without EPP participation, but Head of State belongs to the EPP family

 Parties of the EPP family are part of the government (shaded: government negotiations ongoing, participation unclear)

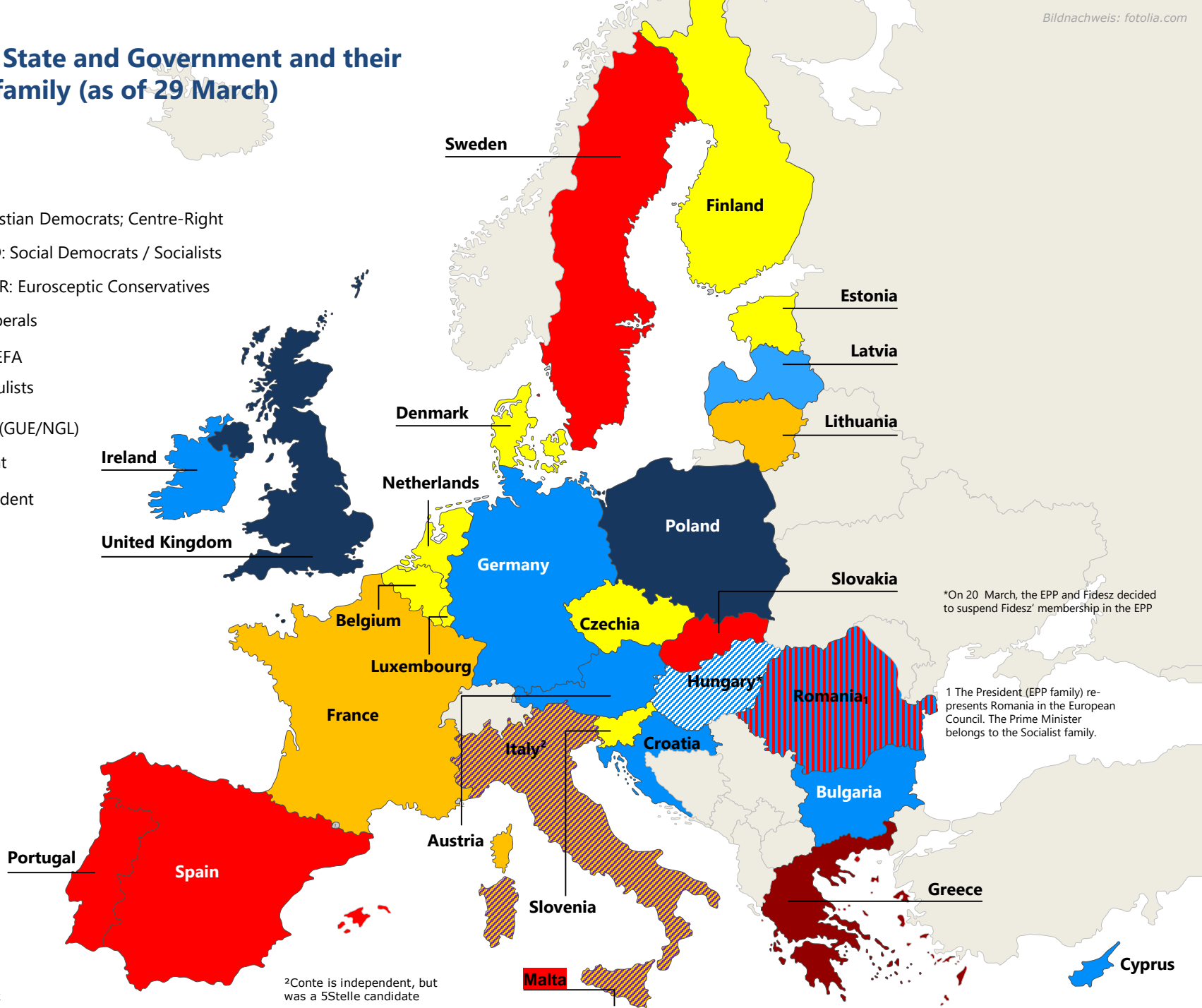
 Head of State or Government belongs to the EPP family



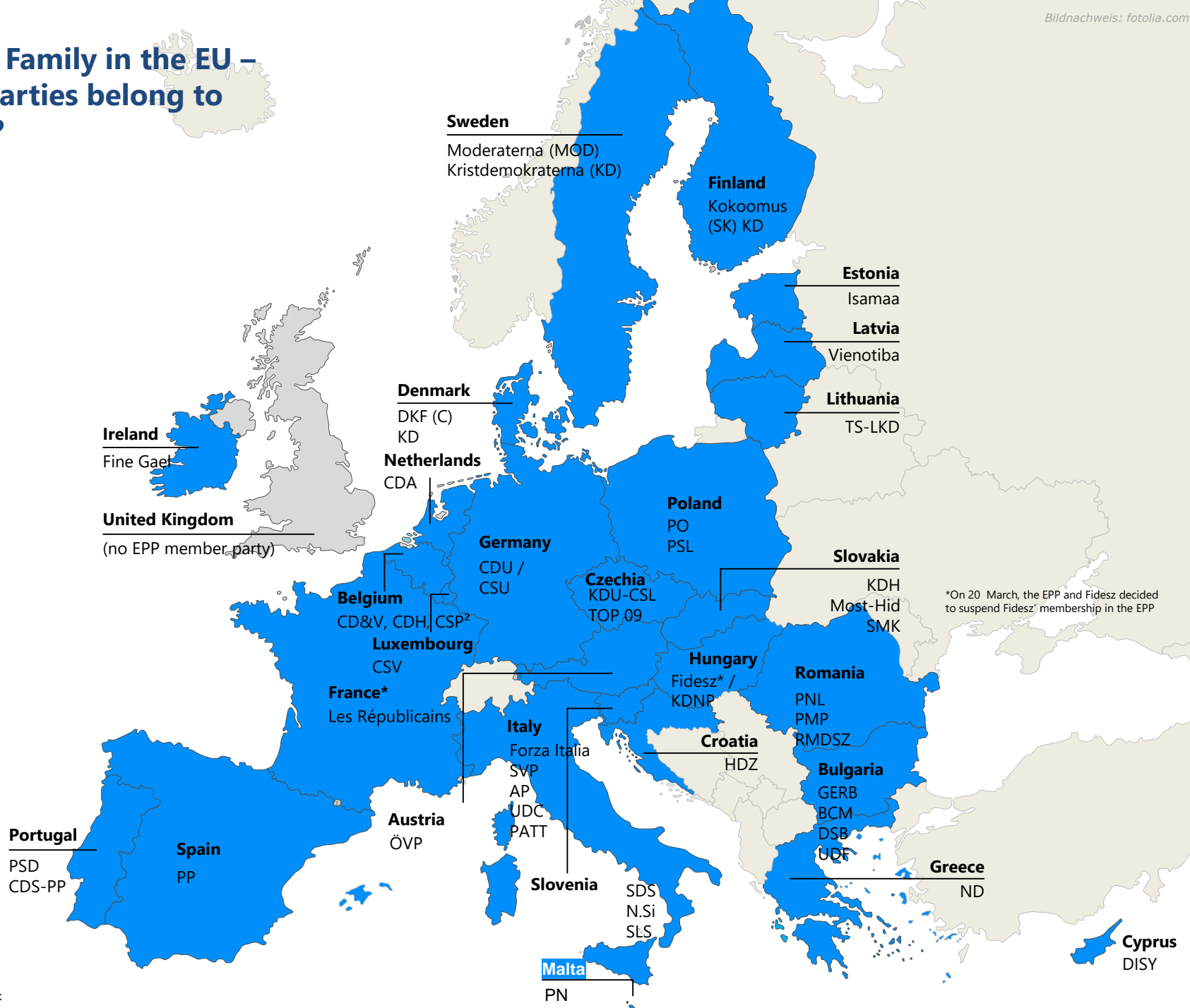
\*On 20 March, the EPP and Fidesz decided to suspend Fidesz' membership in the EPP

# Heads of State and Government and their political family (as of 29 March)

- EPP: Christian Democrats; Centre-Right
- PES/S&D: Social Democrats / Socialists
- ACRE/ECR: Eurosceptic Conservatives
- ALDE: Liberals
- Greens/EFA
- Div. populists
- Far-Left (GUE/NGL)
- Far-Right
- Independent



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



\*On 20 March, the EPP and Fidesz decided to suspend Fidesz' membership in the EPP

# Notes

- \* The figures for **France** refer to the LR results achieved in the second round of the parliamentary elections; the shares of votes obtained by independent rights (1.68%) or by the UDI (ALDE) are not included.
- \*\* There have been no polls in **France** on the legislative elections since the last national parliamentary elections, only on European elections, for Romania the IS COP polls on the EP elections are also used for the national level.
- \*\*\* In **Belgium**, polls are conducted at the regional level. In order to obtain an adequate result at the national level, these results were weighted according to the number of voters (compulsory voting). Despite compulsory voting and the relatively similar voter turnout in the various regions, there may be small discrepancies. In Belgium, the partner parties CD&V, CSP and CDH only compete on a regional basis, and the results in the individual regions are weighted accordingly. The CSP only takes part in European elections. In national elections, it is part of the CDH because the Belgian House of Representatives is composed by region (Flanders, Wallonia, Brussels) and not by language community. In **Luxembourg**, the polls are conducted regionally, the results being weighted according to the number of voters (compulsory voting) to calculate the national strength. Despite compulsory voting and the relatively similar voter turnout in the various regions, small deviations may occur.
- \*\*\*\* In **Portugal**, a PSD and CDS-PP electoral alliance was formed in the last national elections, so both values of the PSD are not comparable with the result of the parliamentary elections.

## Further notes:

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

In **Croatia**, the EPP party HSS was a member of the Social Democratic People's Coalition in the elections and did not receive a separate result. Correspondingly, the data are not quite comparable; the calculation of the difference has not been made. The election result noted for the Social Democrats therefore refers to the entire electoral alliance, which also did not include PES parties (such as the HSS). End of February the HSS announced its willingness to leave the EPP.

In **Germany**, the CDU and CSU are not listed as two separate parties due to the faction community and the always aggregated polling figures.

Some of the parties in the ACRE family are right-wing populist or have strong right-wing populist positions. Since this is a now (or for the time being) an established party family, parties belonging to it are listed as part of the ACRE family and not as "right-wing populist". This category, on the other hand, includes the parties belonging to the ENF or EFDD group in the EP, as well as other independent right-wing populist or right-wing extremist forces.

- 1 The list usually refers to the heads of government. Heads of state (in the case of a different party affiliation than the government) are only shown (separately) if they are represented in the European Council (case of Iohannis in Romania). In the case of France, no EPP participation in the government is shown, since the official EPP party LR is not officially part of the government.
- 2 While the EPP has no member party in the UK, since February 2018, two Tory MEPs have switched from the ECR Group to the EPP Group

**Sources for polls:** Ipsos (Belgium), Trend (Bulgaria), voxmeter (Denmark), Forsa (Germany), TAS (Estonia), Kantar (Finland), Ifop (France), Metron (Greece), YouGov (UK), BA (Ireland), EMG (Italy), Ipsos (Croatia), SDKS (Latvia), Vilmoris (Lithuania), Sondasfro (Luxembourg), Malta Today (Malta), I&O (Netherlands), RA (Austria), Ibris (Poland), Aximage (Portugal), IS COP (Romania), Inizio (Sweden), Focus (Slovakia), Mediana (Slovenia), NC Report (Spain), CVVM (Czechia), Zavec Research (Hungary), Prime Consulting (Cyprus)

The party barometer is updated every four weeks and available on [www.kas.de](http://www.kas.de).