

EPP Party Barometer November 2020

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

(as of: 23 November 2020)

Dr Olaf Wientzek

Summary & latest developments (I)

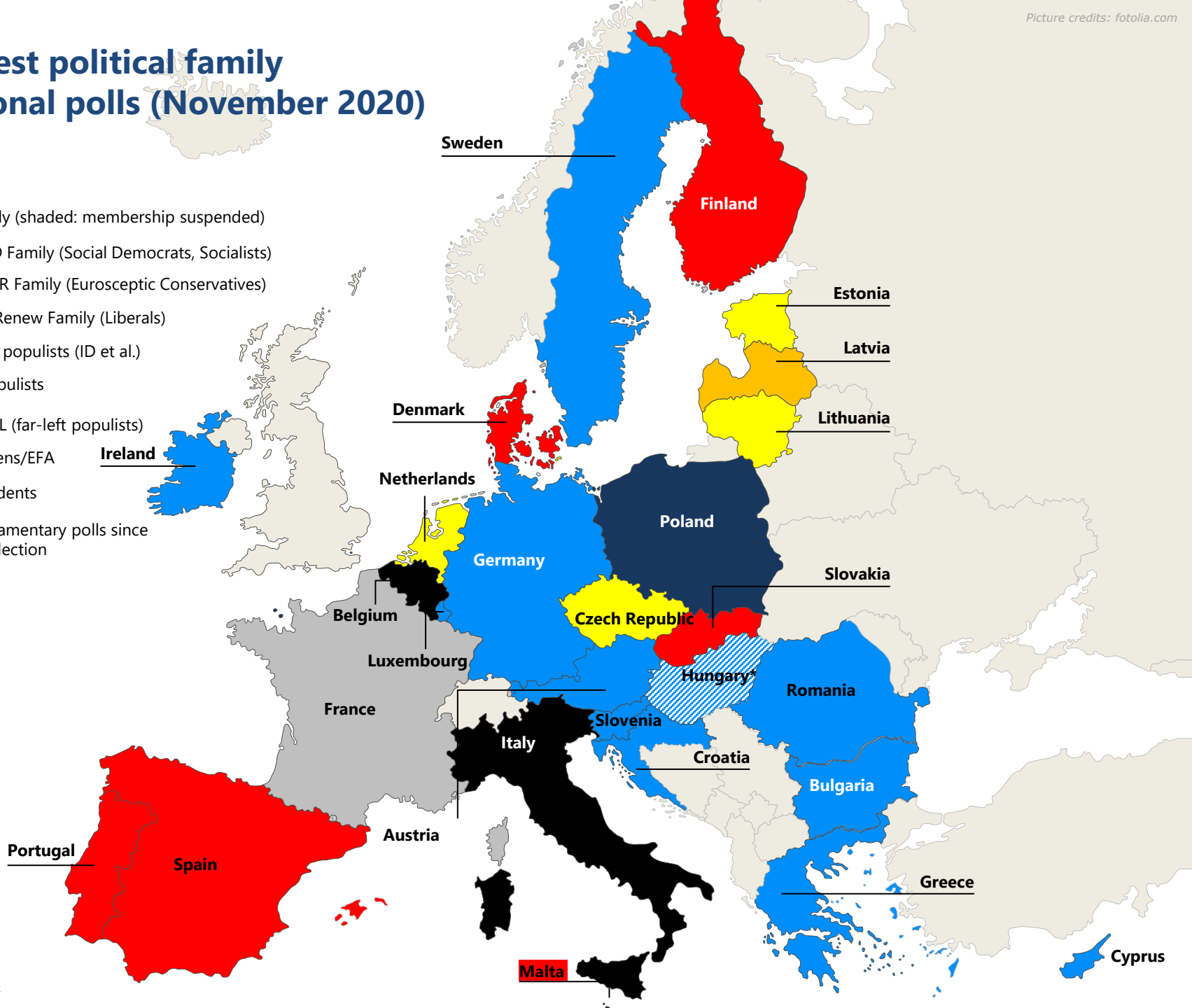
- In national polls, the EPP family are the strongest political family in **12** countries (including Fidesz); the Socialist political family in **6**, the Liberals/Renew in **4**, far-right populists (ID) in **2**, and the Eurosceptic/national conservative ECR in **1**. Added together, independent parties lead in Latvia. No 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**: then the EPP is ahead in **12** countries (if you include the suspended Fidesz), the Socialists in **7**, the Liberals in **4**, far-right populists (ID) in **2**, and the ECR in one land.
- **10 (9 without Orbán) 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 party of the Slovak head of government belongs to the EPP group but not (yet) to the EPP party; if you include him in the **EPP family**, there would be **11 (without Orbán 10)**.
- In many countries, the lead is extremely narrow, or, depending on the polls, another party family is ahead (including Italy, Sweden, Latvia, Belgium, Poland).

Summary & latest developments (II)

- In **Romania**, the PNL (EPP) has a good starting position for the elections (Dec. 2020), but the PSD is catching up in the polls. Nonetheless, the PNL is ahead with the prospect of forming a coalition.
- In **Bulgaria** (elections in 2021), the popularity of GERB declined further (although, in other polls, a recovery process began to show in November).
- In the **Czech Republic** (elections in 2021), KDU-CSL, TOP09 came again close to the 5% mark; STAN (EPP group, not EPP party) stood at 7%-11.5%.
- In **Poland**, the PiS has lost a great deal in the polls; the EPP parties hardly benefit from this. By contrast, the movement of the former presidential candidate Hołownia, roughly in the centre-right political spectrum, holds its ground in the polls as the third-strongest force.
- In **Slovakia**, approval for OL'ANO, the party of the former Slovak prime minister (EPP group in the European Parliament, but not [yet] EPP member), has declined compared with the election in the spring; however, it is still far ahead of the other EPP member parties.
- In **Cyprus** (elections in 2021), the DISY is ahead; the margin differs greatly, depending on the poll, though.
- A clear victory for the TS-LKD in **Lithuania** in the parliamentary elections, whose candidate (no party affiliation) holds the position of prime minister.
- In the **Netherlands** (elections in March 2021), the CDA is fluctuating around 10% and competes with other parties for third place; well behind the VVD (ALDE) and the right-wing populist PVV.

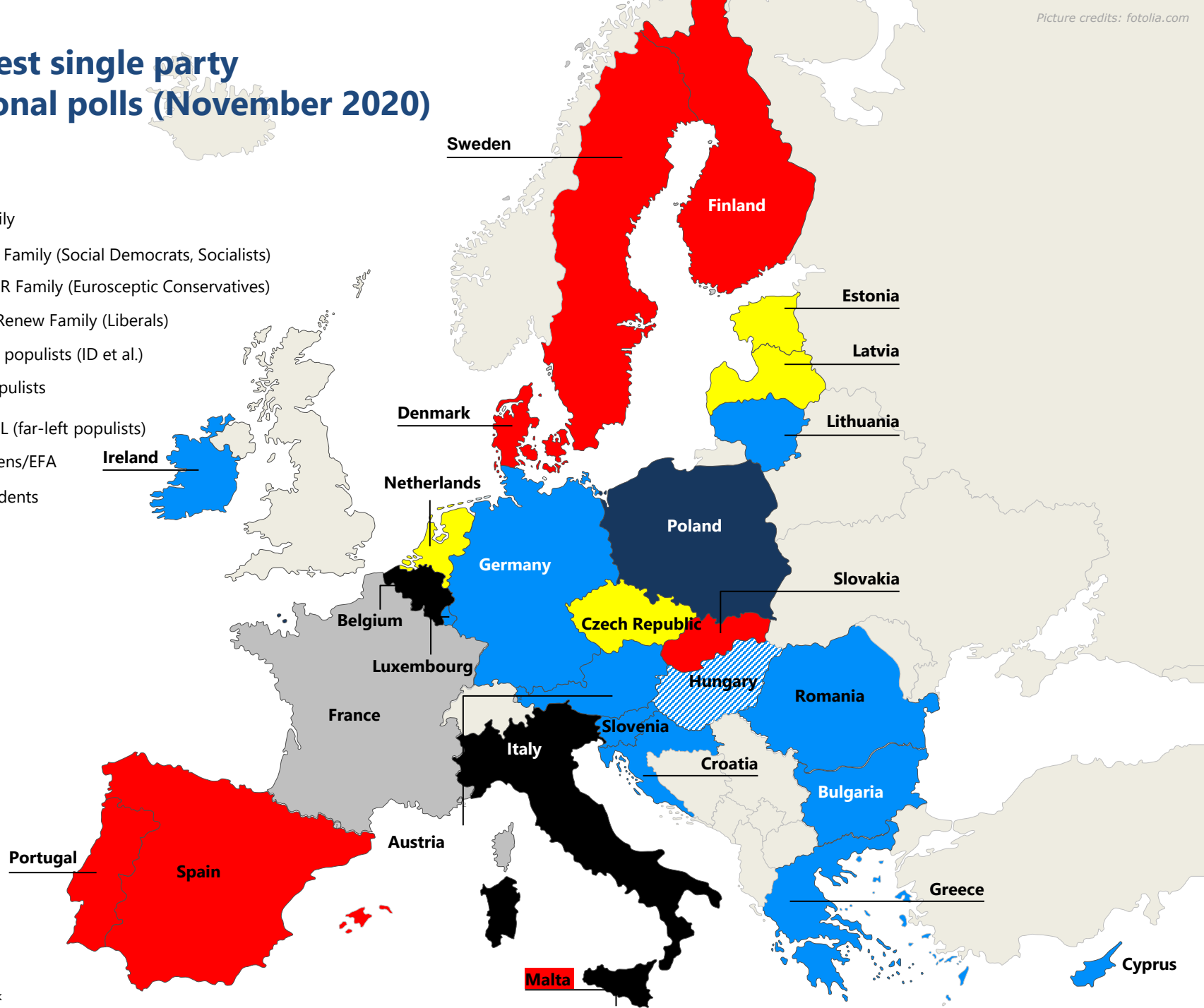
Strongest political family in national polls (November 2020)

- 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 parliamentary polls since the EP election



Strongest single party in national polls (November 2020)

- EPP Family
- 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

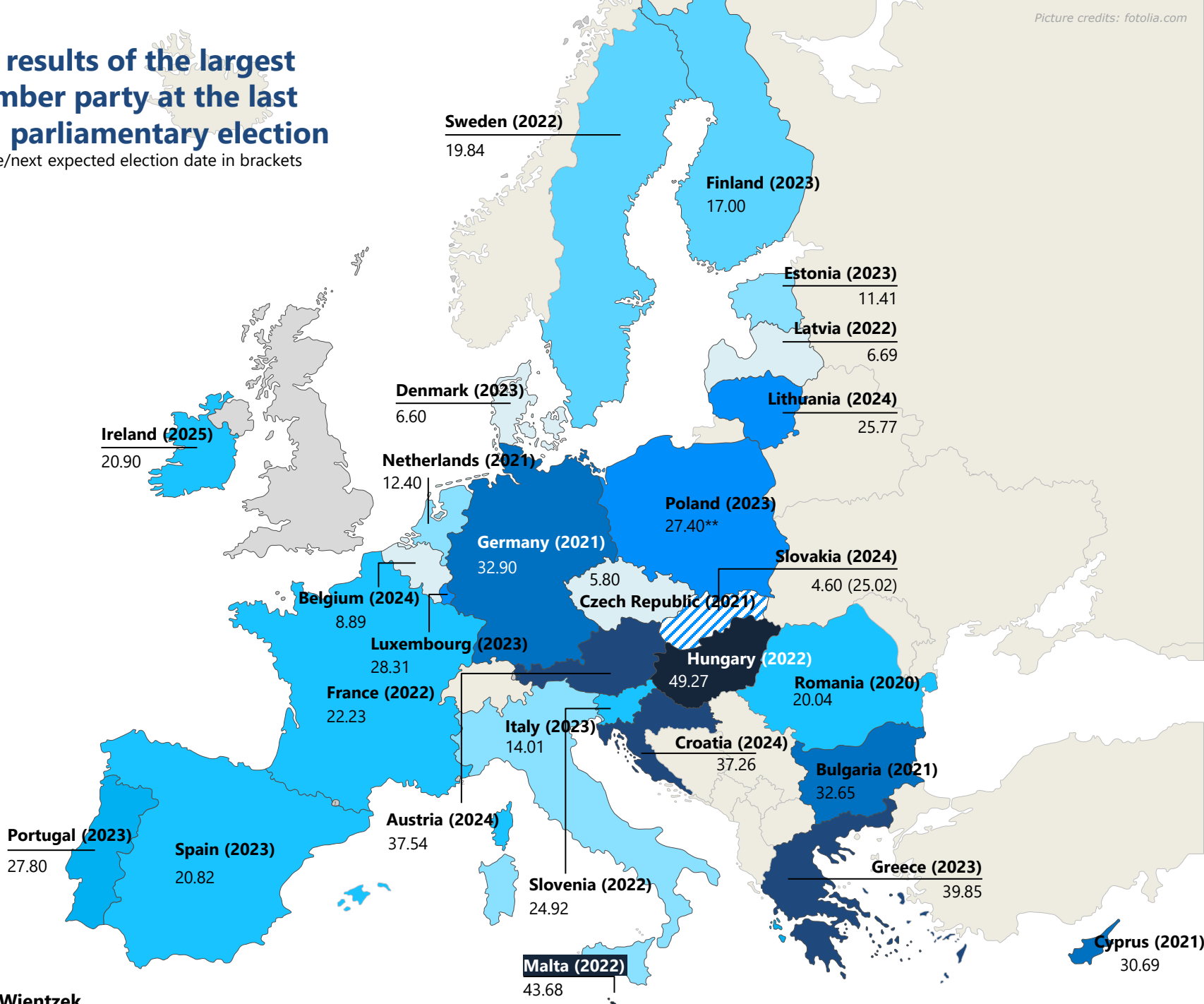
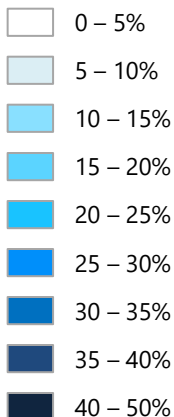


**Strength of the largest EPP
partner party in each country**

Election results of the largest EPP member party at the last national parliamentary election

as a percentage/next expected election date in brackets

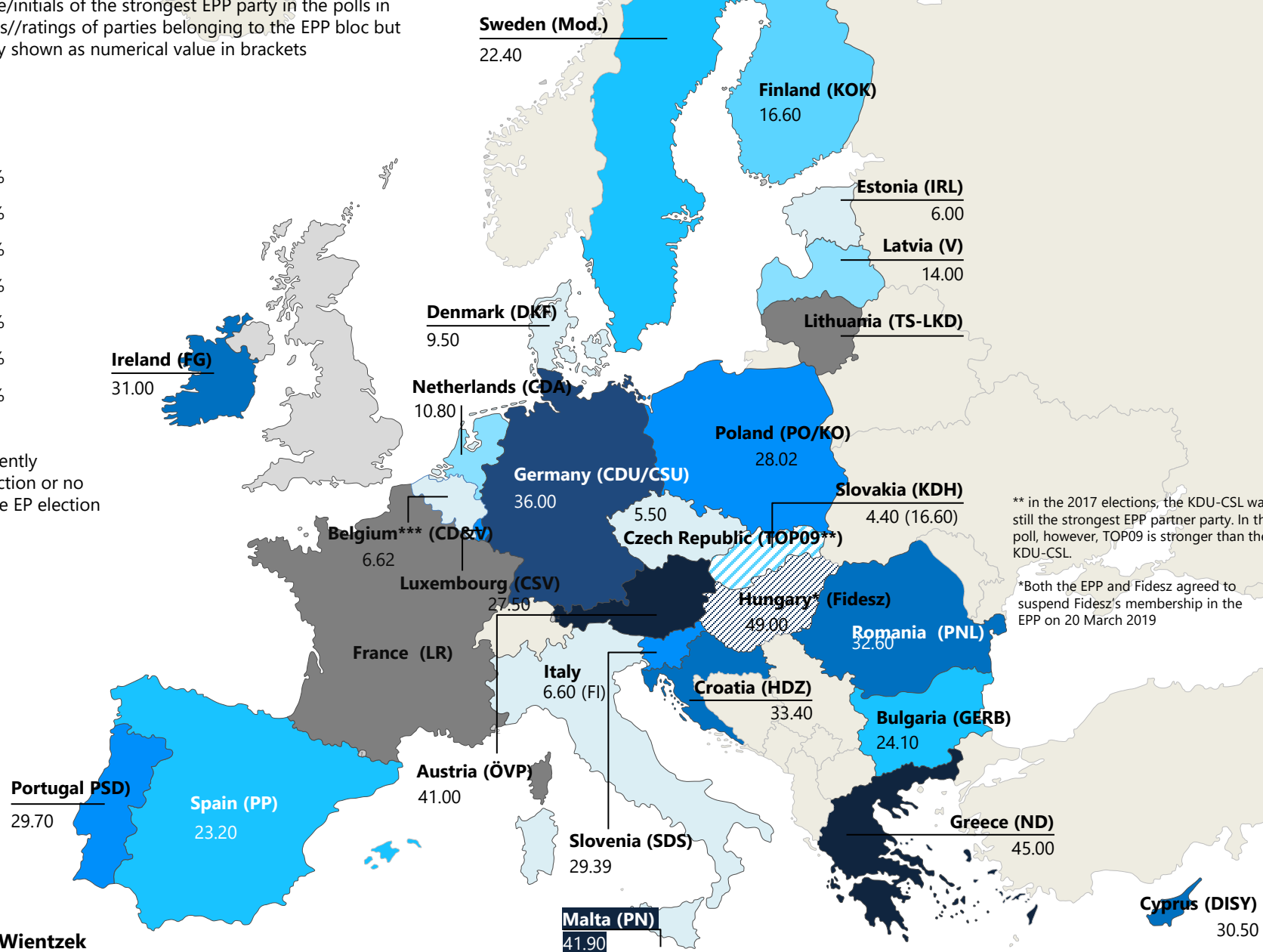
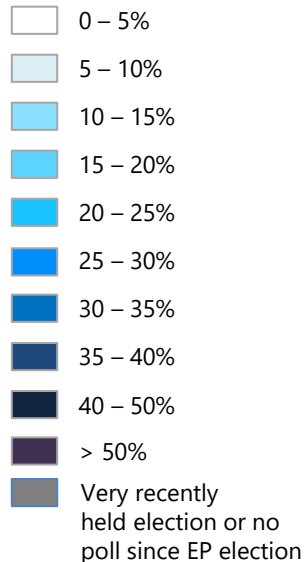
Legend



Poll ratings of the strongest EPP member parties as of: November 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



** in the 2017 elections, the KDU-CSL was still the strongest EPP partner party. In this poll, however, TOP09 is stronger than the KDU-CSL.

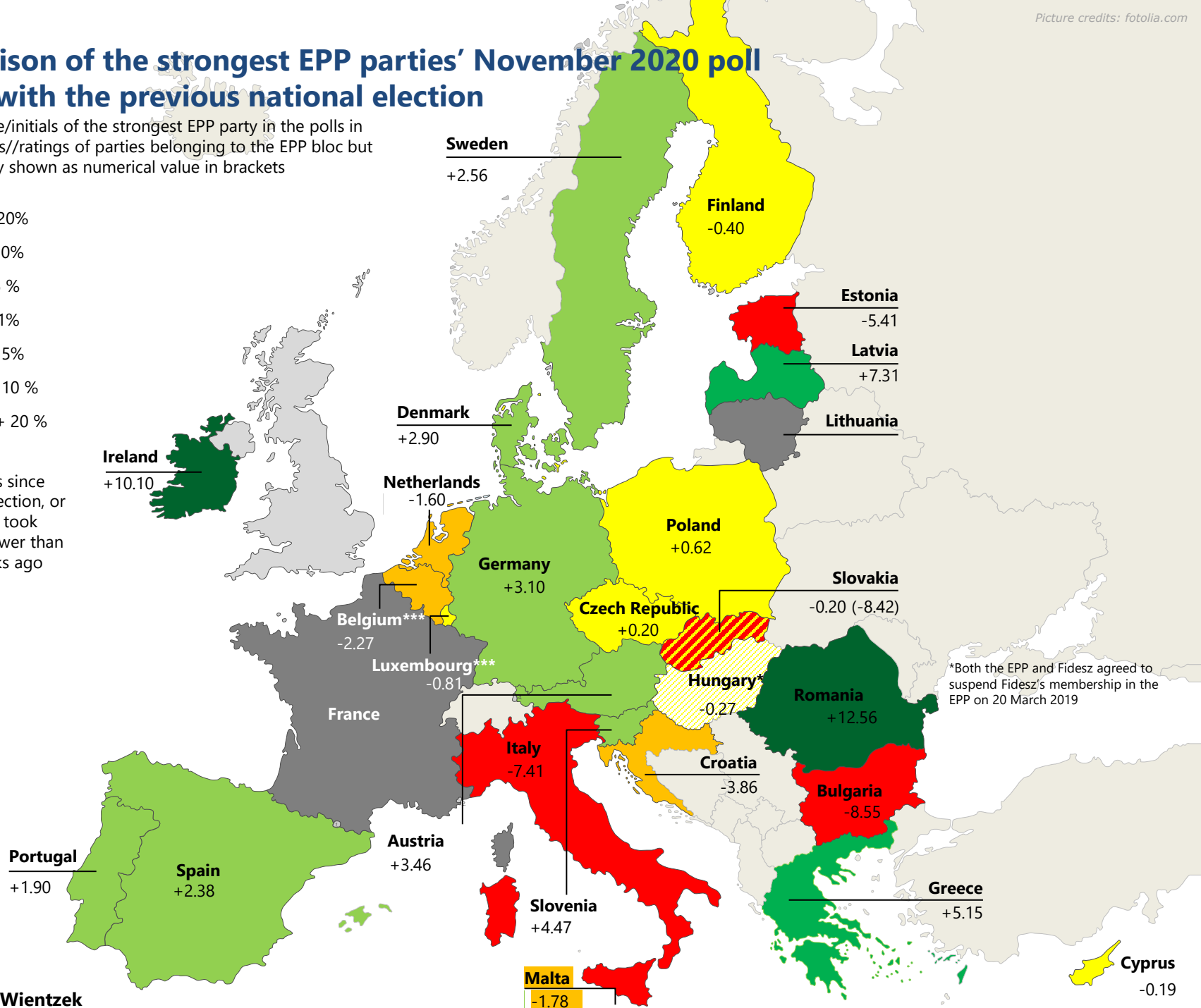
*Both the EPP and Fidesz agreed to suspend Fidesz's membership in the EPP on 20 March 2019

Comparison of the strongest EPP parties' November 2020 poll ratings with the previous national election

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

- 10 to -20%
- 5 to -10%
- 1 to -5%
- 1 to +1%
- +1 to +5%
- +5 to +10%
- +10 to +20%
- n.a. /
No polls since election, or election took place fewer than six weeks ago



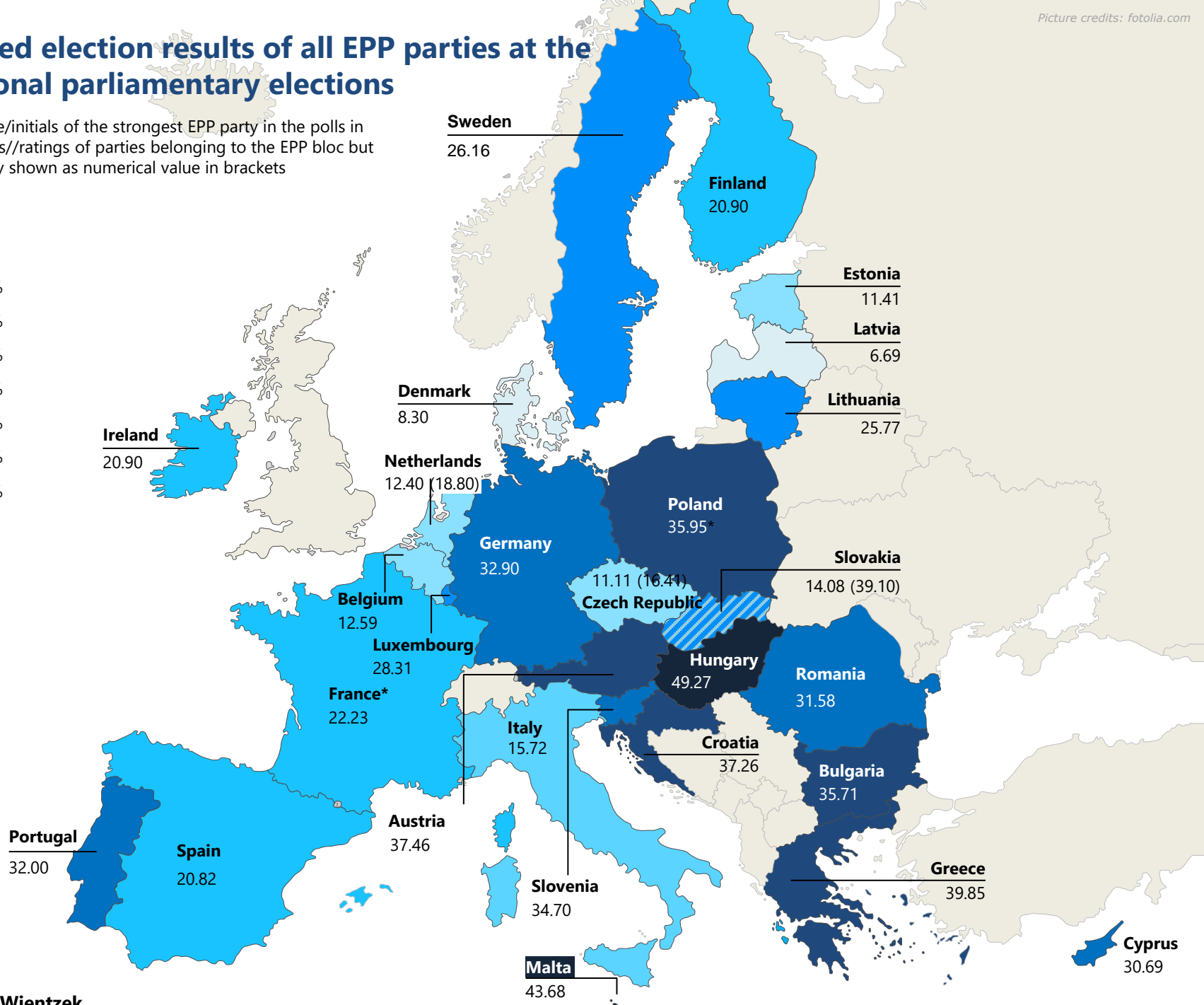
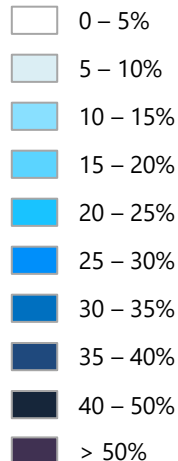
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Strength of the EPP family in EU member states

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

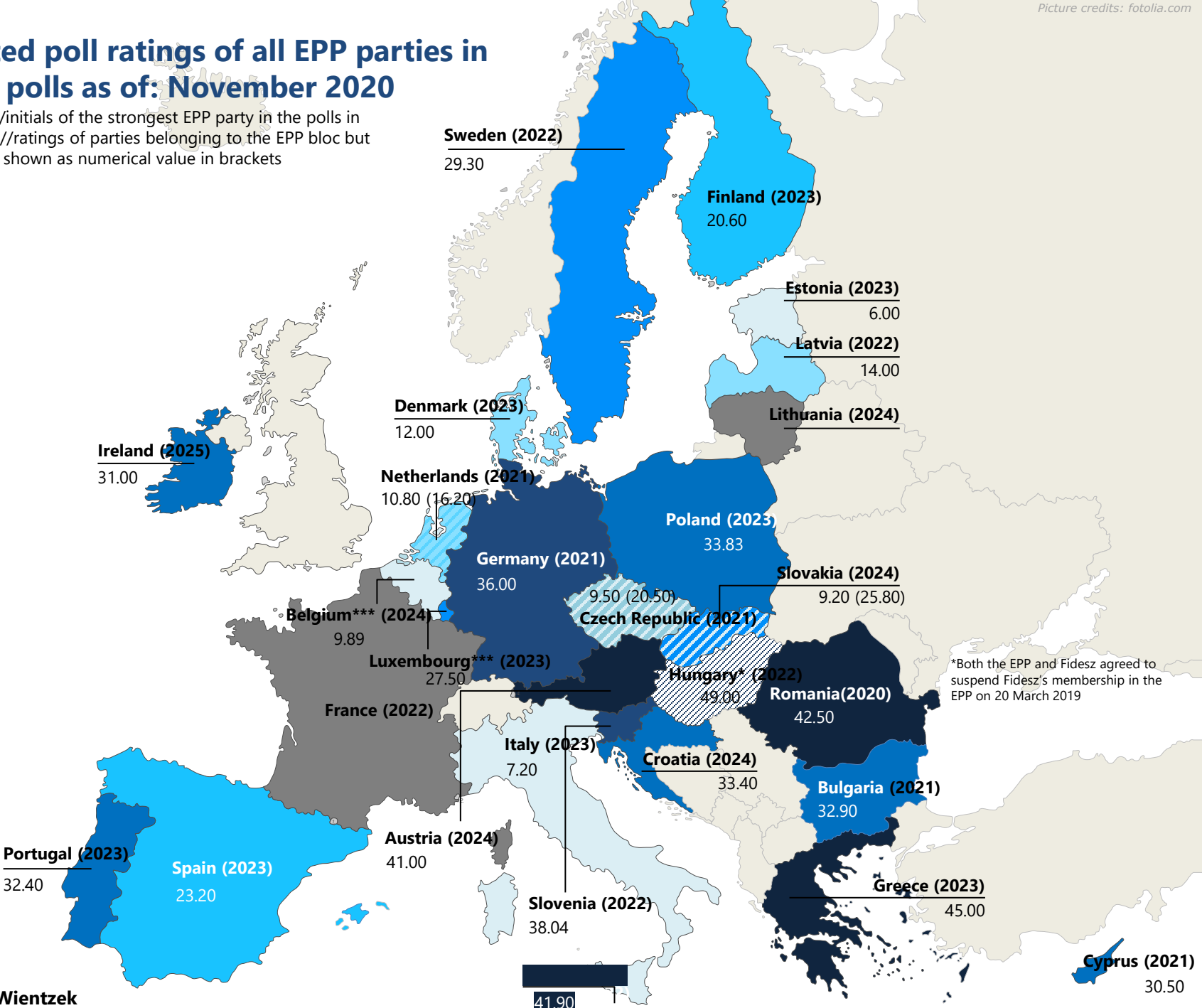
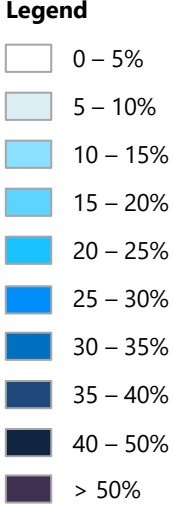
as a percentage/initials of the strongest EPP party in the polls in bold & brackets//ratings of parties belonging to the EPP bloc but not to the party shown as numerical value in brackets

Legend



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

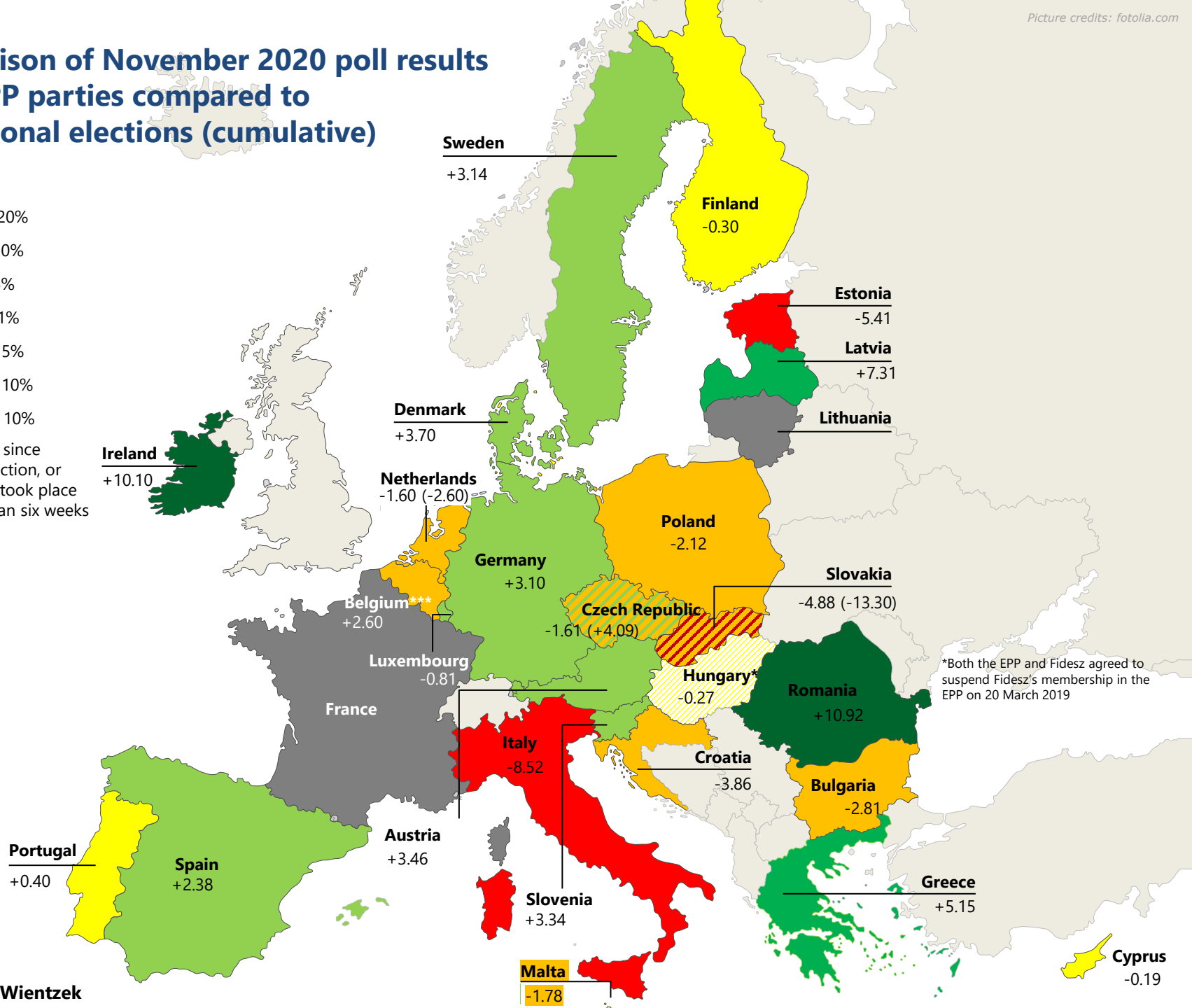


*Both the EPP and Fidesz agreed to suspend Fidesz's membership in the EPP on 20 March 2019

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

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



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Does the “COVID-19 crisis effect” continue?

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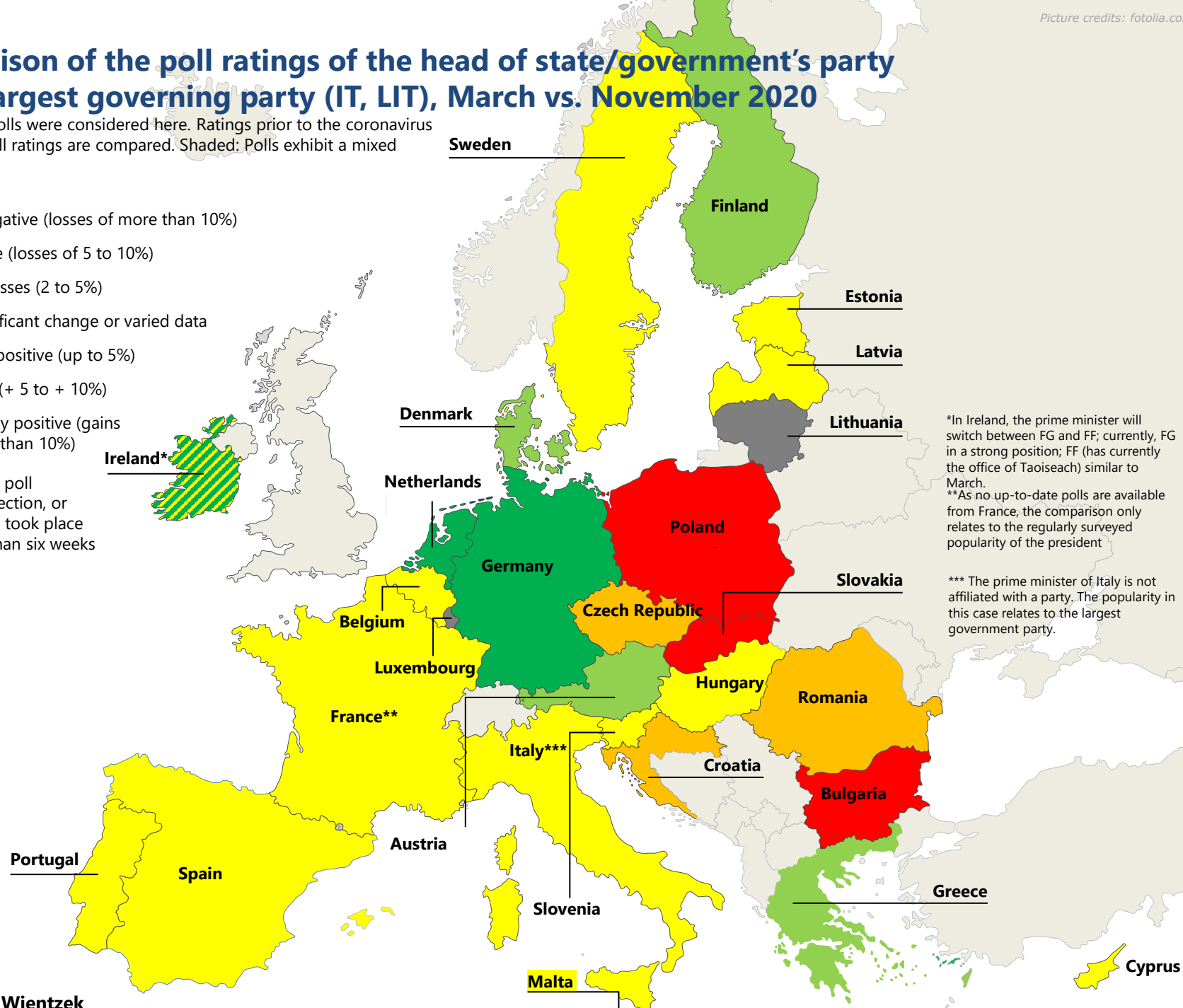
- **Short answer:** noticeable reduction of the “COVID-19 crisis effect”, i.e. the support for the party of the head of government or head of state that could often still be observed at the beginning of the crisis is now only observed in a minority of EU countries.
- **Long answer:** In 6-7 EU countries where polls have been conducted since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, 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).
 - In a few countries, the largest government party even lost support; but in many cases, this is likely not due to the perception of the COVID-19 management but to other factors (new government, protests over other issues).
 - In some countries, a decline in the COVID-19 boost has already been observed (compared to August or May); in countries in which it still continues, the level is often lower than in May or in August.
 - In Germany, this effect is quite pronounced in a European comparison.
 - Junior coalition partners profit significantly less frequently from the COVID-19 solidarity effect.
 - In general, changes in the polls may also involve aspects that are NOT related to the government’s COVID-19 management.

Comparison of the poll ratings of the head of state/government's party or the largest governing party (IT, LI), March vs. November 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 varied data
- Slightly positive (up to 5%)
- Positive (+ 5 to + 10%)
- Extremely positive (gains of more than 10%)
- n.a. / No new poll since election, or election took place fewer than six weeks ago



*In Ireland, the prime minister will switch between FG and FF; currently, FG in a strong position; FF (has currently the office of Taoiseach) similar to March.

**As no up-to-date polls are available from France, the comparison only relates to the regularly surveyed popularity of the president

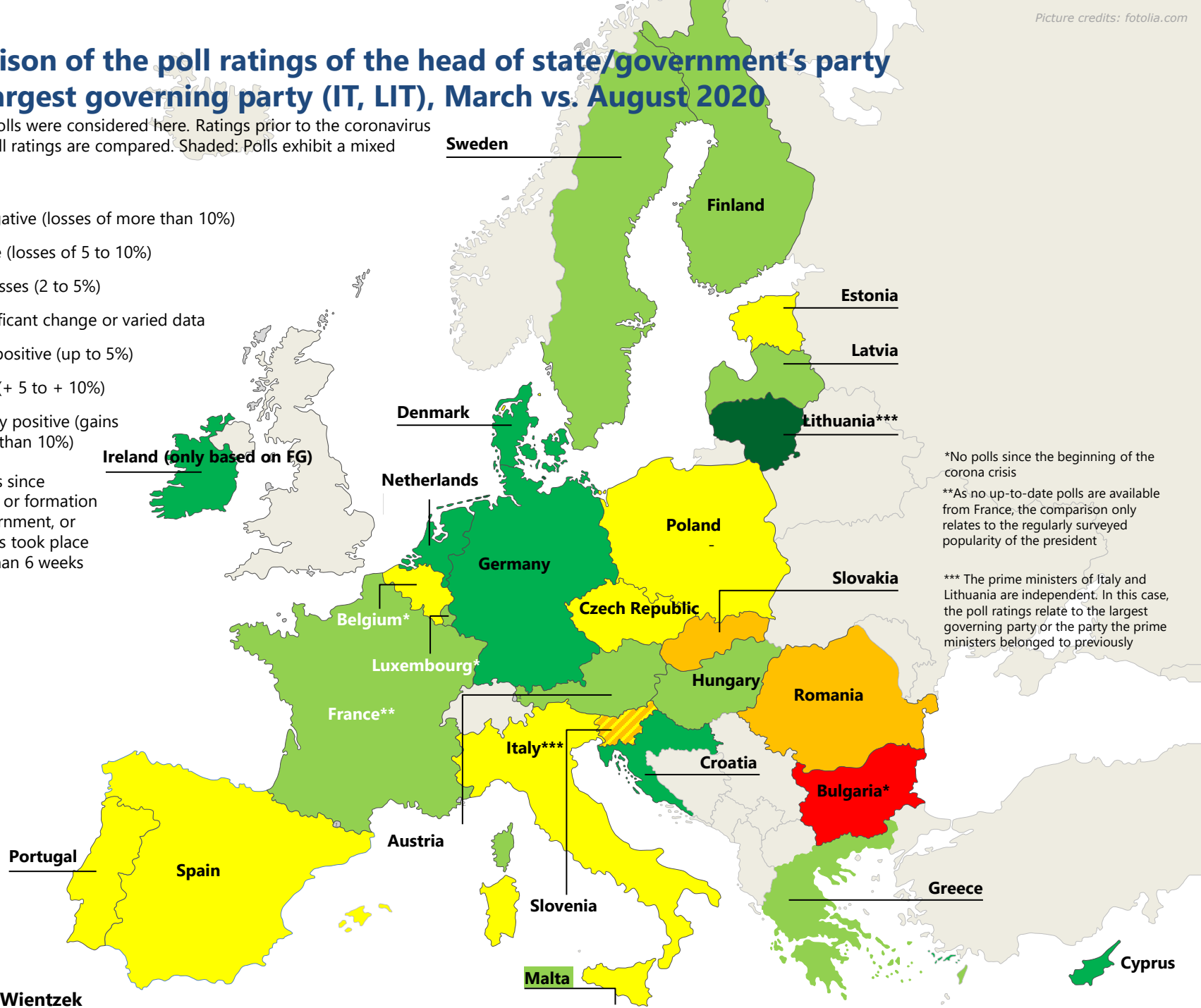
*** The prime minister of Italy is not affiliated with a party. The popularity in this case relates to the largest government party.

Comparison of the poll ratings of the head of state/government's party or the largest governing party (IT, LI), 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 varied data
- Slightly positive (up to 5%)
- Positive (+ 5 to + 10%)
- Extremely positive (gains of more than 10%)
- n.a. / No polls since election or formation of government, or elections took place fewer than 6 weeks ago



*No polls since the beginning of the corona crisis

**As no up-to-date polls are available from France, the comparison only relates to the regularly surveyed popularity of the president

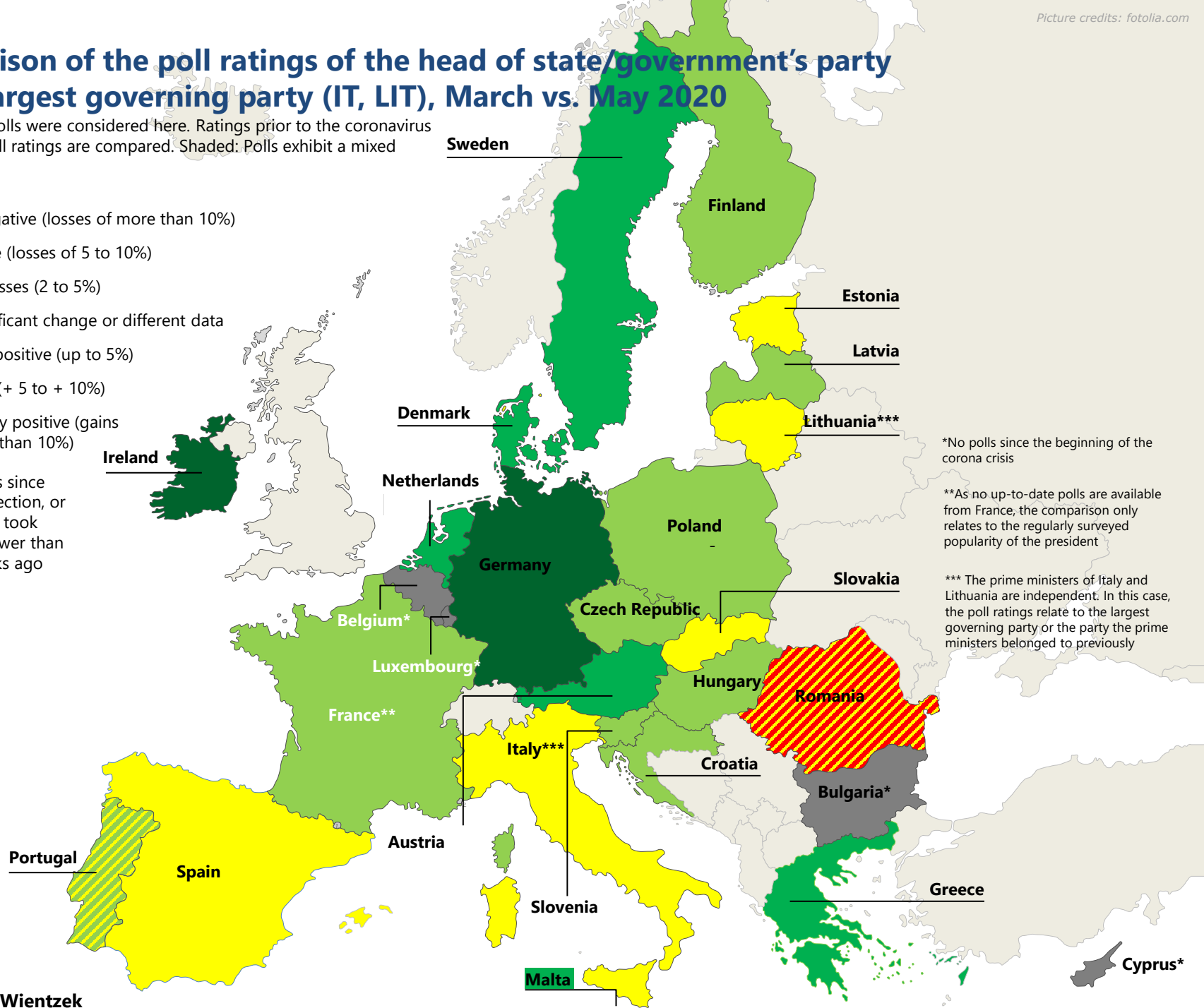
*** The prime ministers of Italy and Lithuania are independent. In this case, the poll ratings relate to the largest governing party or the party the prime ministers belonged to previously

Comparison of the poll ratings of the head of state/government's party or the largest governing party (IT, LI), March vs. May 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 different data
- Slightly positive (up to 5%)
- Positive (+ 5 to + 10%)
- Extremely positive (gains of more than 10%)
- n.a. / No polls since election, or election took place fewer than six weeks ago






*No polls since the beginning of the corona crisis

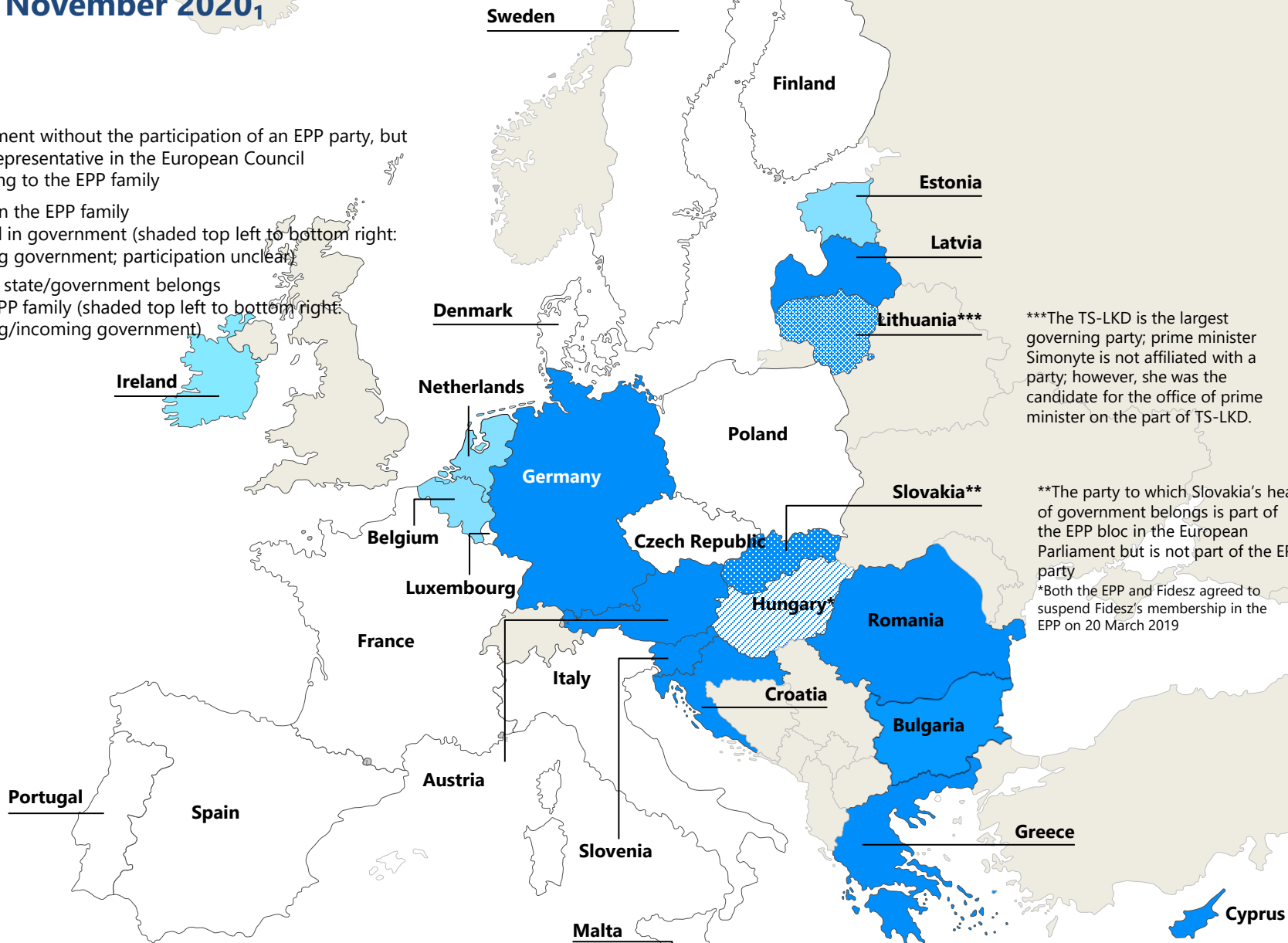
**As no up-to-date polls are available from France, the comparison only relates to the regularly surveyed popularity of the president

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The EPP family's participation in government

The participation of EPP family parties in government, as of 25 November 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 the EPP family (shaded top left to bottom right: outgoing/incoming government)



***The TS-LKD is the largest governing party; prime minister Simonyte is not affiliated with a party; however, she was the candidate for the office of prime minister on the part of TS-LKD.

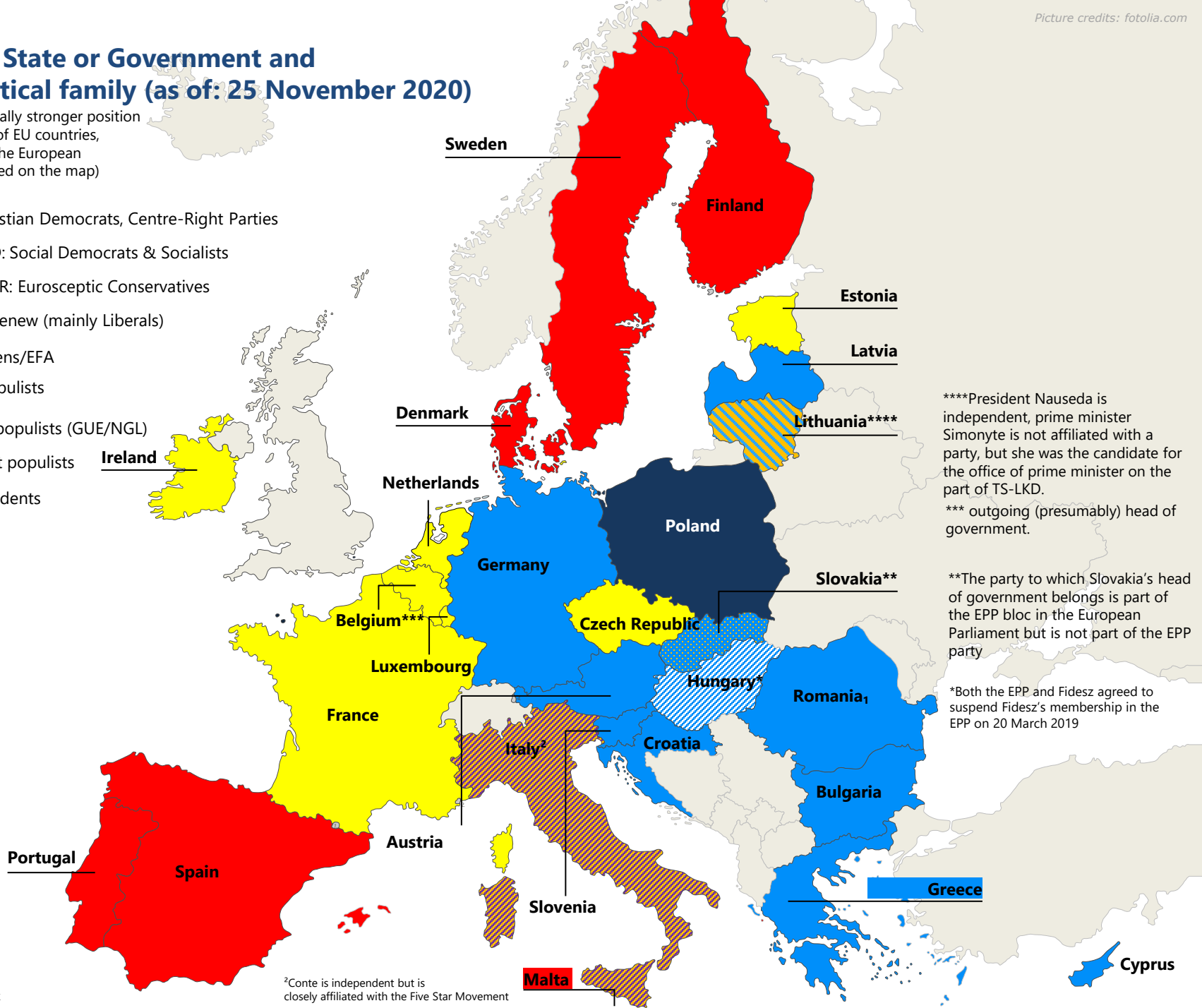
**The party to which Slovakia's head of government belongs is part of the EPP bloc in the European Parliament but is not part of the EPP party

*Both the EPP and Fidesz agreed to suspend Fidesz's membership in the EPP on 20 March 2019

Heads of State or Government and their political family (as of: 25 November 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



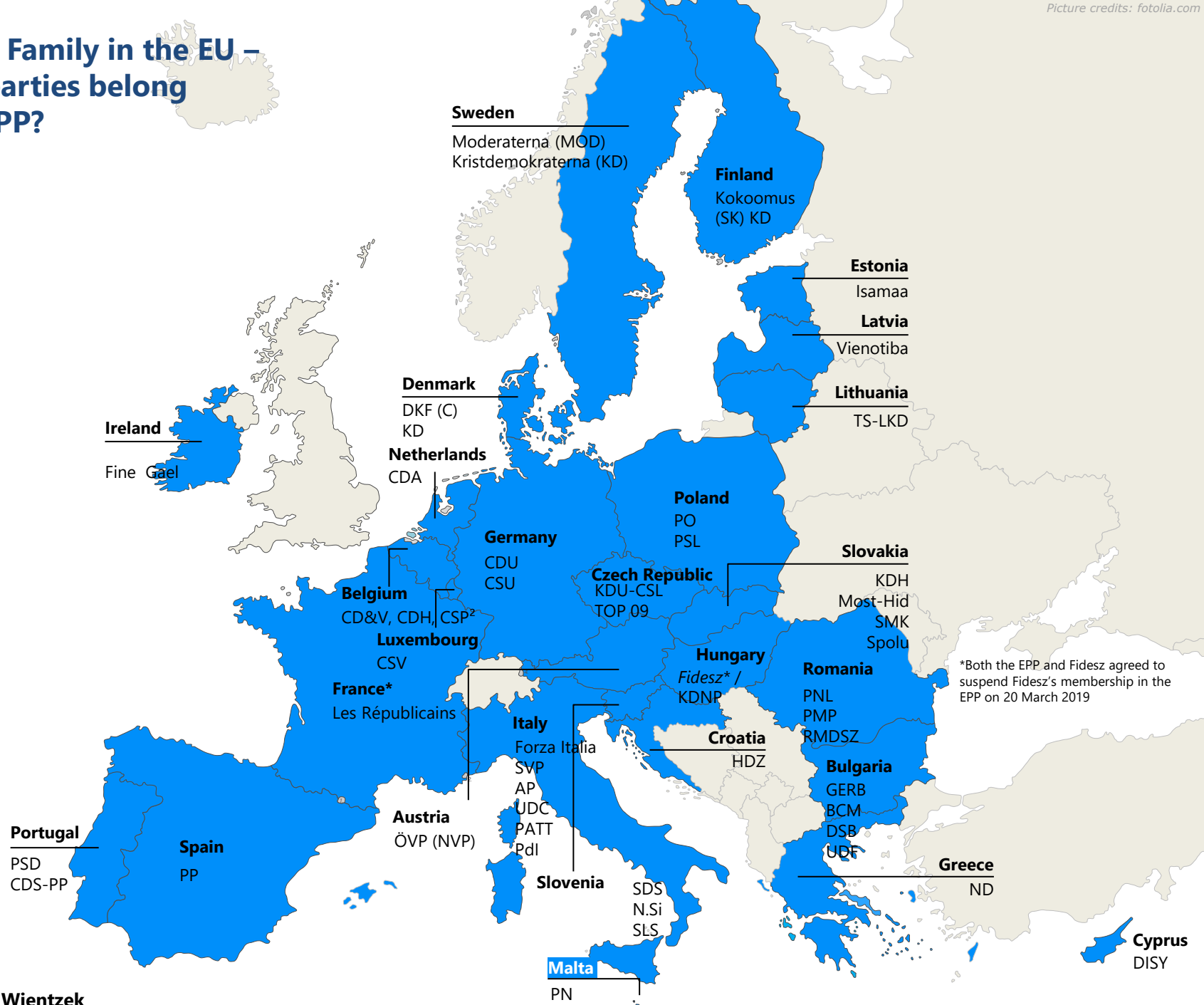
****President Nausėda is independent, prime minister Simonyte is not affiliated with a party, but she was the candidate for the office of prime minister on the part of TS-LKD.
 *** outgoing (presumably) head of government.

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

*Both the EPP and Fidesz agreed to suspend Fidesz's membership in the EPP on 20 March 2019

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

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



*Both the EPP and Fidesz agreed to suspend Fidesz's membership in the EPP on 20 March 2019

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. 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 OL'ANO 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 or the EFDD Group 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.

Sources for polls: Ipsos (Belgium), Trend (Bulgaria), Voxmeter (Denmark), Forsa (Germany), Norstat (Estonia), Tal (Finland), IfoP (France), Pulse/RC (Greece), BA (Ireland), Euromedia (Italy), Promocija Pius (Croatia), Factum (Latvia), Spinter tymai (Lithuania), Sondesfro (Luxembourg), Malta Today (Malta), Ipsos (Netherlands) RA (Austria), Ibris (Poland), eurosondagem (Portugal), IMAS (Romania), Demoskop (Sweden), AKO (Slovakia), Ninamedia (Slovenia), NC Report (Spain), Kantar (Czech Republic), Zavecz (Hungary), Prime (Cyprus)

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