

EPP Party Barometer

October 2023

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Key developments in the reporting period (I)

Situation of the EPP throughout the EU

- › The EPP is the strongest political family in polls in ten countries, the socialist group in seven (if the currently suspended Smer and Hlas are included). The Liberals/Renew, the ID (far-right) and the GUE-NGL (far-left) are ahead in two countries each, the Eurosceptic-national conservative ECR in one country. In Hungary, Fidesz was leading and in Latvia and the Netherlands, formally independent parties were ahead collectively.
- › The picture is somewhat different if one looks at the strongest single party rather than the largest party family: Then the EPP leads in ten countries, the Socialists in six, the Liberals/Renew and the ID in three, the ECR and the Left in two each. In Hungary, Fidesz (not yet part of a political family) is in the lead. The lead over other party families or other individual parties is often very narrow (e.g. Portugal, Slovenia, Poland, Belgium, Denmark, Bulgaria), or other polls show another party family or individual party in front.

Situation in the European Council

- › Eight of the 27 heads of state and government in the European Council currently belong to the EPP family, in the coming months this number is expected to grow to ten (likely changes of government in Luxembourg and Poland).
- › Six heads of state and government belong to the Liberals/Renew, soon probably only five.
- › Five belong to the Social Democrats/Socialists (S&D), soon probably six (though Smer is currently suspended from PES).
- › Three belong to the Eurosceptic Conservatives of the ECR, this should soon drop to two.
- › Five are formally independent (one of them an interim MP in Slovakia, so soon probably only four), including the Prime Minister of Hungary.

Key developments in the reporting period (II)

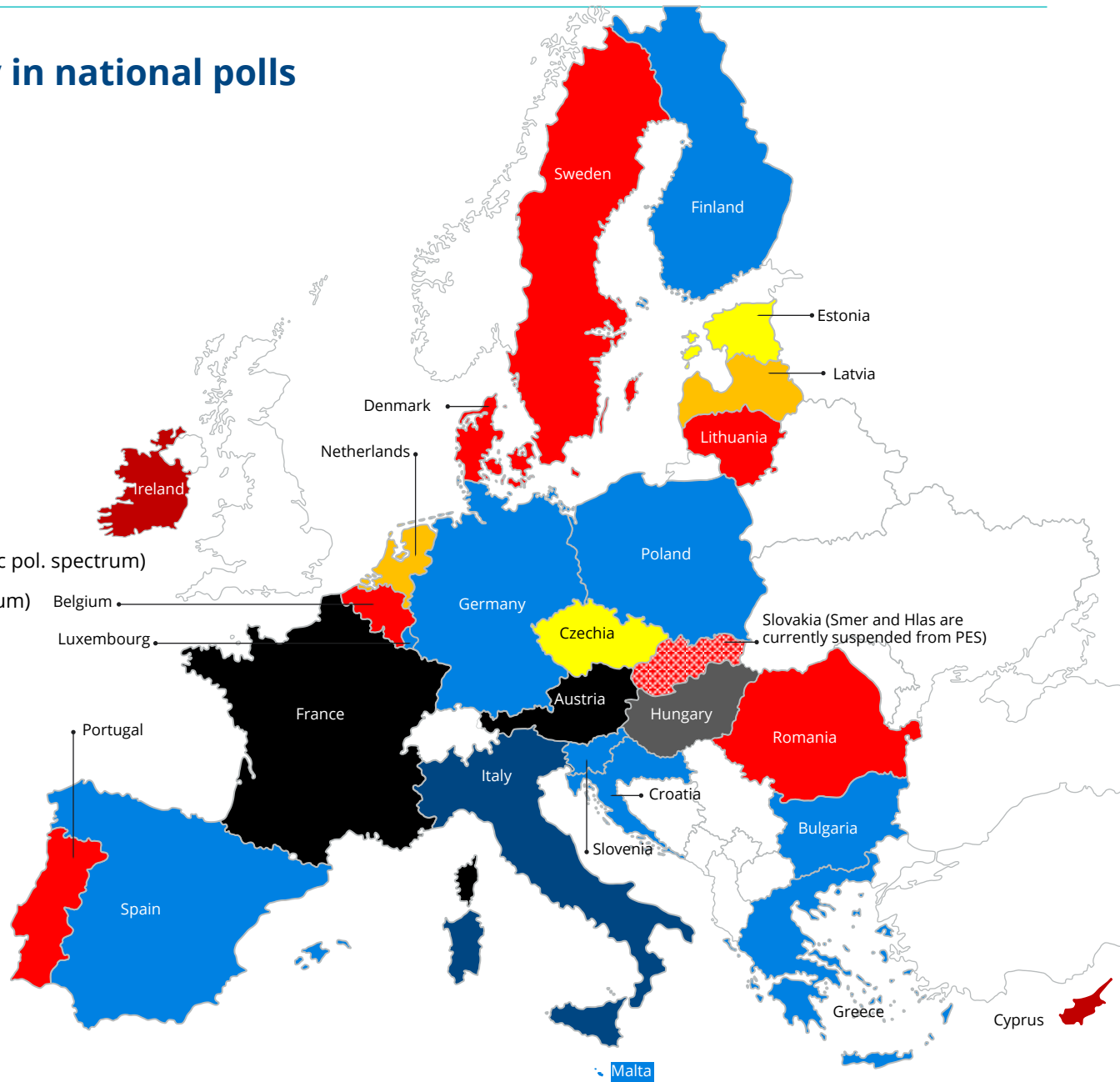
Developments in 2023 elections

- › The situation of the EPP family in the European Council & in countries with parliamentary elections:
 - › Although the EPP family in **Cyprus** lost its EPP representative after the presidential elections, the current president was formerly a member of DISY (EPP) and is invited to the relevant EPP gatherings.
 - › In **Estonia** Isamaa was in opposition after the elections but has since been on the rise.
 - › In **Finland** the EPP party Kokoomus won the elections and now leads the government.
 - › In **Greece** the ND clearly won the elections and continues to provide the prime minister.
 - › In **Spain** the PP became the strongest force with over 33%, an attempt to form a government failed, a socialist-led government or new elections are now the most likely scenarios.
 - › Consultations on the formation of a (short-term) government between PP-DB and GERB in **Bulgaria** were successful, and in the spring of 2024 Marija Gabriel (GERB, EPP) will take over as prime minister.
 - › In **Slovakia** only two EPP partner parties (OĽaNO and allies as well as the KDH) managed to enter parliament, probably neither of them will be part of the left-national government led by Robert Fico.
 - › In **Luxembourg** the CSV clearly won the elections and will provide the next prime minister (probably in a coalition with the liberal DP).
 - › In **Poland** the EPP parties combined were ahead of PiS, which will not have a majority in the Sejm not even with Konfederacja. A government led by KO (Koalicja Obywatelska, Civic Coalition) is therefore very likely.
 - › In the **Netherlands** there will be new elections in November, and the EPP partner party is threatened with a heavy electoral defeat, also due to two new forces from the CDA circle. Given the high volatility of the polls, the outcome of the election and the formation of a coalition seem to be very open in the post-election period.

Strongest party family in national polls

Legend

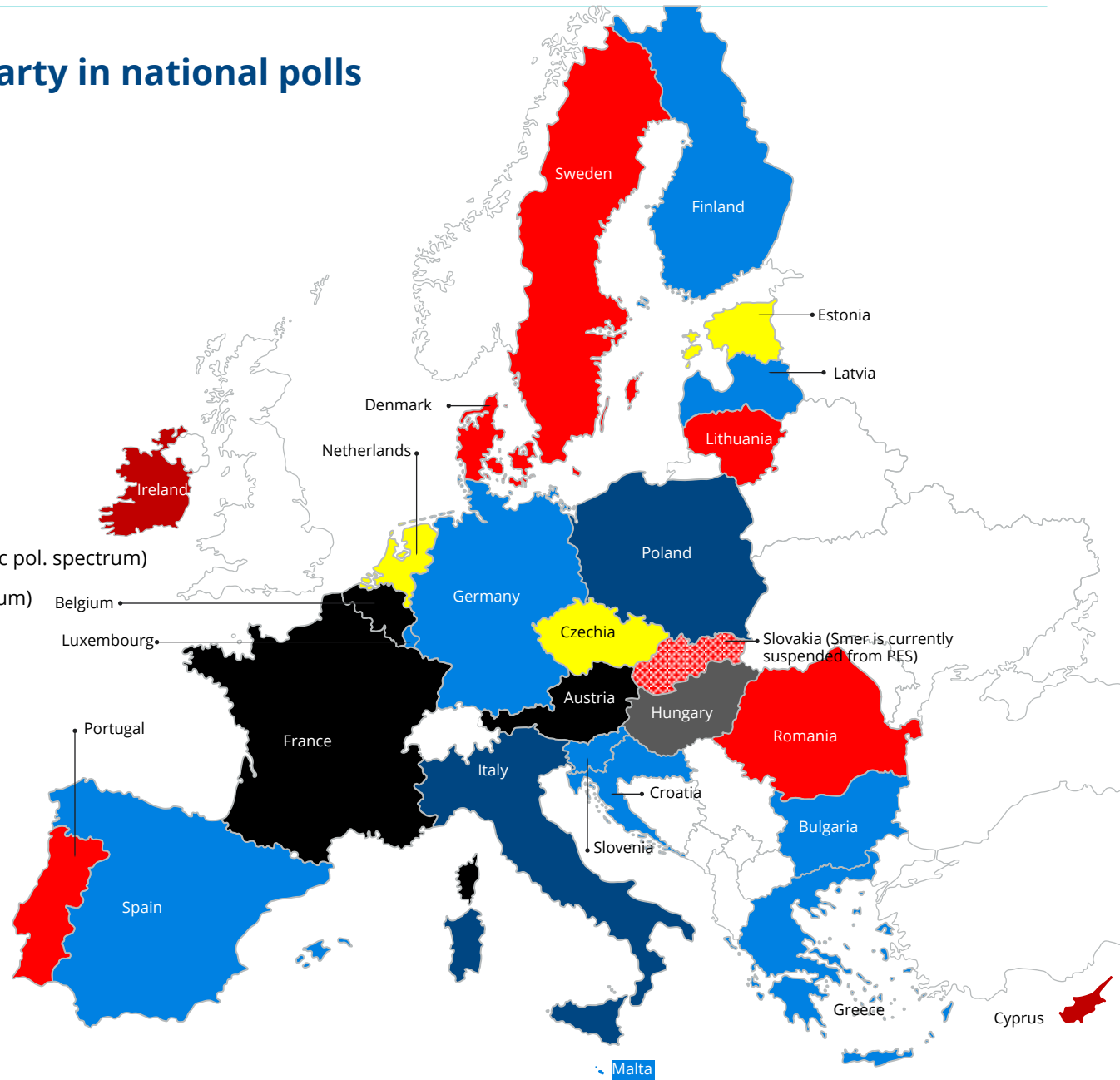
- EPP family
- PES / S&D family
- Renew (mostly liberals)
- ECR
- Greens/EFA
- GUE/NGL - The Left (far-left)
- ID (far-right)
- Independent (right-wing Eurosceptic pol. spectrum)
- Independent (moderate pol. spectrum)



Strongest individual party in national polls

Legend

- EPP family
- PES / S&D family
- Renew (liberals)
- ECR
- Greens/EFA
- GUE/NGL – The Left
- ID / (right-wing populists)
- Independent (right-wing Eurosceptic pol. spectrum)
- Independent (moderate pol. spectrum)



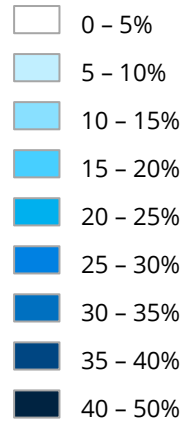
Strength of the EPP family and the individual strongest EPP parties in each of the EU Member States

Election result of the largest EPP partner party in the last national parliamentary elections

(In the top brackets: date of the next expected national parliamentary election

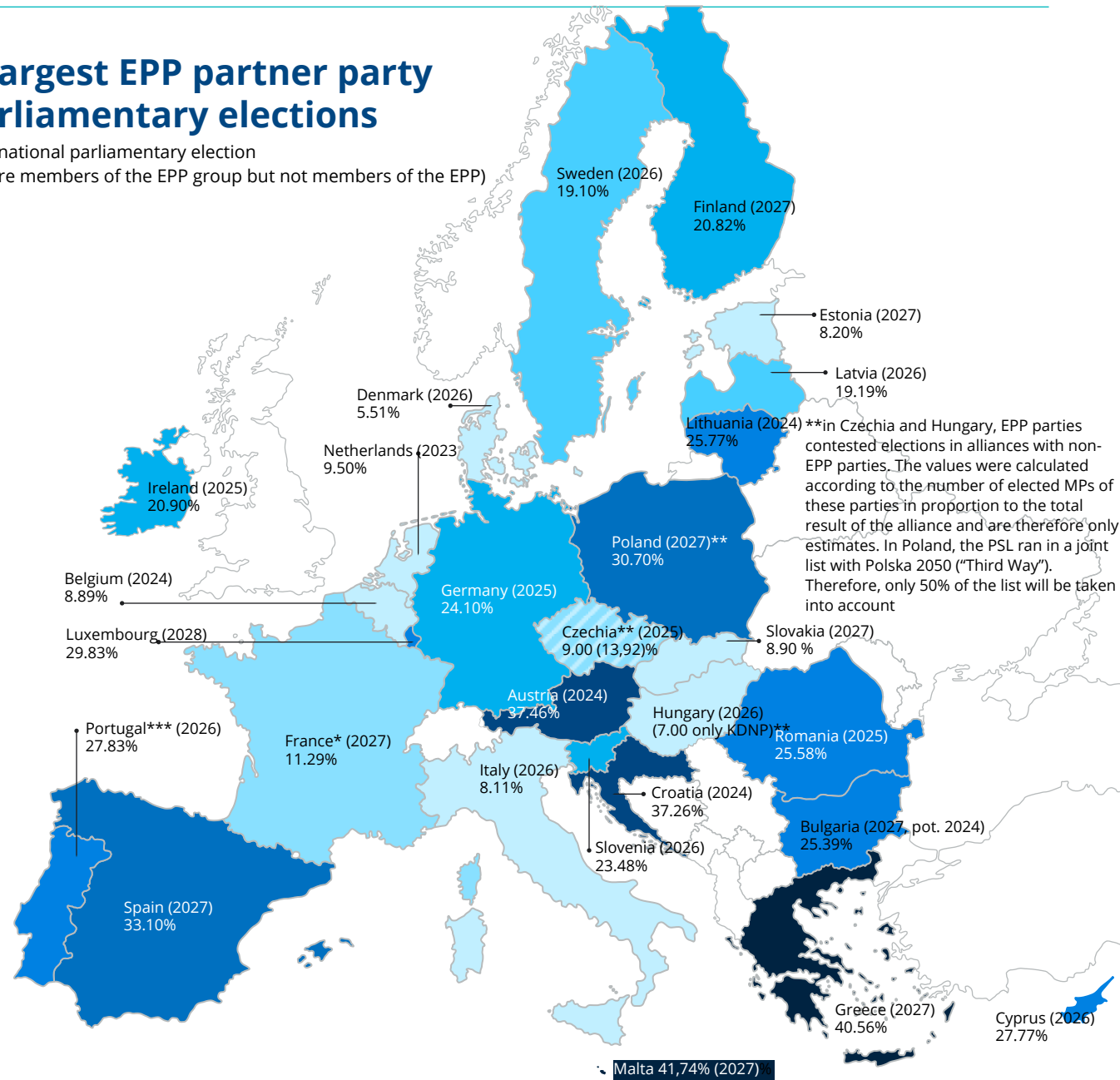
In the bottom brackets: values of parties that are members of the EPP group but not members of the EPP)

Legend



*the values refer to the first round of the 2022 parliamentary elections

***in Portugal, the PSD entered into list affiliations with the CDS-PP in the Azores and Madeira. Only the result of the individual list is counted here.



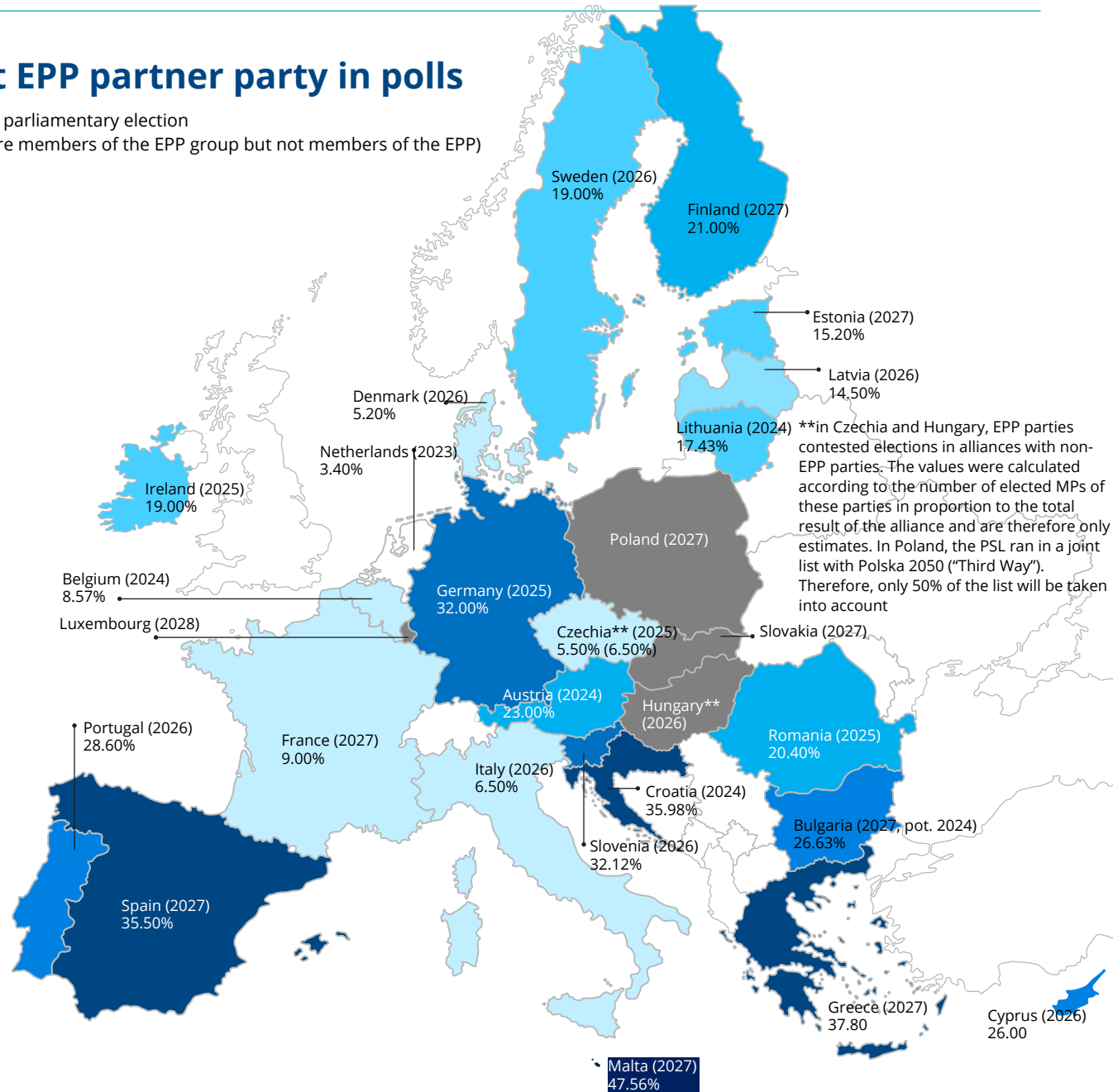
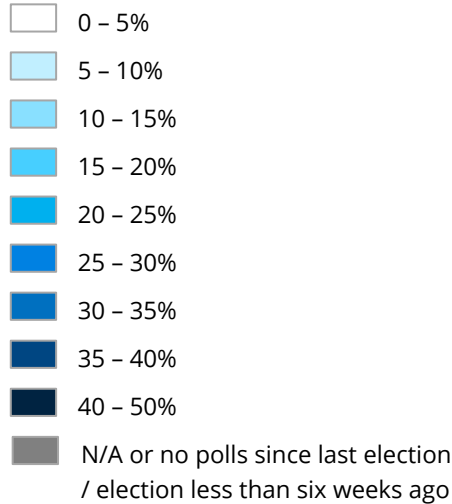
**in Czechia and Hungary, EPP parties contested elections in alliances with non-EPP parties. The values were calculated according to the number of elected MPs of these parties in proportion to the total result of the alliance and are therefore only estimates. In Poland, the PSL ran in a joint list with Polska 2050 ("Third Way"). Therefore, only 50% of the list will be taken into account

Strength of the largest EPP partner party in polls

(in brackets: date of the next expected national parliamentary election)

In the bottom brackets: values of parties that are members of the EPP group but not members of the EPP

Legend



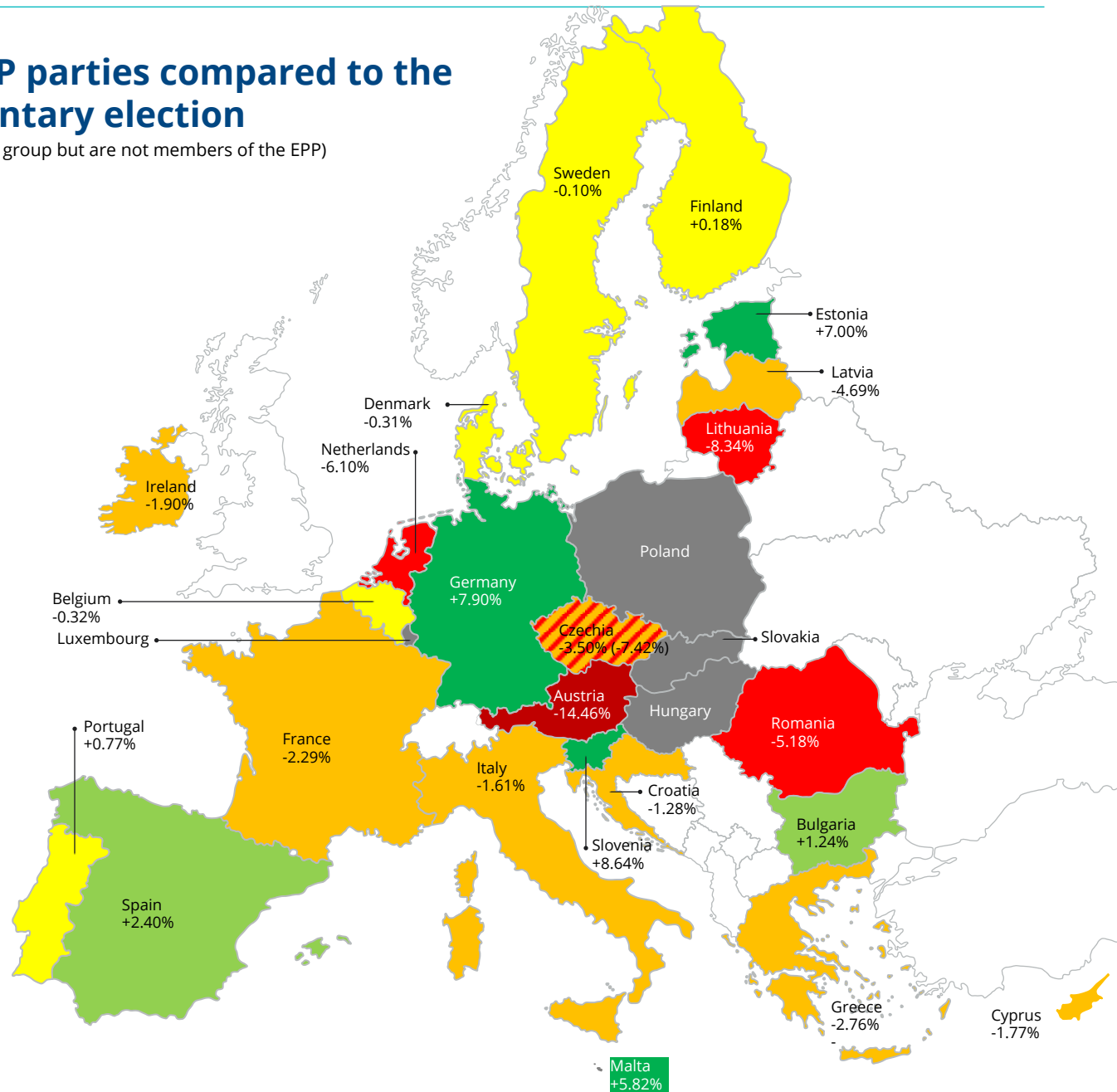
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Gains / losses of all EPP parties compared to the last national parliamentary election

(in brackets: including parties that sit in the EPP group but are not members of the EPP)

Legend

- 10 up to - 20%
- 5 up to - 10%
- 1 up to - 5%
- 1 up to + 1%
- + 1 up to + 5%
- + 5 up to + 10%
- + 10 up to + 20%
- N/A /
No polls since the last election /
Election less than six weeks ago

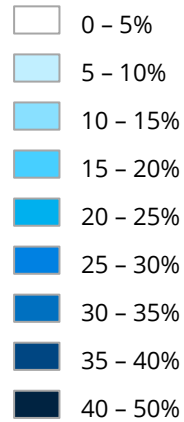


Election result of the EPP family in the last national parliamentary elections

(In the top brackets: date of the next expected national parliamentary election

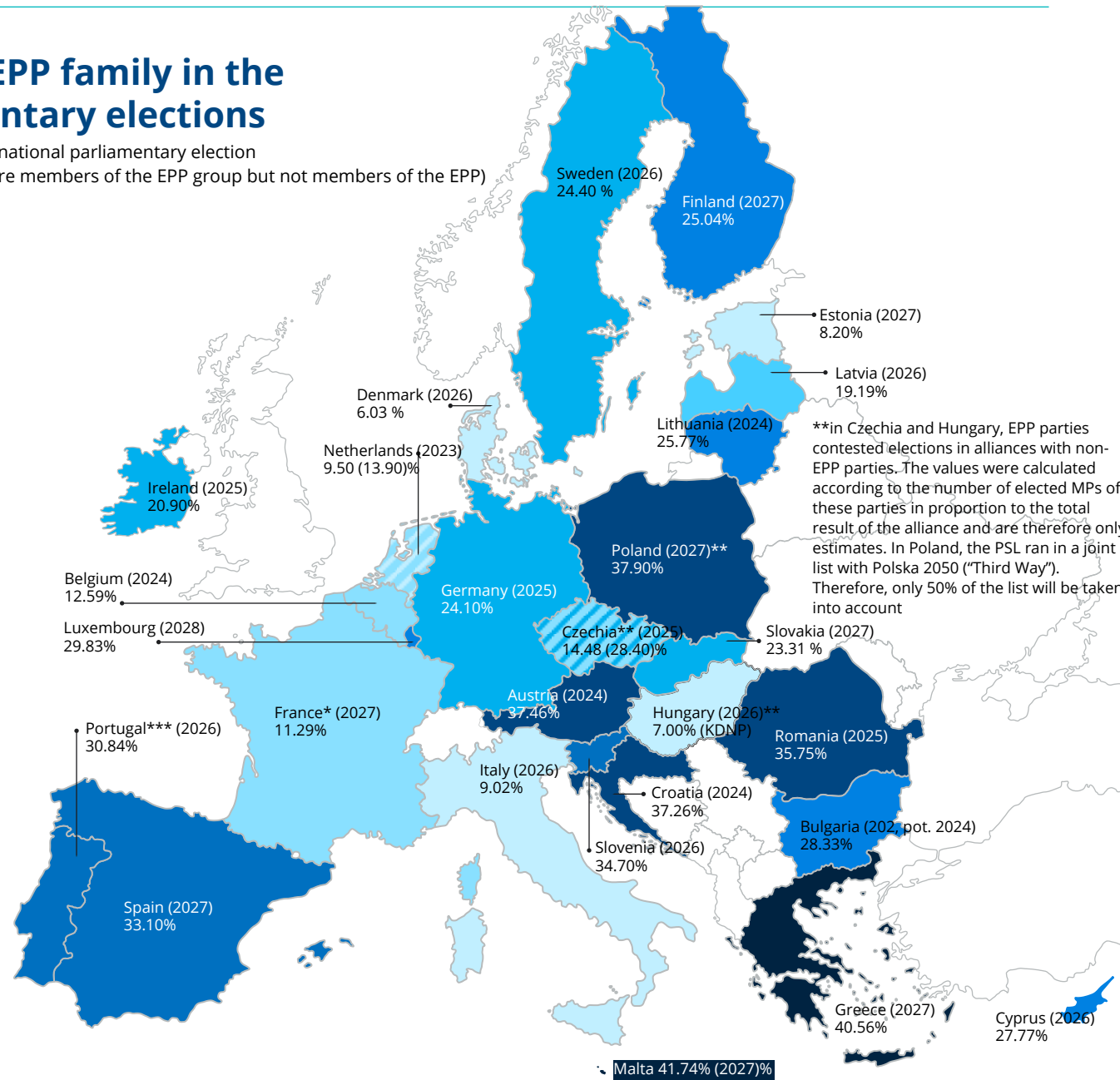
In the bottom brackets: values of parties that are members of the EPP group but not members of the EPP)

Legend



*the values refer to the first round of the 2022 parliamentary elections

***in Portugal, the PSD entered into list affiliations with the CDS-PP in the Azores and Madeira. Their result is included here



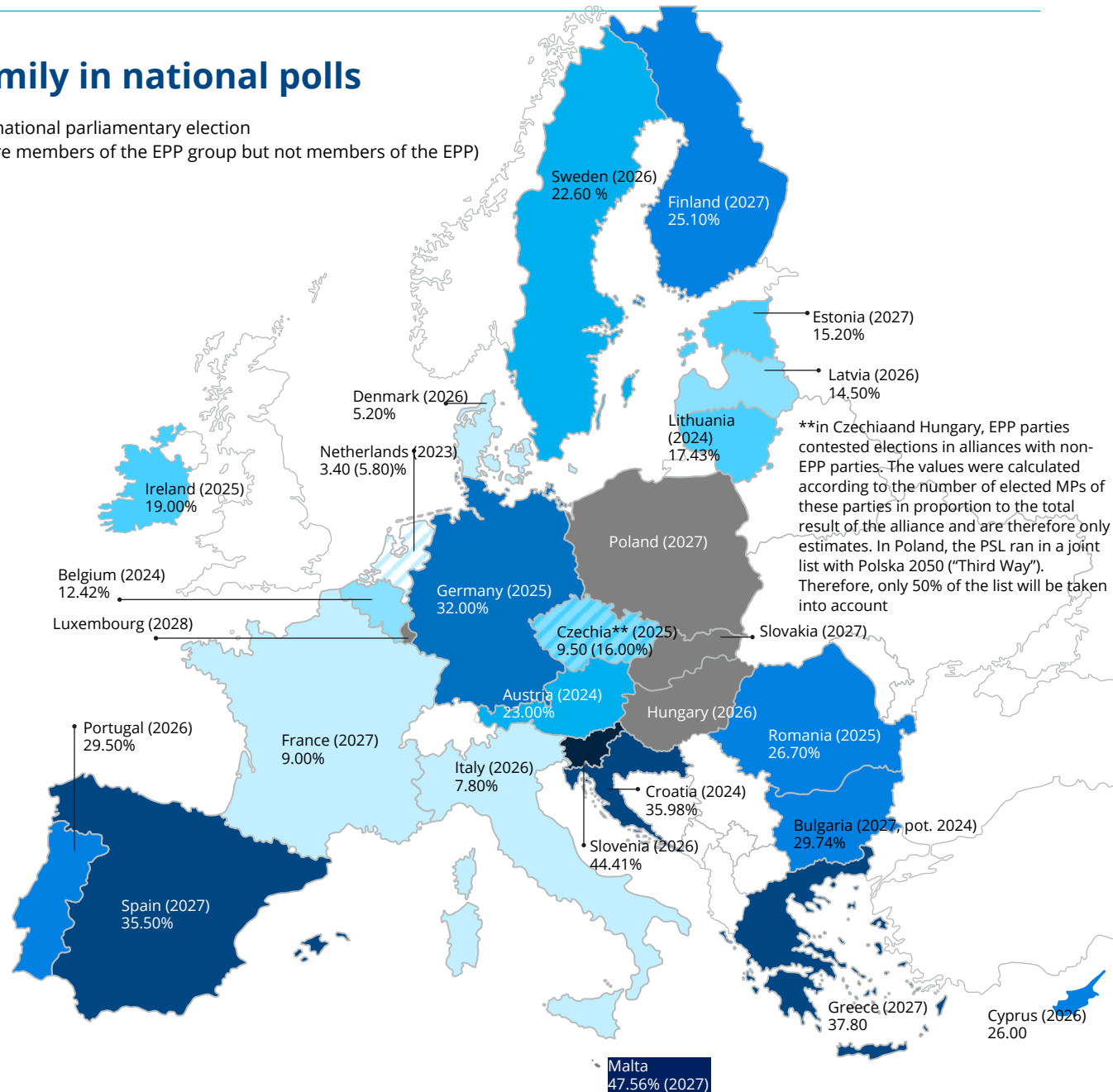
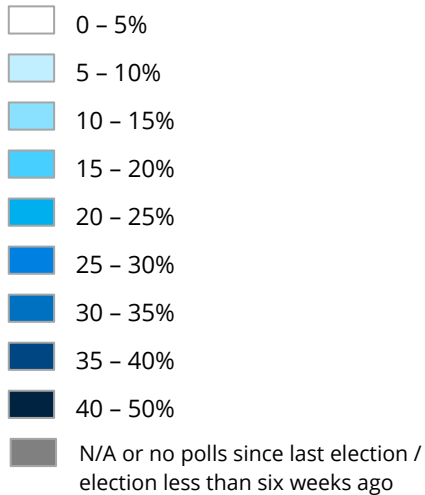
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Strength of the EPP family in national polls

(In the top brackets: date of the next expected national parliamentary election)

(In the bottom brackets: values of parties that are members of the EPP group but not members of the EPP)

Legend

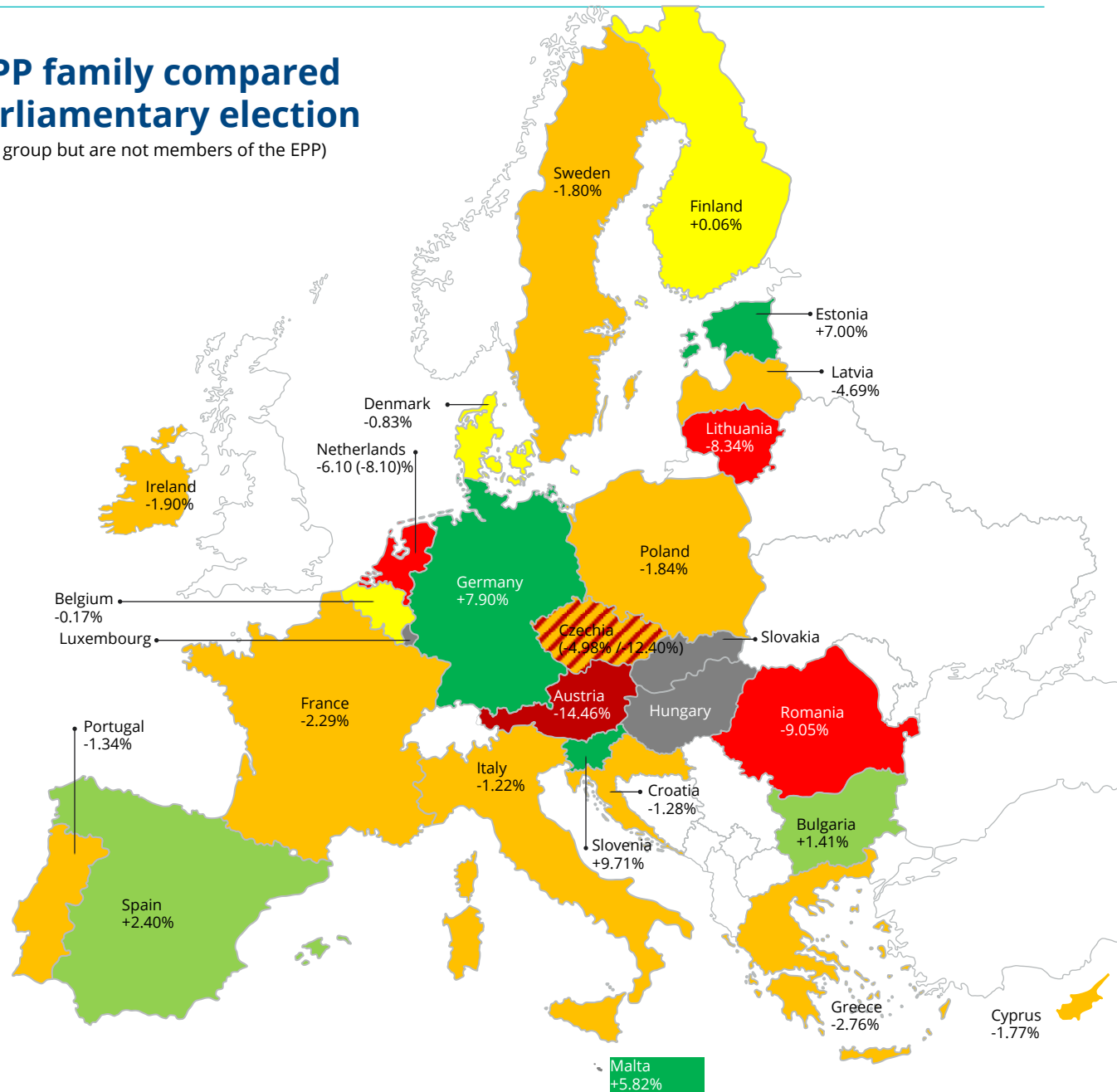


Gains / losses of the EPP family compared to the last national parliamentary election

(in brackets: including parties that sit in the EPP group but are not members of the EPP)

Legend

- 10 up to - 30%
- 5 up to - 10%
- 1 up to - 5%
- 1 up to + 1%
- + 1 up to + 5%
- + 5 up to + 10%
- + 10 up to + 20%
- N/A /
No polls since the last election / Election less than six weeks ago

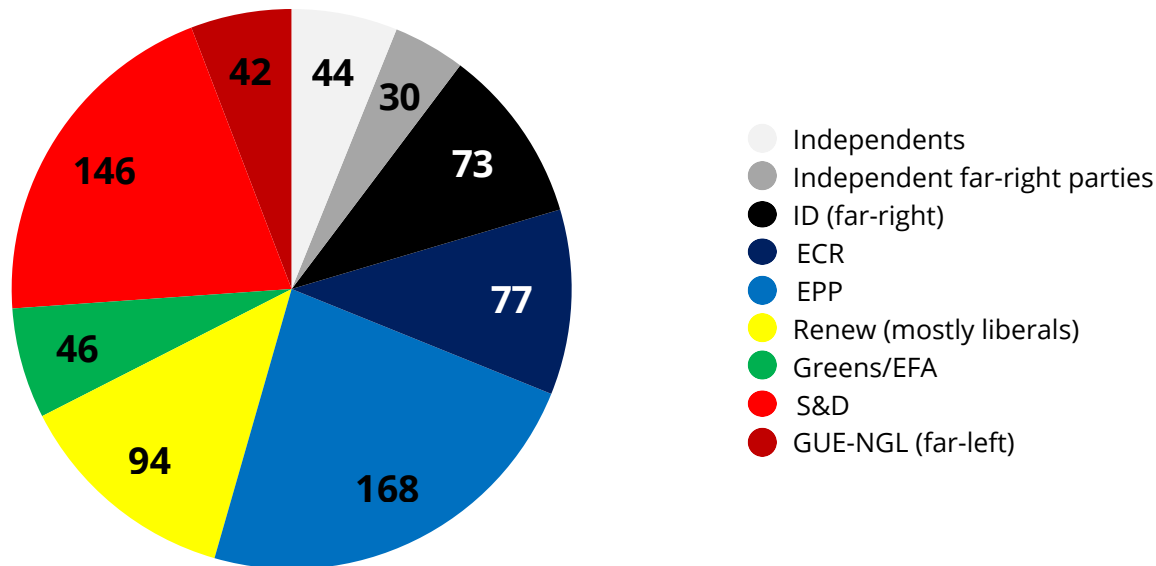


Composition of the EP

Composition of the EP

Composition of the European Parliament with unchanged political groups

- › IMPORTANT: National polls can only be used with restrictions as a gauge of public opinion for the EP elections. The figures presented here should therefore be treated with caution.
- › If the membership of the various political groups in the EP were to remain constant then the following picture would emerge:
 - › **The EPP** will lose seats compared to the 2019 EP elections despite the increase in the total number of seats, **but will still remain the largest force in the EP**. The number of seats will probably be between 156 and 175.
 - › The Socialists will gain a few seats but remain the second force, albeit with a smaller gap to the EPP (the gap would grow if Smer and Hlas MEPs will not (re-)join the group after the elections).
 - › The Liberals remain the third force, but - depending on the potential of the still non-affiliated forces - not beyond the reach of the ECR.
 - › The two groups to the right of the EPP, the ECR and ID, will gain seats, while the Greens will lose significant numbers of seats.



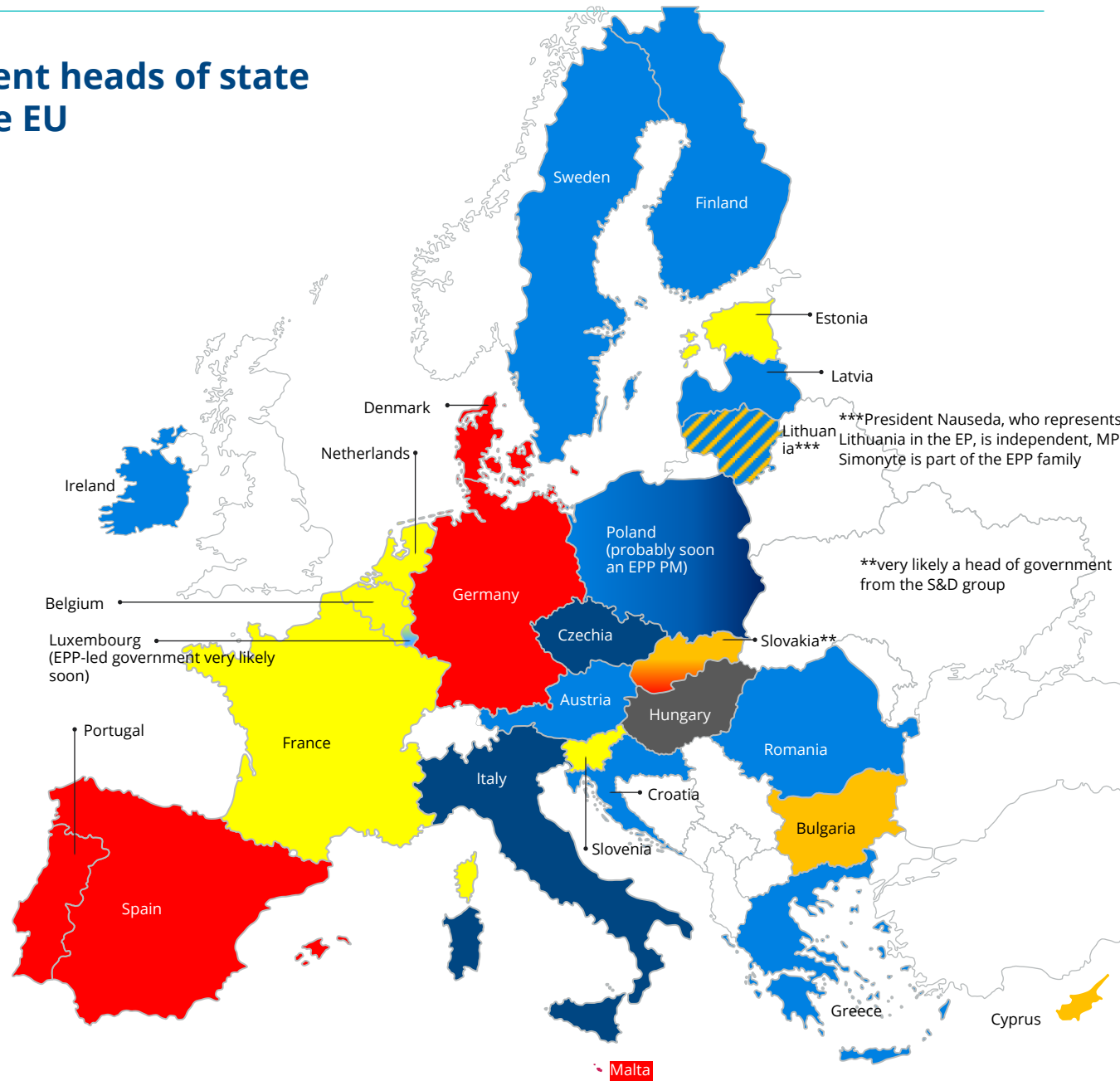
Government participation of the EPP group



Political group of current heads of state and government in the EU

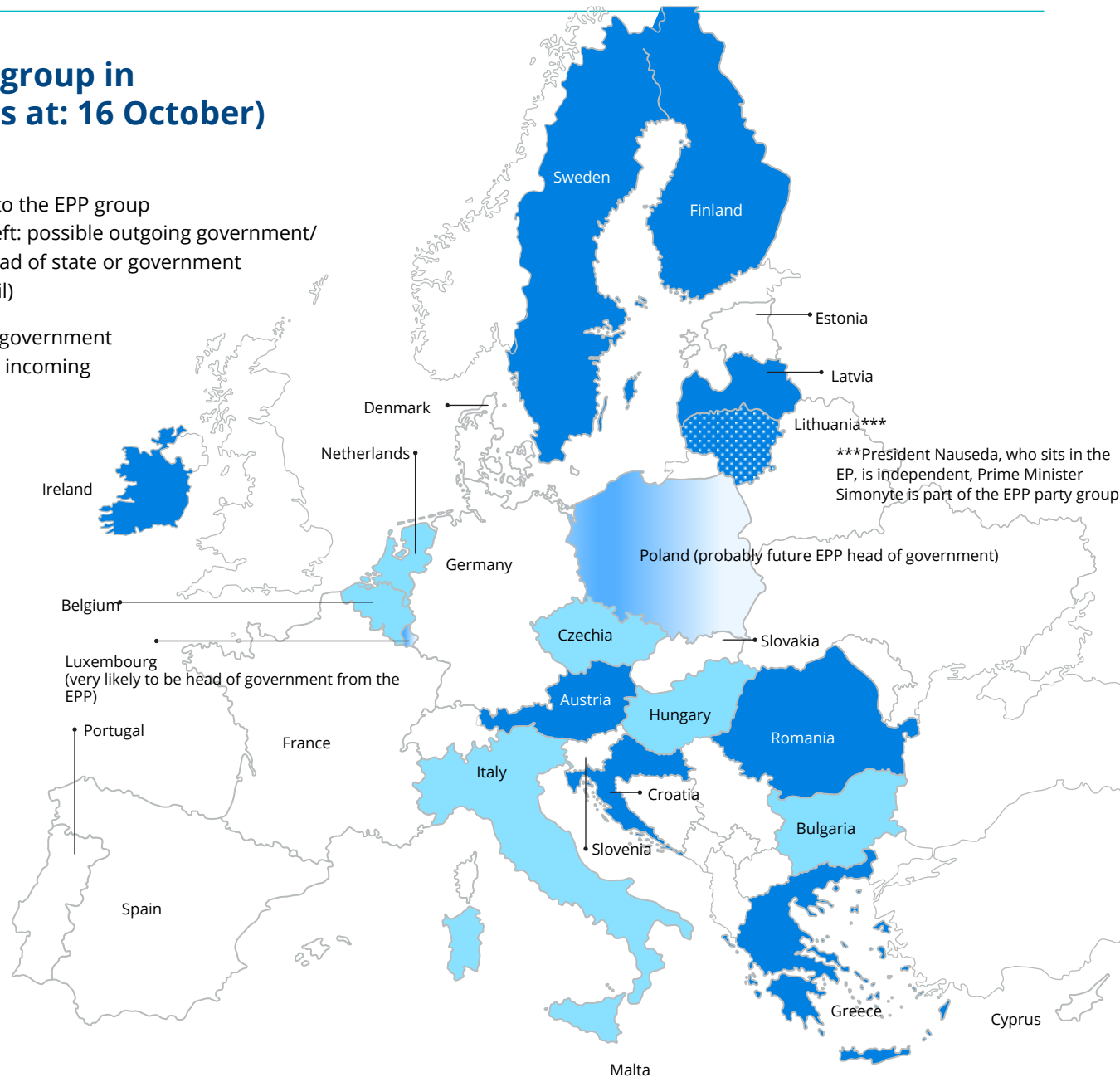
Legend

- EPP family
- SPE / S&D family
- Renew (liberals)
- ECR
- Greens/EFA
- GUE/NGL - The Left
- ID / (right-wing populists)
- Independent (Fidesz)
- Other independents



Participation of the EPP group in government in the EU (as at: 16 October)

- Head of state/government belongs to the EPP group
(hatched from bottom right to top left: possible outgoing government/
dotted: different affiliation of the head of state or government
represented in the European Council)
- Parties of the EPP group involved in government
(hatched from l. bottom to top right: incoming government)



Comments

- › In Belgium, polls are only collected at the regional level: In order to obtain an adequate result at the national level, these individual results were each weighted according to the number of eligible voters (voting is compulsory) and the actual turnout. Minor deviations may occur. In Belgium, the partner parties CD&V, CSP, CDH only compete regionally, and the results in the individual regions are weighted accordingly. The CSP only stands in European elections; in national elections it is part of the CDH, since the Belgian House of Representatives is composed according to regions (Flanders, Wallonia, Brussels) and not according to language communities.
- › In several countries, the polls include the undecided and the non-voters in the total (100%), and the poll figures were extrapolated accordingly. Example: Party A is polling at 13%. 30% of the respondents will not vote, 20% of the respondents are undecided. Accordingly, support for Party A is reported at 26%.
- › In Germany, the CDU and CSU are not listed as two separate parties because of the parliamentary grouping and because they are always combined in polls.
- › In Poland, the KO is strongly dominated by the PO, although other smaller non-EPP parties also belong to it. Accordingly, the KO result is counted entirely as an “EPP result”. The Third Way is an alliance of PSL and Polska 2050. Since they are two roughly equal partners, only 50% of the Third Way result is counted as an “EPP result”.
- › In several countries, parties are part of the EPP group but do not belong to the EPP, in some cases they even belong to another party group, e.g. CU, 50 Plus in the Netherlands, STAN in Czechia. The corresponding results are listed in brackets.
- › Some parties belonging to the ECR group are right-wing populists or have strong right-wing populist elements. As this is now an established party group, parties belonging to it are listed as part of the ECR group and not as “right-wing populists”.
- › In the Czechia, the parties that are part of the EPP group in the EP ran in an electoral alliance with non-EPP parties. The KDU-ČSL and TOP 09 with the ODS (ECR) and STAN (EPP group) with the Pirates. The values were calculated according to the number of elected MPs of these parties in proportion to the total result of the alliance and are therefore only estimates. The same applies to two of the EPP member parties in Bulgaria.
- › In Hungary, no separate poll figures are listed for KDNP (EPP) and Fidesz (no longer EPP since 2021).

Sources

Ipsos (Belgium), Market Links (Bulgaria), Voxmeter (Denmark), Forsa (Germany), Norstat (Estonia), Kantar TNS (Finland), Ifop (France), Pulse/RC (Greece), Ireland Thinks (Ireland), EGM (Italy), Ipsos (Croatia), SDKS (Latvia), Spinter tyrimai (Lithuania), Ilres (Luxembourg), Malta Today (Malta), Ipsos (Netherlands), OGM (Austria), Ibris (Poland), Intercampus (Portugal), INSCOP (Romania), Novus (Sweden), AKO (Slovakia), Mediana (Slovenia), NC Report (Spain), Median (Czechia), Zavecz (Hungary), Pulse (Cyprus)

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