



CEC Weekly Political Update **24th May 2019**

European Parliament: pre-election summary

The European Parliament election has already taken place in the UK and the Netherlands. However, the results of these votes will only be officially published once all 28 EU states have conducted the election. In Poland, the EP campaign comes to an end today – past 23:59, there will be a ban on campaign activities. The so-called “election silence” period is supposed to provide voters with time for reflection and thought before the Sunday vote. The CEC Update based on exit-polls will be sent out on Monday morning, but we will provide live updates on Sunday evening on our Twitter profile (@cecgr).

Last days of the campaign

The last weeks of the election campaign have proven eventful. Throughout recent months the ruling PiS party has managed to dominate the public debate through narratives on its new spending plans and social programmes – so-called “Kaczyński’s New Five”. The opposition tried to discredit these proposals, however with little effect. Commentators note that in the last stretch of the campaign, PiS has lost some momentum while other parties, such as Robert Biedroń’s Spring and the right-wing newcomer Confederation managed to capitalise on the ensuing debates – especially in regard to the relations between the state and the church, as well as PM Morawiecki’s wealth. The largest opposition party, the European Coalition, failed to take advantage and forward its narrative. However, commentators believe that it may have benefited from the support of European Council President Donald Tusk.

Forecasts

The average support for electoral committees (5 of the most recent polls):

Law and Justice: 39,5%

European Coalition: 37,5%

Robert Biedroń’s Spring: 8,5%

Confederation: 5,5%

Kukiz’15: 5,5%

Together: 3,0%

Others: 0,5%

Mandates

Poland currently holds 51 mandates in the European Parliament. If and when Brexit takes place, Poland will be granted an additional 1 mandate, amounting to a total of 52.

In the current EP term (accounting for transfers throughout the term):

Civic Platform: 18

Polish Agrarian Party: 4

Law and Justice: 17

Right-wing of Poland: 1

True Europe Movement: 1

Democratic Left Alliance: 3

Labour Union: 1

Independents: 2

Congress of the New Right: 2

KORWiN: 1

The European Parliament threshold amounts to 5% – electoral committees with a result below this percentage will not receive mandates. The number of mandates granted to parties above the threshold will be determined, accounting for those below the threshold.

The contenders

List number 1 – Confederation Korwin Braun Liroy Nationalists: An alliance of the Liberty party, the National Movement party and the Federation for the Polish Republic party. Furthermore, the alliance is spearheaded by Grzegorz Braun, Piotr Liroy Marzec, Kaja Godek and Janusz Korwin–Mikke. The Confederation has strong right–wing views. Commentators argue that in the final days of the campaign, the Confederation may have stolen some votes from PiS’ conservative voter base.

List number 2 – Robert Biedroń's Wiosna (Spring) Party: Spring (Wiosna) is a social–democratic and pro–European political party. It was announced at the beginning of February. The party has liberal views. It is strongly anti–clerical, feminist and pro–ecological. Initially, there were high expectations for the party, however, due to a mediocre campaign as well as organisational difficulties it lost some of its initial standing.

List number 3 – European Coalition (Civic Platform, Polish Agrarian Party and Democratic Left Alliance, Modern Party, Greens): The European Coalition is a political alliance spearheaded by former prime ministers and former foreign ministers. The Coalition is pro–EU and represents centrist views. The alliance is the biggest opposition to the ruling PiS party. It has the support of European Council President Donald Tusk. However, the wide alliance also means that its campaign messages have been toned to account for all its members and views.

List number 4 – Law and Justice: Law and Justice party is a national–conservative, Christian democratic party. It is currently in government

and the largest party in the Polish parliament. It is critical of the EU and would see a reform of its current organisation and functioning.

List number 5 – Left Together – Razem Party, Labour Union, Movement for Social Justice: The alliance is spearheaded by Razem, which is a left-wing party. It was founded after the Democratic Left Alliance suffered defeat in the past parliamentary and presidential elections. It enjoys the support of younger Poles, especially those from larger agglomerations.

List number 6 – Kukiz '15: Kukiz'15 is a political movement led by Paweł Kukiz. It is widely considered to have anti-establishment views. It lacks a coherent view; however, it remains on the right side of the political spectrum. Kukiz'15 did not put much effort into this campaign, rather waing for the Autumn parliamentary election.

(The remaining electoral committees did not register in all constituencies.)

List number 7 – Fair Play Poland Robert Gwiazdowski & Independents: Poland Fair Play is a Polish conservative liberal movement. It is an alliance between the Polish economist Robert Gwiazdowski and members of the Independents – a movement of local politicians, which first took part in the 2018 local elections.

List number 9 – Polexit-Coalition: The Polexit party was registered by MEP Stanisław Żółtek. The primary aim of the party is to revoke Poland's membership in the EU.

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