

EPP Party Barometer

February / March 2024

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Key developments in the reporting period

Situation of the EPP family in the EU

- › Opinion polls from 11 countries indicate the EPP as the strongest political group, with the Socialists leading in 6 countries, but this includes the currently suspended Slovak parties Smer and Hlas.
- › The ID group (far-right), and the liberal Renew are at the forefront in 3 countries each.
- › The Left and the ECR top the polls in one country apiece.
- › In Hungary, Fidesz holds the lead, though it is not yet affiliated with any particular party group.
- › In Latvia, parties that are officially independent are in the lead.

When examining the strongest individual party rather than the largest party family:

- › The EPP is leading in 13 countries, the Socialists in 6 (including Smer), the ID in 4, and the ECR, the Left, and the Liberals each lead in one country.
- › Fidesz in Hungary, not yet part of a new party family but intending to join the ECR group in the EP, is ahead.
- › Leadership margins over other party families or individual parties are often narrow, with close contests in countries like Portugal, Poland, Cyprus, Belgium, Denmark, Lithuania and Bulgaria.
- › Poll variations sometimes show different frontrunners due to the close nature of these political races.

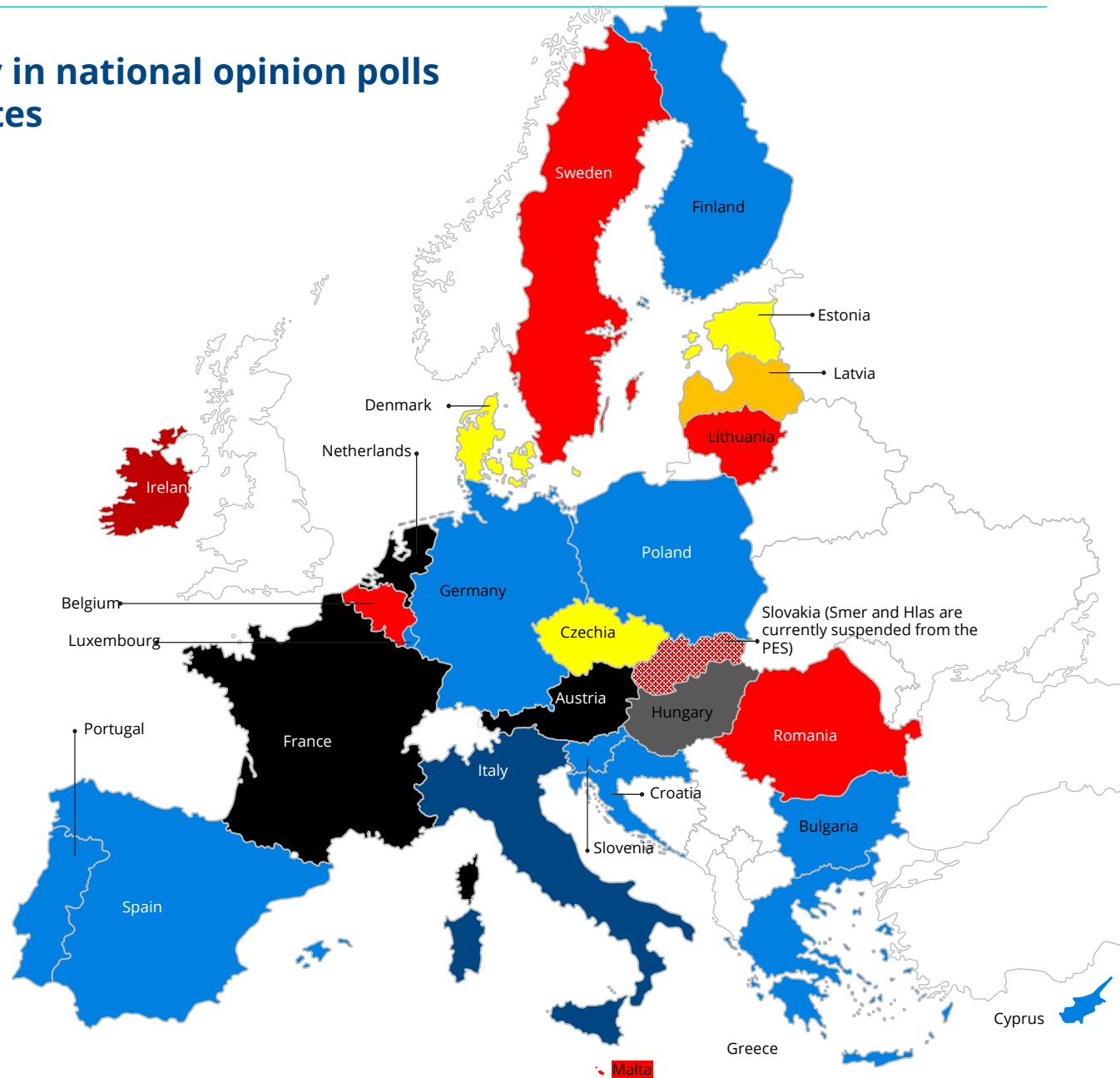
Situation in the European Council

- › 10 of the 27 heads of state or government in the European Council belong to the EPP family. If the President of Cyprus (formerly a member of an EPP party, now independent, but still invited to EPP summits) is included, the EPP has 11 heads of state and government in the European Council. In the course of March, the EPP could provide another head of government due to the agreed rotation in Bulgaria (Mariya Gabriel).
- › 6 (5) belong to the Social Democrats/Socialists (S&D) (but only if Smer/Robert Fico is included despite his suspension from the PES).
- › 6 heads of state and government belong to the Liberals/Renew. soon possibly only 5 (see above).
- › 2 belong to the Eurosceptic conservatives of the ECR.
- › 3 are formally independent, including the Prime Minister of Hungary. If the President of Cyprus is not included (see above), there would only be 2 independents.

Strongest party family in national opinion polls in the EU member states

Legend

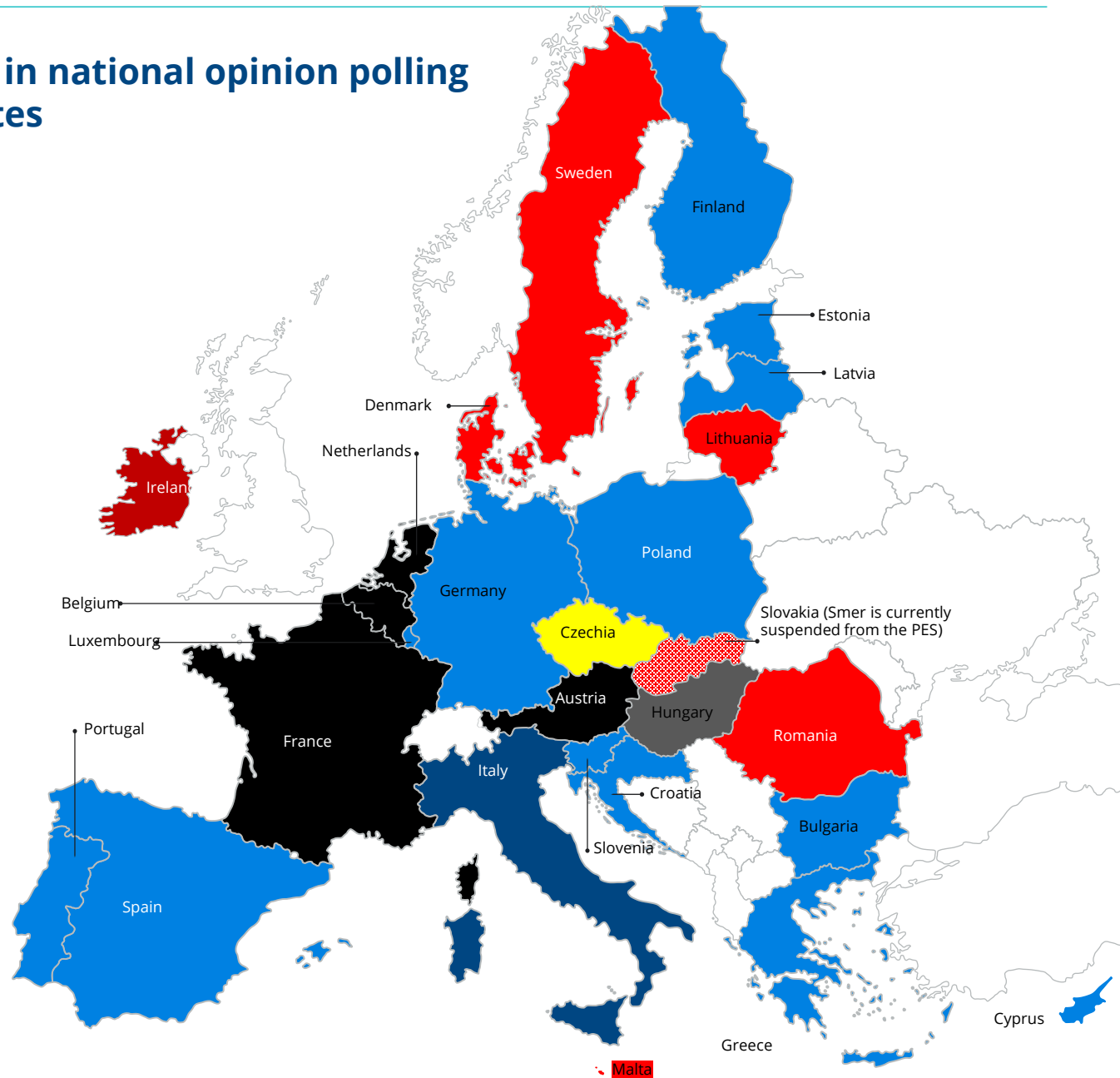
- EPP family
- PES / S&D family
- ALDE & Renew family (liberals)
- ECR family
- Greens/EFA
- The Left (GUE/NGL)
- ID (far-right)
- Independents (far-right)
- Independents (moderates)



Strongest single party in national opinion polling in the EU member states

Legend

- EPP family
- PES / S&D family
- ALDE & Renew family (liberals)
- ECR family
- Greens/EFA
- The Left (GUE/NGL)
- ID (far-right)
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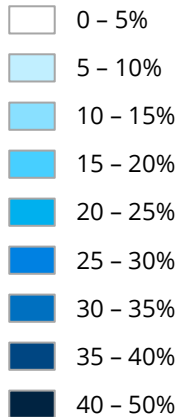


Strength of the EPP family and the strongest individual EPP parties in the EU member states

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

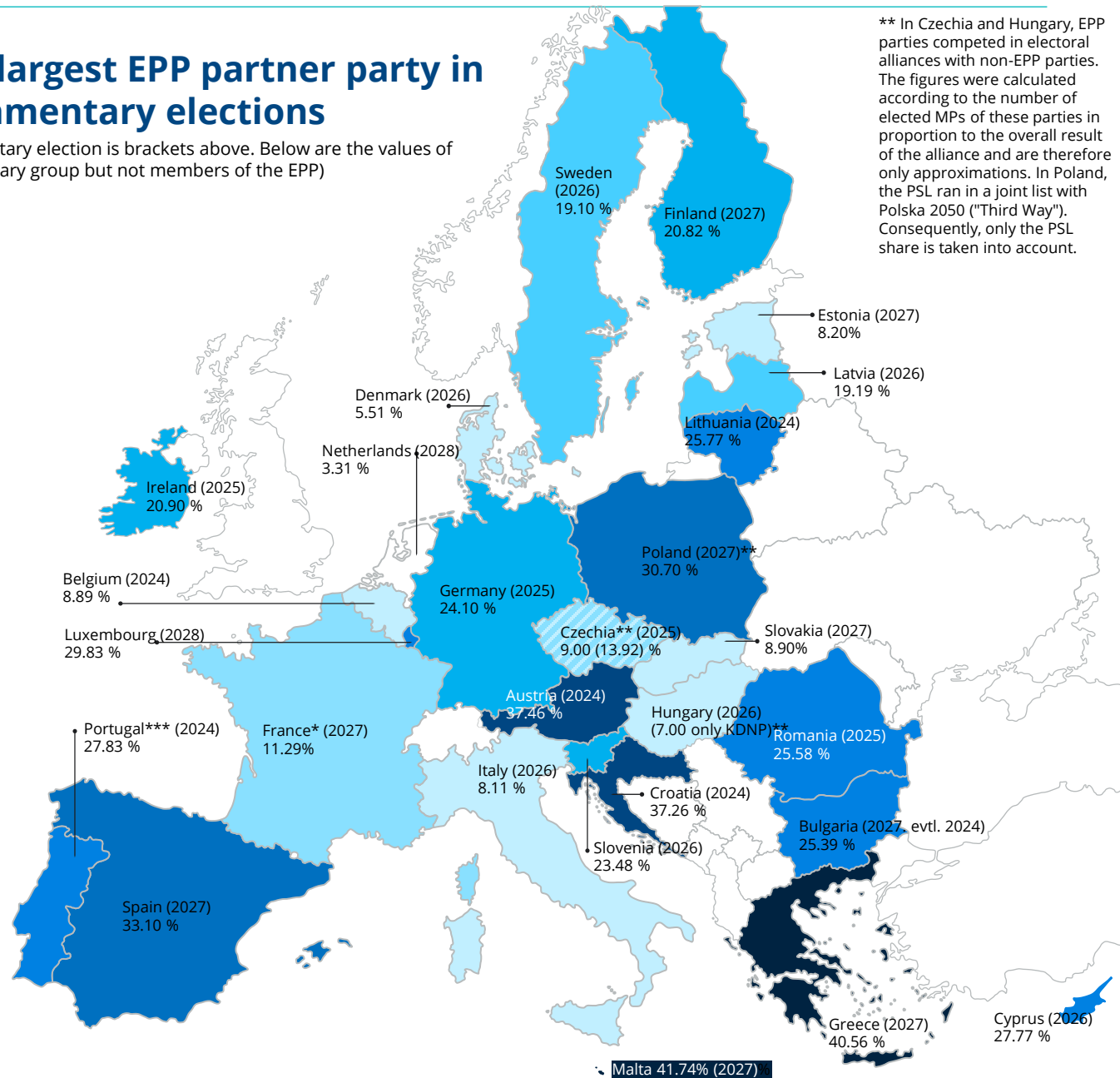
(Anticipated date of the next national parliamentary election is brackets above. Below are the values of parties that are members of the EPP parliamentary group but not members of the EPP)

Legend



*the numbers refer to the first round of the 2022 parliamentary election

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



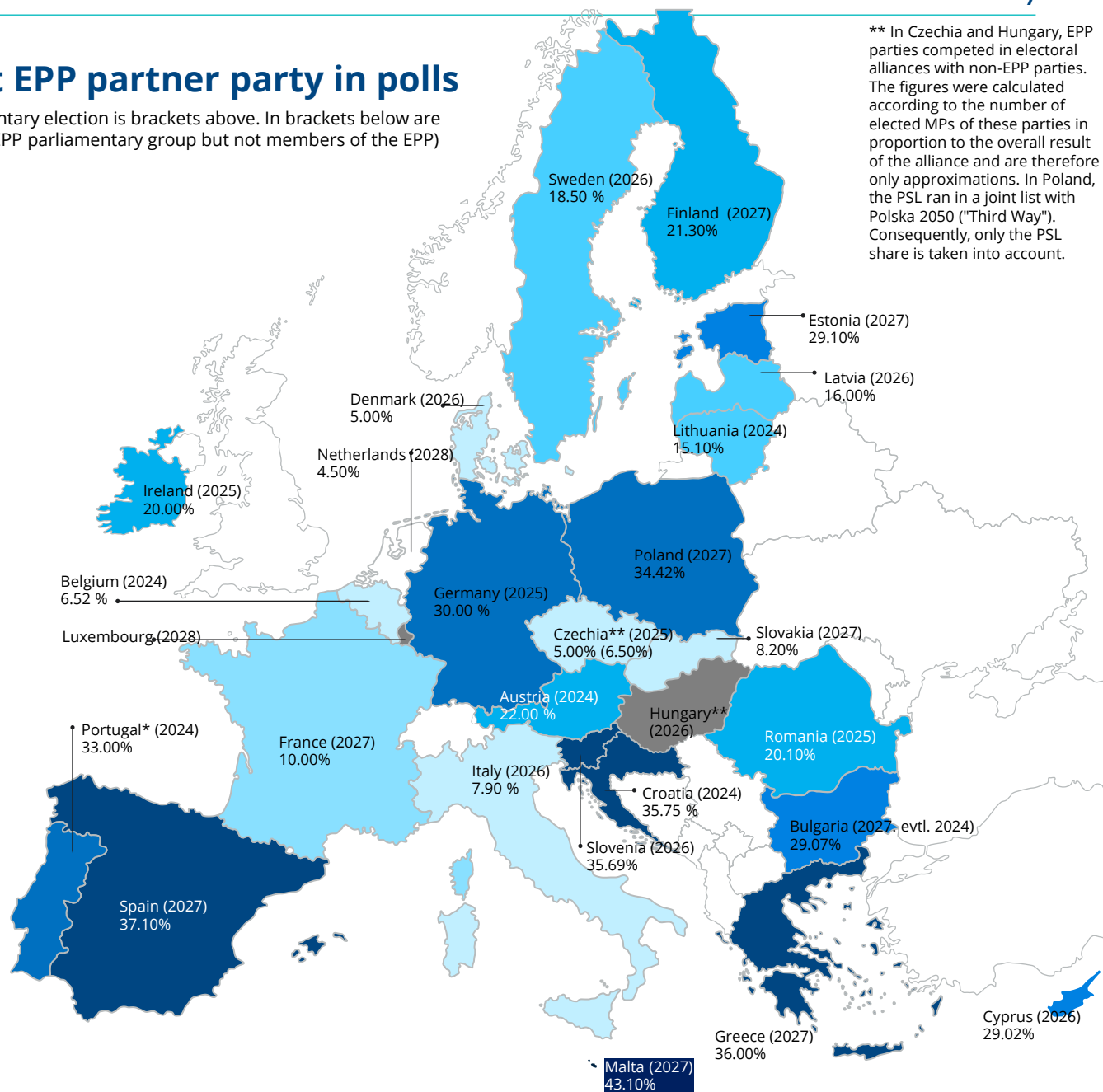
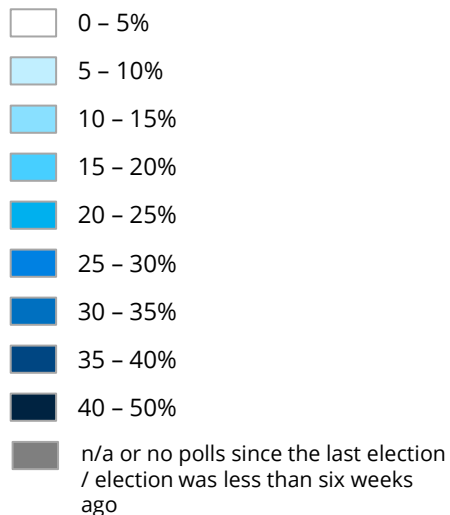
** In Czechia and Hungary, EPP parties competed in electoral alliances with non-EPP parties. The figures were calculated according to the number of elected MPs of these parties in proportion to the overall result of the alliance and are therefore only approximations. In Poland, the PSL ran in a joint list with Polska 2050 ("Third Way"). Consequently, only the PSL share is taken into account.

Strength of the largest EPP partner party in polls

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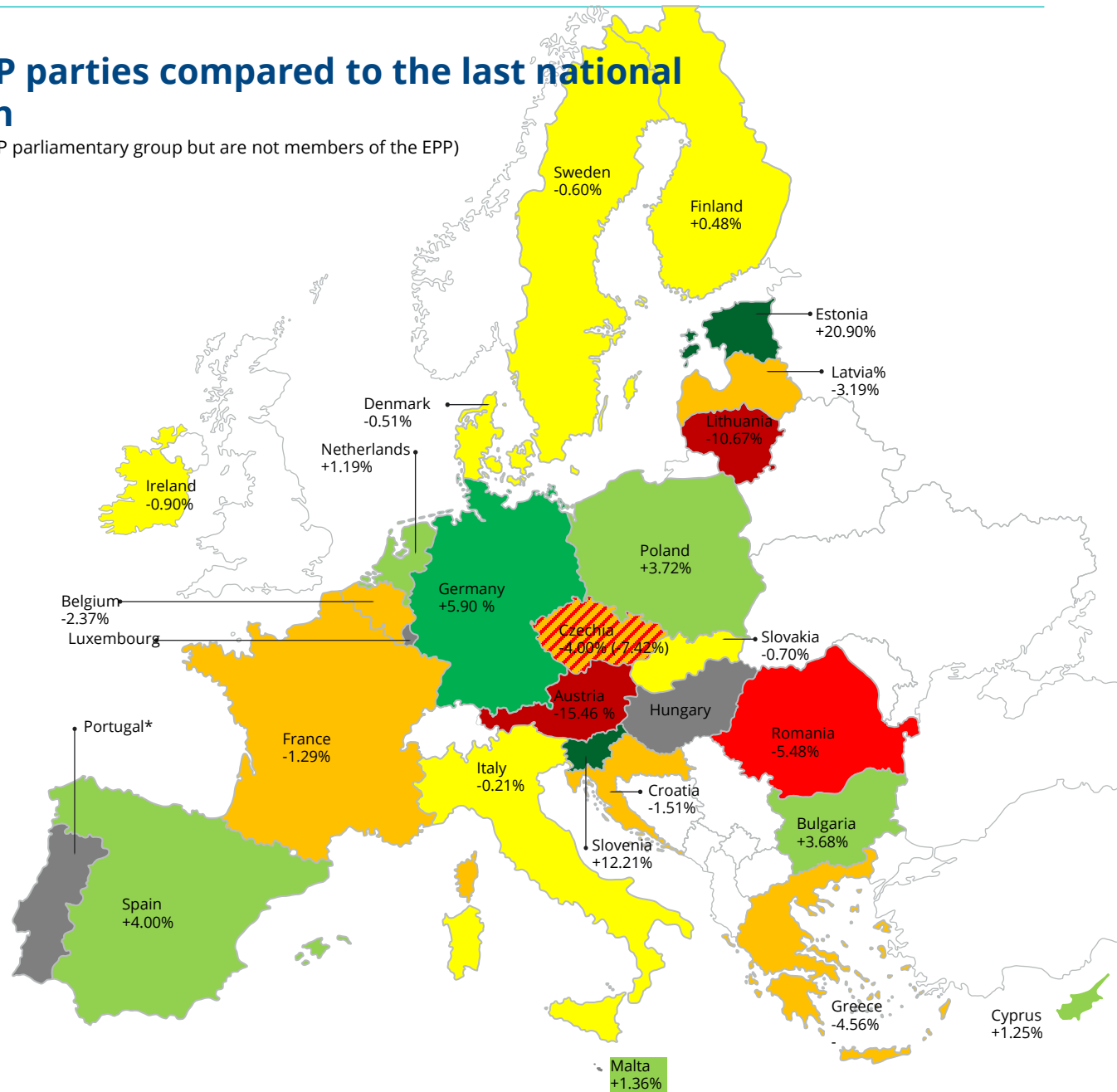
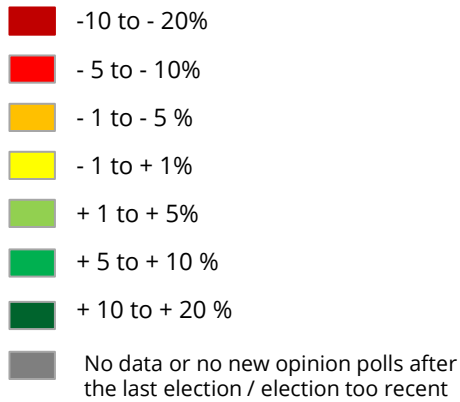
Legend



*PSD and CDS-PP agreed to a joint list for the national and EP elections

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

(in brackets: Including parties that are in the EPP parliamentary group but are not members of the EPP)

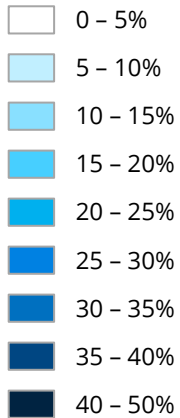


*PSD and CDS-PP agreed to a joint list for the national and EP elections

Election results of the EPP party family in the last national parliamentary elections

(Anticipated date of the next national parliamentary election is brackets above. In brackets below are the values of parties that are members of the EPP parliamentary group but not members of the EPP)

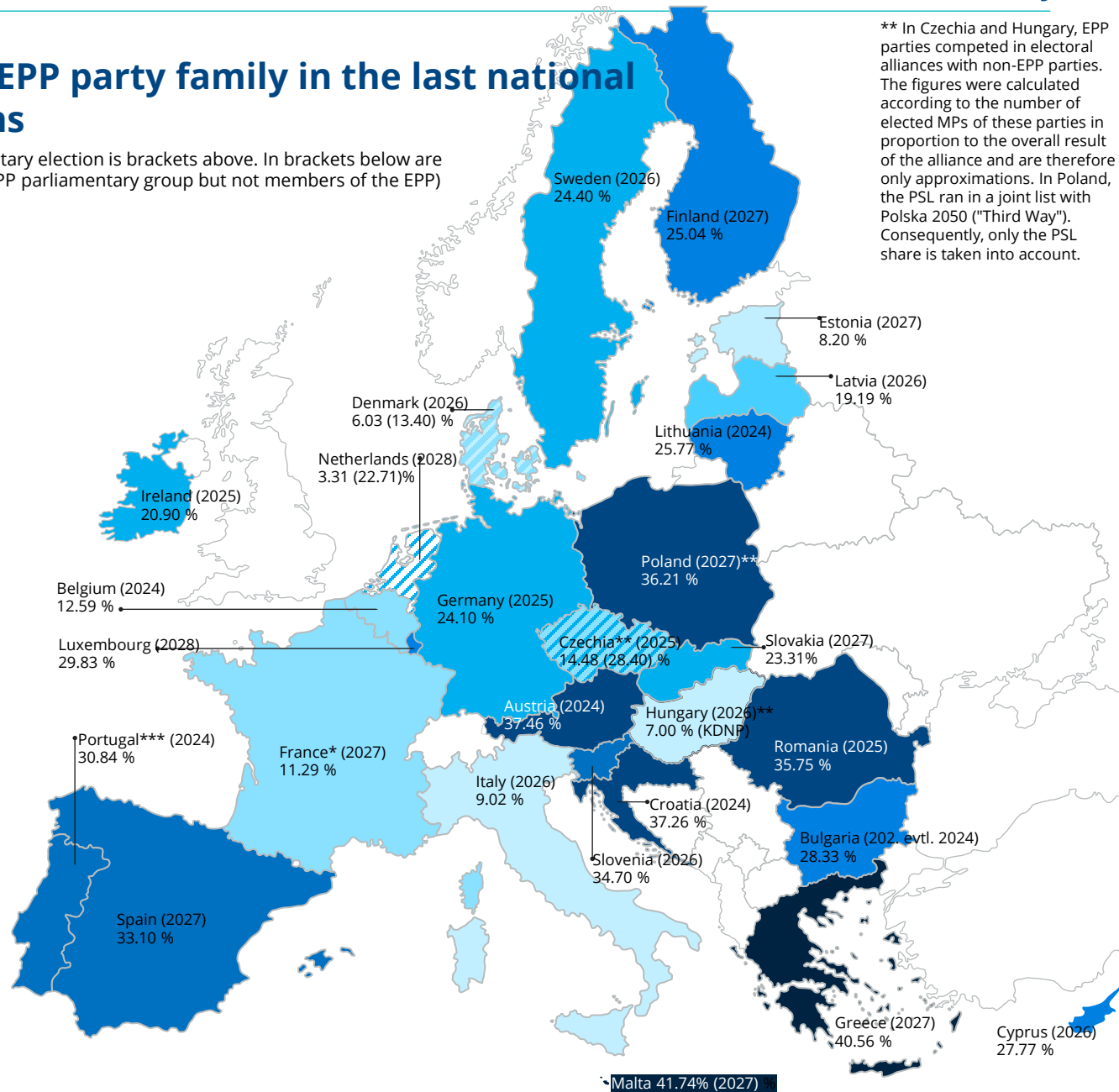
Legend



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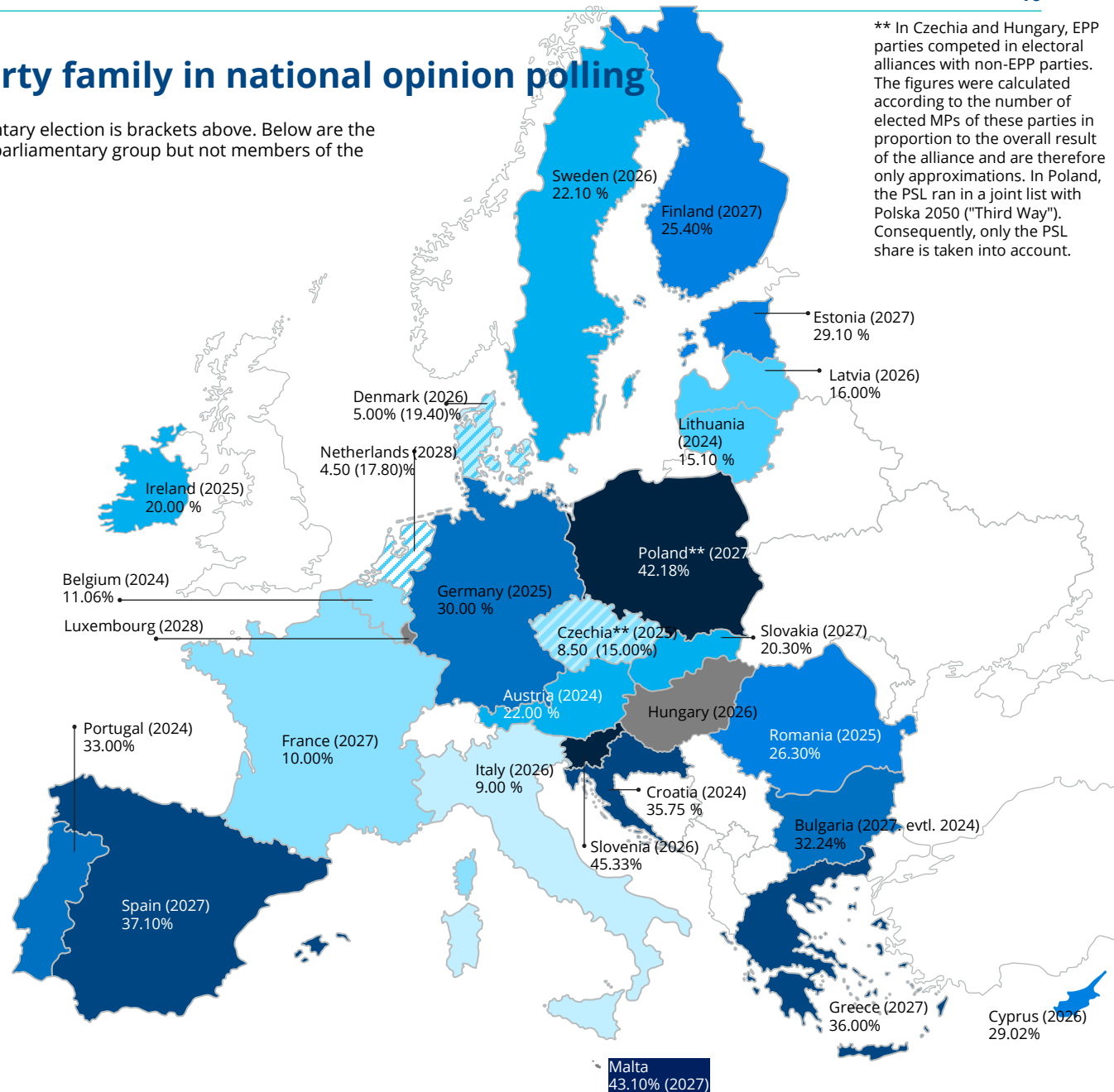
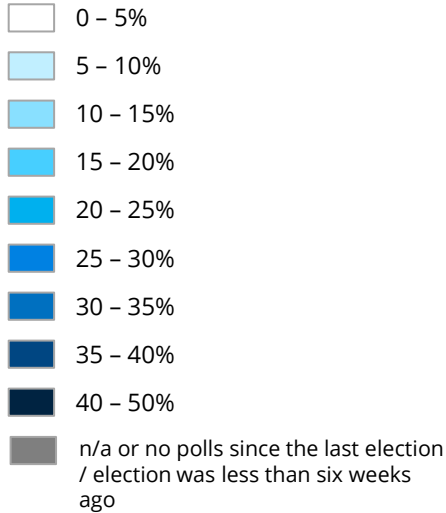
** In Czechia and Hungary, EPP parties competed in electoral alliances with non-EPP parties. The figures were calculated according to the number of elected MPs of these parties in proportion to the overall result of the alliance and are therefore only approximations. In Poland, the PSL ran in a joint list with Polska 2050 ("Third Way"). Consequently, only the PSL share is taken into account.



Strength of the EPP party family in national opinion polling

(Anticipated date of the next national parliamentary election is brackets above. Below are the values of parties that are members of the EPP parliamentary group but not members of the EPP)

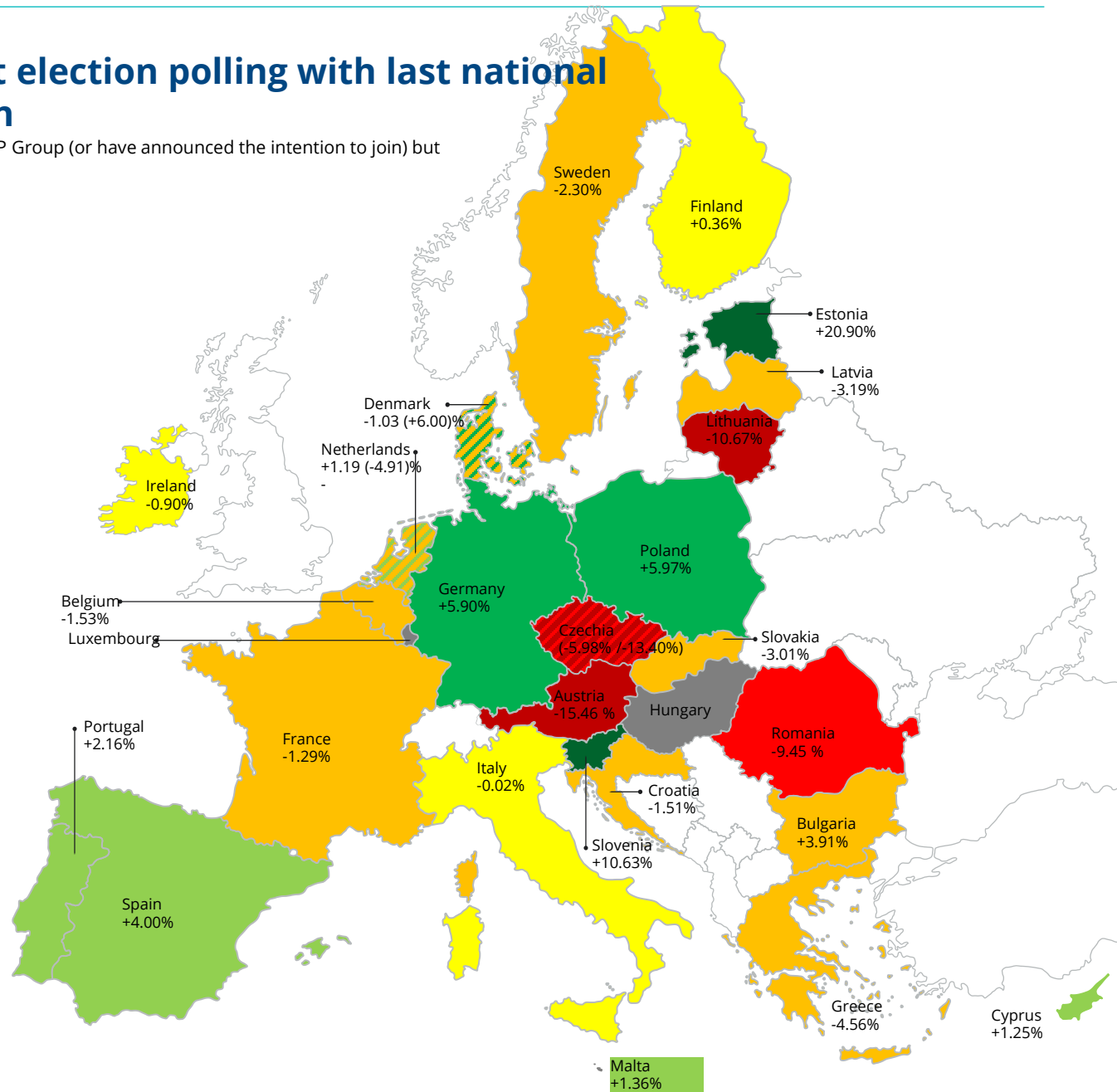
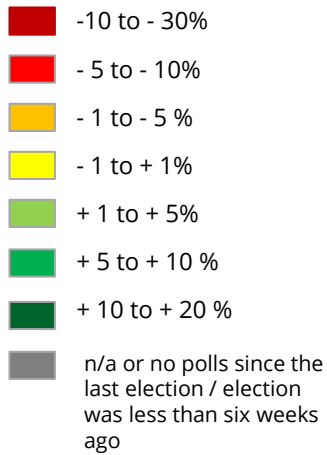
Legend



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Comparison of current election polling with last national parliamentary election

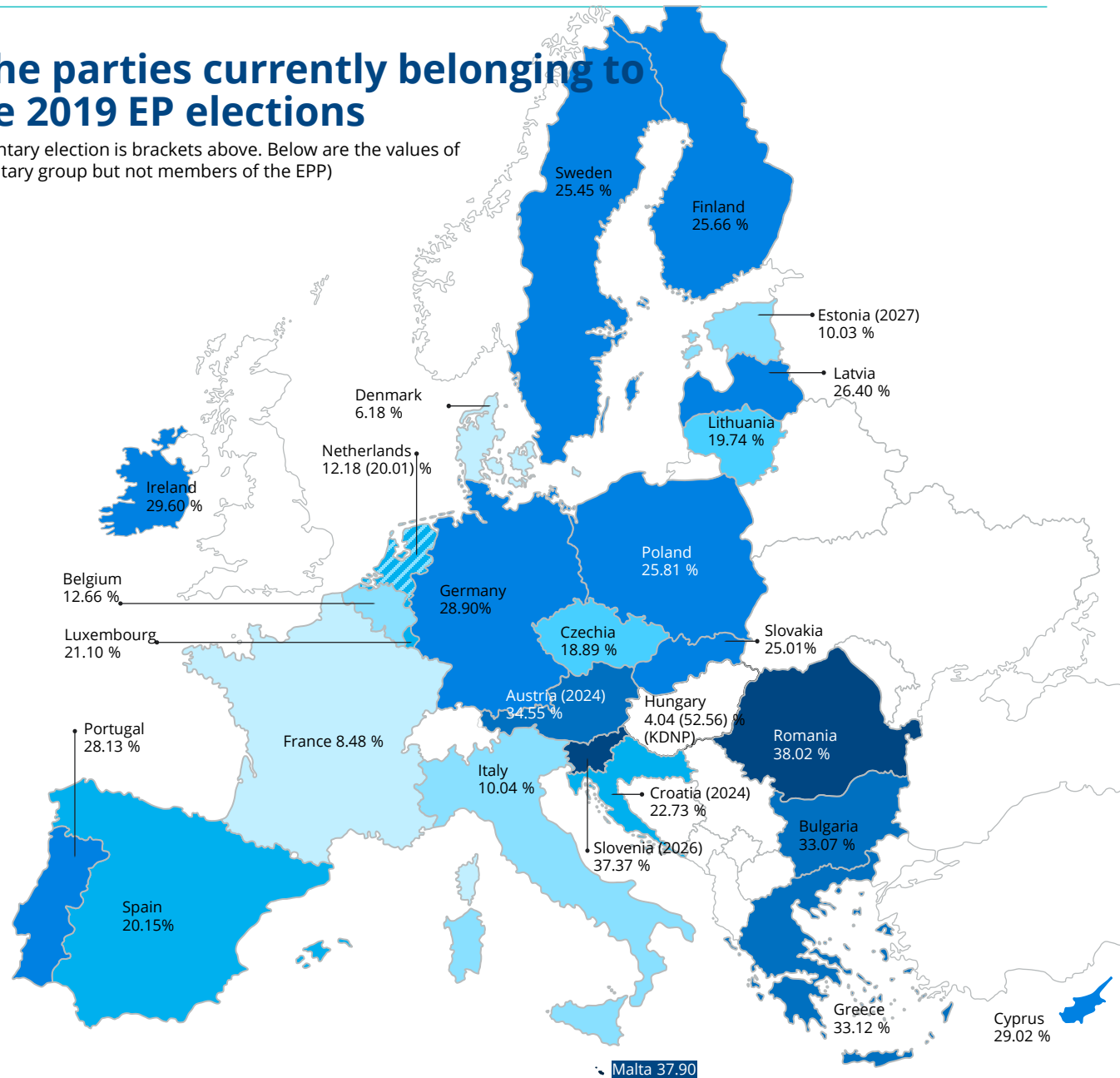
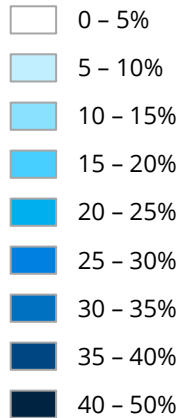
(in brackets: including parties that are in the EPP Group (or have announced the intention to join) but not in the EPP)



Election results of the parties currently belonging to the EPP Group in the 2019 EP elections

(Anticipated date of the next national parliamentary election is brackets above. Below are the values of parties that are members of the EPP parliamentary group but not members of the EPP)

Legend

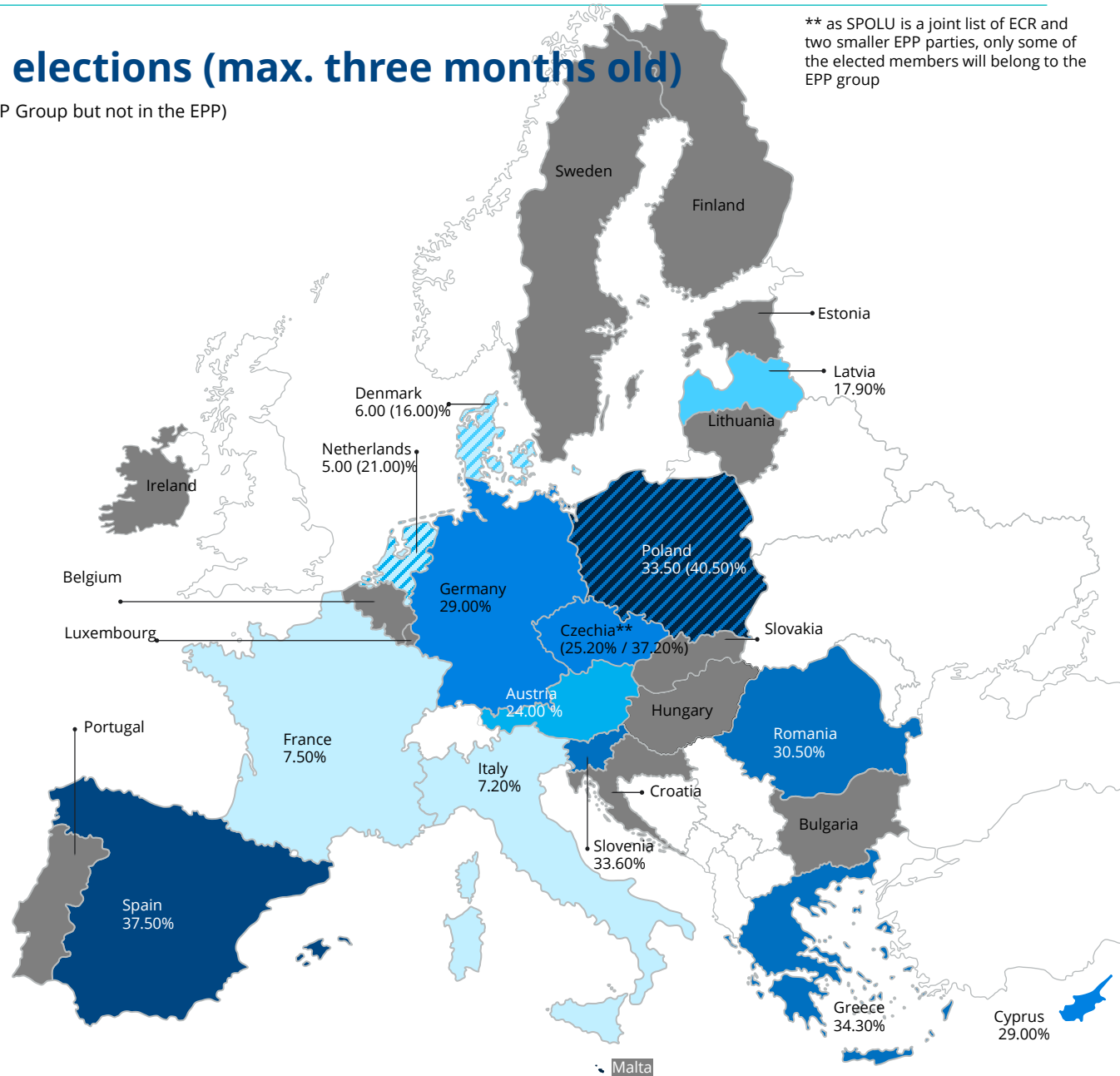
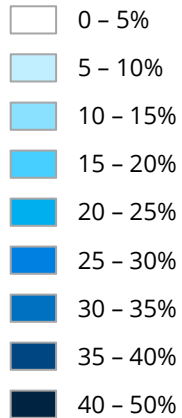


Opinion polls for EU elections (max. three months old)

(in brackets: including parties that are in the EPP Group but not in the EPP)

** as SPOLU is a joint list of ECR and two smaller EPP parties, only some of the elected members will belong to the EPP group

Legend



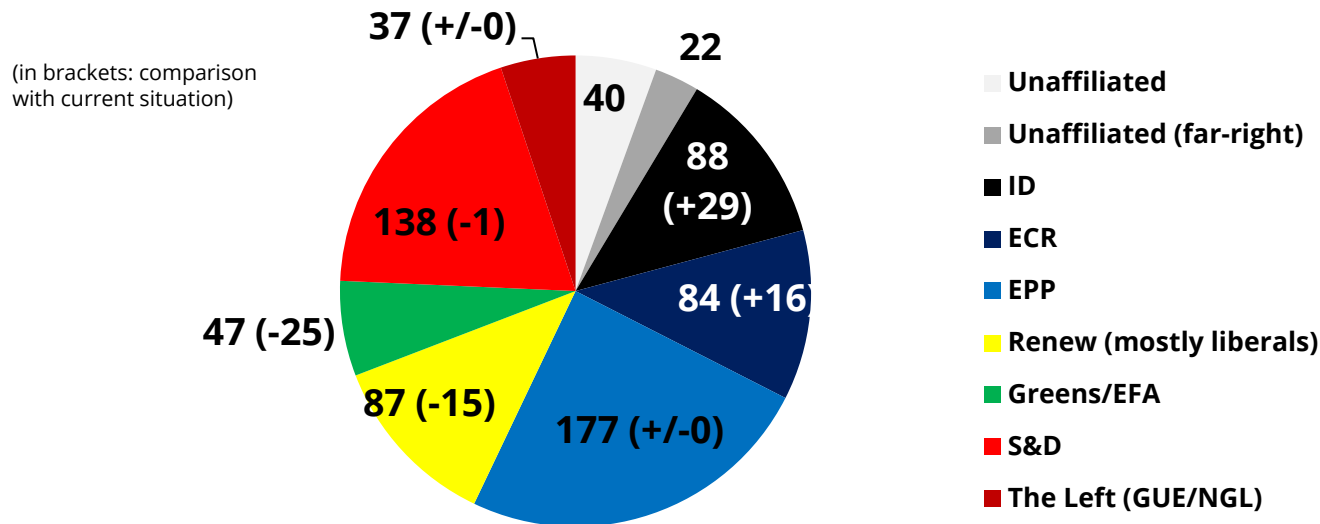
Composition of the EP



Composition of the EP

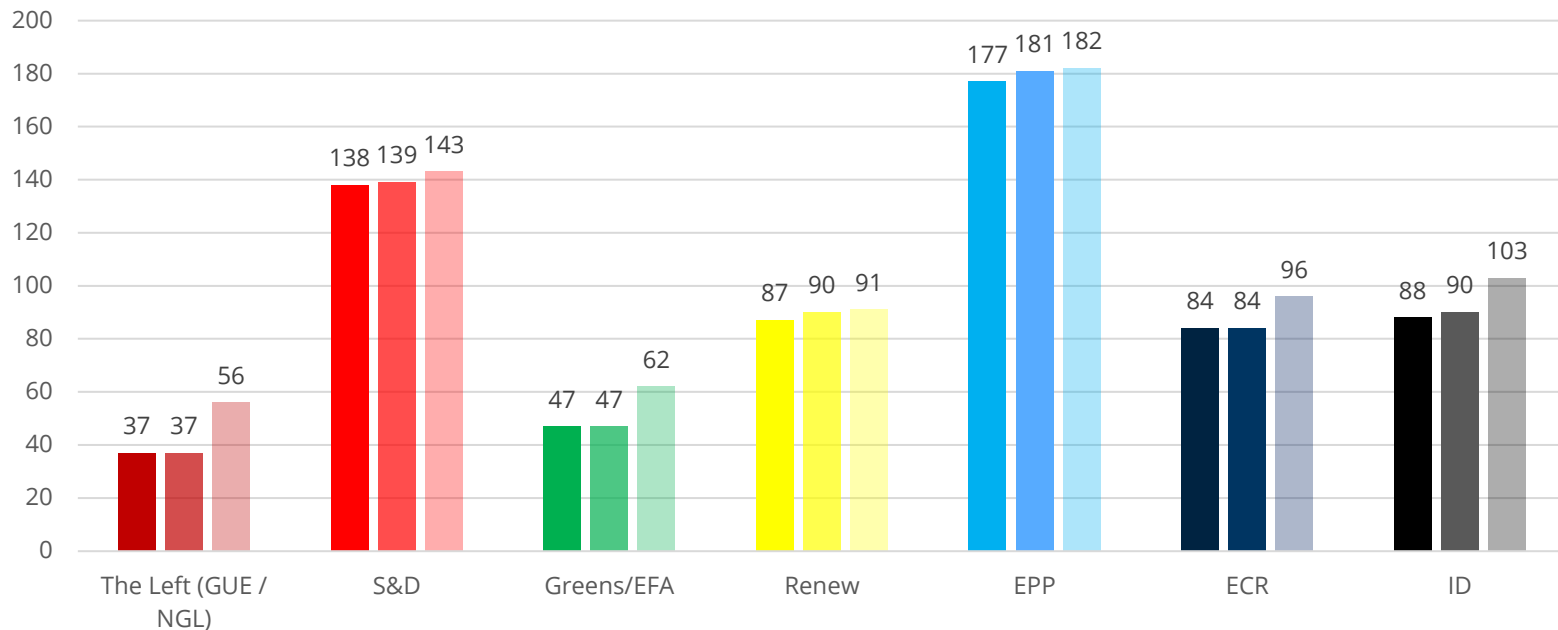
Composition of the European Parliament with unchanged political groups (cf. current situation in brackets)

- > The composition of the EP is projected to remain consistent with the current political groups (refer to the current numbers in parentheses for comparison).
- > CAUTION: National polls serve as an imperfect indicator of the EP election sentiment. Projections primarily utilize EP election forecasts when available, or national polls otherwise. These are adjusted by factors pertinent to EP elections. Changes from the current size of each parliamentary group are indicated in parentheses, considering the EP's expansion by 15 seats in the next term.
- > Assuming the current makeup of the political groups and including parties that have confirmed and initiated their intent to join a group, we anticipate the following scenario:
 - > The EPP would maintain its seat count, sustaining its position as the largest group in the EP, with an estimated 164 to 188 seats. The EPP could potentially match or slightly surpass its current seat count by appealing to non-affiliated members (details on the subsequent slide).
 - > The Socialist group is expected to approximately preserve its seat count, not accounting for the suspended Smer MEPs from Slovakia who have departed the group.
 - > Renew, ECR, and ID are closely contending for third place. Both ID and ECR are showing gains since January, attributed to the assimilation of formerly non-affiliated right-wing populist parties.
 - > The ECR and ID, positioned to the right of the EPP, are projected to significantly increase their seats. Conversely, the Greens and Renew are likely to see a considerable decrease in their seats, although Renew appears to have made a slight recovery from their position in January.



Potential among unaffiliated parties

- › Several independent factions might consider aligning with various parliamentary groups, some of which have signalled their readiness to accept new members.
- › Fidesz has emerged as a potential member for both the ECR and ID groups. With Fidesz's expressed interest in the ECR and partial support from ECR members, affiliation with the ECR is appearing more probable, though this doesn't factor in any potential exits that Fidesz's admission might provoke.
- › The 5-Star Movement is regarded as a prospective addition to both the Left and the Greens/EFA groups, with more pronounced commonalities with the Greens/EFA.
- › The analysis does not account for potential shifts among the parliamentary groups.
- › A number of parties could align with the left-nationalist tendencies of Germany's BSW, but as it stands, there seems to be insufficient groundwork for the establishment of a new parliamentary group.



- Seats according to current group affiliations
- incl. probable (or declared) newcomers from unaffiliated parties
- incl. possible newcomers from unaffiliated parties

Government participation of the EPP family



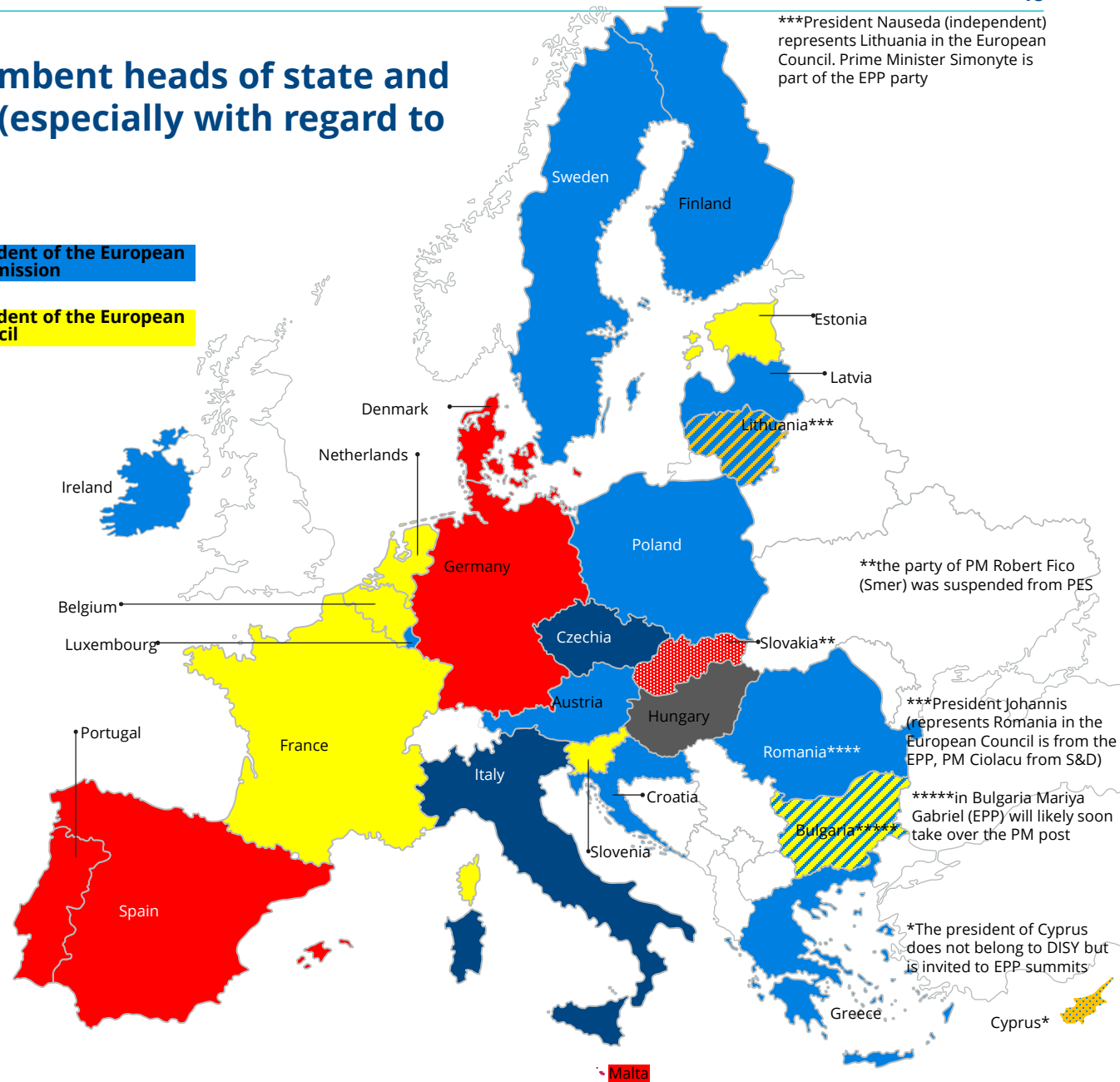
Political family of incumbent heads of state and government in the EU (especially with regard to the European Council)

Legend

- EPP family
- PES / S&D family
- Renew family (liberals)
- ECR family
- Greens/EFA
- The Left (GUE/NGL)
- ID (far-right)
- Independent (far-right)
- Independent (moderates)

President of the European Commission

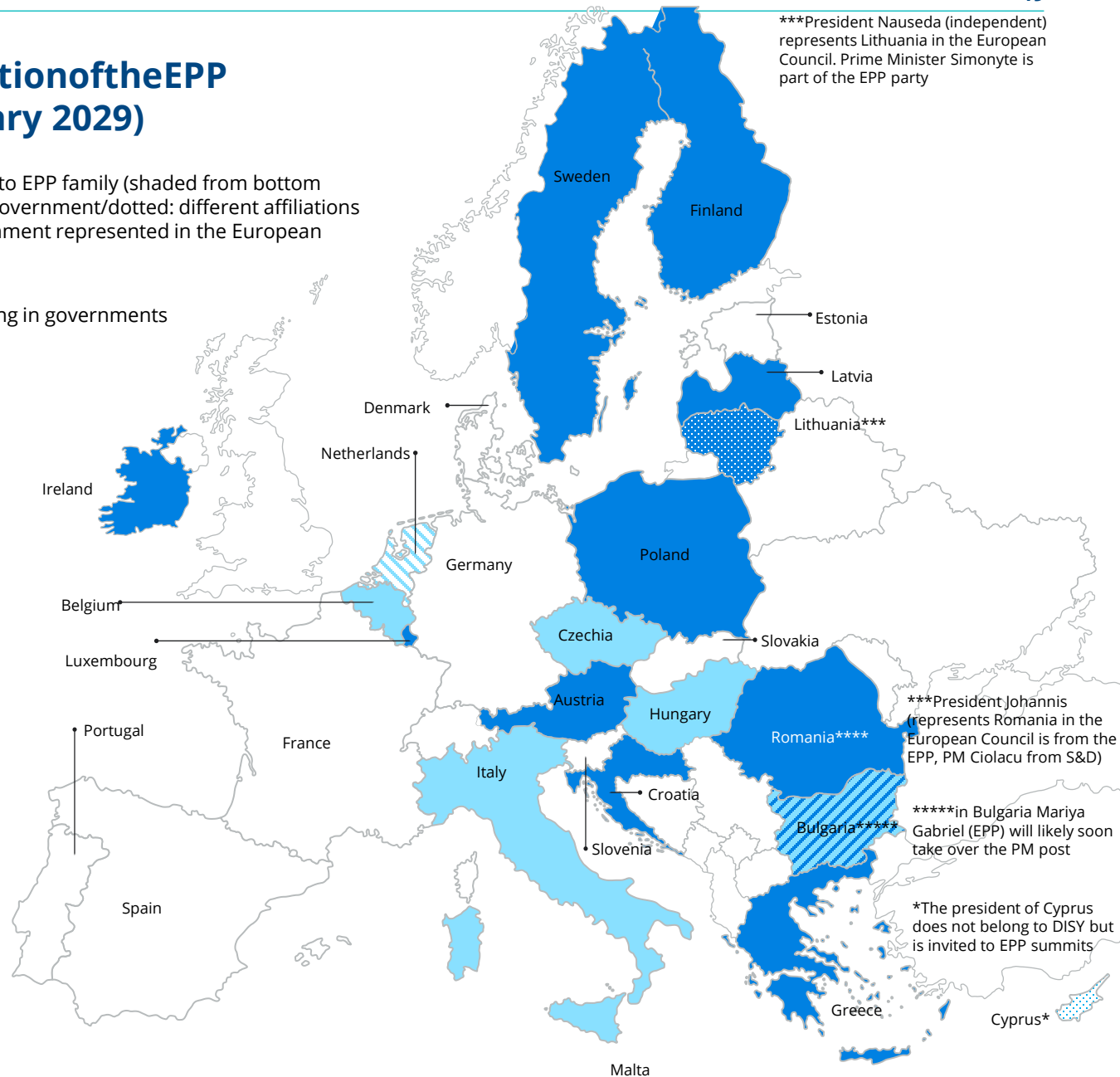
President of the European Council



Government participation of the EPP family (as of 29 February 2029)

■ Head of state/government belongs to EPP family (shaded from bottom right to top left: possibly outgoing government/dotted: different affiliations of head of state and head of government represented in the European Council or unclear affiliation)

■ Parties of the EPP family participating in governments



Notes

- › In Belgium, polling is conducted on a regional basis. To approximate national-level results, data from these polls are adjusted based on the proportion of eligible voters (as voting is compulsory) and actual voter turnout. This method might introduce minor discrepancies. Parties like CD&V, CSP, and CDH compete only in specific regions and their poll outcomes are adjusted accordingly. The CSP participates exclusively in European elections and merges with CDH during national elections, reflecting the House of Representatives' composition by regions (Flanders, Wallonia, Brussels) rather than language communities.
- › Polls in several countries factor in the percentages of undecided voters and those who abstain from voting to calculate total support (100%). For example, if Party A polls at 13%, but 30% of respondents won't vote and 20% are undecided, Party A's adjusted support would be reported as 26%.
- › In Germany, the CDU and CSU are presented as a single entity in polls due to their joint parliamentary group, so their poll numbers are always combined.
- › In Poland, the Civic Coalition (KO) is predominantly represented by the Civic Platform (PO), despite including smaller non-EPP parties. Thus, the entire KO result is categorized as an "EPP result". 'The Third Way' is a coalition between PSL and Polska 2050, but only the PSL's results are considered for the aggregate outcome.
- › In various countries, some parties are grouped under the EPP parliamentary group even though they are not EPP members. This is the case for the CU in the Netherlands and STAN in Czechia, among others, and their results are specified in brackets.
- › Within the ECR party family, some are identified as right-wing populist or exhibit strong right-wing populist tendencies. Given that this is a recognized party family, these parties are classified under ECR instead of being labeled as "right-wing populist."
- › In Czechia, EPP-affiliated parties such as the KDU-ČSL and TOP 09 formed electoral coalitions with non-EPP groups like the ODS (ECR) and STAN (EPP group), along with the Pirates. The allocation of their votes is estimated based on the proportion of elected MPs from these parties within the overall alliance result, hence these figures are only approximate. This approach also applies to two EPP member parties in Bulgaria.
- › For Hungary, the polls do not show separate results for KDNP (EPP) and Fidesz (which has not been part of the 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). Ipsos (Italy). Ipsos (Croatia). SDKS (Latvia). Spinter tyrimai (Lithuania). Ilres (Luxembourg). Malta Today (Malta). Ipsos (Netherlands). Market (Austria). Ibris (Poland). CESOP-UCP (Portugal). INSCOP (Romania). Novus (Sweden). AKO (Slovakia). Mediana (Slovenia). NC Report (Spain). Median (Czechia). Republikon (Hungary). Sigma (Cyprus)

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