



## WEEKLY ROUND-UP

Pen's party won 25% of the vote, comfortably ahead of the centre-right UMP (20.3%) and the Socialists (14.7%). Manuel Valls, the Socialist prime minister, described the election result as a *"more than another warning; it's a shock, an earthquake"*. French President François Hollande pledged to press ahead with reforms at home and pushed for the EU to reform and scale back its power. *Links: [New York Times](#); [Wall Street Journal](#); [Reuters](#); [BBC News](#); [Chicago Tribune](#) ; [EurActiv](#); [EUObserver](#); [Contexte](#); [Financial Times](#); [Telegraph](#); [Guardian](#); [Wall Street Journal](#); [Economist](#); [Reuters](#); [Guardian](#); [Wall Street Journal](#); [EUObserver](#); [EurActiv](#); [Daily Kos](#); [EUObserver](#); [New Europe](#); [Deutsche Welle](#); [Europolitics](#); [Europolitics](#); [Irish Times](#); [New York Times](#); [BBC News](#); [Reuters](#); [Economist](#); [New Europe](#); [Policy Network](#); [Guardian](#)*

**Podemos plans to cement rise of citizen politics:** *Podemos* ('We Can'), a new Spanish party born from the *Indignados* movement, emerged as the third largest political force in many Spanish regions in the European election. Nationwide, *Podemos* scored a remarkable eight per cent and won five seats in the Parliament. It is expected to join the GUE/NGL group. The idea behind the party is to let citizens practice politics, and proposes to do away with tax havens, establish a guaranteed minimum income and lower the retirement age to 60. Twelve parties elected at least one MEP, while the two leading parties, the People's Party and the Socialists, together won only 49% of the vote, compared with 81% in 2009. *Links: [EUObserver](#); [EUObserver](#); [Financial Times](#); [Guardian](#); [Guardian](#)*

**Farage: 'You ain't seen nothing yet':** The UK Independence Party won the most seats in the European Parliament election in Britain, beating Labour and the Conservatives into second and third place respectively. While the result had been widely anticipated, the comprehensive nature of its victory – securing 27.5% of the vote and 24 MEPs – came as a surprise to many. The Ukip leader, Nigel Farage, was in a jubilant mood after news of the win, declaring that his party had the momentum to repeat its success both in an upcoming by-election and in next year's general election. *Links: [Financial Times](#); [Guardian](#); [Telegraph](#); [Guardian](#); [Guardian](#); [Guardian](#); [Financial Times](#); [Telegraph](#); [Economist](#); [EurActiv](#); [Fox News](#); [BBC News](#); [Sky News Twitter](#); [Reuters](#); [EurActiv](#); [Deutsche Welle](#); [Economist](#)*

**Tsipras calls for elections in Greece after win:** Greece's radical left party, Syriza, took first place in the European elections for the first time, electing six MEPs and winning 26.5% of the vote. The ruling centre-right New Democracy party was second on 22.8%. Alexis Tsipras, the Syriza leader, said the result was a clear rejection of austerity policies and called for national elections. Ultra-nationalist party Golden Dawn won three MEPs. *Links: [EurActiv](#); [Financial Times](#); [New Europe](#); [New Europe](#); [Guardian](#); [Bloomberg](#); [Wall Street Journal](#); [Economist](#)*

**Le Pen and Wilders launch anti-EU alliance:** Far-right parties, headed by France's National Front (FN) and the Dutch Party for Freedom (PVV) have launched plans for a new group in the European Parliament. At a press conference to launch the group the two parties' leaders, Marine Le Pen and Geert Wilders respectively, were joined by Belgium's Flemish Interest (*Vlaams Belang*, VB), the Austrian Freedom Party (FPÖ), and the Italian Northern League (*Lega Nord*, LN). The group needs representation from two more parties to officially form, but Le Pen declared that negotiations with other parties are ongoing. In parallel, Ukip's Nigel Farage met Beppe Grillo, the leader of Italy's Five Star Movement, to discuss a possible alliance. *Links: [EurActiv](#); [WORLD news](#); [Guardian](#); [New Europe](#); [Wall Street Journal](#); [European Voice](#); [EUObserver](#); [Europolitics](#); [Euronews](#)*

**Lithuanian president wins second term in run-off vote:** Dalia Grybauskaitė won 57.9% of the vote in the second round of Lithuania's presidential election, securing a second term. It is the first time in Lithuania's history that a president has won re-election. *Links: [Reuters](#); [BBC News](#); [New Europe](#); [Europa RAPID](#)*

**Belgian king gives coalition-forming mandate to Flemish separatist leader:** The separatist New-Flemish Alliance (N-VA) party won the Belgian federal elections in Flanders, securing a third of the vote in the Dutch-speaking region. Party leader Bart De Wever has now been appointed by King Philippe to lead coalition talks to form the new government. This may be a difficult task since the majority of French-speaking parties are sceptical about forming an alliance with a separatist party. *Links: [EUObserver](#); [Financial Times](#); [Bloomberg](#); [Reuters](#); [EUObserver](#)*

## WEEKLY ROUND-UP

**Slovakia nominates Šefčovič as EU commissioner; Estonia names Ansip:** Robert Fico, Slovakia's Prime Minister, has confirmed he will nominate Maros Šefčovič as his country's next EU commissioner. Šefčovič won the highest number of preference votes in the European election in Slovakia. Meanwhile, Andrus Ansip, the former Estonian prime minister who was also elected to the European Parliament last weekend, was named by Estonia's government as its nominee. *Link:* [EUObserver](#); [European Voice](#)

**Germany's AfD seeks allies with Tories:** Germany's anti-euro party, Alternative for Germany (AfD) is in talks to join the British Conservatives' group in the European Parliament. The AfD leader, Bernd Lucke, said he wants to talk to members of the European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) Group and refused to work with Ukip or the French National Front. *Links:* [EurActiv](#); [EurActiv](#); [Financial Times](#); [EUObserver](#)

**France's UMP leader resigns over illegal campaign funding allegations:** The leader of France's centre-right UMP, Jean-François Copé, has resigned after he was accused of covering up illegal campaign funding during Nicolas Sarkozy's 2012 presidential campaign. Jérôme Lavrilleux, a deputy director of Sarkozy's presidential campaign who was elected to the European Parliament on Sunday, admitted the anomalies but denied wrongdoing. He stated that neither Sarkozy nor Copé were informed of the illegal funding during the campaign. *Links:* [New Europe](#); [Reuters](#)

**Spanish Socialist leader resigns over European Parliament election defeat:** Spanish Socialist leader Alfredo Perez Rubalcaba has stepped down following PSOE's weak showing in the European Parliament election. PSOE lost nine of its 23 seats. Meanwhile the leader of Ireland's Labour Party, Eamon Gilmore, resigned after his party's dismal showing. Labour, which is currently in a coalition with the centre-right Fine Gael, failed to return any MEPs. In Slovenia, Igor Luksic of the Social Democrats and Gregor Virant of the Civil List (ALDE) also resigned over their parties' election results. Virant remains interior minister for the time being. In Hungary, Socialist leader Attila Mesterhazy also stood down. *Links:* [EUObserver](#); [The Economist](#); [New Europe](#); [EUObserver](#); [EUObserver](#); [New Europe](#)

**Antonescu stands down and urges party switch:** Crin Antonescu has resigned as the leader of Romania's National Liberals (PNL) in reaction to his party's failure to reach 20% of the vote in the European Parliament election. Meanwhile, the party's leadership voted to leave ALDE and join the EPP instead, but it remains to be seen whether PNL MEPs will follow the lead. *Link:* [Sofia Globe](#)