

WEEKLY ROUND-UP

TOP STORIES : 21 – 27 September 2013

1

Merkel triumphs as German Liberals fall: The German elections was a victory for Angela Merkel who scored just over 41% of the vote, a fall in support for the Social Democrats (SDP) securing 26% of the vote, a defeat for the FDP party with less than 5% of the vote and a debacle for the Alternative for Germany (AfD) with 4.7% of the votes. Merkel was still a few votes short of an absolute majority leaving her needing a coalition partner to govern. *Links:* [Reuters](#), [EurActiv](#), [EU Observer](#), [New Europe](#)

2

Merkel's potential coalition partners drag their feet: The Social Democrats are holding an internal meeting on Friday evening (27 September) to decide whether to put the potential grand coalition to a vote of all their 472,000 members. According to the German constitution, the only clear deadline is 22 October, when the new Bundestag is set to have its inaugural meeting. *Links:* [EU Observer](#), [EurActiv](#)

3

Merkel vows to stay the course on Europe: In her first comments on Germany's policy toward the European Union since winning a triumphant re-election on Sunday, Chancellor Angela Merkel has pledged to stay on the course of fiscal stabilisation and boosting competitiveness in the eurozone. *Links:* [European Voice](#), [EU Observer](#)

4

German elections - Impact for 2014: Beyond the political consequences in Germany, the federal elections of 22 September will impact the look of the European Parliament in 2014. Everything will depend however on what kind of coalition will be formed in Germany. If the CDU and SPD manage to form a "grand coalition" the question arises as to whether they will reach a compromise on one potential candidate for European Commission president. *Links:* [Europolitics](#), [EurActiv](#), [New Europe](#), [New Europe](#)

5

Commission ensures electoral rights ahead of the 2014 elections: European Union citizens will be able to use their right to vote in European and local elections more easily when living in another EU country, following legal action by the European Commission. *Links:* [European Commission](#), [New Europe](#)

ALSO IN THE NEWS

"ACT. REACT. IMPACT" - European Parliament launches information campaign on 2014 elections: Under the slogan "ACT. REACT. IMPACT", the European Parliament launched on 10 September an awareness and information campaign, in the run-up to the European elections taking place next year. *Link:* [PES](#)

Flemish MEP row reveals tensions in Greens/EFA group: The Flemish Green party has accused the separatist N-VA MEP Mark Demesmaecker, of deviating too much from the political line of the Greens/EFA group in the European Parliament. If the N-VA makes a strong showing at next year's European election, the Flemish nationalists might be tempted to split from the Greens. *Link:* [EurActiv](#)

Italian PM warns over UK exit from the EU: Italian Prime Minister Enrico Letta said a U.K. exit from the European Union would threaten the future of the trading bloc and hailed Angela Merkel's election victory in Germany. *Link:* [Bloomberg](#), [New Europe](#)

The Green Primary is easy: The European Green Party will organise an open Europe-wide Online Primary to select the two leading candidates for the 2014 European Elections. Anyone in the EU who is over the age of 16 and supports Green values can decide who will represent the Greens in their election campaign throughout Europe. *Link:* [Greens](#)

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Godfrey Bloom resigns from UKIP: Godfrey Bloom, a UKIP MEP for Yorkshire, England, resigned from the party on 24 September after hitting a journalist over the head and calling a room full of female party activists “sluts” during the UKIP party conference last week. *Links:* [European Voice](#), [New Europe](#)

UKIP ban leading anti-racism group: The UK Independence Party (UKIP) have found themselves in further controversy after party members voted to proscribe the anti-racism group “Hope Not Hate” from joining the party. *Link:* [New Europe](#)

GERMAN ELECTIONS

Victorious Merkel has strong mandate in European Council: The German elections result has also strengthened Merkel's position in the European Council. Of the major member states, Germany is the only one whose leader enjoys not only personal popularity at home but also a strong democratic mandate to continue with current policies abroad. *Link:* [European Voice](#)

Don't expect leap in German EU policy: Analysts say it would be wrong to expect a bold leap forward in the German leader's eurozone strategy, even if Angela Merkel's CDU/CSU does end up, as expected, in a coalition with the staunchly pro-European Social Democrats (SPD), giving her a dominant majority in parliament. The big question is how she will behave on banking union. *Link:* [EurActiv](#)

Rehn: Merkel victory maintains momentum for banking union: EU Economic Commissioner Olli Rehn has signaled that Angela Merkel's return to the Chancellery with an enhanced share of the vote means that Europe will continue on the same economic course and that plans for a banking union remain in place. *Link:* [New Europe](#)

EPP President congratulates Angela Merkel and CDU on their strong victory: The President of the European People's Party, Wilfried Martens, congratulated German Chancellor Angela Merkel on the strong victory by the CDU. He also commented: “*On behalf of the entire EPP political family, I also look forward to working with Angela Merkel and our CDU and CSU member parties as we approach the crucial European elections in May 2014.*” *Link:* [EPP](#)

EPP Group congratulates Chancellor Angela Merkel and CDU-CSU on their historic victory: Chairman of the EPP Group in the European Parliament, Joseph Daul commented on the results of the German elections: “*Germany has voted for a strong Europe and a more integrated Eurozone based on competitiveness and economic reform.*” *Link:* [EPP Group](#)

German elections - comments by ALDE Party President: The President of the ALDE Party Sir Graham Watson MEP said on the elections in Germany: “*This election outcome is a bitter blow for a party which has worked so hard to keep Germany's economy on track and to safeguard the freedoms of its citizens. The FDP will be much missed in government.*” *Link:* [ALDE](#)

Swoboda on German elections: Hannes Swoboda, president of the Socialists and Democrats Group in the European Parliament, said on 22 September: “*I encourage the SPD to take up the mandate the voters have given them and demonstrate responsibility within a grand coalition. Only a grand coalition can now bring stability – provided Angela Merkel accepts the SPD's calls for socially balanced reforms and for a more socially just Europe.*” *Link:* [S&D](#)

Disappointing results for German Greens in September 22 Parliament elections: The German Greens won a very disappointing 8.4% of the vote during the national elections. “*We did not manage to transform the societal majorities into political majorities,*” said German Greens Co-Chair Claudia Roth. *Link:* [Greens](#)



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German Left Party now third biggest political group in Bundestag: GUE/NGL President Gabi Zimmer has described the results of the German elections, which saw Die Linke emerge as the third biggest political group in the Bundestag, as encouraging for the Left in Europe. She however expressed her regret that Merkel's re-election won't result in any shift away from the austerity doctrine at the European level. *Link:* [GUE/NGL](#)

Re-election of Angela Merkel: good news for finance, bad news for the peoples of Europe: The Party of the European Left welcomes the good result of Die Linke (8.6%). Its parliamentary group in the Bundestag will play an important role in the opposition and will be the support for the struggles. More than ever the Germans and Europeans will need to rely on a solidary Left, united and determined to be a clear alternative to a profound political change. *Link:* [European Left](#)