# France in Turmoil: Macron Dissolves National Assembly as Snap Elections Loom



France's political landscape has been thrown into disarray following President Emmanuel Macron's unexpected decision to dissolve the National Assembly and call for snap parliamentary elections, set for June 30 and July 7, 2024. This move came in response to his party's poor performance in the European Parliament elections and aims to counter the rise of far-right parties.

Key political figures and parties reacted swiftly. Eric Ciotti, leader of the mainstream conservative Republicans, announced an alliance with Marine Le Pen's far-right National Rally (RN). However, this led to internal backlash, resulting in his ousting by the party's leadership. Ciotti locked himself inside the party headquarters in Paris, refusing to acknowledge his removal.

Meanwhile, Marion Maréchal, niece of Marine Le Pen and a member of the nationalist Reconquête party, announced her party's backing for the RN on live television, surprising Reconquête’s founder, Éric Zemmour. Zemmour later criticized Maréchal for what he described as a betrayal.

On the left, four main left-wing parties—Socialists, Greens, Communists, and France Unbowed (LFI)—formed the "New Popular Front" (NPF) and agreed on a joint platform, including the reversal of Macron's unpopular pension reforms. Despite internal issues, this coalition aims to challenge both Macron’s centrist bloc and the far-right RN.

Macron criticized the Popular Front, suggesting the alliance harbors antisemitic elements due to the LFI's pro-Palestinian stance. This statement sparked further controversy, with intellectual Alain Finkielkraut stating he might support Le Pen to oppose perceived antisemitism.

These developments have not only destabilized domestic politics but also weakened Macron’s position on the international stage, as observed at the recent G7 summit in Italy. Macron's centrist coalition faces the risk of being overshadowed by a united left and a strengthened far-right, potentially altering France’s political map significantly.