# Political Landscape in Europe: Sinn Féin's Setback, National Rally's Rise, and UK Migration Surge



**Sinn Féin’s Electoral Setback and Immigration Rhetoric**

In the recent local and European elections, Sinn Féin, led by Mary Lou McDonald, experienced a significant decline in support, polling less than 12% of first-preference votes despite previous projections as high as 35% in October. This outcome brings the party’s support closer to Labour and the Social Democrats rather than Fine Gael or Fianna Fáil, indicating that their rightward shift in rhetoric on immigration may not have resonated with voters.

**French National Rally's Rise**

In France, Marine Le Pen’s far-right National Rally is poised for potential success. With current projections suggesting the National Rally could secure between 195 and 245 seats in the French parliament, the party needs 289 seats for a majority. This could lead to a “cohabitation” arrangement with President Macron, requiring him to work with a far-right prime minister. This potential shift in power follows a successful campaign in the European elections, although coalition partnerships might be necessary.

**UK Migration Surge and Political Implications**

In the UK, more than 800 asylum seekers arrived via small boats on April 29, 2024, marking the highest single-day figure since late 2022. This increased pressure on Prime Minister Rishi Sunak ahead of the upcoming July 4 election. Sunak's immigration policy, which includes deporting asylum seekers to Rwanda, remains a key focus. Trailing behind the opposition Labour Party in polls, Sunak faces significant challenges. Labour has pledged to scrap the Rwanda policy and instead proposes creating a Border Security Command to combat people smuggling through international cooperation.