# France's Political Landscape Shifts as National Rally Gains Momentum



### Key Events Shaping France's Political and European Landscape

#### The Rise of Marine Le Pen's National Rally

In recent significant political developments, Marine Le Pen's National Rally (RN) party has achieved a substantial victory in European elections. President Emmanuel Macron responded by dissolving parliament, resulting in snap general elections scheduled for June 30 and July 7, 2024. Le Pen stated that the RN's victory signals a shift in political momentum and readiness to take control if the electorate desires.

#### Impact on the EU

Although the RN’s current platform does not advocate for France’s exit from the EU or the eurozone, the potential win is poised to create complications for the European Union. Jordan Bardella, the RN party president, has articulated a vision for France to renegotiate several EU rules and reclaim more power from Brussels. This includes maintaining national preferences for French businesses and agriculture, a plan that contravenes EU single market rules.

#### Election Forecast

Polls project RN securing between 32% and 35% of the vote, making it the dominant force in the national assembly. If RN fails to achieve an absolute majority, the French parliament could become highly polarized, complicating legislative processes.

#### Macron’s Decision

Macron’s snap election gamble is viewed by various European capitals with concern. A potential hung parliament could impair swift decision-making within the EU, a bloc already struggling with internal cohesion on multiple policy fronts.

#### Influence on Far-Right Movements

A significant RN performance in France may embolden far-right and Eurosceptic parties in countries like Germany and Austria, complicating the broader European political landscape.

#### Macron's EU Dynamics

With the RN potentially entering power, Macron’s pro-EU agenda, which has been pivotal since his tenure began, faces substantial challenges. The party’s stance on numerous EU matters, including joint borrowing and defence policies, contrasts sharply with Macron’s vision for a more unified and sovereign European Union.

#### Internal Political Landscape

Domestically, Macron could face a forced cohabitation, limiting his influence on both national and EU stages. The RN’s economic policies, such as tax cuts and reduced retirement age, are at odds with EU fiscal regulations, positioning France on a potential collision course with European authorities.

#### Conclusion

The forthcoming elections in France are not just a national affair but carry significant implications for the EU's future. The results will influence EU policies, Franco-German relations, and the internal cohesion of the European Union.