

Upcoming ELECTIONS IN EUROPE

Why should Brussels care?

2015



FLEISHMANHILLARD

Oct
31

POLAND

Upcoming Polish parliamentary elections will probably see the rightwing nationalist Law and Justice party come to power – a win which will echo strongly on EU politics. Its leader, Beata Szydło, warned that she would steer the country away from adopting the Euro (hence against a more integrated EMU) and is bound to push for a tougher stance towards Russia at EU level, complicating already tense diplomatic negotiations.

Dec
6

FRANCE

Following a crushing defeat for his party (S&D) at the local elections in March, President Hollande is up for another electoral smack with the regional elections in December and a stronger than ever Front National. Another defeat for Hollande could trigger a series of populist policies – tax cuts, stronger deficits – in order to prepare 2017 presidential elections – plans which will not be welcomed by Brussels given France's recurrent habit of not respecting the SGP.

Dec
20

SPAIN

The results of the Spanish elections and the margin of success of both the left-wing Podemos and the Catalan-based Citizens against Rajoy's People's Party (PP) will be interesting indicators of how far secessionist and/or anti-austerity discourses are catching in the 4th largest economy of the Euro. Results will also influence who Spain gets to send to Brussels in compensation of having lost the Presidency of the Eurogroup.

Oct
11

BELARUS

Alexander Lukashenko will be looking to renew his mandate after being elected with 79.65 % of the votes previously. Given the on-going situation in Ukraine and in the EU (euro crisis, refugee crisis) as well as the massive Russian propaganda, we do not expect the situation to change much for the EU, nor for Belarus.

Oct
18

UKRAINE

Separatists have announced unilaterally that they would be holding elections in Donesk and Luhansk, de facto going against the Minsk II agreement which stated that the organization of elections would have to be conducted by the central state. The ability of Ukraine to organise successful elections is bound to impact the peace process on the EU's border as well as the length of the financial sanctions against Russia.

Oct
18

SWITZERLAND

Swiss People's party (SVP) is expected to win again the National Council elections with 28% of the votes, confirming its dominant position on Swiss politics. A strong SVP vote would further complicate Switzerland's relationship with the EU which is worsening since the rejection of the membership in 1992 and last year's referendum on EU immigration.

Nov
1

TURKEY

After unsuccessful elections last June, new elections for the Turkish parliament have now been scheduled but it remains unclear whether they will be able to give a sufficient majority to President Erdoğan's party to form a government. What is clear is that these elections are significant for Europe as a change in Turkey's position regarding ISIS and Syria, and the refugee crisis is likely to create additional pressures on the EU and Schengen.

KEY

NOTHING TO SEE HERE

LET'S KEEP AN EYE OUT

HOT SPOT