

Conference

A NEW BALANCE OF POWER IN EUROPE? HOW THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS WILL SHAPE ITALY AND THE EU

ROME, 3 JULY 2024
10.00-13.00

ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI (IAI)
VIA DEI MONTECATINI, 17

The elections for the European Parliament have redefined the political landscape in the EU. The traditional majority of pro-European political forces has been confirmed, even if with weakened proportions, and Ursula Von der Leyen will now seek a second term. However, hard right parties have gained ground in key EU member states like France, Germany and Italy, challenging the established balance of power within the EU. The vote has taken place at the conclusion of a 5-years institutional cycle characterized by structural shocks such as the pandemic and the Russian aggression against Ukraine. The EU has been able to respond with innovative solutions to the new challenges and the European Commission led Von der Leyen has become a more politicized institution, almost a household name for many European citizens, making the questions on a new majority in the European Parliament even more pressing than in the past. However, the vote in June has been once again mainly driven by domestic affairs. In several countries, including Italy, the European elections have been framed as a check on the parties' electoral strength. Key European issues like the Green Deal or the military assistance to Ukraine have been usually linked to national political dynamics. In Italy, in particular, the electoral campaign has been dominated by the political parties' attempt to assess their position, either in government or in opposition, in what was primarily interpreted as a mid-term election.

Against this background, the workshop will discuss the outcome of the vote and key trends in the electoral campaign that preceded it, exploring their implications at the national and the European level. In the first session, experts and researchers will look into the electoral campaign in Italy and the results of the vote, especially when it comes to the role of Italy in the future institutional structure of the EU. In the second session, the elections will be analysed through a comparative lens, broadening the scope of the discussion to other key EU member states like France, Germany, Poland and the Netherlands.

PROGRAMME

9.30-10.00 Registration of participants

10.00-10.05 **WELCOME REMARKS**

FERDINANDO NELLI FEROCI, President, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)

10.05-11.20 **SESSION I – *The electoral campaign in Italy: which vision of Europe prevailed?***

In cooperation with



Speakers

LUCA BARANA, Senior Fellow, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)

MICHELANGELO CONOSCENTI, Full Professor and Chair of English Linguistics, University of Turin

TERESA CORATELLA, Deputy Head of the Rome office, European Council on Foreign Relations

ELEONORA POLI, Head of Office, Centro Politiche Europee

Moderator

FLAVIO BRUGNOLI, Director, Centro Studi sul Federalismo (CSF)

11.20-11.45 *Coffee break*

11.45-13.00 **SESSION II – *Assessing the outcome of the vote at the European level: a new balance of power?***

Speakers

RAPHAEL BOSSONG, Deputy Head, Research Division EU/Europe, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP)

JEAN-PIERRE DARNIS, Professor, Université Côte d'Azur and LUISS University (*online*)

THU NGUYEN, Deputy Director, Jacques Delors Centre-Hertie School (*online*)

MELCHIOR SZCZEPANIK, Head of Brussels Office, Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM)

WOUTER ZWEERS, Research fellow, EU & Global Affairs Unit, Clingendael Institute

Moderator

NICOLETTA PIROZZI, Head of Programme on European Union and Institutional Relations Manager, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)

13.00-13.05 **CONCLUDING REMARKS**

MATTEO BONOMI, Senior Fellow, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)

Closing buffet lunch