

# SNAPSHOT

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*Giving you insight to what is on the political agenda*

## Top five things to look out for ahead of the EU elections 2019

*May 2019:* All hail the kingmakers ahead of the EU parliamentary elections which start this Thursday (23<sup>rd</sup>) and conclude on Sunday (26<sup>th</sup>): On the assumption that the two traditional centre right and left political groupings fail to secure an overall majority, all eyes are on the liberals. Either this election crushes them, or we witness a renaissance. If they secure around 100 seats, then they could become the coalition brokers during the next mandate. However, don't forget the Eurosceptics and the Greens who are consolidating their respective positions. See below for our top five things to look out for as Europeans head to the polls.

### 1. Turnout is key

Only 43% of the electorate voted in 2014. The EU elections have been in consistent decline since the inaugural vote in 1979 which registered a healthy 67%. To ensure legitimacy, Europe needs to get out the vote and see turnout starting to increase.

### 2. The motivational kick

Spite could be a key motivator in how people decide to vote. Candidates might be victorious based on the vilification of their opposition rather than their own policies. Emotions rather than economic issues are driving broader voting behaviour, accounting for more than 50% in some countries, according to recent FTI research. It's no longer about the economy stupid!

### 3. The nationalist wave

Votes for anti-establishment parties could rise substantially, from the current 27% to as much as 35%, giving them an increasing share of voice in how Europe is run. Their power and influence depends on how they come together as political groupings. For the first time there could be a number of Eurosceptic Commissioners.

### 4. Brexit or bust

Although the United Kingdom is still scheduled to leave the Bloc, it is voting in these elections. Many see it as a default second referendum. Current polls put Nigel Farage's Brexit Party in the lead with a 33% share. Much depends on how the other core remain parties do. Currently the LibDems are second followed by Labour and the Greens. You may think you have seen it all but expect some more surprises.

### 5. Vive La France

These elections are also a test on Macron's French Presidency. The success of his party, En Marche, could determine his future as a potential replacement to Chancellor Merkel of Germany as Europe's de-facto leader. It's also a rallying cry for the embattled Liberal movement across Europe. If he fails, the implications could reach far beyond the heartlands of the European project.

Further information can be found on [www.GetReady4.eu](http://www.GetReady4.eu), FTI Consulting's EU #yearofchange campaign website.

#### About FTI Consulting

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