

PRESS RELEASE

The Italian general election emphasises the need for a reform of the European Union

As Europe looks at Italy with concern, the UEF calls for an ambitious democratic reform of the Union

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After Sunday's elections, the Union of European Federalists (UEF) is convinced that the best response to offer to the rise of the right-wing coalition led by *Fratelli d'Italia* is to accelerate the process of a federal reform of the European Union. The fragilities of national democracies can only be overcome by strengthening the framework of European democracy.

Federalists expect crucial leadership from France and Germany in this regard. Both France's Emmanuel Macron and Germany's Olaf Scholz expressed their support for a revision of the European treaties. We need it now more than ever. With the Italian government joining the Eurosceptics' side, these two countries will need to show renewed ambition for Europe.

"The UEF notes with concern this election result in a country as important as Italy," explained Sandro Gozi, President of the UEF. "Over the past year, with Mario Draghi, the Italian government played a decisive role to strengthen the European Union, its capacity for action and solidarity, and pushed for political unity, supporting a federal reform of the treaties. It is in the interest of all Italians to continue in this direction. We will see what choices the new government will make."

Although *Fratelli d'Italia* leader Giorgia Meloni during the election campaign did not resume her traditional stance on Europe, the anti-European positions of her party are well known. Ambiguity remains, along with her friendship with Hungary's prime minister Viktor Orban, her allies' admiration for Russian President Vladimir Putin, or *Fratelli d'Italia's* relationships with political parties such as Vox in Spain or the European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) group at the European Parliament. Federalists cannot forget *Fratelli d'Italia's* proposal to prevent the primacy of European law over Italian law.

Italy's next government might stop positive developments at the European level. In the context of the energy crisis and the war in Ukraine, Federalists are convinced that a reform of the intergovernmental functioning of the Union is urgently needed so that Europe becomes a democratic and sovereign power.

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