

## Pollwatch™: European Election 2009 Briefing

- **United Kingdom** – smaller parties set to dominate Euro elections
- **Bulgaria** – Electoral newcomer GERB leads the field
- **Cyprus** – Democratic Rally and Progressive Party deadlocked
- **Czech Republic** – ODS rebound to lead Euro voting intention
- **Denmark** – Venstre and Social Democrats in tight race
- **Estonia** – Centre Party leads with many undecided
- **Finland** – National Rally, Social Democrats and Centre Party tied
- **France** –63% are negative about Sarkozy's presidency
- **Germany** – CDU/CSU and FDP coalition likely
- **Greece** – Socialist opposition holds thin lead over resurgent government
- **Hungary** – Centre-right Fidesz dominate with 42% poll lead
- **Ireland** – Fine Gael ahead by 17%, Labour surge
- **Italy** – Berlusconi coalition cruising
- **Lithuania** – Homeland Union leads, many undecided
- **Malta** – Labour Party leading for Euro poll win
- **Netherlands** – Freedom Party and Christian Democrats tied
- **Norway** – Labour Party holds 9% lead
- **Poland** – Civic Platform heading for convincing Euro election win
- **Portugal** – Ten point lead for Socrates government
- **Romania** – Social Democrats lead Euro poll, President Basescu ahead
- **Slovakia** – SMER holds imposing 24% lead
- **Spain** – Zapatero's Socialists and Popular Party tied
- **Sweden** – Pirate Party set to say "ahoy there!" to Brussels

### INTRODUCTION

This is the final European poll briefing before the votes are counted in the European elections. Our analysis suggests the Parliament will look very different after this week, with many established domestic governments heading for difficult times electorally too.

Whether the result of scandal, such as in Italy and the UK, or economic difficulties, such as in Ireland, there is a strong feeling throughout the entire continent that the political landscape is about to be shaken.

**Andrew Hawkins**

Chief Executive, ComRes



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## United Kingdom

### National Political Opinion Poll

Following weeks of near-blanket coverage in the British press about the perceived abuse of the parliamentary expenses system, both the opposition Conservatives and governing Labour Party have experienced a fall in their overall level of support.

Labour, however, were already at down to their core support before the expenses scandal hit and so it has been Conservative support which has been hit harder – down 15% since last month.

The main beneficiaries of the scandal have been the smaller parties, with 30% of voters saying they would not support one of the three main parties at a General Election.

The latest poll puts the Greens on 8 per cent, UKIP on 7 per cent, the BNP 3 per cent, the Scottish National Party 2 per cent, Plaid Cymru 1 per cent and other smaller parties or independents 9 per cent.

It suggests the voters' mood ahead of Thursday's local and European elections is to say "a plague on all your houses" to the three main parties. Some 80 per cent agree that "the Westminster parties" have let the country down, while only 18 per cent disagree.

15% of Labour voters and 11% of Lib Dem voters in 2005 now support the Conservative Party. Only 37% of those identifying themselves as Labour Party voters are absolutely certain to vote, compared with 45% of LDs and 64% of Conservatives.

Conservative Party	30% (-15)
Labour Party	22% (-4)
Liberal Democrats	18% (+1)
Other	21% (+18)

*ComRes 29-31 May 2009*

**“I am very likely to vote for one of the minor parties, such as the Green Party or UKIP, in the European elections in June”**

40% of Labour identifiers, 36% Tory identifiers and 43% of Liberal Democrat identifiers agree with this statement. So - all the major parties are likely to be at risk of losing votes to minor parties in the European elections.

Agree	43%
Disagree	53%

**“Most MPs are honest and have been let down by the greed of a minority”**

People voting for the minor parties are more likely to disagree than those voting for the main three parties – suggesting a motivation for voting for a minor party. 57% of Labour voters agree and 50% of Conservative voters agree with this statement.

Agree	46%
Disagree	50%

**“David Cameron has dealt with the issue of MPs’ expenses better than Gordon Brown”**

Voters for all parties, apart from Labour, are more likely to agree than disagree with this statement (41/52% among Lab voters). But - 51% of people who voted Labour in 2005 agree; 39% who disagree.

Agree	59%
Disagree	31%

**“Alan Johnson, the Heath Secretary, would be a better prime minister than Gordon Brown”**

50% of 18-24 year olds think that Alan Johnson would be a better prime minister than Gordon Brown. 72% of Labour voters disagree that Alan Johnson would be a better prime minister than Gordon Brown, however 46% of Tory voters agree that Alan Johnson would be better than Gordon Brown.

Agree	32%
Disagree	49%



## Bulgaria

### National Political Opinion Poll

Only launched in December 2006, Sofia Mayor Boyko Borissov's Citizens for European Development of Bulgaria (GERB) party holds an 8% lead over Prime Minister Sergei Dmitrievich Stanishev's Socialists (PES). GERB, a centre-right and strongly pro-European party, secured first place in Bulgaria's inaugural European Parliament elections in 2007 and has successively expanded its opinion poll lead over the government during the past months.

The Movement for Rights and Freedoms (ALDE), a party which draws this majority of its support from Bulgaria's ethnic Turks and scored 20% of the vote poll in 2007 - less than 2% away from topping the poll – appear to be in severe difficulties, polling only 8% in the most recent survey of public opinion. Similarly, support for the nationalist Ataka Party (NI), which received 14% of the vote and elected three MEPs in 2007, has declined to 8% meaning that the party will struggle to hold onto the three seats it currently holds.

Despite its woeful 2% standing, it would be unwise to dismiss the chances of the National Movement for Stability and Progress (ALDE) holding onto a parliamentary seat. In an effort to bolster support for the party, the popular Bulgarian European Commissioner Meglena Kuneva has been placed first on their list. If elected, Ms Kuneva is expected to decline her seat in order to seek reappointment to the Commission. Former MEP Antonia Parvanova appears likely to take Bilyana Raeva's (who is in the electorally-impossible fourth position on the party's list) place as the party's sole representative in Brussels.

Citizens for European Development of Bulgaria (GERB)	25%
Bulgarian Socialist Party	17%
Ataka	8%
Movement for Rights and Freedoms	8%
United Democratic Forces	5%
Order, Law and Justice	2%
National Movement for Stability and Progress (Simeon II)	2%
Forward Coalition	1%



## Cyprus

### European Election Opinion Poll

One of the smallest EU's twenty seven member states, Cyprus will elect only six representatives to the European Parliament. It is likely, however, that Cyprus will record one of the highest turnout rates in these elections as a result of country's compulsory voting laws which saw turnout hit 71% in 2004.

Only months after President Dimitris Christofias's landslide victory in the country's presidential election, his Party of Working People (GUE/NGL) is in a dead heat with the centre-right Democratic Rally (EPP-ED) with roughly a third of the vote apiece.

The Democratic Party (ALDE) is in third place with 12%. Marios Matsakis, who was elected on the Democratic Party's list in 2004, is contesting this election as an independent candidate after being disowned by the party for his increasingly erratic behavior, including a string of high-profile arrests at British naval bases on the island.

Democratic Rally	29%
Progressive Party of Working People	28%
Democratic Party	12%
Movement for Social Democracy	6%
European Party	3%
Ecological and Environmental Movement	1%

*Symmetron*



## Czech Republic

### European Election Opinion Poll

After months of political turmoil which saw former Prime Minister Mirek Topolánek's government removed from office following a no confidence vote, the Civic Democratic Party have moved into a comfortable lead over Social Democratic Party in terms of European election voting intention. 37% of Czechs intend to vote for the Civic Democrats as opposed to 28% who will support the Social Democrats – an 11% lead.

Despite the weakening of their position in the past weeks, the Social Democrats should improve dramatically upon their woefully poor performance in the 2004 European elections, where they secured only two of the country's twenty-four seats and were outpolled by the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia.

The Green Party, who fell just short of securing one of the Czech Republic's seats in the European Parliament in 2004 and has recently picked up a ringing endorsement from former President Václav Havel, appear poised to secure one of the country's twenty-two seats.

Outgoing Czech MEP Jana Bobosikova, who was elected as an independent candidate in 2004, is contesting the election on the Eurosceptic Suverenita list yet the party appears likely to fall short of the threshold required to secure a seat in the European Parliament.

Civic Democratic Party (ODS)	37%
Czech Social Democratic Party (CSSD)	28%
Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (KSCM)	16%
Christian and Democratic Union - Czech People's Party	7%
Green Party (SZ)	6%
Suverenita	2%

*CVVM*



### National Political Opinion Poll

Newly sworn-in Prime Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen's liberal Venstre Party trails the Social Democratic party by 3%. It is notable, however, that support for the Social Democrats has declined six points since 2004 while Venstre's standing has improved by 4%. Given current polling both the governing Venstre and Socialist People's Parties will hope to build upon their present seat tally.

Support for the Danish People's Party, whose tough stance on immigration boosted their support in the weeks following the controversy over the reaction of the country's Muslim community to derogatory cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed, is more than double what it was at the time of the 2004 elections. Following the retirement of veteran MEP Mogens Camre the party's list for the 2009 elections is headed by Morten Messerschmidt. Given the growth in support for the party, they may secure a second seat in June.

As with previous national opinion polls, figures do not take into account support for the Eurosceptic June (Ind/Dem) and People's Movement (GUE/NGL) lists which both currently hold seats in the European Parliament and polled a combined vote share of 15% in 2004. In an effort to boost their chances of success in the coming elections, the two parties' sitting MEPs Hanne Dahl and Soren Bo Sondergaard have formed an electoral alliance and will be fighting the election on a joint platform.

Social Democracy in Denmark	26%
Left Liberal Left Party of Denmark (Venstre)	23%
Socialist People's Party	18%
Danish People's Party	15%
Conservative People's Party	10%
Radical Left-Social Liberal Party	5%
Unity List-The Red Greens	2%
New Alliance	1%
Christian Democrats	1%

*Catinét Research / Ritzau*

### Do you support or oppose maintaining Denmark's opt-out on joining the euro?

Support	45%
Oppose	44%
No opinion	11%

*Jyllands Posten*



## Estonia

### National Political Opinion Poll

Estonia, one of the smallest European Union member states, elects six members to the European Parliament.

The market-liberal Reform Party (ELDR) led by Prime Minister Andrus Ansip trails Edgar Savisaar's Centre Party (ELDR) by a convincing 16% margin. In third place is maverick former Prime Minister Mart Laar's Union of Fatherland/Res Publica party with 12% of the vote.

At the 2004 elections, the Social Democrats (PES) topped the poll, securing three seats and 37% of the national vote. Since the 2004 elections, however, support for the Social Democrats has gradually eroded to its present 6% standing and as such they will struggle to win a single seat.

Centre Party	28%
Reform Party	12%
Union of Fatherland/Res Publica	10%
Social Democrats	6%
Greens	3%
People's Union	2%

*Postimees*



## Finland

### National Political Opinion Poll

Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen's Centre Party (ALDE) trails in third place (19%) behind both his junior coalition partners the National Rally (EPP) (23%) and the Social Democrats (PES) (22%).

The results of the most recent poll closely mirror the outcome of the 2004 elections where the National, Social Democrat and Centre parties were divided by only 2.5% of the vote. The populist True Finns (NI) party, which did not contest the 2004 European elections, will secure up to two of Finland's thirteen seats in the Brussels chamber.

Given their present 4% opinion poll showing the People's Party (ELDR), who represents Finland's minority Swedish community, will struggle to hold their present seat in the parliament.

National Rally	23%
Social Democratic Party	22%
Finnish Centre Party	19%
Green League	11%
True Finns	8%
Left Wing League	8%
Christian Democrats	4%
People's Party	4%

*Taloustutkimus*



## France

**"Two years have passed since the election of Nicolas Sarkozy. Would you say his performance as president has been positive or negative so far?"**

Two years into his five year term of office, two-thirds of the French public are negative about their President's performance to date.

Positive	28%
Negative	63%
Unsure	9%

*TNS-Sofres*



## Germany

### National Political Opinion Poll

Angela Merkel's coalition "government in waiting" which brings together the Christian Democrats/Christian Social Union (EPP-ED) and Free Democratic Party (ALDE) continues to be in robust form. Their combined 50% vote share should be enough to guarantee Merkel the seats required to secure another four years in office without the need for an uncomfortable 'grand coalition'.

In the context of the European elections, however, the opinion poll ratings do not make particularly good reading for Angela Merkel's party. Current polls put the CDU/CSU at 37%, some way below their 45% vote share in 2004 which resulted in 49 parliamentary seats.

Local difficulties may frustrate the party's efforts to maintain their tight grip on the country's European Parliament delegation – and many of the Parliament's top jobs. The Bavarian Christian Social Union, which aligns itself with the CDU for the purposes of all national elections, has been in the political doldrums for months and may struggle to reach the 5% national vote threshold required to secure European parliamentary seats. If the CSU were to fail to secure 5% of the national vote, around a fifth of Germany's EPP-ED delegation would be automatically terminated.

After two successive European election campaigns in which the party lost seats, the German Social Democrats (PES) will increase its representation in the European Parliament. The party's current 27% poll share is some way above its disappointing 22% haul in 2004 and should see them make modest gains.

The 2009 European elections will be the first contested by Oskar Lafontaine and Gregor Gysi's far-left Linke Party (GUE/NGL). Its predecessor, the Party of Democratic Socialism secured seven parliamentary seats and a national vote share of 6% in 2004. Given the party's 10% rating in recent polls, one can expect the Linke to pick up in excess of ten seats. Linke's success is likely to come at the expense of the more politically nuanced Greens (Greens/EFA) whose support has fallen three points from 2004 and is likely to lose seats.

The Free Democrats (ALDE), who secured 6% of the vote and seven seats in 2004, have increased their support dramatically since the last elections. The party is likely to secure around fifteen seats, making them the largest party in the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe grouping in the European Parliament.

Christian Democrats/Christian Social Union (CDU/CSU)	37%
Socialist Democrats (SPD)	27%
Free Democratic Party (FDP)	13%
Die Linke (The Left)	10%
Bundnis 90/Die Grunen (Greens)	9%

*FG Wahlen*



## Greece

### European Election Opinion Poll

George Papandreou's Pan-Hellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) (PES) leads Prime Minister Kostas Karamanlis' New Democracy (EPP-ED) by a 5% margin. Since the 2004 European elections, support for New Democracy has declined by 14% while PASOK's support has held steady at 34%.

Support for both the Ecologist Greens and the Coalition of the Radical Left – both of whom polled 4% and secured 1 seat apiece in 2004 – has increased to 7% which may put the parties in contention for a second parliamentary seat if PASOK fails to capitalise on the unpopularity of the New Democracy government.

While support for the People's Orthodox Alarm (Ind/Dem) and Coalition of the Radical Left (GUE/NGL) parties, both who secured one European Parliamentary seat at the 2004 elections, remains relatively unchanged since the last election they will struggle to retain their representation in the Parliament as a result of a reduction in Greece's seat allocation from 24 seats to 22.

Pan-Hellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK)	34%
New Democracy (ND)	29%
Ecologist Greens	7%
Coalition of the Radical Left (SYR)	7%
Communist Party of Greece (KKE)	6%
People's Orthodox Alarm (LAOS)	5%

*Skai*



## Hungary

### National Political Opinion Poll

Support for former Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's Hungarian Civic Union (Fidesz) (EPP-ED) continues to surge; the party now holds a crushing 42% lead over the governing Socialist Party (PES). While the government has until the spring of 2010 to call a general election, the newly sworn-in government of Prime Minister Gordon Bajnai appears increasingly fragile.

At the 2004 elections, Fidesz (EPP-ED) secured 47% of the vote to the Socialist Party's (PES) 34%. Given present trends, it is likely that Fidesz's domination of the Hungarian European Parliament delegation will be strengthened.

The Alliance of Free Democrats, whose support has collapsed in recent years, will struggle to replicate its 8% vote haul in the 2004 elections when it secured two MEPs, yet cannot be completely written off. In an effort to solidify their support, the party has ranked the twenty-year Budapest Mayor Gábor Demszky second on their list. The Alliance of Free Democrats has long drawn the overwhelming majority of its support from the Hungarian capital and Demszky's popularity in the city is likely to secure incumbent MEP István Szent-Iványi's re-election.

Support for the ultra-nationalist Jobbik Party, who have done much to exploit Hungary's present economic woes in order to build their support base amongst younger, unemployed voters, is hovering only slightly below the 5% threshold required under Hungarian electoral law for parliamentary representation. Given that turnout in the country is expected to be woefully low, less than 150,000 votes should be enough to secure an MEP, thus placing victory for Jobbik's lead candidate Dr Krisztina Morvai in easy reach.

Hungarian Civic Union (Fidesz)	64%
Socialist Party	22%
Jobbik Movement for a Better Hungary	4%
Alliance of Free Democrats	4%
Hungarian Democratic Forum	2%

*Tarki*



## Ireland

### National Political Opinion Poll

The government of Prime Minister Brian Cowen, who took office a year ago following the resignation of Bertie Ahern, is in serious difficulties; trailing opposition leader Enda Kenny's Fine Gael (EPP-ED) by seventeen percentage points.

Fianna Fáil's current opinion poll rating is the worst recorded for the party since opinion poll tracking began – and half the 42% they secured at the 2007 general election. The governing party's decline has boosted both main opposition parties. Fine Gael is presently polling 11% higher than at the last general election and the third-place Labour Party has doubled its support from 10% in 2007 to 20% today.

Fine Gael, who promoted widespread surprise by outpolling Fianna Fáil in a national election for the first time since 1927 at the 2004 European elections, will be hoping to build upon their strong position. After the June poll Fine Fáil's remaining MEPs, who have long been uncomfortable sitting in the rightist Union for a Europe of Nations group, are expected to defect to the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats group.

From the perspective of the European Parliament elections taking place in June, the opinion poll data is difficult to draw firm conclusions from as it fails to take into account Ireland's tradition of sending independent and third-party representatives to the Brussels Parliament. Kathy Sinnott and Marian Harkin, elected in 2004 as independent MEPs for the Southern and North West regions respectively, are seeking re-election. Libertas leader Declan Ganley is in strong competition for a seat in the North West constituency.

Fine Gael (FG)	38%
Fianna Fáil (FF)	21%
Labour Party (Lab.)	20%
Sinn Fein (SF)	9%
Green Party (GP)	3%

TNS

**“How would you vote if a second referendum on the Lisbon Treaty were to take place?”**

Yes	52%
No	29%
No opinion	19%

TNS



After weeks of lurid allegations about his private life and bitter attacks from his estranged wife, support for Silvio Berlusconi's government remains exceptionally robust. 54% of Italian voters express a preference for incumbent and his coalition.

The strong poll lead recorded for the centre-right party continues to vindicate the decision of Silvio Berlusconi and National Alliance leader Gianfranco Fini to merge their two parties to create the powerful *People of Freedom* alliance. In 2004, Forza Italia (EPP-ED) and the National Alliance (UEN) polled a disappointing combined vote share of just under 32% - 22% behind the party's current standing.

The nine National Alliance MEPs, who currently sit in the Union for a Europe of Nations group, will take their seats in the EPP-ED after June, with Berlusconi's new party likely to be the second-largest group in the group after the June elections.

While the results of this poll will bring cheer to the centre-right government with less than a week to go until the European elections, fringe parties – who have traditionally polled strongly in Italian European Parliament elections - will be alarmed by their anemic polling numbers. Italy's adoption of a 4% electoral threshold for European Parliament elections places high profile MEPs such as veteran Radical Party MEP Marco Pannella (ALDE) and neo-fascists Luca Romagnoli (NI) and Roberto Fiore (NI) in very grave danger of losing their seats.

While on paper it appears that the Union of the Centre and Communist Refoundation parties will struggle to retain their seats, both have a solid and persistent base of voters and their electoral prospects should not be instantly dismissed.

**National Political Opinion Poll**

Berlusconi Coalition (Italian People of Freedom Party / Northern League / Autonomy Movement)	54%
Democratic Party / Italy of Values	34%
Union of the Centre	6%
Communist Refoundation	3%
Freedom Left	2%



## Lithuania

### National Political Opinion Poll

Following the landslide victory of European Budgets Commissioner Dalia Grybauskaite in the country's Presidential election, centre-right Prime Minister Andrius Kubilius's Homeland Union (EPP-ED) party continues to lead in Lithuanian voting intention polls.

While the party enjoys a six point lead over the Order and Justice party, it is noticeable that no political party, the governing Homeland Union included, records the expressed preference of more than 18% of voters.

With such a vast number of "undecided" voters, it is impossible to draw any conclusions as to the likely outcome of the European elections in June.

Homeland Union - Lithuanian Christian Democrats	18%
Order and Justice	12%
Social Democratic Party of Lithuania	9%
Labour Party	9%
Liberals' Movement of the Republic of Lithuania	6%
New Union - Social Liberals	3%
National Revival Party	3%
Liberal and Centre Union	3%
Lithuanian Peasant Popular Union	2%
Election Action of Lithuania's Poles	1%

*Vilmorus*



Malta

**European Election Opinion Poll**

The opposition Labour Party appears likely to build upon its success in 2004 by once again outpacing the governing Nationalist Party in the European elections. In 2004, Labour secured three of the country's five MEPs to the Nationalist Party's two.

At 6%, support for the ecologist Democratic Alternative is surprisingly strong when one considers that the party secured around 1% of the vote in the country's last general election in 2008.

If the party was to repeat its performance at the 2004 elections when they secured 9% of first preference votes, the party would be a strong position to secure the country's "phantom" sixth seat in the European Parliament (the duly elected MEP will only acquire voting rights in the Parliament following the eventual ratification of the Lisbon Treaty).

Labour Party	51%
Nationalist Party	38%
Democratic Alternative	6%
Azzjoni Nazzjonali	5%

*Times of Malta*

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## Netherlands

### National Political Opinion Poll

Controversial nationalist politician Geert Wilders' Freedom Party (NI), formed only in February 2006, is tied with Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende's Christian Democrat Appeal (EPP-ED) in terms of projected seats in the Dutch Parliament, the Tweede Kamer.

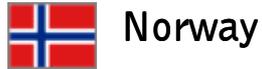
Wilders' party, whose support has swelled since the publication of the firebrand's anti-Islam film *Fitna*, may well rock the Dutch political establishment to the core by topping the poll in the June European elections. Wilders has eschewed the offer of French MEP Bruno Gollnisch for his party to join a reconstituted far-right grouping in the Parliament after the June elections and it continues remains unclear where his deputies will sit.

It remain unclear which party will benefit most from the 7% polled by former European Commission Paul van Buitenen's anti-corruption Europe Transparent list four years ago.

Freedom Party	<i>31 seats</i>
Christian Democrat Appeal	<i>31 seats</i>
Labour Party	<i>22 seats</i>
Democrats 66	<i>17 seats</i>
Socialist Party of the Netherlands	<i>14 seats</i>
People's Party for Freedom and Democracy	<i>14 seats</i>
Green Left	<i>10 seats</i>
Christian Union	<i>5 seats</i>
Animals Party	<i>2 seats</i>
Reformed Political Party	<i>2 seats</i>
Proud of the Netherlands	<i>2 seats</i>

*Maurice de Hond*

*NB: Available polling data is only published on the basis of projected seat numbers in the Dutch Parliament, the Tweede Kamer.*



Norway

**National Political Opinion Poll**

With the September elections fast approaching, Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg's governing Labour Party holds a 9% lead over the centre-right Progress Party. Support for Stoltenberg's coalition partners, the Socialist Left and Agrarian Parties totals 13%, placing the Prime Minister's coalition at 46%.

Support for a rumoured coalition between opposition leader Siv Jensen's Progress Party, the Conservatives and Christian People's Party stands a combined 43% of the vote, indicating that Stoltenberg's coalition may yet be vulnerable as election day approaches.

Labour Party	33%
Progress Party	24%
Conservatives	14%
Socialist Left	9%
Liberal Left	6%
Christian People's Party	5%
Centre/Agrarian Party	4%

*TNS Gallup / TV2*



**Poland**

**European Election Opinion Poll**

With Prime Minister Donald Tusk’s centre-right Civic Platform (EPP-ED) holding 22% in the latest opinion polls, it appears that the party is heading for a convincing European election win over President Lech Kaczynski’s Law and Justice Party (UEN).

The Civic Platform, who defeated Law and Justice by a 10-point margin at the last general election, is poised to build on the fifteen seats it secured at in 2004, putting the party in a strong position to become the third-largest national delegation inside the EPP-ED grouping. Civic Platform’s strong opinion poll showing will do much to assist former Prime Minister Jerzy Buzek MEP who is the firm favourite to take over as President of the European Parliament.

Law and Justice MEPs, who currently sit inside the Union for a Europe of Nations group, are expected to form a new alliance with the British Conservatives (EPP-ED) after the European elections in June.

The League of Polish Families, who received 16% of the vote and secured 10 MEPs in 2004 do not even register in current voting intention polls and appear to be facing electoral annihilation in June. Similarly, support for the Self Defence of the Republic party has declined from 10% in 2004 to 3% in this latest poll – below the 5% threshold required to secure parliamentary representation.

Civic Platform	47%
Law and Justice	25%
Democratic Alliance	10%
Peasant Party	9%
Self Defence of the Republic	3%
Labour Party	1%
Real Politics Union	1%

*PBS DGA*



**National Political Opinion Poll**

Prime Minister José Sócrates's Socialist Party (PES) holds a ten point national lead over Manuela Ferreira Leite's opposition Social Democratic Party. Support for the assorted leftist parties which comprise the Unitarian Democratic Coalition and Leftist Bloc coalitions stands at a quarter of the vote (25%).

While the Socialist Party holds a strong national lead, its present poll position represents 9% fall in support since the past European elections. Candidates of the Leftist Bloc and Unitarian Democratic Coalition, who have disproportionately benefitted from the Socialist Party's decline, are likely to gravitate towards the Green and far-left GUE group thus further fragmenting the country's MEPs across the Parliament's political groupings.

Having previously appeared to be in electoral peril, it now appears as if Paulo Portas' Popular Party list led by Nuno Melo will maintain its representation in the European Parliament.

Socialist Party	36%
Social Democratic Party	26%
Leftist Bloc	14%
Unitarian Democratic Coalition	11%
Popular Party	8%

*Marktest*



## Romania

### European Election Opinion Poll

The Social Democratic Party (PES) is likely to improve upon its 23% vote share in Romania's inaugural European Parliament elections in 2007 and establish itself as the country's largest national delegation in Brussels. Unpopular Prime Minister Emil Boc's Democratic Liberal Party (EPP-ED), who scored 29% of the vote in 2007, may experience a small drop in its representation Brussels. Support for the National Liberal Party (ALDE) is likely to remain unchanged.

After a tumultuous period in which the party lost, in quick succession, its seats in the European Parliament, Chamber of Deputies and Senate, the far-right Greater Romania Party (NI) appears likely to avenge its defeat in the 2007 European elections by securing at least two of the country's 33 seats. In order to boost his vote, the party's leader Corneliu Vadim Tudor has teamed up with his former competitor for the affections of Romania's far-right voters, football club owner George "Gigi" Becali.

The Greater Romania Party's likely success is a boon for the efforts of MEPs who are keen to reestablish the far-right Identity, Tradition and Sovereignty group after the June elections – the group having previously disbanded after Italian MEP Alessandra Mussolini's description of Romanians as "scum".

The independent candidacy of Elena Basescu, the twenty eight year old model daughter of incumbent President Traian Basescu stands a good chance of succeeding. Basescu, who had been expected to compete in the elections as a candidate of her father's Democratic Liberal Party, gathered the signatures of more than 200,000 signatures in order to stand independent so as to avoid charges of nepotism.

Laszlo Tokes, who competed as an independent candidate in Romania's inaugural European Parliament elections in 2007 and currently sits in the Green/European Free Alliance group, appears on the 2009 ballot as a candidate of the Democratic Union of Hungarians (EPP-ED).

Social Democratic Party	34%
Democratic Liberal Party	27%
National Liberal Party	16%
Greater Romania Party	8%
Democratic Union of Hungarians in Romania	7%
Elena Basescu (Independent)	5%
New Generation Party	1%
Pavel Abraham (Independent)	1%

### Do you have confidence in each of these politicians?

Incumbent President Traian Basescu leads the country's Senate President and former Ambassador to the United States Mircea Geoana by a seven point margin. Basescu, who was first elected in 2007, has yet to formally confirm if he will seek re-election in the November poll.

Traian Basescu	31%
Mircea Geoana	24%
Crin Antonescu	20%
Gigi Becali	8%
Radu Duda	6%
Corneliu Vadim Tudor	6%

GSS



## Slovakia

### National Poll

Prime Minister Robert Fico's centre-left Direction-Social Democracy Party (Smer) holds a commanding 24% over its nearest political rival, the Slovak National Party.

Smer appears guaranteed to improve upon its performance at the 2004 European elections where the party received 16.9% of the vote and elected only three of the country's fourteen MEPs. The party should conservatively expect to at least double its representation in Brussels.

Direction-Social Democracy (Smer)	42%
Slovak Democratic and Christian Union (SDKU)	18%
Slovak National Party (SNS)	10%
Party of the Hungarian Coalition (SMK)	9%
Christian Democrats	8%
People's Party - Movement for a Democracy (LS-HZDS)	4%
Slovak Communist Party (KSS)	2%
Free Forum (SF)	2%
Freedom and Solidarity	2%
Green Party	2%
Movement for Democracy (HZD)	1%

Focus



Spain

**National Poll**

José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero's Socialist Workers Party (PES) and Manuel Rajoy's opposition Partido Popular (EPP-ED) continue to be statistically tied in national opinion polls. The poll findings indicate a minimal shift in support since the 2004 European elections for either of the two main parties – just as in the last Spanish general election.

Given the sustained support for regionalist parties and the absence of significant movement in the opinion polls, it is likely that Spain's European Parliament delegation will remain relatively unaltered in June.

Socialist Workers Party (PSOE)	41%
Popular Party (PP)	40%
United Left & Initiative for Catalonia/Greens	5%
Convergence and Union (CiU)	3%
Union, Progress and Democracy (UPyD)	3%
Basque Nationalist Party (PNV)	1%
Republican Left of Catalonia (ERC)	1%
Galician Nationalist Bloc (BNG)	1%

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## Sweden

### European Election Opinion Poll

Opposition leader Mona Sahlin's Social Democrats (PES) lead Prime Minister Frederick Reinfeldt's centre-right Moderate Rally (EPP-ED) by an 8% margin in advance of the European elections. Support for both the Social Democrats and Moderate Rally has increased since the 2004 elections, with the parties increasing their vote share by 4% and 1% respectively.

The Green Party (Greens/EFA), who polled 17% of the vote in 2004, will struggle to hold their four seats.

In what is set to be one of the more eye-catching results of the year, the Pirate Party appears likely to pass the 4% electoral threshold to secure one of Sweden's eighteen European Parliament seats.

The June List, who received 14% of the vote and secured three seats in 2004, is unlikely to repeat their success with successive polls showing the party hovering at around 2%. The June List delegation's exit from the European Parliament would cause headaches for the leaders of the Independence and Democracy group as they seek to comply with tough new rules governing the formation of political groups after the 2009 elections.

Social Democrats	32%
Moderate Rally	24%
Green Party	9%
People's Party/Liberals	9%
Pirate Party	6%
Centre Party	6%
Left Party	5%
Christian Democrats	4%
June List	2%
Swedish Democrats	2%

*Sifo*

**"Do you think that a new referendum on whether Sweden should adopt the euro ought to be held or not?"**

Yes	51%
No	44%
Unsure	5%

*Novus Opinion*

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