

Euro Elections Send Empire's Pols Reeling

In what is now referred to as a political “earthquake,” voters across Europe handed crushing defeats to the British Empire’s pro-austerity, anti-sovereignty ruling national parties of the May 22-25 European Parliament elections. Here is a brief look at the results in four countries.

Britain

The euro-skeptic UK Independence Party (UKIP), which 20 years ago received 1% of the vote in its first European election, won with 27%. For the first time in 100 years, neither the Labour nor the Conservative party won a British national election.

UKIP campaigns for the United Kingdom’s withdrawal from the European Union, which, it says, has too much control over the lives of British people. UKIP also wants to do away the free movement of people within the bloc, and limit the number of immigrants allowed

into the UK. Tim Farron, the president of the Liberal Democrats, who lost 10 of their 11 seats, said, “Britain is drifting to the exit door of the European Union.”

France

The National Front, which campaigns for France’s leaving the Eurozone, new limits on immigration, and reintroduction of national border controls, won the most votes for the first time, with nearly 25%.

The UMP (the traditional right-wing) lagged behind with 20% (27.8% in 2009), and the Socialist Party of President François Hollande got a drubbing with only 14% (down from 16.2% in 2009). The other major loser was the Green Party, which got only 8% (16% in 2009). The Left Party (Communist Party plus Left Front) remained stuck at 6.5%, as before. The UMP and the Greens lost respectively 10 and 8 seats in the European Parliament; the Socialists lost one seat.

Telegraph writer Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, in his May 29 column, reports that, when he asked Marine Le Pen, head of the National Front, what would be the first thing she would do if she became President, she “replied she would instruct the French Treasury to draft plans for the immediate restoration of the franc, that great symbol of emancipation from the English occupation (*franc des Anglais*),” if an orderly dismantling of the Eurozone is not implemented.

Greece

The leading opposition party, Syriza, topped the polls with 27%, delivering a strong message that it could win the next national elections. Syriza leader Alexis Tsipras has been a prominent voice against the murderous austerity policy of the European Union, although he has not called for leaving the Eurozone.

The vote gave Syriza 7 of the 21 seats Greece has in the European Parliament, while the ruling New Democracy received less than 23% for only 6 seats.

Ireland

Elections for all the local councils and for the European Parliament in both parts of Ireland up-ended the monopoly of the three establishment parties which have dominated the Republic of Ireland for nine decades. Sinn Fein made huge gains, particularly in county and municipal elections, and is now the largest party in Ireland. This portends the end of the Fine Gael-Labour coalition government in the Republic of Ireland, the second government in a row to ram murderous EU and

Troika austerity down the throats of the Irish people. Sinn Fein made opposition to this austerity its leading campaign issue, promising to protect the vulnerable, and the interests of Ireland.

In the wake of his party being virtually obliterated, the Republic of Ireland’s Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Eamon Gilmore, resigned as head of the Labour Party. In 2011, Labour’s vote was twice that of Sinn Fein’s, but last week, Sinn Fein’s vote was triple that of Labour.