

Brussels faces populist backlash

Voters in countries that contribute almost 72 percent of European Union GDP have voted or will soon vote in ballots amid revolt and popular anger against what is seen as elite and centrist politics



EU member states
GDP data for 2015

UNITED KINGDOM

17.5% of European Union GDP

Jun 2016: Britain votes **52%** to **48%** to leave EU. Brexit referendum turnout is **71.8%**



FRANCE

14.8% of EU GDP

May 2017: Presidential election. Latest polls put **Marine Le Pen** (above) and her **National Front** neck and neck with **Republicans** on **34%**

ITALY

11.2% of EU GDP

Dec 4, 2016: Prime Minister **Matteo Renzi** quits following **60-40%** defeat in referendum on constitutional reform. Ballot opposed by anti-euro **Five Star Movement** which has **29%** support – Democratic Party has **33%**

NETHERLANDS

4.6% of EU GDP

Mar 15, 2017: General elections. Latest poll gives **Geert Wilders** and his eurosceptic **Party for Freedom** **25%** of vote – party could become largest group in parliament

GERMANY

20.6% of EU GDP

Aug-Oct 2017: General elections. Far right party **Alternative for Germany (AfD)** has **14%** support compared with **Angela Merkel's CDU** on **33%**

AUSTRIA

5.7% of EU GDP

Dec 4, 2016: Austria narrowly rejects far-right presidential candidate **Norbert Hofer**, who wins over **46%** of vote

HUNGARY

6.8% of EU GDP

Oct 2016: Prime Minister **Viktor Orbán's** referendum, which rejects EU migrant quotas, is backed by **98%** of those who voted*

*Ballot constitutionally null and void because turnout was below 50%

Sources: Eurostat, Maurice de Hond, Elabe Institute Picture: Associated Press

© GRAPHIC NEWS