

EMMANUEL MACRON OPENS HIS PRESIDENCY WITH BEETHOVEN'S ODE TO JOY, EUROPE'S ANTHEM

"It is when Utopias are in danger of dying that we really begin to love them."

***„Wo aber Gefahr ist, wächst
Das Rettende auch.“
(Hölderlin)***

Emmanuel Macron, a youthful former investment banker, handily won France's presidential election on Sunday, defeating the staunch nationalist Marine Le Pen after voters firmly rejected her far-right message and backed his call for centrist change.

The election was watched around the world for magnifying many of the broader tensions rippling through Western democracies, including the United States: populist anger at the political mainstream, economic insecurity among middle-class voters and rising resentment toward immigrants.

Mr. Macron's victory offered significant relief to the European Union, which Ms. Le Pen had threatened to leave. His platform to loosen labor rules, make France more competitive globally and deepen ties with the European Union is also likely to reassure a global financial market that was jittery at the prospect of a Le Pen victory. Her loss provided further signs that the populist wave that swept Britain out of the European Union and Donald J. Trump into the White House may have crested in Europe, for now.

"I understand the divisions of our country that have led some to vote for extremists," Mr. Macron said after the vote. "I understand the anger, the anxiety, the doubts that a great part among us have also expressed."

Yet the election results showed that many people chose not to vote for either candidate, signaling skepticism about his project. And Mr. Macron quickly made clear that he understood the magnitude of the task before him after an often angry campaign. (NYT)

"Macron muss schon am ersten Tag durchstarten", warnt Dominique de Villepin, ehemaliger Premier der Konservativen. "Für ihn gibt es keine Schonfrist. Schon rüsten die Rivalen zur Revanche. Der Spiegel ([1](#))

The agonizing question now is indeed whether a low turnout on 7 May, fueled by a *neither Macron nor Le Pen* reflex among parts of the electorate, might yet produce a nightmare scenario.

Clearly inexperienced, Macron may find it hard to run the Assembly: some say France may turn ungovernable.



But his victory certainly cheered up the pro-European globalists.

We are over the first bridge now: Marine Le Pen has lost the second round, but the fight is not over. There are indeed more bridges ahead. The trouble may in fact be only beginning. There happens indeed to be a *third round*, the difficult vote for the national Assembly.

Anyway, Mr Macron won by an even wider margin than the polls have consistently implied: 66% to 34%. He said he wanted France's new chapter to be one "of hope, and confidence rediscovered". But these are huge tasks, in exceptionally uncertain terrain.

The people of France have inflicted a major reverse on demagogic nationalism. Their country is safer for it. And so is Europe.

Yes, the abstention rate was the highest since 1969, at around 25%.

Macron must now prove that his "neither left nor right" stance can offer the balm, growth and reform that France craves in the face of high unemployment, fear of terrorism, social and racial antagonism and European Union ineffectiveness. (The Guardian)

Emmanuel Macron is soon to reinforce the Liberal wing in the European parliament (*the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe* chaired by the Belgian federalist Guy Verhofstadt)

European leaders have quickly taken up his Europhile cause against Marine Le Pen's ambition to destroy Europe. *His splendid victory is very likely to trigger a restart of Europe* said Henrik Enderlein, (Hertie School of Governance, Berlin)

Macron definitely wants to reform the EU: his project are ambitious, he wants a budget for the Eurozone an efficient European Parliament and a European finance minister capable of imposing European investments. He is determined to restart the German-French engine which is making quite an impression on the Germans from conservative Wolfgang Schäuble (CDU) to social democrats Sigmar Gabriel and President Frank-Walter Steinmeier (SPD). (1)

But in order to succeed, the freshly elected French president needs a wide and strong majority in the Assembly that will be particularly hard to summon up.

It is going to be particularly hard to bring together a Europhile Assembly in a country that has proved to be deeply divided between a globalist Europeanist elite and the frustrated grassroots that are deep-rooted in nationalist tradition.

Isn't therefore incongruous, if not *irreverent* (Chantal Delsol) to advocate a European spirit beyond all forms of local particularisms? A European spirit that stands for knowledge instead of an obsession with security, for democracy and emancipation instead of populism, for cosmopolitan globalism instead of localism and an obsession with national identity?

The thing is that today every second French police officer votes FN and the lower the income (around 1250 Euro, monthly) of the voter, the higher his temptation to back the National front. The average Macron voter earns 3.000 Euro or more.

THE WORLD, EUROPE, FRANCE, THE FRENCH, ARE GOING TO FACE MAJOR CHALLENGES - BY 2022

Many things lie ahead before the end of the mandate of the next President of the French Republic, and it is in this context that the coming election has to be placed, and a choice has to be made.

Several profound changes will take place in the next five years, which will be of deep concern to all of us.

First, the nature of work will radically change. New technologies will help make half of the tasks (but not jobs) of today extinct and everyone will have to learn to learn continuously and change work habits (a formidable challenge that Eyes of Europe is determined to tackle); everyone will have, will be able, to be more autonomous, more creative, be the creator of one's own job, without waiting for job opportunities suggestion. It is Eyes of Europe main ambition to accompany and coach the next generation of young Europeans in this most devastating wave of change, which is probably the more dramatic that mankind was ever to face in its entire history.

Next, the world will be more unstable than it has ever been in the past 50 years. Climate-related disasters will be ever more present, especially in Africa, leading to large waves of population migration towards the coasts and into Europe. The risks of war are set to continue in the Middle East, the South China Sea and Eastern Europe. Acts of terrorism will become more intensive and large-scale, using the techniques now being tested in both the Afghan and Iraqi theaters.

Europe will no longer be able to remain in the current ambiguity: it will have to face the risk of a terrible financial, economic and political crisis on its Southern flank, with Italy crying out for intervention, for amounts not matched by those needed for Greece and Europe will provide itself with the means necessary to ensure its security, without the help of the United States of America.

All over the world, and particularly in France, income disparities, even more than today, will be more obscene, intolerable than ever, and individual cases, every personal tragedy, will be another sign of an unfair, unjust society, a juxtaposition of cynicism.

Finally, for all of us there will be an increasing awareness that it is up to us to choose our own destiny and that of our children.

In this brutal, competitive and uncertain world, the culture of empathy and altruism, of openness towards others, will be the key to individual and collective success. There will be no point in hiding behind illusory walls: our future will be increasingly interdependent. Therefore Eyes of Europe is definitely willing to bring all European teenagers in permanent interaction to create a kind of European democratic agora in real time.

Emmanuel Macron, the newly elected President should strive to improve the fate of millions of the poorest people in France as quickly as possible and give a credible hope to all the unemployed and all those who are about to lose their jobs.

This will be the main function of his presidency : to allow the French to believe with lucidity that tomorrow can be better than today, that France can finally live up to its genius, its history, its



geographical position: the happiest country in the whole wide world, tolerant, open, respected.
(Jacques Attali)

Yet, never have there been so many anti-European candidates in a French election. Yet their creed was not heard. *It is when Utopias are in danger of dying that we really begin to love them.* (Caroline Fourest). And that is basically Manuel Macron's message. He has managed to fill halls of partisans with that single word: *Europe*. That is basically his most spectacular daring and memorable ambition. Let us hope he lives up to it.

This makes him a formidable European challenger who is widely admired across Europe. Europe, as E.o.E. has kept writing over the last 20 years, is the last of all Utopias except of course for Eyes of Europe itself.

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MARC GUIOT – [EYES OF EUROPE](#)

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(1) FOR GERMANY EMMANUEL MACRON IS FRANCE'S VERY LAST CHANCE. IT MAY VERY WELL BE EUROPE'S LAST OPPORTUNITY TOO.

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Ohne stabile Mehrheit im Parlament wird es nichts mit Reformen

Grund genug für Macron einen Start mit furiosem Tempo zu planen, um seine Entschlusskraft zu beweisen: Mit einem Kabinett von rund 15 Ministern, paritätisch besetzt mit Männern und Frauen; mit Dekreten zur "Moralisierung der Politik"; mit Anweisungen zur territorialen Neuordnung, zur Ökologie und zur Sicherheit. Dank solcher präsidialen Erlasse wird Macron zum Auftakt seiner Amtszeit zwar Dynamik an den Tag legen. Doch zum Regieren braucht der Staatschef langfristig eine stabile absolute Mehrheit. Andernfalls bleibt ihm nur eine wackelige Kohabitation mit seinen Gegnern. Die Verwirklichung seiner ambitiösen Reformen, die der Kandidat in seiner Polit-Biographie als "Revolution" beschreibt, bliebe damit Makulatur.

"Der Sieg ist nur eine Etappe", gesteht Macron am Abend in einer Videobotschaft an seine Fans: "Jetzt müssen wir Resultate bringen und unser Land transformieren. Ich zähle auf Euch." Überschieden ist die E-Mail: "Alles beginnt."

Zusammengefasst: Der 39-Jährige hat längst nicht alle Franzosen hinter sich. Aber damit er seine ambitionierten Reformen umsetzen kann, braucht er auch im Parlament eine Mehrheit. Auf die hoffen Macron und seine Bewegung "En Marche!" bei den Wahlen im Juni, doch die geschlagenen Parteien rüsten bereits zum Gegenangriff. **Stefan Simons (Der Spiegel)**