



25th  
sept.



On 25th September, 46 million Italians will vote for early parliamentary elections to renew their two chambers (Chamber of Deputies and Senate). The election is closely followed in Brussels and in the chancelleries, given Italy's central role in Europe.

## Italy, the European

**Accession to the European Coal and Steel Community in 1950** (founding member), member of the Eurozone and Schengen.



Italy is the main **beneficiary of the European recovery plan** (*Next Generation EU*) with 191.5 billion euros.



**13.2% of the European Commission's staff** are Italian<sup>1</sup>, the second most common nationality after Belgium and before France.



54% of Italians have **confidence in the European institutions** and 72% support the euro<sup>2</sup>.



Italy has **not used nuclear power since 1987**, a decision confirmed by a second referendum in 2011. With 22.1 GW installed, it is the second country in Europe with installed solar panels.



3<sup>rd</sup> largest economic power largest economy in Europe, member of the G7.



Italy's debt stands at 152.60% of its GDP (2022 data).<sup>4</sup>



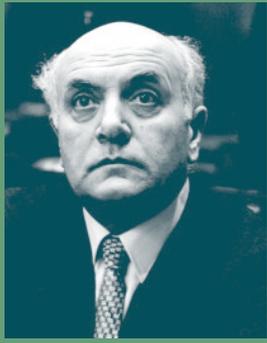
Italy is a net contributor contributor to the budget.

1. Source: European Commission, 2022  
4. Source: European Commission.

2. Source: Eurobarometer, 2022.

3. Source: SolarPower Europe, 2022

## The great Italians who have made Europe



Altiero Spinelli

© Wikimedia commons

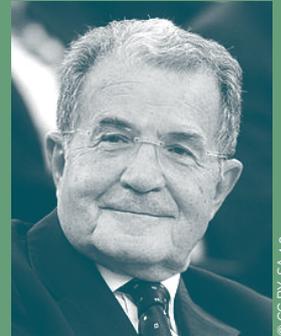
Author of the Ventotene Manifesto in 1941 for a united Europe, founding father of Europe.

President of the Italian Council (1945-1953), prepared Italy's accession to the ECSC, founding father of Europe.



Alcide de Gasperi

© Wikimedia commons



Romano Prodi

© CC BY-SA 4.0

President of the European Commission (1999-2004), adoption of the euro.



Federica Mogherini

© CC BY 3.0

High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (2014-2019), Iran nuclear agreement of 2015.

President of the European Central Bank (2011-2019), "whatever it takes" speech to save the euro in 2012.



Mario Draghi

© <https://www.quirinale.it/elementi/52056>

## The Italian political system



The Italian government is formed by a coalition with a majority among the parties elected in both chambers.

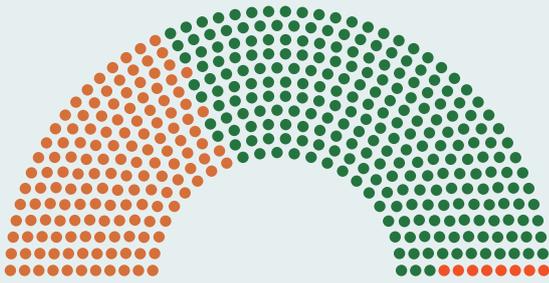
Italy is a parliamentary republic, whose government is responsible to the bicameral Parliament (Chamber of Deputies and Senate).

The legislature lasts 5 years. The minimum threshold for a party to have members in Parliament is 3% of the votes cast.

Under the *Rosatellum* electoral system, elections are held in a single round and use a mixed system of majority and proportional elections.

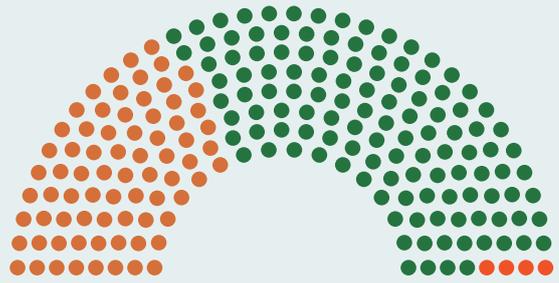


For the **Chamber of Deputies** (*Camera dei Deputati*), which has **400 elected members**:



- 245 (or 61%) of the members of parliament are by single-member constituencies.
- 147 (37%) are chosen by proportional representation.
- 8 (2%) are elected by Italians abroad.

The pattern is almost the same in the **Senate** (*Senato della Repubblica*), which has **200 elected members**:



- 122 senators are chosen by single-member ballot.
- 74 are appointed at regional level by proportional representation.
- 4 are elected by Italians abroad.



It is the President of the Italian Republic who asks the winning party to form a government. During the legislature, if a party decides to leave the coalition, the government may lose its majority, This leads to chronic political instability. This undermines Italy's reliability as a European partner, both in the markets and in the implementation of public policies.