

# Italy's elections

## What will the vote mean for euro-area stability?

Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> February, 15:00 UK time



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### What will the vote mean for euro-area stability?

Europe faces its next big challenge when Italy heads to the polls on March 4. The outcome is uncertain: although the centre-right opposition has seen a rise in support in recent weeks, it may fail to win a majority of votes.

Support for the governing centre-left has dropped from a peak of more than 40% in the 2014 European elections to around 23-25%.

If neither bloc is able to win a majority, the two main parties, Matteo Renzi's Democratic Party and Silvio Berlusconi's Forza Italia, could form a grand coalition -- or there could be political deadlock followed by a repeat election.

- Will Italy's parties manage to form a functioning government after the election?
- Will the populist anti-establishment Five Star Movement emerge as the strongest party?
- What will political deadlock mean for EU and euro-area reform?
- Will a new government tackle Italy's structural problems?

Share your thoughts on the above and put your questions on anything else that concerns or excites you about Italy's elections to three of Oxford Analytica's expert senior advisors in our special client conference call on Tuesday, February 20, 15.00 GMT, 10.00 EST.

## Chair

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### **Paul Maidment, Director of Analysis and Managing Editor, Oxford Analytica**

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Paul Maidment joined Oxford Analytica in December 2014 as the Director of Analysis and Managing Editor of the Oxford Analytica Daily Brief.

He is an award-winning journalist who founded the New York-based digital editorial consultancy Bystander Media in 2010. A pioneer in combining digital and print journalism, he was previously Editor of [Forbes.com](http://Forbes.com) and Executive Editor of Forbes, transforming a magazine website into the leading online destination for business, finance and up-scale lifestyle. Before joining Forbes in 2001, Paul was the founding Editor of the Financial Times' award-winning web site [FT.com](http://FT.com) and Assistant Editor of the newspaper. His early career as an editor and foreign correspondent encompassed The Economist, the Asian Wall Street Journal and the BBC in the U.K. the U.S. and Asia — a depth of journalistic experience and breadth of media that gives him a unique perspective on the changes transforming publishing and the world economy. Paul was inducted into the Digital Hall of Fame in New York in 2010.

## Panellists

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### **Valpy FitzGerald, Emeritus Professor of International Development Finance, University of Oxford**

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Oxford University and Emeritus Fellow of St Antony's College, Oxford. Has conducted advisory work for various international agencies, including the OECD, the UN Conference on Trade and Development and UNICEF. Research interests include financial and trade linkages between industrial and developing countries, macroeconomics of Latin America, conflict and reconstruction, and the history of economic thought.

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### **David Hine, University of Oxford**

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David Hine, MA, D.Phil., is an Official Student (i.e. tutorial fellow) of Christ Church, University lecturer in Politics, and Director of the Centre for the Study of Democratic Government in the Department of Politics and International Relations. His main teaching interests cover comparative European government, comparative politics, and European integration. His current research is on public ethics and the machinery of public integrity enforcement in western Europe.

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### **Chris Morris, Contributor, Oxford Analytica**

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Chris Morris has been a BBC correspondent for more than 25 years, and he's recently moved back to the UK after spending most of his career abroad. For the past 5 years he was the BBC's Europe Correspondent based in Brussels. He now works for the BBC's newly-created Reality Check team. He is an expert on Brexit, on the EU and on Turkey in particular. He covered the French Presidential elections from Paris in both 2002 and 2012.

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**Erik Jones, Director of European and Eurasian Studies Johns Hopkins University SAIS**

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Professor of European Studies and International Political Economy at SAIS and Senior Research Fellow at Nuffield College, Oxford. Author of *The Politics of Economic and Monetary Union* (2002), *Economic Adjustment and Political Transformation in Small States* (2008), *Weary Policeman: American Power in an Age of Austerity* (with Dana Allin, 2012), and *The Year the European Crisis Ended* (2014). Editor or co-editor of books/journals on European politics and political economy including *The Oxford Handbook of the European Union* (2012) and *The Oxford Handbook of Italian Politics* (2015).