



French Legislative Election 2024

Natanael Bloch LLB, MA, MBA

Tuesday 30 July 2024: **11.30am for 12pm-1pm** AEST - Level 13, 356 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

When French President Emmanuel Macron called a snap election on 9 June, many felt uncertain about the political future of France, given the increasing trend of support for far-right parties within Europe. Tensions grew following the results of the first round of voting, which saw the far-right National Rally party secure the largest share of the votes at 33.2%.



However, in an unexpected turn of events, tactical voting in the second round saw the National Rally win only 143 seats out of 577, falling short of Macron's centrist Ensemble Coalition at 160 seats. The surprise victor was the New Popular Front, the three-week-old, left-wing alliance which secured 181 seats.

As it stands, no party has been able to claim the necessary majority of 289 seats which is dependent on further coalition building, particularly between the leftist and centrist blocs. This not only raises questions as to the ability of the next government to deliver on their electoral promises, but also regarding Macron's role as President until 2027.

What is Macron's role in navigating the potential political gridlock? What are the current and potential obstacles faced by parties in a forming a successful majority coalition? And what are the wider implications for relations with the EU and NATO?

AIIA Victoria invites you to join Natanael Bloch for his insights.



Natanael Bloch LLB, MA, MBA is a communication and public affairs expert, working in both the public and private sectors. He has been an advisor to the French government and run several campaigns for French and EU elections. Natanael is currently the Head of Corporate at WE Communications Australia. In 2019, Natanael co-founded and co-hosted the Europa Voice podcast at the Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) Australia and is regularly invited on TV/radio to comment on French and EU politics. Natanael is an EU-Australia Emerging Leader alumni with a specific interest in the EU-Australia Free Trade Agreement. Natanael has a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree in Private Law, a Master of Political Sciences degree; a Master's degree in International Relations, Sociology, and Communication; and an MBA in Business Strategy.

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