

# France's right-wing star joins forces with Italy's Giorgia Meloni in EU Parliament

**In a sign of EU Parliament's rightward tilt, Marion Maréchal's party has entered the Italian and Polish-led conservative group.**

STRASBOURG — Europe's hard right is coalescing.

On Wednesday, French far-right politician Marion Maréchal, the leader of a fringe party, announced that its sole member of the European Parliament, Nicolas Bay, will now sit with the Euroskeptic faction that features Giorgia Meloni's Brothers of Italy and the Polish nationalist Law and Justice.

The movement of one MEP will make little immediate impact — but it's a sign of what could be to come in June's European election. The European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) group — currently a rather small and sidelined power in the Parliament — is threatening to overtake French President Emmanuel Macron's Renew Europe in size, according to recent polls, with Meloni's MEPs expected to swell in number.

“By joining the ECR we give ourselves the means with this group to outstrip the Renew group of Emmanuel Macron, and thus to reduce the centrist influence in the European Parliament,” said Maréchal, the niece of Marine Le Pen, who leads a different far-right party, National Rally (which sits with the far-right Identity and Democracy — ID — group in the Parliament).

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