
MACRON'S BATTLE FOR THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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10.05.2017

EuroNews (9 May 2017)

Emmanuel Macron might be forgiven for his slow march through the Louvre courtyard on Sunday to celebrate with his supporters. It was a rare chance to catch his breath after an election campaign that sometimes resembled a political punch-up.

But the gloves are nowhere near off as France's president-elect prepares for another round; next months decisive battle for control of parliament, the National Assembly.

According to political analyst Nabila Ramadani he needs to win the fight in order to do anything: The first major challenge that Emmanuel Macron is facing will be to secure a working majority at the National Assembly so that he can effectively govern and push through his reforms. He is very much aware that France has deep seated institutional problems and indeed structural problems.

Under France's constitution, the president is supreme political leader, and can choose a prime minister, who then recommends government ministers, all of them normally from the president's party.

The legislative elections could result in one of three different scenarios. If Macron obtains an outright majority in parliament, he will be able to enact his policies.

A second possibility is that *Republique En Marche!* could have the biggest group of MPs but not a majority, leaving a Macron government with only limited room to manoeuvre and in need of allies.

A third outcome could be that he faces a hostile majority in the lower house of parliament and is forced to appoint a prime minister outside his party, a period known in France as *cohabitation*.

But that's only happened three times in recent history* and each and every occasion will likely be remembered for awkwardness of the arrangement as well as each government's difficulty to make progress or please anyone.

Macron will no doubt be hoping to ride the wave of popularity towards next month's elections.

With France's Socialists and conservatives in disarray his team will be looking to herd their disaffected and traditional supporters.

But Macron faces an uphill task as a new survey suggests most French people don't want *Republique En Marche* to have a parliamentary majority.

*Ed - 1986-1988, Mitterrand-Chirac; 1993-1995 : Mitterrand -Balladur and 1997-2002 Chirac -Jospin

((http://www.francetvinfo.fr/elections/presidentielle/legislatives-61-des-francais-ne-souhaitent-pas-qu-emmanuel-macron-dispose-d-une-majorite-absolue-a-l-assemblee-selon-un-sondage-ipsos-sopra-steria_2180021.html))

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