
ITALY ELECTIONS: FAR-RIGHT LEADER MELONI TELLS ITALIANS 'DON'T BE AFRAID'

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[...]

Italians, like many others in Europe, are feeling the pinch. Spiralling energy bills compound already existing economic difficulties - hangovers from Covid lockdown measures and the euro crisis.

"Italians feel abandoned. Especially here in the south," Pino de Stasio told me. His family have owned Bar Settebello in downtown Naples for decades.

"Unlike the UK, our government hasn't lent us enough of a helping hand. My energy bills have quadrupled. We're forced to switch off our coffee machine at 4pm every day when energy prices spike. So many businesses and families are going under. That's why, unfortunately, people are looking to the [political] right. Because they haven't yet sat in government to disappoint us."

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