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## Italy: Economic and Political Overview

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### The political framework of Italy

#### Political Outline

##### Current Political Leaders

President: Sergio Mattarella (since 3 February 2015 - elected for a second term in January 2022)

Prime Minister (President of the Council of Ministers): Giorgia Meloni (since 22 October 2022)

##### Next Election Dates

Presidential: 2029

Legislative: September 2027

##### Current Political Context

The center-right government led by Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, who became the first female prime minister of Italy in 2022, continued to face challenges in balancing internal coalition dynamics. The coalition included her party, Fratelli

d'Italia (FDI), along with the League (Lega) and Forza Italia (FI). On the other end, the main opposition parties, such as the Democratic Party (PD), the Five Star Movement (M5S) and Alleanza Verdi e Sinistra (AVS), formed coalitions in some regional elections but failed to agree in others due to ideological differences and leadership disputes. On 8–9 June, Italy held European Parliament elections alongside regional elections in Piedmont and municipal elections in over 3,700 localities. Fratelli d'Italia (Fdi) emerged as the largest party in the European elections, followed by the Democratic Party (PD) and the Five Star Movement (M5S). In July, Meloni — who is also president of the European Conservatives— did not vote for Ursula von der Leyen's reappointment as President of the European Commission, abstaining in the European Council vote. However, Meloni later approved the new Commission after securing a key position for Raffaele Fitto, who was appointed as Vice President.

On the international stage, Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni sought to strengthen Italy's transatlantic ties. On 20 January 2025, she was the only European Union leader to attend the inauguration of U.S. President Donald Trump, aiming to foster a “special relationship” with the new administration.

In relation to the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, Italy reaffirmed its support for Ukraine, and in January 2025, Meloni hosted Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky at Palazzo Chigi, emphasizing Italy's commitment to providing military and economic assistance to Kyiv.

### Main Political Parties

The Italian Parliament is based on a multi-party system, with the main political forces being:

- **Fratelli d'Italia** (Fdi, Brothers of Italy): right-wing, nationalist, conservative
- **Democratic Party** (PD): centre-left
- **Five Star Movement** (M5S): anti-establishment, centre-left, catch-all political movement
- **Lega**: right-wing, populist, Euro-sceptic
- **Forza Italia** (FI): centre-right, liberalism
- **Alleanza Verdi e Sinistra** (Greens and Left Alliance): left-wing political alliance, a federation of two political parties, Italian Left (SI) and Green Europe (EV)
- **Italia Viva** (IV): centre-left, liberal

- **Azione** (Action): centre-liberal
- **Liberi e Uguali** (LeU, Free and Equal): left-wing
- **+Europa** (+Eu, More Europe): pro-European, social liberalism.

The main coalitions in the latest election were the composed of Fratelli d'Italia, Lega and Forza Italia (right/centre-right); PD, Alleanza Verdi e Sinistra and +Europa (centre-left); and the "Terzo Polo" formed by Italia Viva and Azione. The Five Star Movement did not enter any coalition.

#### Executive Power

Italy is a parliamentary republic, hence the **President of the Republic's** role is mostly ceremonial. He is the chief of state and is indirectly elected for a 7-year term.

The **Prime Minister** (officially the President of the **Council of Ministers**) is the head of the government and holds executive power, which includes the implementation of the law and the running of the everyday business of the country. The Prime Minister is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Parliament, on the basis of the support of the majority. He or she has a five year term of office. The Council of Ministers is appointed by the Prime Minister and approved by the President.

#### Legislative Power

Legislative power in Italy is bicameral and both chambers possess significant powers and prerogatives. The **Senate (Senato della Repubblica)** has 200 members (plus senators for life), while the **Chamber of Deputies (Camera dei deputati)** has 400 members. Universal suffrage has been part of Italian elections since the writing of the Constitution in 1948, but Italian electoral law has shifted substantially over the years. The electoral system was modified in 2005, in 2015 and once again in 2017. In a 2020 referendum, voters approved a constitutional law that would amend the Constitution by reducing the number of MPs in the Parliament from 630 to 400 in the Chamber of Deputies and from 315 to 200 in the Senate (the modifications took effect with the last general election held in 2022).

The executive branch of government depends directly or indirectly on the support of parliament, often expressed by a vote of confidence. The prime minister cannot dissolve the parliament, as such power is attributed to the President. Italian citizens enjoy considerable political rights.