

Labour 12 points ahead

But 46% of PN voters still not committed to any party

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LABOUR is 12 points ahead of the Nationalist Party in the first MaltaToday poll on voting intentions for next June's election, in which voters will be asked to choose Malta's five members of the European Parliament.

But since 54% of respondents are not committed to any party, the outcome of next June's poll is far from a foregone conclusion.

One clear indication emerging from the survey is that Nationalist voters are more lukewarm than Labour voters in pronouncing their voting intentions.

While 77.2% of Labour voters in last March's general election have made up their mind to vote for the PL, only 47.3% of Nationalist voters have made up their mind to vote their party.

More Nationalist voters are prone to abstaining in the forthcoming European elections. While 4.3% of PN voters would not vote, only 1% of Labour voters would do likewise.

Among Nationalist voters the number of undecided is double that found among Labour voters. This indicates a similar pattern to that preceding the 2008 general election when Labour saw its advantage evaporate as more Nationalist voters made up their mind in the last weeks of the election.

Yet since the country's government will not be at stake next June, Nationalist voters may well stay at home or vote for another party.

Alternattiva Demokratika only manages 2.7% – a far cry from the 9% gained by Arnold Cassola in 2004.

Yet with Labour at 28% and the PN at 16%, AD's 2.7% could also reflect the high degree of indecision among voters at this particular moment.

AD still manages to attract more Nationalist voters than Labour voters: 4% of PN voters to only 2% of their Labour counterparts.

Nor have respondents made up their minds on which candidate will receive their first preference, with 77% claiming that they are still undecided.

But incumbent MEP Simon Busuttil emerges as the PN's frontrunner, with 8% of all preferences and 24% of Nationalist voters. None of the new PN candidates has made any inroads among the Nationalist electorate.

Competition is more intense within the Labour camp, with newcomer economist Edward Scicluna already making inroads in Labour's electorate.

mt survey

Which MEP did the best job for the country? (%)

Joseph Muscat	21.1
Simon Busuttil	17.2
John Attard Montalto	3.3
David Casa	2.9
Louis Grech	2.6
Glenn Bedingfield	0.3
None	4
Don't know	48.6



Can you give a reason for choosing this MEP? (%)

Yes	55.8
No	44.2

Reasons for choosing Joseph Muscat (%)

Worked to abolish satellite dish fees	21.9
Report on roaming mobile charges	12.5
Worked to change vehicle registration tax	7.8
Raised complaint	7.8
Raised issue of part timers' rights	3.1
Other	3.1
Don't know	43.8



Reasons for choosing Simon Busuttil (%)

Raised illegal immigration issue	38.5
Opposed working time directive	3.8
Denounced airport tax	3.8
Other	3.8
Don't know	50

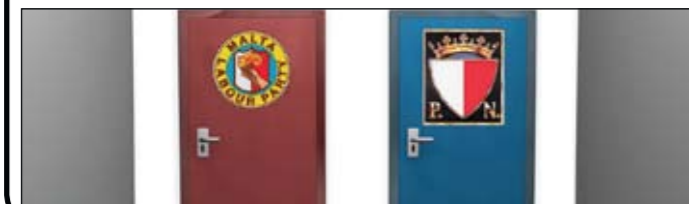


For which party do you intend voting for in next June's elections for the European parliament? (%)

PL	27.7
PN	15.9
AD	2.7
Not voting	7.3
Don't know	30.8
No reply	15.7

Which candidate do you intend voting for? (%)

Simon Busuttil	7.6
John Attard Montalto	3.3
Edward Scicluna	3
Arnold Cassola	2.3
Glenn Bedingfield	1.7
Marlene Mizzi	1.3
Joe Cuschieri	1
Louis Grech	1
Roberta Metsola Tedesco Triccas	0.7
Maria Camilleri	0.7
Sharon Ellul Bonici	0.3
No answer	77



With 9.7% of Labour voters opting for his candidature, Scicluna trails incumbent John Attard Montalto by just 0.2%.

The other two incumbents, namely Louis Grech and Glenn Bedingfield, are already facing stiff competition from newcomer Marlene Mizzi, who has overtaken Grech and is just a point behind Bedingfield.

Muscat chosen as best MEP

Despite giving up his seat to become opposition leader, Joseph Muscat was chosen by respondents as Malta's best MEP.

While 21.1% chose Muscat 17.2% opted for Nationalist MEP Simon Busuttil. Significantly 49% could not name a favourite MEP, and 44% of those who did could not even give a reason to justify their choice.

This is a clear indication that a significant number of people are not aware of what Malta's

MEPs are doing in Brussels.

Respondents choosing Joseph Muscat were the most likely to refer to specific issues raised by the former MEP during his term, which came to an end last August.

Of those preferring Muscat, 22% singled him out for his work to decrease the tax on satellite dishes, 13% praised his report on roaming mobile charges, and 8% recognised his efforts to abolish car registra-

tion tax.

On the other hand Simon Busuttil has struck a chord by raising the issue of illegal immigration in the European parliament, where he put forward a proposal for a pilot project to create a burden sharing mechanism which would enable EU Member States to take up immigrants from other Member States which are facing a disproportionate burden, such as Malta.

First choice among people who voted PN in 2008 (%)

Simon Busuttil	23.7
Arnold Cassola	4.3
David Casa	3.2
Roberta Metsola Tedesco Triccas	2.2

First choice among people who voted PL in 2008 (%)

John Attard Montalto	9.9
Edward Scicluna	9.7
Glenn Bedingfield	5
Marlene Mizzi	4

How PL voters in March 2008 general election will vote next June (%)

PL	77.2
AD	2
Not voting	1
Don't know	15.8
No reply	3.9

How PN voters in March 2008 general election will vote next June (%)

PL	2.2
PN	47.3
AD	4.3
Not voting	4.3
Don't know	31.2
No reply	10.8

Methodology

A total of 484 respondents were chosen randomly from the telephone directory. 303 accepted to be interviewed. The results of the survey were weighed according to the sex and age distribution of the population. The survey has a margin of error of +/- 5.7%.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL POLICYHOLDERS AND CREDITORS OF THE MALTESE BRANCH OF INDEPENDENT INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED (IN PROVISIONAL LIQUIDATION)

The Joint Provisional Liquidators of the Maltese branch of Independent Insurance Company Limited (In Provisional Liquidation) ("Independent Malta"), Dan Schwarzmann and Mark Batten of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP of Plumtree Court, London, United Kingdom, are in the process of liaising with the Malta Financial Services Authority regarding the closure of Independent Malta.

If you are a creditor of Independent Malta who has not yet submitted a claim for payment, please urgently write, email or telephone Micallef Insurance Agency at the contact details below by the 4th March 2009. Any notification of a claim after this date will not be accepted for payment from Independent Malta's assets.

Further information

A copy of previous updates to Maltese creditors can be found on the Independent web-site at www.independent-insurance.co.uk/malta.

Micallef Contact Details

Micallef Insurance Agency Limited
P.O. Box 26, Valletta
VLT1000 - Malta
Tel: 7991 2054
E-mail: micallefinsurance@gmail.com



ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION

The Chairman and Steering Committee of the English-Speaking Union Malta Branch are pleased to announce that ESU Director-General Mrs Valerie Mitchell, will speak on:

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION'S AIMS AND PROGRAMMES

The Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry
The Exchange, Republic Street, Valletta
Thursday 19 February 2009 at 18.00pm. Attendees are kindly requested to be seated by 17.45 hrs.