

## French presidential elections in the second round: from 2002 to 2017

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The result of the first round of the French presidential elections does not represent a complete change in comparison with that of 2002. **Macron** has won roughly what was then the sum of socialists and centrists; **Le Pen**'s daughter has received more votes than those of her father and **Bruno Mégret** altogether; **Fillon**'s have almost hit **Chirac**'s (19,84 and 19,88 respectively); and **Mélenchon** has reached what the Socialist Party's both left-candidates gained. In this sense, all the water seems to flow in similar channels.

However, several qualitative differences should be noted: then Jospin was the only candidate of the PS, but currently the socialists have been represented by two: on one side, Macron is the informal one who has benefited from **Hollande**'s support, on the other, **Vals** and numerous PS's mayors and deputies. In the meantime, the centrists are **Bayron** and another officer, **Hamon**, with those 6% of the votes that could have been addressed to the first-round winner to reach 30%.

Certainly the biggest qualitative difference between an election and the other lays on the second round. In 2002, Chirac gained 82,21% of the votes, equivalent to 350% more than the first round. Jean-Marie Le Pen only got his voting numbers up to 17,8%, equivalent to 15% more. That is, the democrats did not have any doubt at voting the right-wing candidate (who refused to debate on television with the far-right one), in the middle of a big mobilization in order to curb the Front National's leader.

What will happen now? The polls expect that Macron will have no obstacle to defeat Marine Le Pen, but still not too clearly. Why? Here is the key: Mélenchon, who has been the only candidate that did not pronounce himself as supporter of Macron, appears to allow his electors to decide digitally.

Possibly the former MEP, senator and socialist minister is thinking about the legislative elections in June, fearing that by ignoring the speech of "every one is equal" in order to assume the so-called republican commitment, his candidates could stay with no option to be voted. He likely considers that it is unnecessary to get his hands dirty, since among all the others will bring Macron to the Elysium. Even without asking for, a part of his supporters will act coherently: that is the Secretary of the Communist Party's message to demonstrate that it is possible to vote for the center-left candidate without losing face.

### Voting maps

Playing with fire, because with a conjunction of negative factors, everything could become a twist for democracy for France and Europe: for example, a part of their constituents prefers to choose a secret ballot given the theory of collapse or voting with their feet abstaining; if the other part of Fillon's electors does not follow him; if a third part of the progressive voters

believes that everything is assured and then abstains; or in case something happens unexpectedly and never desirably that could turn on completely the runoff scenario.

Let's sum up and see that, given all that, something nasty could happen on May 7. I suppose that finally the voters will tell Mélenchon that Macron is almost the same as Le Pen, but in the end supporting him should be the way. And in that case, Mélenchon will ask them to vote for him. It is probable that things won't happen as they should in the European Union or in each of its member states. However, the only form to improve them is to continue the path of democracy and the values that unite and protect us, inside and outside our borders. The history is still full of bad moments in which we did not rally rounds before danger. Le Pen is still who she is until Macron wins the runoff.

By the way, after the presidential elections, the legislative ones come, where Le Pen's parliamentary should be restrained as well. The center right and the center left are forced to converge in each of their fields in the first round, thus maintaining the vote for the best democrat in the second round.

Macron's win in the first round presidential elections sounds a good news for the European Union as well as for Spain. If he becomes President, the current dangers will be resolved sufficiently. The reason is that in Germany, the winners only can be one or other democrats and europeists, being the CDU of Merkel or the SPD of Schulz, or both of them again. In this picture, Europe is obliged to go ahead by completing its political union and hence, not to live all the four years to go under the huge uncertainty over these months.