Scirocco - Latest News from Italy

26.10.2026: Passed on the right

Far-right parties in Germany and Italy are forming an alliance. Following the AfD's successes in the state elections in Saxony-Anhalt and Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, the AfD and Futuro Nazionale have reaffirmed their political affinity by declaring a political-ideological alliance. This new (or at least freshly publicly displayed) partnership not only challenges the German, Italian, and European political landscapes, but also serves as a wake-up call for all democratic societies. Nothing less than the political and ideological foundation of democracy in Europe is at stake.

While the far-right party "Fratelli d'Italia" (FdI), led by Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, distances itself from the AfD (whether for strategic reasons or out of conviction) Futuro Nazionale is seeking to form a far right alliance with the AfD. To that end, party officials from the AfD and Futuro Nazionale recently met in Orvieto to make plans. Two weeks earlier, the youth organizations of the two ethno-nationalist parties had already met and worked toward a rapprochement.

Futuro Nazionale did not become a political party until early 2026, under the leadership of Roberto Vanacci. Vanacci had already been elected to the European Parliament for the Lega in the 2024 European elections, even though he was not yet a party member at the time. In April 2025, Vanacci officially joined the far-right Lega party, led by Matteo Salvini, who appointed Vanacci as his deputy party chairman shortly after. In February 2026, Vanacci broke with the Lega and founded his own far-right party, Futuro Nazionale. Since early 2026, the party has been part of the same political family as the AfD in the European Parliament.

The AfD and Futuro Nazionale are united by their opposition to the EU, the hatred of people inherent in their racist ideology, and the associated desire for a restrictive immigration policy that profoundly violates human rights. The AfD, as a far-right party (parts of which are classified by the Office for the Protection of the Constitution as confirmed far-right extremists) has already made its mark at the national, European, and international levels through its misanthropy. Futuro Nazionale is a newcomer to these political arenas. The alliance with Futuro Nazionale allows the AfD to build on its successes in the state elections in Saxony-Anhalt and Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania at the EU level. In doing so, the far-right party from Germany is becoming increasingly bold in publicly revealing what it has long tried to conceal through populism. Through the regional election campaigns and the majorities won in the state parliaments, the far right in Germany has publicly demonstrated the self-confidence with which it will present itself from now on. The alliance with Vanacci's Futuro Nazionale carries this self-confidence to the European level.

While the AfD is thereby contributing to its own normalization, the far right "big brother" from Germany serves as a welcome guiding figure and role model for Futuro Nazionale in Italy.

Ever since, Meloni's neo-fascist right-wing party, FdI, has been trembling, fearing that it will be overtaken ideologically by the even more far right. In the media, many of the government's political measures are linked to the fear of Vanacci. In the process, the impression is often created that Vanacci's Futuro Nazionale is haunting Meloni's FdI and its far-right coalition partners, Lega and Forza Italia. While the latest polls do not confirm this picture, it cannot be ruled out that the party could pose a threat to Meloni's government in Italy's 2027 parliamentary elections, whether in terms of potential coalition-building, future voting majorities, or simply the political stakes. With Vanacci's Futuro Nazionale, there is a far-right party that is even more extreme than Meloni's FdI, whose ideological roots lie in Mussolini's dictatorship. Subsequently, the potential shift in voter support could pose a threat to Meloni. This is one of the reasons why Meloni has paved the way for expanding her power through a recently adopted electoral reform.

The fact that Giorgia Meloni's far-right Fratelli d'Italia is facing competition from the right does not make her party any less ideologically extreme or deeply racist. At the same time, the struggle between FdI and Futuro Nazionale contributes to the normalization of Meloni's party. The image of migrants as the enemy and migration as a security risk, which the far-right governing coalition in Italy creates through its political narrative and seems to have monopolized, has suddenly become a point of contention among far-right forces. However, FdI has not been tamed by the government and cannot be compared to conservative parties such as the CDU in Germany. Meloni's party is shaped by Mussolini's fascism and, since breaking away from the coalition with Forza Italia, has actively championed its fascist legacy. The current political negotiations in Italy reveal a trend in which Meloni's far-right governing coalition is further escalating its already harsh rhetoric, particularly on migration policy. At the same time, no matter how arbitrary and inhumane these measures may be, they never go far enough for Futuro Nazionale, which describes itself as the "true right." A self-description that, in contrast to the FdI, makes no secret of the ethno-nationalist, identity-based policies to be expected from Futuro Nazionale, nor of the neo-fascist values upon which the party and its members base their actions.

Recent polls show that democratic forces in Italy have not yet been able to capitalize on the infighting among far-right groups in the country. Instead, the inhumane, racist positions of FdI, Lega, Forza Italia, and Futuro Nazionale are becoming normalized. A similar picture emerges in Germany, where, for example, the CDU's restrictive immigration policy is contributing to the normalization of AfD positions. Even though the AfD and Futuro Nazionale are established to varying degrees in the political arena, both parties contribute to a breakdown of social and political restraint at the expense of marginalized groups.

This poses a challenge to the democratic systems in Germany and Italy, as well as within the EU, where a realignment is taking place. Regrettably, this realignment is increasingly leading to a willingness to compromise with anti-democratic forces. Whereas in Germany there used to be talk of "firewalls" and alliances with fascists were ruled out, today there is cooperation between the CDU and the AfD at various political levels. In Italy, while there is still a verbal distinction between Meloni's government and Vanacci's Futuro Nazionale, the question is how long that will last.

While many party officials from a wide range of democratic forces acknowledge the gravity of the current far-right alliance in their rhetoric, this recognition is not sufficiently translated into political countermeasures and a consistent stance against fascist tendencies. What is at stake here is no longer merely balancing political extremes, but democracy itself and our political identity. In Germany, the CDU is publicly struggling with how to deal with the AfD and is acting as a stepping stone for the AfD, rather than taking a clear stand against the rising tide of fascism in Germany and Europe. In Italy, the reactionary policies of Meloni's far-right party are contributing to the normalization of Futuro Nazionale's positions and to the justification of more restrictive immigration policies. People's fears are exploited to pit them against one another, to create social hierarchies, kicking down, and to justify racist, inhumane policies. Time and again, migrants find themselves at the very bottom of the hierarchy. Increasingly restrictive immigration policies often serve as a gateway to cuts in social services and the exacerbation of socioeconomic inequality.

This trend intensifies during election campaigns. Italy will elect a new parliament in 2027, and in the campaign, which has already begun and is becoming increasingly polarized, it is essential to show backbone. Accordingly, racist ideologies must be exposed and the far-right clique must be challenged. It is up to us to ensure that the authority to define the concept of humanity in Europe remains in democratic hands. The upcoming parliamentary elections in Italy, the presidential elections in Germany in early 2027, and the subsequent state elections in April are the moment to stand up for democracy and human rights and to resolutely oppose far-right parties in Europe.