

## ITALIAN POLITICS DURING THE RENZI CABINET

### *Reform endeavours to renew the political system*

NÓRA KRICSFALUSI \*

*(Abstract)* In Italy on 28 April 2013 a grand coalition was formed to resolve the permanent political crisis and the political impasse as a result of the general elections in which the participants were the centre-left Democratic Party (Partito Democratico; PD), the centre- right People of Freedom (Popolo della Libertà; PdL) and the centrist parties.

Due to the lack of Italian economic growth and the slow pace of economic reforms Letta's Government didn't last for long.

Letta gradually lost the support of his party, and after nearly 10 months he resigned. The task of forming a new government was given to the secretary of the Democratic Party and the mayor of Florence, Matteo Renzi by Giorgio Napolitano, the President of the Republic.

In February Renzi presented his Cabinet's program and proposed comprehensive economic and institutional reforms, such as the reduction of public expenditure, the reform of the labour market and the revision of the Constitution. However, the constant transformation of the Italian party system affects the parliamentary power relations which makes it difficult to maintain the unity of the coalition. At the end of last year the centrist alliance headed by Mario Monti broke up, while the centre-right People of Freedom split after Berlusconi announced the revival of the Forza Italia (Forza Italia; FI). The parliamentary groups of the largest party in opposition, the Five Star Movement (Movimento 5 Stelle; M5S) have decreased in both houses because of the exclusions and expulsions.

In this article the focus will be on the constitutional and electoral reforms during the Renzi Cabinet, the effect of the European elections to the party system and the changes of the Italian party system.

*Keywords:* grand coalition, cabinet crisis, Renzi, constitutional reform, electoral reform, Democratic Party, Berlusconi, Alfano, Grillo, European elections

#### *Outline:*

The formation of the Renzi Cabinet

The constitutional and electoral reforms

The effect of the European elections to the Italian party system

The changes of the Italian party system during the Renzi Cabinet

Conclusion

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<http://www.southeast-europe.org>

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\* The author: *dr. Nóra Kricsfalusi*, PhD student, graduated in political science in 2006 at the *Eötvös Lóránd University* in the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences, and currently completing her doctoral course (PhD) in political science at the same University in the *Institute of Political Sciences*. Her topic of research is to compare the political party systems between Spain, Italy and Portugal. During her doctoral course in 2008 and 2009 she studied at the *University of Udine* in Italy to conduct the research work. She also concurrently graduated in law in 2012 at the *Eötvös Lóránd University* in the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences.