

9.12.2015 French Regional elections, 2nd round.

Corsica-Anything is possible!

Opinion polls have given way to the voting booths. Femu a Corsica and Corsica Libera performed as well as had been hoped, and within a few hours they reached agreement to confront the second round together. Now the nationalist list sPè a Corsica will face the voters united. Anything is possible!

Victory is within reach, since the three political groupings - left, right, and nationalist - are substantially equal, at around 25%, with the Front National lagging behind on 10%.

The first question is how the 14% of votes for lists that were eliminated in the first round will be redistributed: 2.6% for the third nationalist list, Rinovu; 7.4% for the two "autonomous left" lists; 3.15% for the republican left list and 1.5% for the republican right. Logically, the nationalists should pick up the votes from the first three of these lists, even if Paul Giacobbi will do everything in his power to bring voters for candidates on the left back into the fold. But for that he needs to achieve a balance between Jean Zuccarelli and Manu de Gentili, who are opposed in every way, both as to the essentials and with regard to local issues, not least in Bastia. As to the right, its "reservoir of votes" is very limited, and it will try to capture the "republican vote" to obtain the fresh blood it needs for success.

For the merger of the right lists will cause a severe haemorrhage. First, the "heavy-hitting" candidates will leave the list in order to preserve their parliamentary mandates: Laurent Mapreserve and Sauveur Gandolfi-Scheit, who serve as both MPs and as mayors in Aiacciu and Biguglia, and Jean-Jacques Panunzi, senator and departmental councillor. They had a huge impact in the first round. Their electorate will be less of a captive audience in the second. Above all, tensions ran high during the campaign and the very narrow victory of Rossi/Marcangeli against de Rocca Serra/Panunzi has created an even heavier atmosphere in which accounts may well be settled. On the eve of the second round, José Rossi may find that the votes simply don't add up.

On the left, Paul Giacobbi is celebrating having defied the polls that gave him no chance. Certainly, he is still in the race and leads on the first round, not least thanks to the election machinery of the Haute Corse departmental council, which came fully into play. But his solitary position has left him very isolated, and here again there are accounts to settle, on the part of both Jean Zuccarelli and the other two left lists.

Rinovu Naziunale also ran a solitary campaign, and with 2.58% it did better than the polls predicted. Its voters are naturally likely to switch to the united nationalist list.

There remains the reservoir of voters who abstained in the first round. The clarification offered by the now-united nationalist list could attract and mobilise many of them, especially among young people.

The period between two rounds is a crucial time, a week when the future is at stake. It can never be repeated often enough that a nationalist victory would be a major event, and also, very pragmatically,

the only real opportunity for the Corsican people to uphold their essential claims: the Corsican language, the Miot decrees, fiscal status etc. in an effective manner.

There is every scope for a nationalist victory. We have powerful advantages over our two rivals: the coherence of our union, long-planned and emerging entirely 'naturally' at the end of a first round that created no tensions; and the mobilising force of hundreds of grass-roots activists.

Yes, victory is possible! Forza!!