

# What does Brussels think of the election?



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**PAN** Are EU PA pros following this UK election closer than other national elections?

Months ago I'd have said 'yes', with all the hype around the prospect of a Eurosceptic Conservative government. The hype, however, has somewhat faded, with the threat of a referendum on the Lisbon Treaty eliminated.

**PAN** Why is the result of the UK election important in Brussels?

The outcome is very important as it will determine the position towards the EU of a major member state. The impact on EU policies could be substantial. Should the Conservatives win, we would certainly see a change in dynamics in areas such as employment and social affairs and justice and home affairs.

**PAN** How are Gordon Brown, David Cameron and Nick Clegg perceived?

Quite a few people are sceptical of Cameron's intentions in Europe, and are little convinced by Brown. Clegg is viewed with a certain sympathy given his EU credentials as pro-European and a former MEP and Commission employee.

**PAN** How is the prospect of a Tory victory perceived?

Given that the Lisbon Treaty is in place and in view of promises by Cameron to play a "constructive role" in the EU, the EU community seems to be more relaxed about the prospect of a Conservative victory than a few months ago. It is also widely expected that the Conservatives' anti-European rhetoric would quickly soften as Cameron accepts that the UK can't operate in isolation.