

Important Vocab For the Editorial

1. **afloat** (adjective) – out of danger/difficulty; above water.
2. **the far right** (noun) – the extreme right wing of a political party or group.
3. **respite** (noun) – stop/halt, rest, break, breathing space, interval/interlude.
4. **unwieldy** (adjective) – cumbersome, unmanageable, unhandy.
5. **hamstring** (verb) – cripple, restrict, handicap, impede/obstruct.
6. **ally** (noun) – partner, supporter, accomplice/confederate.
7. **antagonism** (noun) – enmity, hostility, antipathy.
8. **weigh on** (phrasal verb) – oppress, be a burden to, trouble/disturb.
9. **hard-line** (adjective) – relating to a group/a political party with people who support a strict ideas and they are extreme & uncompromising.
10. **hostile** (adjective) – opposed; aggressive, confrontational/belligerent.
11. **stance** (noun) – attitude, outlook, point of view.
12. **rescue** (noun) – help, assist, aid.
13. **refugee** (verb) – displaced person, asylum seeker, escapee/exile.
14. **strand** (verb) – maroon, abandon, left behind.
15. **stewardship** (noun) – it is a set of principles that forms the responsible planning and management of resources. Stewardship can be applied to the environment and nature, health, technology, economics and etc.
16. **onset** (noun) – start, beginning, appearance.
17. **refugee** (noun) – displaced person, asylum seeker, escapee/exile.
18. **Brussels** (noun) – The headquarters of the European Union. Brussels is a **metonym** of the European Union.
19. **influential** (noun) – powerful, authoritative, dominant (people).
20. **portfolio** (noun) – the position and duties (of a Minister).
21. **predecessor** (noun) – previous holder of the post; forerunner, precursor, antecedent.
22. **bloc** (noun) – alliance, association, union.
23. **deliberate** (adjective) – intentional, considered, predetermined.
24. **breach** (noun) – contravention, violation, breaking, non-observance.
25. **shaky** (adjective) – questionable, unreliable, undependable.
26. **fiscal** (adjective) – financial.
27. **potent** (adjective) – powerful, strong, vigorous.
28. **tizzy** (noun) – disturbance, upset, confusion.
29. **plank** (noun) – a fundamental & important point/principle on which something (political program, policy, etc) is based on.
30. **oblige** (verb) – require, bind, compel.
31. **temper** (verb) – moderate, modify, lighten.
32. **populist** (noun) – the politicians who claim that they are representing the common/ordinary people.
33. **rhetoric** (noun) – bombast, loftiness, hyperbole/extravagant language.
34. **legitimacy** (noun) – reasonableness, justification, validity.
35. **ratification** (noun) – authorization, approval, formal consent (on a decision).
36. **adversary** (noun) – rival, enemy, nemesis/opponent.
37. **veteran** (noun) – (long-serving) expert, mature established/experienced person in an area of activity.

38. **overrule** (verb) – cancel, reverse, rescind, repeal.
39. **spectacularly** (adverb) – largely, extremely, especially.
40. **wrong-foot** (verb) – put (someone) in a difficult situation by saying/doing something unexpected.
41. **pull the plug on** (phrase) – stop, end, cancel.
42. **engineer** (verb) – organize/mastermind, orchestrate, choreograph.
43. **incendiary** (adjective) – provocative, agitational, rabble-rousing.
44. **backing** (noun) – support, endorsement, approval.
45. **friction** (noun) – conflict, dispute, argument.
46. **relative** (adjective) – considerable, some, proportionate.
47. **sectarian** (adjective) – denoting a sect (a group of people); factional, partisan.
48. **close ranks** (phrase) – unite/join as a means to defend common interests.

Italy afloat: On an unlikely ruling coalition in Rome

The rise of the far right has been halted, but the respite might be temporary

Rome's unlikely ruling coalition of the anti-establishment Five Star Movement (M5S) and the centre-left Democratic Party (PD) seems free of the many unwieldy elements of the previous **government**. To begin with, Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte would now command greater functional independence. Earlier, he was hamstrung by two deputies from the M5S and its former ally, the far-right League, whose antagonism weighed on the 14-month long coalition. As Interior Minister, the League's leader, the hard-line anti-immigrant Matteo Salvini, adopted a hostile stance on the rescue of refugees stranded at sea, in the Mediterranean. Under the stewardship of a known immigration expert, Italy can hope to return to a course consistent with (EU) policy it had helped shape during the onset of the refugee crisis earlier this decade. Similarly, there will be relief in Brussels over the appointment of an influential PD member of the European Parliament to the economy portfolio. Under his predecessor, the bloc was faced with the risk of a deliberate breach of its already shaky fiscal rules. Worse, given the size of its economy, Rome's threat to quit the Euro single currency was far more potent than Greece's in 2015, sending financial markets into a tizzy. A key plank of the new coalition is to expand education, research and to stimulate growth.

As Foreign Minister, the M5S leader Luigi Di Maio would be obliged to temper his populist anti-EU rhetoric, which at times bordered on suggestions to the effect

that **Italy**, one of the EU's founder-members, would withdraw from the bloc. The coalition has been granted additional legitimacy following its online ratification by the M5S's vast membership. But the unusual coming together of the two traditional adversaries was brought about by the intervention of veterans Beppe Grillo and former Prime Minister Matteo Renzi, respectively. They overruled their parties from going for a general election, given that the M5S is the largest in Parliament and much of its term still remains. That move spectacularly wrong-footed Mr. Salvini, who in mid-August pulled the plug on the coalition with M5S, following the League's emergence as the largest party in May's European elections. He has already attacked the new government as one engineered by Paris and Berlin. With his incendiary campaign, Mr. Salvini continues to receive high poll ratings and strong populist backing. Frictions in the new coalition would be apt for him to force an election. Governance by consensus would therefore have to form the operative principle. Mr. Conte has been reported to have emerged from his relative political inexperience during the recent crisis, confronting Mr. Salvini's sectarian agenda and enabling the coalition to close ranks. The good former professor would know that the far-right's current halt in Italy is but temporary. More needs to be done to keep Italy afloat.