

Europe's voters elect new parliament as nationalism mounts

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Leader of the Italian Democratic Party, Nicola Zingaretti, right, greets Dutch Labor party leader and European Commission Vice President, Frans Timmermans, at a rally ahead of Sunday's European Elections in Milan, Italy, Friday, May 24, 2019. Some 400 million Europeans from 28 countries head to the polls from Thursday to Sunday to choose their representatives at the European Parliament for the next five years. (AP Photo/Antonio Calanni)

Sofia: Bulgarians are voting in the European Parliament elections after a series of scandals overshadowed the debate on key issues of the EU's future.

Voters on Sunday are casting ballots for their country's 17 seats in the 751-member European Parliament. The vote is seen as a test for the center-right party of Prime Minister Boyko Borissov, which suffered a setback after senior officials were involved in corruption scandals.

Latest surveys show only three parties, belonging to mainstream European political groups, passing the election threshold _ the ruling GERB party, the Socialist party, and the liberal MRF.

Projections suggest the nationalist and far-right vote will be split between several smaller parties, which could prevent them from capturing seats in the EU legislature.

- AP