

Flash Note 21/03/2018

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Italy, without government until July. Possible new elections in September.

- Five Star leader Di Maio noted yesterday that negotiations are so far deadlocked with Five Star, the League and the Forza Italia party of ex-premier Silvio Berlusconi all pushing for one of the posts. Di Maio, who pledged to abolish lawmakers' privileges in an appeal to his own voters, leads a new round of talks with rival parties to pick parliamentary leaders after inconclusive general elections
- **Italian president is ready to allow months for coalition talks:** President Mattarella is ready to give political leaders until July to break the deadlock and form a government. If a working majority is not formed by then, Mattarella would likely trigger another election for the fall. Mattarella will start talks with political leaders in early April, but may need more than one round of consultations before deciding on who to nominate to lead the next government.