



France: President Macron Declares He Will Govern Like a Roman God

Macron summoned 900 members of parliament to the palace of the Sun King, Louis XIV, in Versailles, and announced he will reign like Jupiter, the Roman god of gods, who weighs his rare pronouncements carefully. He threatened to overrule lawmakers with a referendum if they try to frustrate his 'reforms'. Such massive assemblies are usually reserved for times of national crisis but, in this case, it is viewed as an expression of political grandeur. Macron refused a meeting with journalists last week because, according to his aides, his "complex thought process lends itself badly to the game of question-and-answer with journalists".

French president Emmanuel Macron has declared he will govern France like Jupiter, the Roman king of the gods, shortly after officials told the media his thought process was "too complex" for journalists to understand.

Summoning over 900 politicians from both houses of the French parliament to a rare Congress at the palace of Louis XIV – the 'Sun King' – in Versailles, he [threatened](#) to overrule lawmakers with a referendum if they try to frustrate the "reforms" he wishes to impose on the legislature. Such assemblies are usually reserved for times of national crisis.

Reuters reports him as saying he desires to reign as a “[Jupiterian](#)” president – “a remote, dignified figure, like the Roman god of gods, who weighs his rare pronouncements carefully”.

This bizarre statement of intent comes just days after Macron scrapped the president’s traditional Bastille Day press conference, with an Elysée Palace official [claiming](#) the 39-year-old’s thoughts are “too complex” for journalists.

Macron’s “complex thought process lends itself badly to the game of question-and-answer with journalists”, the spokesman explained – prompting much [mockery](#) in the French press.

It has been speculated that Macron is keen to cultivate an aloof, almost imperial aura after being derided as a placeman for the unpopular socialist François Hollande, in whose government he served as economy minister, or as a poodle for Angela Merkel, the German chancellor widely regarded as the European Union’s driving force.

“You are the heir of François Hollande,” scoffed nationalist rival Marine Le Pen during their head-to-head election debate. “We now call you Baby Hollande; Hollande Junior!”

She added that, whatever the outcome of the election, “France will be led by a woman: either me or Mrs. Merkel.”

Much of the commentary on Macron’s alleged natural submissiveness hints at his relationship with his wife – twenty-five years his senior – with Italy’s larger-than-life former president Silvio Berlusconi [teasing](#) that he is “a nice lad with a good-looking mum”.

Efforts by the EU loyalist to strengthen his public standing by [picking fights](#) with the governments of Central Europe, who have been [resolutely defiant](#) in the face of attempts by Brussels to [impose](#) compulsory migrant quotas on them, have been less than successful.

Hungarian premier Viktor Orbán gently [dismissed him](#) as “a new boy” who had yet to find his feet.

“Macron’s entrance wasn’t too encouraging, as he thought the best way to show friendship was to immediately kick Central European countries. This isn’t how we do things around here, but he’ll soon get to know his way around,” he added.

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