

Austria's New Government 2025

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The Austrian Parliamentary Election of September 29, 2024 ended with a victory for the far-right Freedom Party which for the first time since the Second World War topped the poll.

The Federal President had been clear he would not follow convention and entrust the leader of the Freedom Party with forming a government but turned instead to three other parties, the Conservative People's Party, the Social Democrats and the Liberal Neos.

At first all seemed to be going well but by the end of 2024 insurmountable conflicts became clear especially on budget cutbacks and pensions and the small Neos party abandoned coalition talks. Soon after that the Conservatives threw in the towel. All of them started to blame each other for ending the talks.

The leader and Chancellor of the Conservatives resigned and a new figure appeared seemingly more sympathetic to the Freedom Party despite the obvious acrimony between the two in the past.

The Federal President was left with little choice but to call on the Freedom Party's leader to start negotiations with the Conservatives. He added that he had hoped to avoid this step and urged the parties to respect EU values and the rule of law in a hidden message to the populist Freedom Party.

Again at first all seemed to be going well and an agreement was reached on informing the EU on how Austria would reduce its budget deficit to meet the Maastricht Criteria. When however it came to dividing up the ministries for government posts, the negotiations stalled. Both parties strived to run the Ministry of Interior and compromise proved futile. The FPÖ abruptly broke off the negotiations and informed the Federal President of the party's failure to form a government.

After a quick round of discussions with the other parties, the President called upon the other parties to urgently find a compromise position for a coalition government. The new leader of the ÖVP dutifully reopened

negotiations with at first the SPÖ and then with the Neos. This initiative was ultimately successful and a government was formed with three parties, a premiere in Austrian politics. The coalition negotiations were the longest in the history of the Second Republic.

TVP World interviewed Dr Sully on this topic, see video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CePez_-R80