
PORTUGAL'S PARLIAMENT ELECTS SPEAKER AFTER IMPASSE, INSTABILITY LOOMS

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Catarina Demony and Sergio Goncalves

Portugal's fragmented new parliament on Wednesday elected a speaker after three failed votes the previous day underscored the weakness of the centre-right election winner and the growing influence of the far right.

The Democratic Alliance (AD) coalition won the March 10 election by a slim margin over the incumbent Socialists, far short of a working majority. The far-right Chega quadrupled its parliamentary representation, reflecting a political tilt to right-wing populism across Europe.

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