
GERMANY'S FRONT-RUNNER MERZ: RISK-TAKER WHO FLIRTED WITH FAR RIGHT

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Jessica Parker

He is the man tipped to be Germany's next leader: an antidote to Europe's crisis of confidence, say his supporters.

Friedrich Merz is a familiar face of his conservative party's old guard. Politically, he has never come across as exhilarating.

And yet his explosive bid to tighten migration rules with the support of far-right votes in parliament reveals a man willing to gamble by breaking a major taboo.

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