
AUSTRIA'S POLITICAL CRISIS DEEPENS AS FAR RIGHT FAILS TO FORM GOVERNMENT

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Bethany Bell

Austria's far-right populist Freedom Party says it has ended its attempts to form a coalition government with the conservative People's Party, ÖVP.

The announcement follows several weeks of heated negotiations and marks the second time coalition talks have failed since September's election.

The ÖVP first attempted to form a three-party coalition with the Social Democrats and the liberal NEOS, then a two-party coalition with the Social Democrats - but both efforts collapsed.

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