
MELENCHON VS. GLUCKSMANN: THE BATTLE IS ON TO LEAD FRANCE'S LEFT AGAINST THE FAR RIGHT

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Two polar opposite personalities from Frances fractured left are fighting to emerge as the candidate to stop the dominant far right under Marine Le Pen or Jordan Bardella from winning the presidency in 2027.

Its still about 17 months until an election that threatens to upend the European Union, but a very public battle is already raging between the old-school radical Jean-Luc Mélenchon and the polished pro-NATO center-leaning Raphaël Glucksmann.

Its a bruising clash, and several observers tracking the presidential race predict the depth of animosity between the two men could further split the left – sapping the possibility of victory in 2027 – rather than establishing a consensus candidate for the crucial second round of the race for the Elysée. Unless one manages to completely overshadow the other, the left will be locked in a civil war for the coming year.

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