



Ressort: Politik

## Landslide in Budapest: Orban Concedes ?Painful? Defeat

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In a seismic political shift, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban conceded defeat on Sunday night. The upstart centre-right Tisza Party secured a supermajority in parliament, ending his 16-year reign. With over 98% of votes counted by the National Election Office (NEO), Tisza, led by 45-year-old former government insider Peter Magyar, won 53.6% of the vote. This translated to 138 seats in the 199-member National Ass

Magyar declared to thousands of ecstatic supporters gathered on the banks of the Danube River in Budapest, “We liberated Hungary; we took back our homeland.” Fireworks lit up the sky as the crowd chanted “Europe, Europe!” This was a direct rejection of Orban’s decade-and-a-half-long policy of challenging Brussels.

The election saw a record turnout of approximately 77.8% of Hungary’s 8.1 million eligible voters. This reflected the intense polarisation and high stakes of a race many viewed as a referendum on Hungary’s soul. For 62-year-old Orban, this defeat marks the end of a political dynasty that significantly shaped Hungarian democracy. Speaking at his election night venue, the veteran leader – a global right-wing populist icon from

from Donald Trump to Marine Le Pen – acknowledged the results as “clear and understandable” though painful and unambiguous.

explained to reporters that he hadn’t been entrusted with governing responsibilities and opportunities. He had called Magyar to congratulate him and promised to serve the Hungarian nation and homeland from opposition.

This defeat removes Moscow’s closest ally within the European Union. Orban, who maintained warm relations with Vladimir Putin and blocked numerous EU initiatives concerning Ukraine, saw his “peace” campaign narrative crumble under economic discontent.

Peter Magyar, a former Fidesz insider and former husband of Orban’s justice minister, tapped into widespread frustration among Hungarian voters.

After three years of economic stagnation soaring inflation and numerous corruption scandals involving government oligarchs Magyar’s message of institutional reform and transparent governance resonated deeply.

“Together we brought down the Orban regime – together,” Magyar told the crowd celebrating what he

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called a “celebration of democracy”. He immediately signalled a sharp pivot in foreign policy declaring that Hungary “will once again be a strong ally in the European Union and NATO”.

His two-thirds supermajority is particularly significant. It grants Tisza the constitutional power to amend Hungary’s fundamental law potentially dismantling the “illiberal state” architecture Orban constructed over the last sixteen years.

The international response was swift and celebratory in Western capitals. EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen posted on X that Hungary had “chosen Europe,” adding: “Together, we are stronger” . French President Emmanuel Macron hailed the result as a “triumph for democratic participation,” while German Chancellor Friedrich Merz appealed for a “strong, safe and, most of all, united Europe.” Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk, whose relationship with Orban soured over the war in Ukraine, declared: “Hungary, Poland, Europe. Back together!” .

However, the result is a blow to the White House. Former U.S. President Donald Trump had explicitly endorsed Orban ahead of the vote, urging Hungarians to back a leader who “fights tirelessly” for

his country. Vice President JD Vance visited Budapest just last week to rally support for the incumbent . The far-right Our Homeland Movement secured 5.9% of the vote, winning 6 seats, while several other opposition parties — including the center-left Democratic Coalition — failed to clear the 5% parliamentary threshold, cementing Tisza’s dominance over the center-right space .

Magyar has announced that his first foreign trips will be to Warsaw, Vienna, and Brussels, aiming to unfreeze billions in EU funds that were blocked due to rule-of-law disputes under the Orban government. He has also pledged to join the European Public Prosecutor’s Office, signaling a dramatic reversal in Hungary’s anti-corruption posture .

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