

Eastern German state elects new premier, excluding far-right AfD

Germany's eastern state of Thuringia elected a new premier on Thursday, after months of delicate negotiations ensured the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) could be left out of government despite winning elections in September.

Mario Voigt from the conservative Christian Democrats (CDU) is set to govern in an unprecedented coalition with the centre-left Social Democrats (SDP) and the populist Sahra Wagenknecht Alliance (BSW).

In his first speech as premier in the capital Erfurt, Voigt hailed a "spirit of cooperation and a new political culture."

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