

Pro-Europeans hail von der Leyen win as rebuff to extremism

Greens emerge as kingmakers as von der Leyen vows to keep the centrist coalition strong.

Pro-European forces celebrated the comfortable re-election of Ursula von der Leyen in Strasbourg's European Parliament on Thursday.

Von der Leyen relied mainly on allies to her left to secure a second term as European Commission chief - and not, as was once expected, on hard-right Conservatives.

In a vote that over recent weeks has looked too close to call, von der Leyen took a majority of 41, even wider than when she first assumed the role in 2019.

Crucially, she did so by relying on broad support from her own European People's Party (EPP), the Liberals of Renew Europe, the centre-left Socialists and Democrats, and the Greens group

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