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VON DER LEYEN OPENS THE DOOR TO EUROPE'S HARD RIGHT

30.04.2024

Politico (30 April 2024)

BY EDDY WAX

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen gave her clearest signal yet that she is ready to cooperate with hard-right parties to secure a second term in the EU's most powerful job.

Speaking at the Maastricht Debate, organized by POLITICO and Studio Europa Maastricht, she indicated she would be open to a deal with the European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) group after this summer's EU-wide election.

The ECR group's MEPs are often staunchly Euroskeptic, standing further to the right than von der Leyen's centrists, and its ranks in the European Parliament are expected to swell after the vote in June.

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