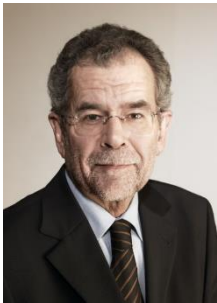


Far-right Austrian presidential candidate defeated, pro-EU winner aims to defend minority groups, migrants

Results of Austria's 2016 presidential election



Alexander van der Bellen

Party: Independent
(previously Green Party)
Percentage vote won: 51.7%*

WIN

**Vote tally as of 1pm on December 5, 2016.*

Background

- Van der Bellen spent many years as leader of the Green party until 2008
- He has stated that he dreams of a fence-free “United States of Europe” that defends the rights of minority groups
- His supporters have described him as an unabashed Europhile and equal-rights champion while Hofer attacked him for being a highbrow candidate only appealing to the “glitterati”



Norbert Hofer

Party: Freedom Party
Percentage vote won: 48.3%*

LOSS

Background

- Hofer was the leader of the far-right Freedom Party, which was founded in the 1950s by former Nazis
- Hofer campaigned on an “Austria First” slogan and was staunchly anti-migrant and anti-Muslim
- Had he been elected, Hofer would have been the first far-right president to be elected in the history of the European Union

Election Background

- Austria's president serves as a largely ceremonial role and is selected through a two-round runoff system. Norbert Hofer won the second round in May; however, the results of this election were nullified and a re-vote was held in December. Van der Bellen won this vote.

Source: Peter Foster, “Who is Norbert Hofer and should Europe be worried about him becoming president of Austria?,” Telegraph, May 23, 2016; Alison Smale, “Austria rejects far-right presidential candidate Norbert Hofer,” The New York Times, December 4, 2016.