

Analyzing an election: a shift in Polish politics - Video transcript

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00:00 The war in Ukraine is being watched closely by neighboring Poland, which has just held its pivotal presidential election with all votes now counted. The **right-wing historian Carol Navrosky is Poland's new president.**

00:14 The result is a major setback for the prime minister, **Donald Tusk's pro-EU government.** The state electoral commission said that Mr. Navrosky won 50.89% ahead of Warsaw's Liberal Mayor Rafael Chzkovski on 49.11%.

00:34 For more on this, let's speak to our correspondent who's in Warsaw for us, Adam Eastston.

00:39 Hello there to you, Adam. Um, so this is a clear win then. There are no question marks about how tight it is or anything like that.

00:49 It's an official result. The National Electoral Commission has just in the last few minutes confirmed that percentage that lead by 1.7 percentage points victory for Poland's **right-wing** historian **Carol Navrosky.**

01:08 He will become **Poland's new president.** As you say, that's important because although the office is largely ceremonial, he does have a **veto on legislation** and during the 18 months that the **pro-EU** prime minister **Donald Tusk** has been in power, he has been stymied by the current incumbent conservative president an Duda who's blocked him in delivering many of his key campaign promises such as liberalizing the country's very strict abortion law, depoliticizing the judiciary.

01:41 So, Mr. Navrosky will continue to block Mr. Tusk's **pro-EU** program and his victory will also re-energize his supporters, **Poland's main opposition, Law and Justice, Conservative opposition** who will now see that they are on their way to a return to power after 18 months when they were voted out and parliamentary elections are not until 2027, but they will certainly see that they are now in the ascendancy and Poland will be turning toward more conservative **right-wing** politics rather than cementing its place in the European mainstream with strong relations with Germany and France.

02:24 Who is what more can you tell us about Mr. Natsky? He's 42 years old. We said he's an historian. What else can you add for us, Adam?

02:34 He's an historian because he's the head of the state national remembrance commission which investigates communist era and also World War II era crimes.

02:49 He is a traditional conservative Roman Catholic. He's got, he believes in strong sovereign **Poland within the EU**.

02:59 He supports continued assistance to Ukraine, but unlike Mr. Chazkovski, he doesn't want Ukraine to join NATO or the EU anytime soon because he thinks that's too dangerous in the current climate of Russia's continued aggression.

03:14 And he's also a big fan of President Trump.

03:19 He went flew during the campaign for basically a thumbs up photograph in the Oval Office with Donald Trump. Didn't do much more in terms of a meeting because he thought that would improve his chances and so those sort of issues, anti-woke issues, freedom of speech issues.

03:40 Adam, can I just jump in really quickly? He campaigned under the slogan **Poland first, Polls first**. How is that likely to be regarded with the **EU**? What sort of relationship could he have?

03:54 He'll be much more pushy in terms of his relationship with **Brussels** in terms of insisting on Poland following what he believes it's in his national interests.

04:09 He doesn't want to seed any additional powers to **Brussels**.

04:11 He'll be very tough on migration, but there again, the Prime Minister **Donald Tusk** has been very tough on migration and that's been that's becoming the European mainstream anyway.

04:21 But certainly a more combative relationship with **Brussels** is to be expected under President Navaroski.