



EU PARLIAMENT'S MOST TOXIC DUO BRINGS TROUBLE FOR VON DER LEYEN

-

13.01.2026

Politico (13 January 2026)

MAX GRIERA

A confrontation six years ago poisoned a relationship at the heart of the EU that remains toxic to this day.

Manfred Weber, the powerful German head of the center-right European Peoples Party, the largest political family in Europe, knew something was wrong when Iratxe García walked into his office shortly after the 2019 EU election.

García, a Spanish MEP who leads the center-left Socialists and Democrats group in the Parliament, was accompanied by Romanian former liberal chief Dacian Cioloş. The pair told Weber that they wouldn't support his bid to become president of the European Commission, despite the Parliament's longstanding position that the head of the party receiving the most votes in the election should get the job.

[Click for more](#)

Kaynak/Source: