

A COUNTRY AT CROSSROADS: POLAND'S DILEMMA WITH EU VALUES - DAILY SABAH - 14.06.2025

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Poland has reached a critical juncture following the second round of its presidential election on June 1, 2025, where conservative historian Karol Nawrocki, backed by the Law and Justice Party (PiS), secured 50.89% of the vote to become president. This narrow victory over Rafał Trzaskowski, the pro-European liberal candidate supported by Prime Minister Donald Tusks coalition, marks a significant setback for the governments efforts to align Poland with EU values. Nawrockis ascent carries profound implications for Polands position within the European Union, its approach to human rights norms and its transatlantic relations. This analysis examines the impact of Nawrockis presidency on Polands relationship with EU principles, with particular focus on criticisms of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) and regional dynamics, viewed through the lens of Türkiyes foreign policy interests.

Profile, skeptical stance

At 42, Nawrocki brings a background as the former head of the National Remembrance Institute and director of the Second World War Museum, coupled with his identity as an amateur boxer. Embracing the conservative and nationalist ideology of PiS, Nawrocki champions Polands traditional Christian values, expresses skepticism toward the EU, and

seeks to strengthen ties with the United States, particularly under the influence of Donald Trumps administration. His campaign platform included promises to reduce taxes, withdraw from the EUs Migration and Asylum Pact and European Green Deal, oppose Ukraines NATO membership, and adopt a reserved stance on LGBTQ+ rights. These policies signal a potential divergence from the EUs liberal framework.

Nawrockis presidency holds the potential to exacerbate tensions with the EU. In Poland, the president wields significant authority, including the power to veto legislation and influence foreign policy. His predecessor, Andrzej Duda, frequently utilized this veto to obstruct Tusks pro-EU initiatives, such as judicial reforms and abortion law changes, creating friction between Warsaw and Brussels. Nawrocki is likely to follow suit, posing a particular challenge to reforms aligned with EU values, including judicial independence, abortion rights, and LGBTQ protections, which conflict with his conservative agenda.

To read the rest of the article, please click: https://www.dailysabah.com/opinion/op-ed/a-country-at-crossroads-polands-dilemma-with-eu-values

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***Photo: Daily Sabah*

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