

## Germany Loses UN Security Council Election for First Time



Published on June 5, 2026

Document Date: Wed, Jun 10 2026 02:04:51 am

Category: ,English,International - ,Snippets

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Germany suffered its first-ever defeat in a UN Security Council election, losing non-permanent seats to Portugal and Austria in a vote on Wednesday.

The result marks a rare diplomatic setback for Europe's largest economy, which had regularly secured a Western European seat every eight years.

In the first round of voting, Portugal received 134 votes and Austria 131, both surpassing the two-thirds majority threshold. Germany secured 104 votes and was eliminated.

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz congratulated the successful candidates, highlighting continued European cooperation despite the outcome. Foreign Minister Johann Wadepful called the result a “real disappointment.”

Wadepful said Germany’s late entry into the race contributed to the loss, as Austria and Portugal had longer campaigns and stronger diplomatic commitments.

Analysts pointed to broader concerns in Germany’s foreign policy approach. Some said ambiguity on key international issues, including US military actions in Venezuela, weakened support.

German media also cited criticism of Berlin’s close relationship with Israel and alleged “double standards” in international law as factors influencing the vote.

Experts noted concerns about Germany’s ability to translate diplomatic ambition into results, including debates over military readiness and strategic autonomy.

In contrast, Austria and Portugal were seen as strong advocates of multilateralism and bridge-building diplomacy.

Austria emphasized its role as a neutral voice for smaller nations, while Portugal’s long campaign since 2013 and global diplomatic ties were credited for its success.

Both pledged to promote international law, cooperation, and multilateral engagement during their Security Council terms.