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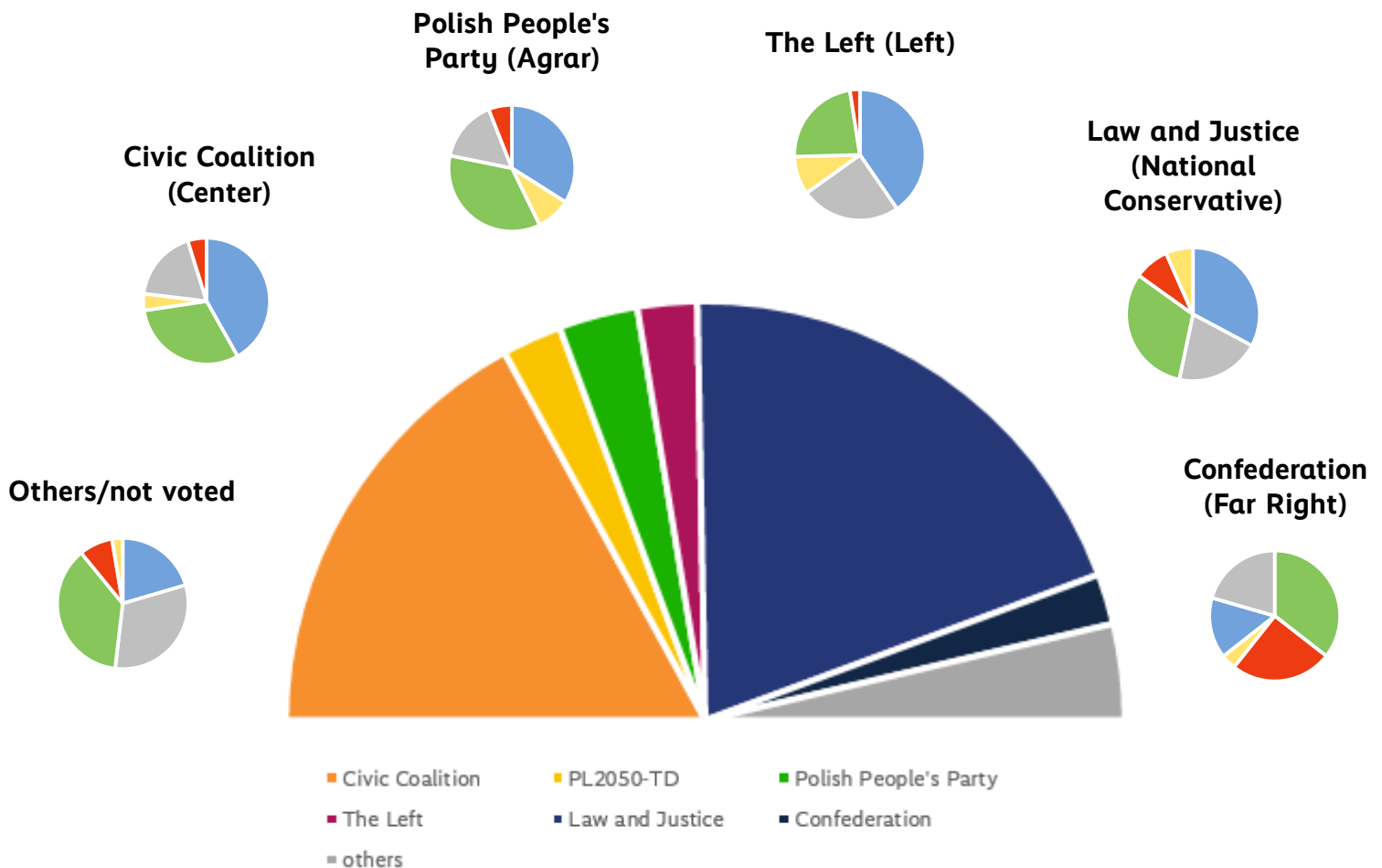
FES Regional Office for
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Security Radar 2025: The Ukraine Support Coalition in Poland

Sejm (Distribution of groups in parties)

■ The Reluctant ■ The Determined ■ Russia's Friends ■ Not affiliated ■ The Opportunists



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Key messages

1. In Poland, support for Ukraine has become a contentious issue

Approximately 31% of voters are “Determined” in their support, but a slightly higher proportion – 33% – are “Reluctant” and nearly a quarter cannot be affiliated with any group. Having said that, “Russia’s friends” play only a very marginal role, accounting for 9% of the population, which is among the lowest levels of support in our poll. The victory of the national-conservative Karol Nawrocki in the 2025 presidential elections by a very slight margin illustrates the division in Polish society. While Nawrocki, who had been supported by Donald Trump during his campaign, is generally in favor of supporting Ukraine, he remains sceptical about Ukraine’s prospect of NATO and EU membership.

2. Ukraine as a key issue in European strategic autonomy

Europe enjoys strong popular support in Poland and a considerable 42% of respondents favour a Polish leadership role in the EU. In light of the state of US negotiations with Ukraine and Russia, Polish supporters of Ukraine should take the opportunity to forge a European strategy distinct from the US approach. This strategy should take practical steps towards European strategic autonomy. Almost an absolute majority in Poland put their faith in the EU and support European independence from the United States.

3. Welcome peace negotiations, but not at any price

A pervasive fatigue with the war is evident in four out of the five groups and should be acknowledged. There seems to be a strong desire to see the war brought to an end as soon as possible. The current US strategy of trying to strong-arm Ukraine into negotiations requires a measured response from the European side. As before, they should openly welcome US diplomatic efforts, commit to the goal of a negotiated settlement and avoid giving the impression of wanting to prolong the war. At the same time, Polish politicians should focus on the principal aims of Ukrainian sovereignty, its ability to maintain a strong military force to defend against further aggression, and »winning the peace«.

The presented data and conclusions are based on the publication “How to strengthen European popular support for Ukraine” by A. Dienes/B. Unkel/C. Katsioulis (April 2025)

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