# Czech Party's Exit Adds Pressure on Macron's Group in EU



**Czech Party's Departure Weakens Emmanuel Macron’s Group in EU**

The centrist group led by French President Emmanuel Macron in the European Parliament, Renew Europe, has lost seven members following the departure of the Czech ANO party. Former Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babiš, head of ANO, announced on Friday that his party would be leaving Renew Europe due to its pro-European integration policies. Babiš criticized the group’s stance on EU integration and claimed it threatened the identity and culture of smaller states.

This move comes after Macron’s Renaissance party suffered a significant loss to the far-right Rassemblement National in the EU elections on June 9. Consequently, Macron dissolved the national parliament and scheduled snap elections on June 30 and July 7. Renew Europe’s position in the EU parliament has now fallen to fourth place behind the European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) group, led by Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni. Meloni has since demanded more influence in EU negotiations, further complicating the political landscape.

ANO's exit has exacerbated tensions within Renew, as Valérie Hayer, the group’s parliamentary leader, faces re-election amidst increased pressures and criticisms. ANO's departure further diminishes the strength of the centrist alliance as EU discussions on leadership roles and policy directions continue. Babiš has yet to decide which group his MEPs will join.