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Portuguese Election Poll 'Dead Heat' Leads to Showdown Between Main Rivals

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The "dead heat" in polling ahead of the upcoming legislative elections in Portugal has set the stage for a showdown between the two leading contenders, experts told Sputnik. A demonstrator holds a communist flag in Lisbon.

Elections Good Chance to 'End Right-Wing Party Rule' in Portugal

MOSCOW (Sputnik), *Yulia Shamporova* – This year's Portuguese legislative election is scheduled for Sunday, October 4. The Socialist Party (PS) aims to unseat the ruling center-right Portugal Alliance (PaF) led by Prime Minister Pedro Passos Coelho. University of Lisbon political scientist Pedro Magalhaes and Mount St. Mary's University professor of political science Paul Manuel are unable to call a clear winner as polling data suggest an even split in voter preferences.

"No party or list will obtain an absolute majority of seats. As for the winner, polls show a dead heat at the moment," Magalhaes said.

Manuel cited recent polling, which had the PS slightly ahead of the PaF, a coalition between the Social Democratic Party (PSD) and the Democratic and Social Center – People's Party (CDS-PP).

"However, the electorate remains split and the outcome remains in doubt," he observed.

Magalhaes further projected a minority government that "won't survive for long," given the two largest parties' divergent policies and internal party dynamics.