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PROGRESSIVE DECLINE

After what one citizen termed “one of the ugliest government formation periods I can recall”, Talossa finally has a new government. Following lengthy negotiations between several parties, Baron Alexandru Davinescu of the Progressive Alliance announced that his party had negotiated a deal with the hard-right In Defensa Traditionis, whereupon the latter would provide confidence and supply to a Davinescu-led government. This is the second time “AD” has led a government in Talossan history, coming over fifteen and a half years following the first: he also led a RUMP-majority government in 2010, swapping the Seneschalsqab and Distain with his prior boss, the infamous I. Canun.

To say that this month was a “national embarrassment”, as another citizen put it is a bit of an oversimplification. On December 7, the PA announced that they had entered into a coalition agreement with the IDT, forming a government with a very narrow majority of 102 seats. This announcement drew an impressive level of condemnation, given the IDT explicitly espouses

absolute monarchism and “Western Orthodox Christian values”, and within 48 hours, IDT leader Mximo Malt drew further controversy when he compared himself and the opposition to his views to far-right American pundit Nick Fuentes, describing the latter as “persecuted”.

In what may be the most impressive speedrun of governmental collapse in recorded history, by December 12, the PA announced that they were dissolving the coalition between themselves and the IDT and placing the formation of a government once again in doubt. While this decision was roundly applauded – including by URL President Miestră Schivă – it appears that the wildly controversial stances of the IDT – and the equally controversial posts of its sole member – were not enough to dissuade the Baron from using S:reu Malt for his votes. The PA waited for the storm to blow over somewhat before announcing on December 16 that the two parties would agree on confidence and supply for the coming term anyway. S:reu Malt has stayed true to form, if nothing else, later posting a quote from Romanian

fascist and Iron Guard leader Corneliu Codreanu. While he has claimed not to know much about the people whose quotes he finds inspiring – at best casting suspicion on the type of social circles he runs in – it is becoming increasingly difficult to believe these are unintentional episodes. “Oops, I didn’t mean to” can only be credible so many times before it wears thin.

The announcement of the new government and the turmoil that has surrounded it have catapulted several previously safe assumptions about Talossan democracy into a state of uncertainty. Several citizens have expressed concern about democratic backsliding, with some signaling they would begin to support the Union of Free Reformists, now the Opposition. For their part, the URL, not particularly pleased at being double-dealt on government negotiations, have signaled that they intend to use the tools legally available to them in order to prevent the worst of the government’s intended damage.

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Cabinet Installed

New Seneschal Baron Alexandreu Davinescu has announced his second cabinet's ministers:

Distain: Þerxh Sant-Enogat

Immigration: A. Davinescu

Propaganda: Þ. Sant-Enogat

Finance: Françal Lux

Culture: F. Lux

Foreign Affairs: Sir Xhorxh Pol Briga

Avocat-Xheneral: Tric'hard Lenxheir

Technology: Danihel Txechescu

Defense and Public Records will be left vacant in this government, being held *de facto* by the Seneschal. These appointments may not last long, as the Seneschal has discussed a framework to reduce the number of ministries, thereby reducing the number of offices that can be held accountable by the Ziu.

URL Unveils New Program

The Union of Free Reformists have begun to roll out the "Democracy Agenda", the party's new platform focused around legislation that builds their identity around being the "Party of Talossan Democracy". So far, some items confirmed to be on the agenda include a reduction in the number of seats in the Cosă and remaking the Senäts as an "upper house of review", more in line with the Senate of Canada than the Senate of Australia. Some other ideas have also been bandied about, including watering down the Royal Veto. The

URL has stated that whatever they are unable to get through the Government's block will form the nucleus of their legislative program for the next election.

Prov. Officials Take Shape

Provincial legislatures and executives are beginning to shake out, with the following results as of press time:

In Belacostă, *Governadeir* Mic'haglh Autófil and fellow Consuls Sir Lüc da Schir and Iason Taiwos all re-elected.

In Cézembre, Sénéchal þerxh Sant-Enogat re-elected.

In Fiovă, Miestră Schivă and Gödafrieu Válcadác'h re-elected to the *Praisidïeu*, joined by Garth Spencer.

In Vuode, Tric'hard Lenxheir appears to be elected Premier by default (he may be the only member of the Estats Xhenerais).

Independence Day Lunch

Today, Friday, December 26, is Independence Day, the anniversary of the day in which Talossa declared its sovereignty and its separation from the United States. To celebrate, Xheralt Del'Encradeir, who was present upon the nation's creation, proposed a lunch for those relatively close to the Greater Talossan Area.

Del'Encradeir was joined for lunch by incoming Opposition Leader Mic'haglh Autófil, with IDT leader Mximo Malt making a brief and characteristically thunderous appearance without staying. Topics of discussion included Talossan history, various science fiction franchises, personal hobbies, heraldry, and the golden era of the *Final Fantasy* franchise.

Schism Coming?

With the onset of a "Time of Troubles" appearing more and more obvious to most, the very health and future of the nation is less of a sure thing than normally taken for granted. While the Seneschal has been dismissive of public discontent as being driven by sour grapes, it should be noted that this is the first election in a long, *long* time that has resulted in this type of atmosphere in Talossa, regardless of who won and who lost. A governmental attitude described as "smarmy" and "condescending" by some observers (non-partisan observers, it should be noted), anti-democratic movements having the government's ear, and even MCs launching attempts to rehabilitate controversial figures like King Robert I and Breneir Tzaracomprada, have all combined to leave many wondering just how much more they can stand to watch Talossa fall before throwing their hands up and deciding they've seen enough.

HOCKEY SEASON RETURNS

L'Aßociú Talossan Naziunal del Hachi – the Talossan National Hockey Association – has returned for a second season. All eight teams (including the computer-run Manager-less Team) from last year have joined again this year, with additional entries by King Txec and Baron Davinescu. While the first few weeks saw streaky play from several teams, including the Manager-less Team starting out with a four-game win streak and the Baron's M-M Mençeis going winless over the same span. After this, we saw a regression to the mean across the board: the NPC team first tasted defeat from *els Tigreux dal Belacostă* (prompting the now-typical *Rocky IV* GIF from *Tigreux* GM Mic'haghl Autófil), and the Mençeis beginning to rattle off wins. As the season has passed its halfway point, we see a bit of a repeat of last year, with Belacostă and the Vuode Villains in a shootout atop the standings, joined by the Manager-less Team and *els Talossaes Rexhitais*. Defending champion BdC is currently languishing near the bottom of the standings, but it should be noted that it is truly still anyone's game at this point.

Aßociú Talossan Naziunal del Hachi 2025-26 Season Standings (as of 22 December)

Pos.	Team	W-L-T	Pts.	Gen. Manager
1	Vuode Villains	7-3-0	3543.10	Tric'hard Lenxheir
2	<i>Tigreux dal Belacostă</i>	7-3-0	3193.70	Mic'haghl Autófil
3	Manager-less Team	7-3-0	3066.40	<i>none</i>
4	<i>Els Talossaes Rexhitais</i>	7-3-0	2977.90	King Txec
5	Maritiimi-Maxhestic Mençeis	5-5-0	2589.20	Baron Alexandreu Davinescu
6	<i>Cjovani Squiläts</i>	4-6-0	2872.40	Iason Taiwos
7	Maricopa Havana Hijinks	4-6-0	2682.30	Carlüs Valaçafat
8	Gordon Hiatus Support Team	3-7-0	2881.70	Sir Lüc da Schir
9	<i>Banqueu da Cézembre Zambonis</i>	3-7-0	2704.40	Glüc da Dhi
10	Cézembrean Amateurs on Ice	3-7-0	2460.40	Perxh Sant-Enogat



Happy Birthday, Talossa. We hope you feel better this time next year.