



For A Europe of Diversity, Inclusion and Openness: We Counter the Far Right!

Adopted by FYEG General Assembly at its meeting in July 2014 in Strasbourg.

The European Elections have been successful for the Greens in Europe. But besides that, the result is quite frightening. In almost every member state of the European Union the extreme right gained votes. This goes along with the European Union being perceived as either dictating the austerity policy, or being perceived as threatening to the democratic principles. The extreme right could mobilise against the Union with populists and discriminatory arguments. For us, this is a wake-up-call. We Young Greens in Europe want to understand how the extreme right managed to gain so many votes and we want to do greatly engage in the struggle against them.

The far-right has different types of parties and different kinds of movements and thus, we need to employ different strategies in order to struggle against them. There are the populist far-right parties. They fight against Europe as they claim it to be endangering national sovereignty. Still their arguments are against what they call "Mass-Immigration", Islamisation of the society and the end of conservative societal norms. They create fear within the society and then take advantage of it. Then there are the far-right nationalist groups advocate openly against migrants and believe that only the people of the nation can solve problems within the national boundaries. And there are the neo-fascist parties. They employ an openly racist ideology and worship the old fascist parties. And we should take in consideration the conservatives parties who have taken ideas of the far right discourse in order to increase their electors.

They are united by a more or less open ideology that builds on fascist ideas of the unity of people within a nation. It goes along with an idea that the community of the people that is connected through being of the same "race" is more important than the individual. It therefore discriminates fiercely against people that are not perceived to "belong to this unity". Migrants, Non-CIS people, non-christians and others who do not comply with the perfect "normal" idea of a member of the nation are discriminated against. This goes along with racism, anti-semitism and islamophobia. We also note and condemn the positions of these parties on LGBTIQ and Women's issues, and recognise the potential for a growth in homophobia, transphobia, sexism and other forms of discrimination in tandem with the increased political influence of these parties.

The reasons for why the far-right parties gain so many votes are different for every country. However, there is a history of fascist movements and racism in Europe that has not been addressed. Especially the reprocessing of the time of the second world war has not been reappraised in whole Europe, but this is the time that created the roots for the current racist movements.

We want to change the European Union and not abolish it

The far-right criticises Europe for being anti-democratic and too strongly captured by corporate interests. As a conclusion they want to go back to the nation-states. We also criticise the European Union for being non-democratic and too much focussed on the corporate agenda. However, we do believe in the equality of everybody and in the unity of all. We do believe that ending the nation state is ending the assumption that we could differ between persons because of the place of their birth or because of their heritage. We want to Europeanise and globalise solidarity instead of taking it back to few people. We want to change Europe and not abolish it.

Therefore we stand strongly against the far right in Europe. They are in complete opposition to our values and to our vision of Europe. But in order to do so, we need to employ different strategies.

We can win the arguments around the economy and around integration. When the far right argues, that the integration of Europe has brought us into crisis, we can show that the crisis derives from a



fundamentally flawed economic system that has been pushed towards liberalisation, deregulation and privatisation and established a dominance of the financial economy and a one-sided integration, leaving the social dimension aside. When the right-wing argues, that immigrants steal jobs, we can easily show them the numbers and proof that migration is strengthening our economy, but we also say that we talk about people and we do not reduce human beings to mere numbers.

However, we also have to draw clear lines onto what can be accepted to debate and what not. We do not debate about the Human dignity. Racism, Anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and all sorts of discrimination against people are clear lines that cannot be accepted within the society. Groups that openly advocate for discrimination can not be a partner for debating, but we will struggle to diminish their support.

We can win back the hearts of Europeans for Europe

The way we go forward is to advocate for Europe. The Europe we mean can give a perspective for young people and can build trust that solidarity is possible. Also within the national debates, we should stress much more often that people in other places face the same problems and that we can find common solutions. Especially the EU must change its policy. Currently it imposes austerity measures. This is making people desperate. It should lead the way out of the crisis through investment and give people hope.

The role of the Federation of Young European Greens

The fight against the far right has to be won on the European level, but also on the streets and in every local group. Within our federation, we can and we should seek the exchange between activists about their strategies to fight against the far right. It needs a deep analysis of the phenomena of the far-right in order to arrive at the right strategies to fight it. We have understood what has been done beforehand and we have to understand the structures and ideology as well as the history of the fascist movements in Europe. Here, we can greatly benefit from our common knowledge and it can result in a coordinated action against the right wing in Europe. The next Youth in Crisis Conference should be a venue for this exchange.

In addition, we need to look into the structures of our own organisations. How open are they, do we discriminate against people? How can we ensure inclusion within our organisations. These questions shall be dealt with at our next Winter- Camp.

The rise of the far right has been labeled as being only a short phenomena in Europe. The EP elections showed, that this is not the case. It is a real problem and we need to find ways how to counter it. Therefore we seek strategies of winning the fight about the peoples mind in Europe. propose. We should develop a strategy that will focus on the next five years, in order for us to not wake up again with a result for the far right that makes us all miserable.