



Hand-out Western European MEP conference 2023 The Hague

Committee AFCO

<p>EP- Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO)</p>	<p>Issue about dealing with right-wing extremism Right-wing extremism has made its entrance to domestic politics, both internationally speaking and in within member states of the EU. Academics partly dedicate this to the declining thrust in governance. The multitude of crises the world has witnessed over the past years have, moreover, not benefitted the social cohesion within politics. The rise of populism has proven itself to be more than a phase, stressing the importance of dialogue within our polarized political landscape. In the EU we also observe more polarization due to extreme right-wing parties receiving more support in for example the Netherlands, France, Italy, Greece, and Hungary.</p> <p>Should the European Parliament take an active role to prevent that polarisation undermines EU -and democratic values? And if so, how can collaboration and consensus between opposing political parties be stimulated? Should the EU encourage dialogue with extremist right-wing parties? And in what ways can the EU promote thrust and build on social cohesion within the EU?</p>
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Issue about dealing with right wing extremist

Europe has experienced a revival of militant right-wing extremist groups, networks, and incidents in recent years, with a surge of anti-immigration and Islamophobic violence, as well as anti-government attacks and assaults on political opponents, ethnic minorities, and homosexuals. statistics clearly show the significant risk posed by violent right-wing extremists in Western countries. It is especially noteworthy that far-right parties seem to have gained strong support as a result of the ongoing refugee crisis as well as Islamist-motivated terrorist attacks. These external events directed against a specific country have been shown to increase electoral support for extreme right-wing parties and may be linked to peaks of right-wing terrorism and violence. Bold and rhetorically violent anti-immigration and Euro-skeptic platforms of right-wing parties arguably might also increase support for more violent actions by small clandestine groups. <https://cco.ndu.edu/PRISM/PRISM-Volume-6-no-2/Article/839011/right-wing-extremism-and-terrorism-in-europe-current-developments-and-issues-fo/>

The European Union established a list of persons, groups and entities involved in terrorist acts and subject to restrictive measures. The list is reviewed regularly, at least every 6 months.

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/fight-against-terrorism/terrorist-list/>

This committee deals with the institutional aspects determining the future of the EU. Part of this process is about restoring people's confidence in the EU and S&D MEPs promote the inclusion of people in the decision-making process of the EU, for example through the European Citizens' Initiative.

<https://www.socialistsanddemocrats.eu/committees/committee-constitutional-affairs>

Populism

Populists refer to "the people". However, they regard the population as a unit in the sense that there are no differences within society. For populists, there is only one people and thus only one opinion. Since, in their view, they are the only ones to know and understand this opinion, they are also the only ones who can stand up for the needs of the people.

<https://www.liberties.eu/en/stories/populism/44261>



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Timeline

In 2015, EU leaders issued a joint statement to guide the work of the EU and its member states. It called for specific measures, focusing on three areas. Link to the statement by the members: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2015/02/12/european-council-statement-fight-against-terrorism/>

In November 2020, following the terrorist attacks in France, Germany and Austria, EU home affairs ministers agreed to further strengthen their joint efforts in the fight against terrorism, without compromising the EU's common values such as democracy, justice and freedom of speech. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/11/13/joint-statement-by-the-eu-home-affairs-ministers-on-the-recent-terrorist-attacks-in-europe/>

In December 2020, EU leaders reaffirmed their unity in the fight against radicalisation, terrorism and violent extremism. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/47296/1011-12-20-euco-conclusions-en.pdf>

In order to address the threat of right-wing extremism from a preventive and reactive point of view, the recommendations are presented in three sections;

1. The first set of recommendations focusses on **defining the phenomenon**; <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/fight-against-terrorism/preventing-radicalisation/>
2. The second set seeks to strengthen the response towards criminal manifestations of right-wing extremism (**reacting to the phenomenon**);
3. The third set aims to address factors that make the rhetoric of radical right-wing parties and organisations appealing (**prevention recommendations**).
4. Cutting of terrorist financing (<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/fight-against-terrorism/fight-against-terrorist-financing/>)
5. Fire arms control <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2019/06/14/eu-reinforces-rules-on-marketing-and-use-of-explosive-precursors/>

Links:

Right-wing extremism

<https://dam.gcsp.ch/files/doc/white-crusade-how-to-prevent-right-wing-extremists-from-exploiting-the-internet>

Social cohesion EU

<https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/topic/promoting-social-cohesion-and-convergence>

Right-wing extremism effects EU

<https://cco.ndu.edu/PRISM/PRISM-Volume-6-no-2/Article/839011/right-wing-extremism-and-terrorism-in-europe-current-developments-and-issues-fo/>

Populism

<https://www.liberties.eu/en/stories/populism/44261>

How to deal with right-wing extremism

https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2020-09/ran_p-p_right_wing_extremism_on_rise_prague_12-13_12_2017_en.pdf



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