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## Fighting far right in Europe

Austerity policies led together by the European right and a part of the European left have pushed many citizens to give their votes to the extreme parties or at least to abstain. We can notice that –except the cases in Greece and Spain- this report mostly benefits to the far-right. Nowadays, socialists seem to struggle trying to fight far-right parties. To fight them more efficiently, it is essential to take into account their diversity. We can identify four types of far-rights parties and movements.

The first type (Debout la France, UKIP, AFD) puts in the center of their speech the necessity to get back the state-sovereignty and a state more centered on its sovereign functions. Generally, they are also neo-liberals, very Europhobic and very strongly against immigration.

The second type (Swiss People's Party, Vlaams Belang, Front National, Geert Wilders' PVV, Finns Party, FPÖ, Erre, Estonian Conservative People's Party) has the same sovereignist and Europhobic doctrines, but also gives an ethnical and religious connotation to the nation, to which has to apply a kind of social program, serving as a mask for the limitations of freedom.

The third type comes from the street: we can observe a multiplication of far-right demonstrations in Europe, generally focused on minorities (PEGIDA, English Defence League). They base their legitimacy on an apparent non-affiliation to a party and want to give the impression of a popular and spontaneous mobilization.

The last type clearly finds its ideological doctrine in the nazism (Golden Dawn, Jobbik, NPD). They also give an ethnical connotation to the nation and plan to tighten with ethnical, religious, sexual orientation or physical validity criteria. At the difference of the nationalists-said parties they use a semantic, political action forms and symbols clearly-linked with nazism.

The fight against far-right parties must take into account the reappropriation by these parties of some left-concepts to modify their definitions. We have to learn to reveal the double-meaning of some topics. For instance, when Marine Le Pen talks about secularism, it's systematically to stigmatize Muslims. She makes herself acceptable for the opinion and talks at the same time to islamophobic people. The word « democracy » is very often used in the language of the far-right, giving to this term an anti-European and nationalistic connotation.

We should not underestimate the capacity of the far-right to modify the definition of some words to their advantage. We have to impose in the political debate the real definitions of some of these words like solidarity, secularism, democracy. They can't be synonym of exclusion. In fact,

if the FPÖ puts social-protection in his main campaign-topics, he plans to reserve this protection only for the Austrians and wants to forbid immigration from countries with Muslim majorities.

But the fight against far-right can't limit itself to the demolition of the propositions of the far-right; we have to attack the causes of their success. In many European countries, we see that far-right parties know how to collect what the socialists have abandoned: the most precarious populations, the rural territories and the suburbs.

First of all, socialists have to come back to their basics: the fight against all forms of poverty and exclusion, and in favor of wealth distribution. The fact that the far-right progresses with the growing reject of the European project, makes it even more essential to put the fight against poverty and inequalities at the heart of the European Union. A Welfare-Europe would discourage all temptation of national fold.

This "back to basics" is a necessary condition to redirect our speech and our activism towards the poorest-people. We have to be active at the European level to speak to the people who are aside from transport networks, employment, public services and most kinds of digital technology. Furthermore it's not acceptable in any way that Socialist and Socialdemocratic politicians openly sympathize with far-right street movements. Our aim must always be to tackle social inequality and exclusion, not to legitimize racist and xenophobic movements by integrating them into the political discourse as it occasionally happened in the case of Pegida. As Young European Socialists we reject each action taken by leading PES-politicians which legitimize Pegida, EDL, etc.

Nonetheless, we have to make understand the people that more Europe is better for all of us, while far-right nationalism is against their interest. Ambiguous financial support from third countries for far-right European political forces could pose to the EU in terms of slowing down or even hampering further integration and baulking the formation of common positions within the international arena.

We have to be able to deconstruct the theories of the far-right and improve the trainings of our activists- and YES is a wonderful tool for this. These trainings should teach us to listen to those who are tempted by the far-right, to propose them left answers and to deconstruct the propositions of the far-right parties. As Young European Socialists, we have the duty to be vigilant and active against far-right movements, in order to avoid having them blocking even more our future.