

Green Conference

"Right-wing Extremism in Europe"

Scheduled, April 15th 2009

in the European Parliament in Brussels

from 15:00 until 18:00

Room ASP 1 G 2

Organised by Angelika Beer (MEP) and Gisela Kallenbach (MEP)

Right-wing extremism is a Europe-wide problem and one which transcends national boundaries. Right-wing extremists across Europe are forming networks to increase their success in the European elections on 4 - 7June 2009. They are meeting at concerts, commemoration days and festivities all over Europe in order to network and to promote the idea of a European right-wing party.

European right-wingers operate sophisticated networks via the new media and share elements of campaigns, ideas and styles of clothing. In terms of their clothing and language, the right-wing extremists are increasingly taking on the style of the antifascist movement Antifa.

The conference will consist of two panels: The first panel is designed to portray the characteristics of right-wing extremism in Europe and to identify similarities and differences across European countries. In the second panel we want to discuss strategies for civil society against right-wing extremism in order to develop sustainable transnational strategies to fight racism and discrimination in Europe.



Introduction by Angelika Beer and Gisela Kallenbach

Panel 1

15.15 - 16.15

Right-wing extremism in Europe

Following the anti-Islamisation conference in Cologne and the meetings of the "European National Front", the pan-European network of right-wing extremists is growing. What causes right-wing extremism, which factors encourage it, and are there any differences between the European countries (e.g. Eastern - Western Europe)?

Moreover we want to discuss the appearance of right-wing extremists in public. Are right-wingers part of the national politics, how do they communicate their ideology?

And finally, the question of the pan-European cooperation will be posed.

Panelists:

Dr. Christoph Busch, University of Cologne

Dr. Christopher Husbands, London School of Economics and Political Science

Chair:

Gisela Kallenbach, MEP

Coffeebreak 16.15 - 16.45

Panel 2

16.45 - 17.45

Strategies against European-wide right-wing extremism

To face transnational right-wing extremism clear counter-measures are needed. Which approaches are adopted in the European countries? Do they work? How could a European-wide strategy against right-wing extremism look like? Which approaches are needed for sustainable counter-measures?

Panelists:

Anetta Kahane, Amadeu-Antonio-Stiftung
Katalin Halasz, European Network Against Racism (tbc)
Chair:
Jean Lambert, MEP

Conclusion by Angelika Beer, MEP