



MAY 2019

# REPORT ABOUT THE FAR-RIGHT IN EUROPE



International Alliance for Peace and Development

## **Report on the Far-Right in Europe During the Month of May**

During May, a new map began to change to achieve the goals set by the far-right, mainly to obtain the largest possible number of seats. It is clear that the biggest event in May - related to this issue - was the election of the European Parliament, which lost the major blocs of center-right and center-left parties, among increased voter support for liberals, greens, and nationalists. The pro-EU parties are still expected to form the majority but traditional blocs will need to seek new alliances, While the nationalists in Italy, France, and the United Kingdom won the majority of seats. The participation was the highest for the last 20 years. Although the populist and far-right parties have achieved gains in some countries, they have not achieved the great gains that some have expected. Which makes us wonder about the position of the European Parliament on the current situation, the situation of immigrants in particular, and Who is the next president of the European Commission?

Therefore, this report will address the movements of the far-right in May, then news on the election and the development of a general vision that will determine the next steps that the far-right will take in the coming period.

First: General News About the Far-Right in May first: The General News About the Far- Right in May

The news of the month of May is full of extreme right-wing movements in Europe during May, which was largely confined to the European Parliament elections, which can be summarized as follows:

### **First Week of May**

It was mainly for the preparations for the elections of the European Parliament. All movements of the far-right aimed at the success of the largest possible number of seats in the European Parliament, including the campaign led by the far-right in Europe, which originated in the Czech Republic. It described immigration and Islam as a major threat to Europe in an effort to pre-election support. Among the most prominent participants

were: Marin Loban, leader of France's far-right National Rally party, Geert Wilders, founder of the anti-Islam Dutch party Party for Freedom and Italy's far-right Interior Minister and the leader of the anti-immigrant movement Matteo Salvini.

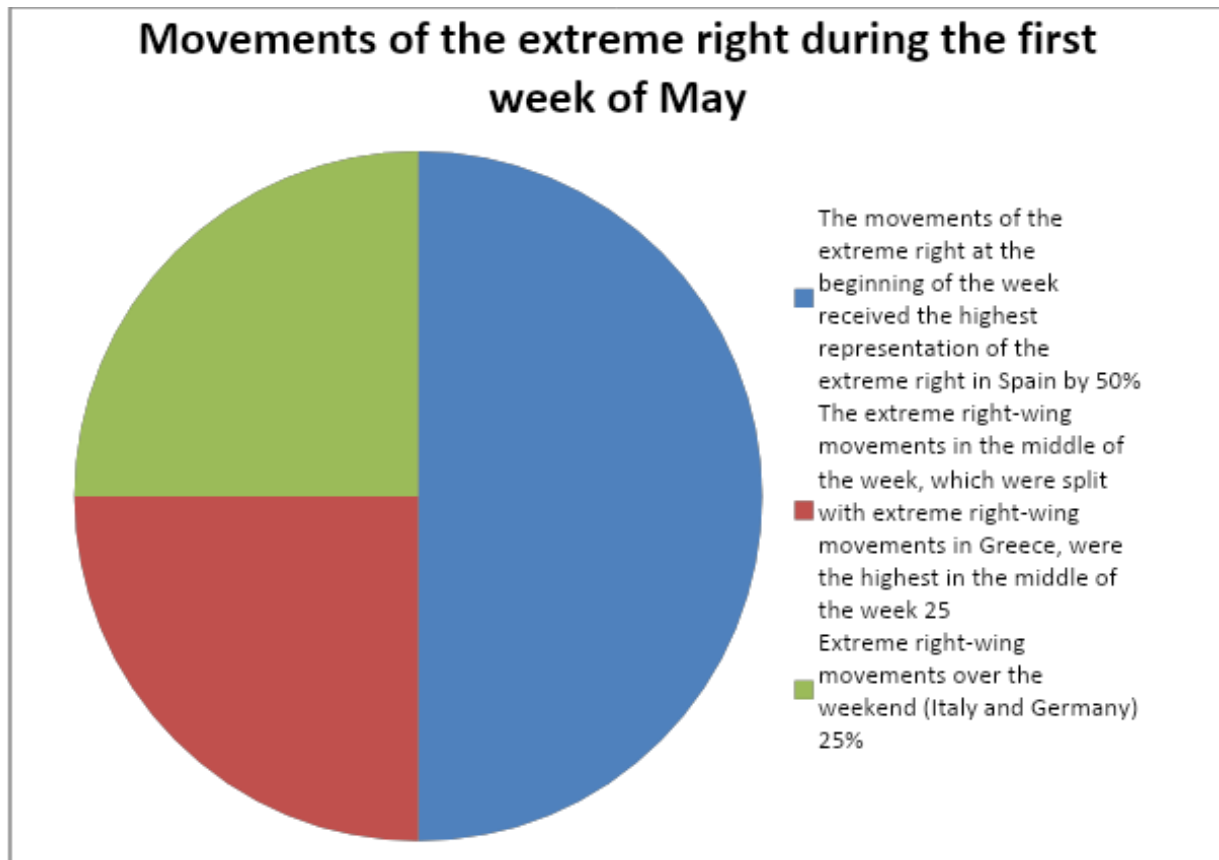
In Spain, voters are encouraged to elect the far-right and coalitions are formed. The current socialist candidate, Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, said he was open to a coalition with Vox party, through which there will be a chance to resist austerity; the socialist candidate's wishes are foster to achieve it. As the elections for the Parliament approach, he formed an alliance with the far-right groups to ensure winning seats in the Parliament. The far-right benefited from this alliance; it supported its entry to the Parliament for the first time since four decades ago by 99%. The socialists led by Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez won 29% of the vote and 123 seats in the 350-Parliament.

In Germany, the situation was different as a leading candidate from the Greens party said that his party would not support any candidate to head the executive branch of the European Union, who relies on far-right support. The American Art Museum has asked of the German Right-wing Party to stop using one of his paintings, director Jean-Leon Jerome's painting of 1866, in the campaign. The far-right in Germany used a painting entitled The Slave Market, which imitates slave traders in the Middle East and North Africa inspecting a naked woman with lighter skin in posters for the European Parliament elections.

In Greece, members of the fascist movement Golden Dawn brazenly assaulted immigrants, political opponents, and trade unionists after police announced that a member had killed a left-wing rapper. The Greek authorities announced that the party is a criminal organization.

In Italy, the news was different. The ruling party Northern League's attempt to get the majority in the Italian local elections. Salvini, Italy's Interior Minister and Federal Secretary of the Northern League, was criticized for going to Oscar Aiello's mayoral bid instead of attending a memorial to

liberate Italy from Nazi occupation. He has repeatedly criticized this event in the past - describing it as "a rift between fascists and communists.



It is clear from the foregoing that the movements of the far -right in the first week of May, led by the countries of Southern Europe (Spain - Italy - Greece) and Western Europe (Germany) strongly as this elections came in parallel with the elections in Spain, which has a huge importance in the political scene of most of the European cities, as shown in the previous chart showing the movements of the far-right.

### Second Week

The situation changed in the second week. In France, President Emmanuel Macron tried to overcome the far-right in the election. Macron included the environment in his European electoral statement at the same time his party has been striving to overcome the far-right. It showed his interest in a faltering campaign just three weeks before the polling. The voter survey

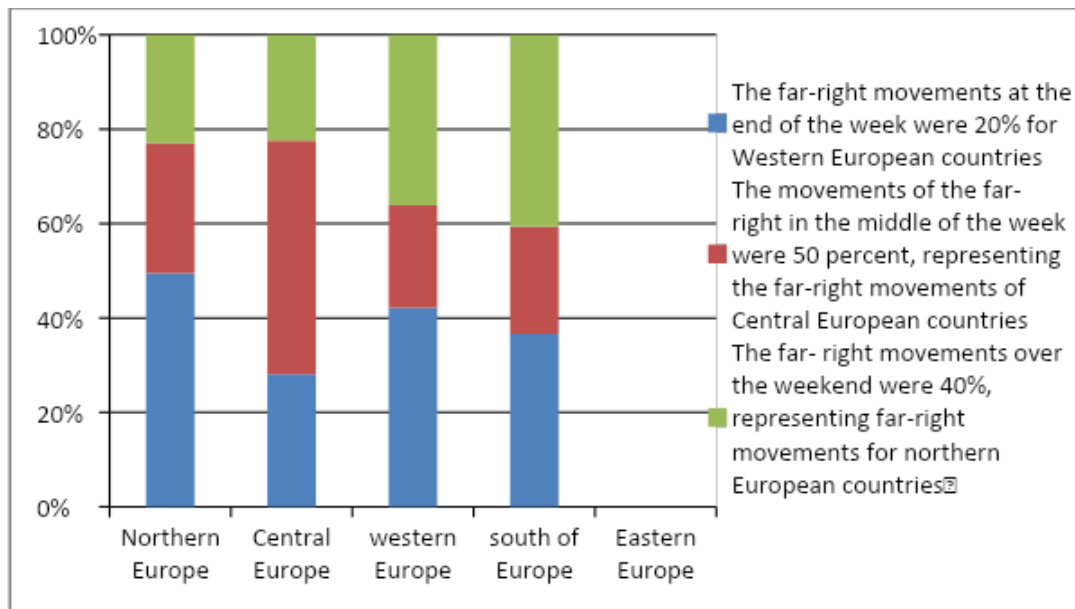
◉Appe Europhile showed that the majority of votes favor Macron in the May 26 elections to the European Parliament, proving that the impact of the political crisis of the yellow vests protests, in the past six months, has been faded away and that his agenda for the renaissance of the EU is still alive.

In Denmark, Facebook suspended a Danish political account that offended the Muslims, an account of the leader of the Danish party, who published an offensive image for Muslims.

This was repeated in Austria, where the extreme right threatened migrants and resembled them by mice through the election campaigns in Austria which are related to the European Parliament elections. At the same time, Austria's parliament demanded legal legislation prohibiting headscarves in schools, however many representatives in the parliament was against this decision.

In general, the far-right movements were very few this week. It was only In Austria, Denmark, France, while it disappears in a large number of European countries.

The movements of the extreme right during the last week of April and the first week in May were weak compared to April. The highest representation of movements in the week was the Nordic countries and then western central Europe.

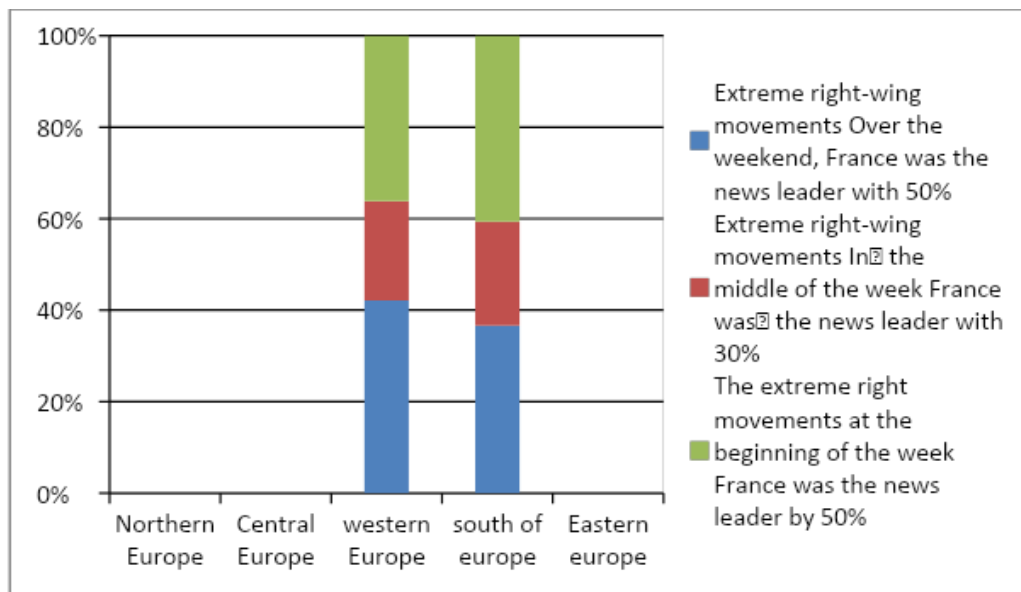


### the third week

The third week was preparing for the elections of the European Parliament, which had a significant impact on the situation in European countries and also affected the activities of political parties, especially right-wing. In France, MPs called for the establishment of a committee of inquiry against "Marin Le Pen" to be charged with treason as its intelligence with a foreign power, putting the leader of the National Rally Party in question.

During her election campaign, Le Pen raised the "OK" gesture which is the sign used by the far right in Europe.

In Italy, the Italian right-wing leader Matteo Salvini had proposed a bill impose taxes for everyone who will rescue the refugee it estimated by 5,500 euros. He explained in the bill that the fine would be imposed on those who rescued refugees at sea and paid the amount for each person is saved.



#### fourth week

In the fourth week with the domination of the European Parliament elections as extreme right-wing politicians gather to fight for more power in the elections, also the extreme nationalist and rightist parties had organized demonstrations aiming to win more seats in the European parliamentary elections.

On the other hand, the populists in 11 European countries, including in France, led by French Marine Le Pen, Franz Hörtner, and Geert Wilders, had organized a joint march in Italy to support the electoral process in favor of the extreme right.

In Britain, there is a collusion among Nigel Farage - who is the leader of the party that refused the Brexit - in cooperation with both Le Pen and Salvini, rejecting Britain's exit from the EU and also rejected any involvement with right-wing parties in the European Parliament. Nigel's cooperation with extremist parties increases concerns about the party's association with right-wing parties once they are reelected.

In France, Macron called for a "constitutive treaty" to define the EU's post-election strategy. He said in an interview with French local newspapers,

that he a want a European constituent treaty after the elections Europe to let the leader of the states and governments take sufficient time with the new EU government to decide the EU strategy over the next five years, including the changes they want to make within the treaties, this was an attempt from the French president to gain the confidence of the voters and reduce the chances of winning the far-right parties .

In Austria, politicians from European parties called the voters to stand up against the far right this happened after a video that led to the step-down of the leader of the Freedom Party in Austria which led to increasing the level of anger of the nationalist days before the European parliamentary elections. Hence The president of Austria called for early general elections in September.

As for the social media, the fourth week of May witnessed the spread of misinformation networks by the far right as the Political misinformation on the Facebook site in Europe has spread. there are concerted efforts to use this platform to spread far right-wing propaganda to millions of voters before the EU election. Facebook has closed around 77 pages and 230 accounts from Germany, UK, France, Italy, Spain, and Poland - followed by an estimated 32 million people and generating 67 million "interactions" in the last three months alone.

The misinformation networks were not identified mainly by Facebook - but were reported by the Avaaz campaign group - which says that fake pages have more followers and Facebook interactions than all the major EU and anti-EU parties.

## Second: Elections of the European Parliament

The European elections play an important role in the redistribution of the map of the far right. The current atmosphere is full of tension and anxiety as the tone of the voices supporting the dissolution of the block rises from the British draft of BRIXT till the leaders of the far right in European member states who also call for their country to leave the Union as they



see that the full attention and funds should be directed to their nations, not for the union .

Despite the decline of the right-wing power in the European countries over the past years, especially in the presidential and legislative elections of several countries such as France and the rise of Emmanuel Macron Le Pen, as well as the superiority of the center-right party in Austria, "Austrian People's Party led by Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurtz, The domination began to change, which was clear with the results and indicators of the European Parliament elections in several countries.

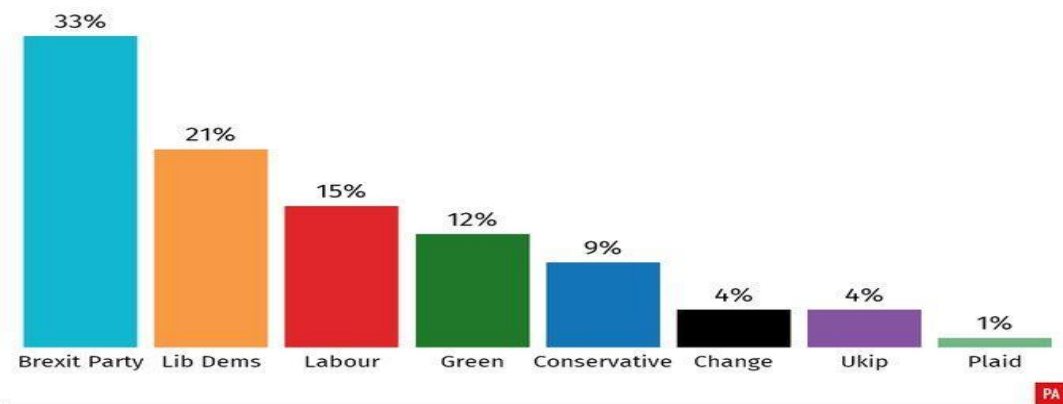
The results of the European elections show that the election boxes results always come with surprises and even contradictions from time to time. These elections clearly show that the rise of the right-wing movement in many countries of the continent, which threatens the continuation of the European Union. Also in case of rising the far right to the power this will threaten the future of migrants and those who fled from the war in their home countries, as the far-right ideology is totally against the immigration, which makes us wonder about the status of immigrants over the next five years and the next president of the Commission.

It is important to highlight that, the voting rate during the 2019 European Parliament elections is the highest in 20 years, with participation estimated at 51% for the 27 member states of the Union without the United Kingdom, but with the United Kingdom, this ratio can range from 49 and 52%. According to the spokesman for the European Parliament Jom Dash with more focus on the map of the far right distribution and progress in those elections, the French National Rally Party led by Marin Le Pen, the former candidate for the presidency of France, achieved a clear advantage in the European Parliament elections with 23.2% %, In the face of the movement of "The Republic is headed " by French President Emmanuel Macaron, whose party won 21.9% as The participation rate in the European elections in France was 43.29%, an increase of 8 points compared to the 2014 elections.

By analyzing these results, it shows that the decline in Macron's popularity, in addition to his middle party "the republic is headed" in the expansive for Marianne Le Pen with his far-right party. In that presidential election, in April 2017, Macron won 24.01% of the vote in the first ballot of the French presidential elections and Marine Le Pen won by 21.30%. In the second ballot and the final result in May 2017, Marianne Le Pen lost 34.9%, compared to 65.1% for Emmanuel Macron, who won the presidential election at the expense of the far-right candidate.

**EU elections: UK vote shares**  
after 10 of 12 regions declared

VOTE X 2019



**We can summarize the status of the most prominent events within the European elections, as follows:**

**In Hungary, the right-wing Fidesz right-wing party**, which topped 52.3% of the European Parliament elections, was led by Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, who has been in power for the last 10 years after taking the office in 2010 and re-elected for two consecutive terms. Since then in 2014 and 2018, as was the first time he assumed the post of prime minister for the first time between 1998 and 2002. Like all Yemenis, Orbán adopts anti-immigration policies, which became clear in his recent remarks after casting his vote in the European Parliament elections, He "hopes that elections will strengthen the political forces that pro-immigration in Europe," he said. "I hope that a shift takes place in the public sphere in favor of the European political parties that want to stop immigration. "

Italy also will be included in the list which has been governed by Luigi de Mayo's five-star movement and its ruling partner, joins the right-wing Northern League of Matteo Salvini, the country's deputy prime minister and interior minister, he is considered as one of the leading opponents of immigration within the framework of ongoing European elections. The far-right took step forward this also happened after the party led by Matteo Salvini won a historic victory in the European elections by 27 to 32% of the vote - according to preliminary polls of the results of the vote - then Mathen qraty "left of center" in the second place by between 21 and 25%, followed by five-star partner populist movement in power in Italy by 18.5 and 22.5%, this came according to published international news agencies.

Also the results shows that , British right-wing party with the leadership of the far right leaders "Nigel Farage " with 31.5% of the vote in the European Parliament elections, showed that the ruling Conservative Party fell to fifth place after failing to get Britain out of the European Union and with more than 10% Of the votes, the pro-European Liberal Democrats came in second, followed by the opposition Labor Party, the Greens and the Conservatives by 7.5% of the votes. These figures reflect the dangerous development of the rise of the far right in major European Union countries.

But on the sidelines of this election, whose results have been missed by politicians, analysts and researchers on the results that will be after the elections, which have been repelled by some statements

Austria, under a right-winger led by Chancellor Sebastian Kurz, leader of the Austrian People's Party (right-center) and partner of the far right-wing Freedom Party led by Heinz Christian Strache, Austria's deputy chancellor - who was setback- he took the lead in the European populist elections 34.9%, followed by the left-wing Social Democratic Party (SPÖ) by 23.4% and the People's Freedom Party by 17.2%, according to the results of the vote.

There is no doubt that the far-right movement has made progress in countries such as Italy and settled in first place in France, without being

reflected in its size within the European Parliament. However, it failed to achieve real progress in many other European countries such as Germany. Finally, the number of far-right MPs in the European Parliament rose from 151 to 171 out of 751 MPs.

The elections in the European Parliament have ended by radical changes. The right-wing (Germany), which some politicians, call the Marcel right-wing, has been successful winning 182 seats despite losing 35 seats, but the extreme right in France, Italy, Britain, Hungary, and Poland won 117 seats. The Brexit party, which struggled to get Britain out of the European Union, got about a third of the British votes. The losers in the European Parliament elections, the center-right, especially the left, and the Socialist Party in France were ranked sixth in a country they ruled for decades.

### III. Analytical vision

Accurately, we can say that the situation is divided into Europe or precisely the movements of the far right divided into the pre-election of the European Parliament and beyond the European Parliament elections. Before the European Parliament elections the situation was on the basis of challenges of The political situation in Europe as the conflict was mainly aimed to acquire more Seats Like in Greece, members of the fascist movement attacked immigrants, political opponents, and trade unionists of the far right in Austria by threatening migrants and called them mice through the election campaign in Austria. The parliament in Austria demanded that there be legal legislation to prevent headscarves in schools, despite the opposition of parliamentarians on this decision on the veil. After the elections and its results of the European elections and the formation of alliances, The European Union countries start a new phase of conflict For the higher positions of the Federation's institutions, and a new set of decisions that violate the rights of migrants, which is also expected to change the balance of power within the European Parliament in favor of a category in another one. This is an example about the declarations that the far right leader release about there ambitions for the presidency of the

European Commission, because they do not consider it just an ordinary election as it is just a step is to reach the higher goal which is related to the European Commission to strengthen the resolutions aimed to suppress immigrants

It's worth asking about the refugee's status over the next five years will, and if the seats that Germany won which are (182) seats in front of (117) seats of the far right in France, Italy, Britain, and Hungary will handle the extremist decisions. All these questions, We can now answer them clearly and therefore because of the instability in the political situation within Europe.

However, we must note that these elections not only affected parliament but also the tendency of countries in some countries such as Austria, the United Kingdom, Germany, which are turning to face the movements of the far right in a different form. As Some other countries in Europe, Movements of the extreme right (Italy - Hungary - France).

Therefore, in the coming months, the movements of the far right are expected to emerge, in the European Commission's direction, in addition to the suppression of the rights of immigrants and Muslims.

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