



September 2019

# Monthly Report About the Far-Right in Europe



International Alliance for Peace and Development

## Introduction

During the last four months, precisely prior to September, the far-right parties focused on bringing about changes in the political atmosphere within Europe. Undeniably, they made considerable efforts to seize power and eliminate migration and asylum, more accurately, eliminate existing migration policies such as the current situation in Germany, where the ruling political party is getting less popular.

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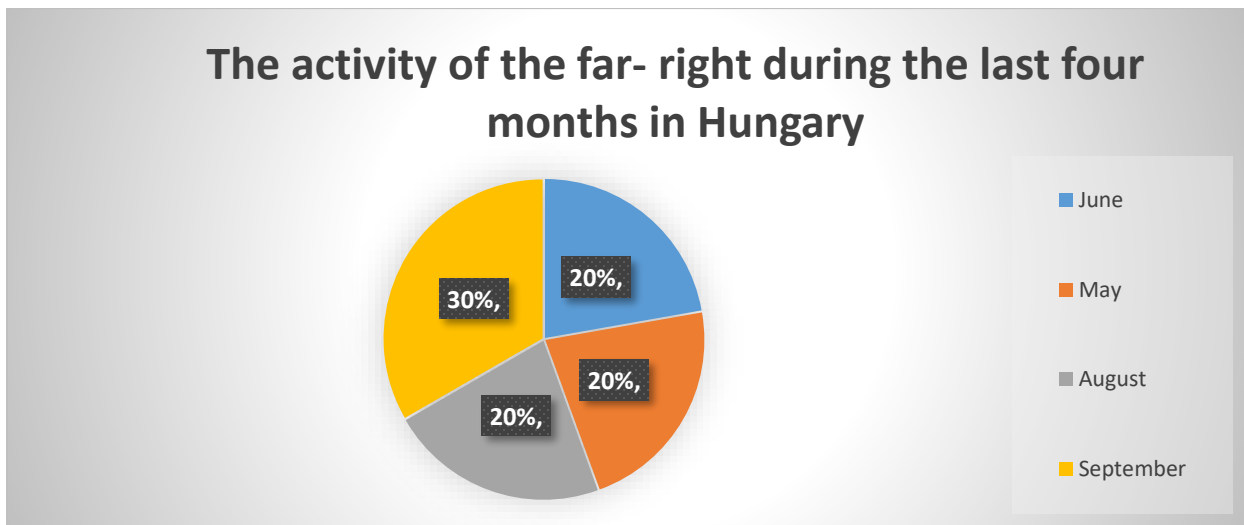
This has made funding such extreme actions or parties to reach the executive authorities within some European countries regarded as a kind of corrupting state institutions or, from other perspective, may be related to the presence of some elements having xenophobia in some European countries, which helped significantly in achieving the goals of the far-right.

**Therefore, this report is divided into two parts for monitoring the activity of the far-right during the first and the second half of September, along with providing an analytical insight of the ongoing political situation across Europe.**

## First: The Activity of the Far-Right During the First Half of September

Right-wing nationalism or populism became widespread in Europe, raising the slogan of “No for Migration, No for Migrants”, inviting new European countries to join the alliances and coalitions established by the far-right within Europe. It is no longer a mere wave sweeping the world, but a reality attacking those who have fled conflicts (refugees and migrants).

The first half of September, has witnessed different movements in which three European countries topped the list countries in which far-right is highly spread. Hungary, is one of these countries, where the roles played by far-right parties have developed to be one of the most heavily supporting European countries for extremist, anti-migration ideologies. It also reflected in the strict laws and regulations issued by the far-right-wing Hungarian government, during the last three months, that limits the movement of migrants.



Comparing the first half of the three months prior to September, It can be figured out that the actions taken by Hungary’s Prime Minister have become intense, which led the European Court of Human Rights to indict

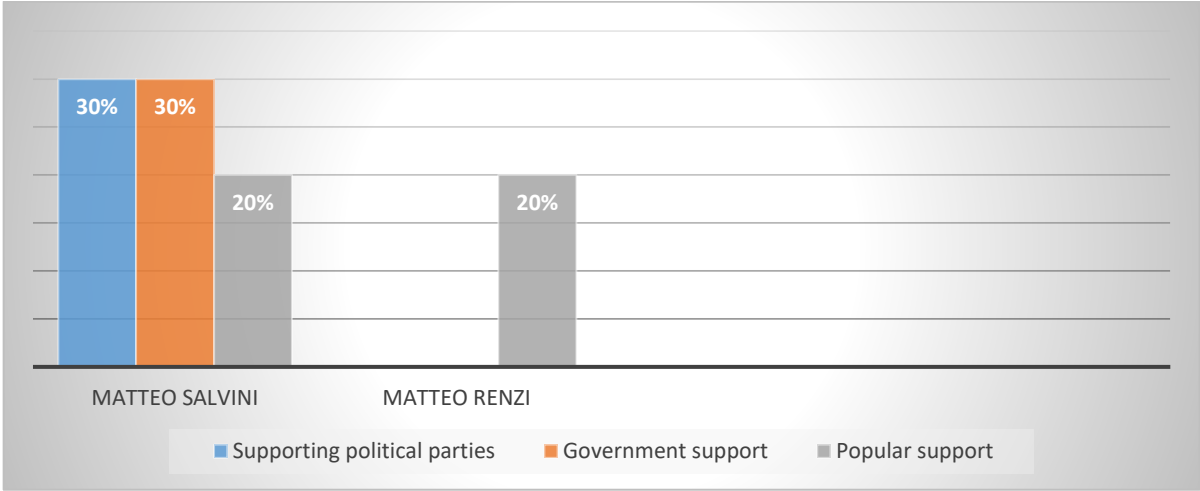
Hungary for the ongoing violations against migrants and refugees. Additionally, the previous months proved that Hungary restricts refugees and migrant's entry procedures into their land. Even worse, the former Australian Prime Minister, Tony Abbott, commended Hungary's efforts in this regard, which adds Austria to the list of countries supporting Hungary's anti-refugee ideology and working on strengthening the far-right inside Europe.

Italy comes second in the list of countries where far-right-wing was most active during the first half of September. Italy has witnessed a major political shift during the recent months, which led political parties to engage in a power struggle initiated by Matteo Salvini, after he broke the alliance with his partner in the ruling coalition, on the basis of a memorandum submitted by Matteo Salvini Lega Party, on the no-confidence motion against the Conte Cabinet.

According to the Italian Constitution and on the basis of that memorandum, there is a no-confidence vote on the Conte Cabinet, which must take place in the Senate, the same council he gained trust in after forming a coalition between the League party and the Five-Star Movement (M5S), 14 months earlier. The thing that made the Italian Prime Minister, Matteo Renzi, establish a coalition between the Democratic Party and the Five-Star Movement to avoid early elections and, therefore, frustrating the attempts of the far-right leader Matteo Salvini. Matteo Renzi, and the deputies following his steps, will continue to provide parliamentary support to the government formed by the Democratic Party and the Five Star Movement.

Shortly after the voting session, Conte had a high rate and corrected his situation, unlike Salvini whose expectations about controlling the situation and forming his new government have never been met. According to the indicators, Matteo Renzi gained government, popular

and political parties' support, unlike Matteo Salvini, who gained only an equal rate of popular support.



The dreams of misfortunate Matteo Salvini about the success of his new coalition have been all shattered into pieces. His so-called new coalition includes Silvio Berlusconi, former Prime Minister, and Giorgia Meloni, leader of the “Fratelli d'Italia - Brothers of Italy” party. He has already proposed an electoral agreement for them, to speed up the fall of the Conte government, topple the seven League ministers and accelerate early elections, believing that he can avoid the failure of the no-confidence memorandum, proposed by the League Party, which has only 85 seats out of 319 in the Senate.

It facilitated the return of Giuseppe Conte, who returned as a prime minister, whose government became the most moderate and pro-European after an agreement between former enemies of the anti-establishment Five Star Movement and the center-left Democratic Party was reached. The new government, he said, will work "passionately" to revive morale in Italy, a country burdened with high debt, high unemployment rate, and widespread dissatisfaction caused by migration and the country's relations with Brussels.

Luigi Di Mayo, the five-star movement leader, will be the foreign minister, while Democrats Roberto Gualtieri will serve as Minister of Economy and Finances. The 33-year-old Di Mayo will be the youngest foreign minister ever appointed in Italy, despite the broad popularity Salvini gained after the strict measures he has taken against migrants and humanitarian ships saving lives in the Mediterranean.

During the final weeks of his serving as interior minister, Salvini's party passed a new legislation criminalizing rescue workers, thinking that the new election would empower him to control Italy's far-right. His party, Salvini announced, is no longer able to work with the Five-Star Movement, pushing the country into a real crisis, but his thought did not work out, and he ended up out of government altogether.

Germany came third in the list, behind Italy, as it held its local elections in August. The election in which the far-right have beaten other parties, and became the most powerful force that Merkel could hardly ally with.

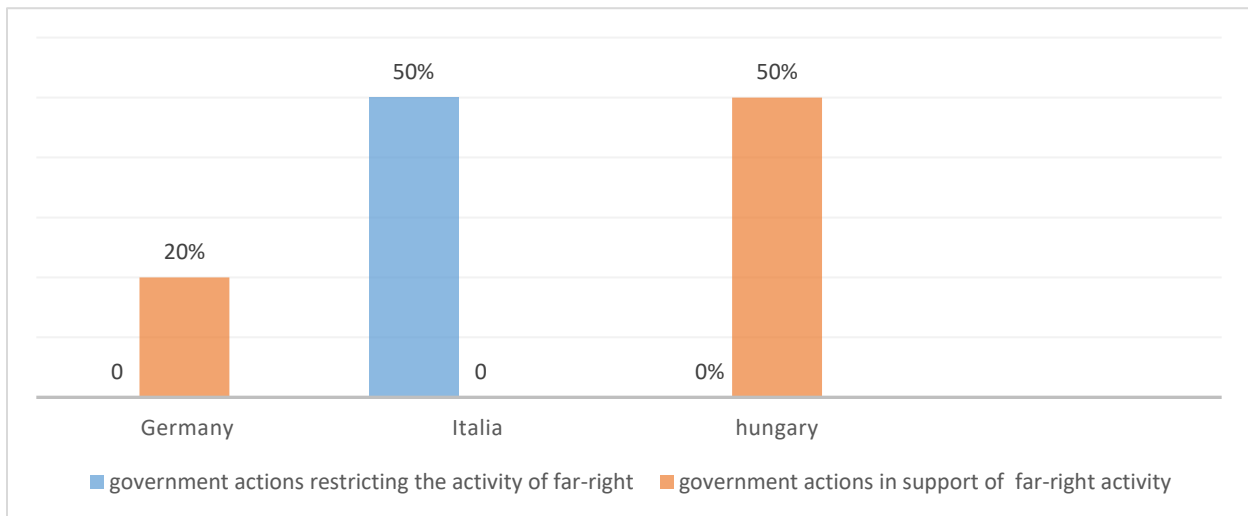
The far-right came second behind the main parties in the ruling coalition and doubled its share of votes in Saxony, where their ideology is only supported by Alternative for Germany Party (AfD). The African Development Party also took part in the elections, strengthening the coalition of new political parties in Germany. It is currently getting through a real battle, with recent surveys showing that Merkel's position will be affected (since she is a representative of the ruling party) and also being unable to ally with far-right-wing parties.

This led the German people to put their trust in the far-right parties because their economy is suffering from instability since 2000 and the average growth rate in the country has dropped to 2% compared to the boom era.

Neoliberalism has seen a third of workers suffering from the amounting levels of insecurity, temporary contracts, limited rights and wage cuts. Germany's wage cuts reached 60 percent, getting near the official poverty line, and forcing workers to work more than ever simply to make ends meet, as purchasing power falls down. Merkel's austerity policies, which reduces budget deficits by cutting spending, as well as the downward movement in economy that many workers in Germany are currently suffering from, as well as the rejection of the German people to the facilities, they regard excessive, given to migrants and refugees from conflict zones.

On the other hand, violent acts committed by far-right within Germany had increased. Indeed, Germany is one of the most violent countries in the European Union, as some recent opinion surveys have shown that the far-right groups enhance people's fighting skills by recruiting members of military and police forces, according to classified reports announced by German media, which stressed that far-right and populism organizations and networks spread violence directed towards refugees and migrants inside Germany

The above makes the first half of September the most stable in terms of the far-right activity within European countries according to the following chart, which shows the activity of the far-right in terms of restricting government measures or pro-far-right ideology measures, in which we find that far-right could reach, during the first half, 50% in Hungary, compared to Italy, in which it reached 30% because of the destruction of Matteo Sylvini hope, in compare to Germany, in which the actions taken by the far-right reached 20%.



It makes us wonder whether we reached the fascist summit in Europe or not yet? This inquiry dates back to the events monitored during the first half of September, when the far-right party came first in the local elections within Saxony and Brandenburg, which made the focus of the far-right directed to eastern Germany, the two regions gained popularity for the far-right, for their fear of recent growing migration and asylum in Germany

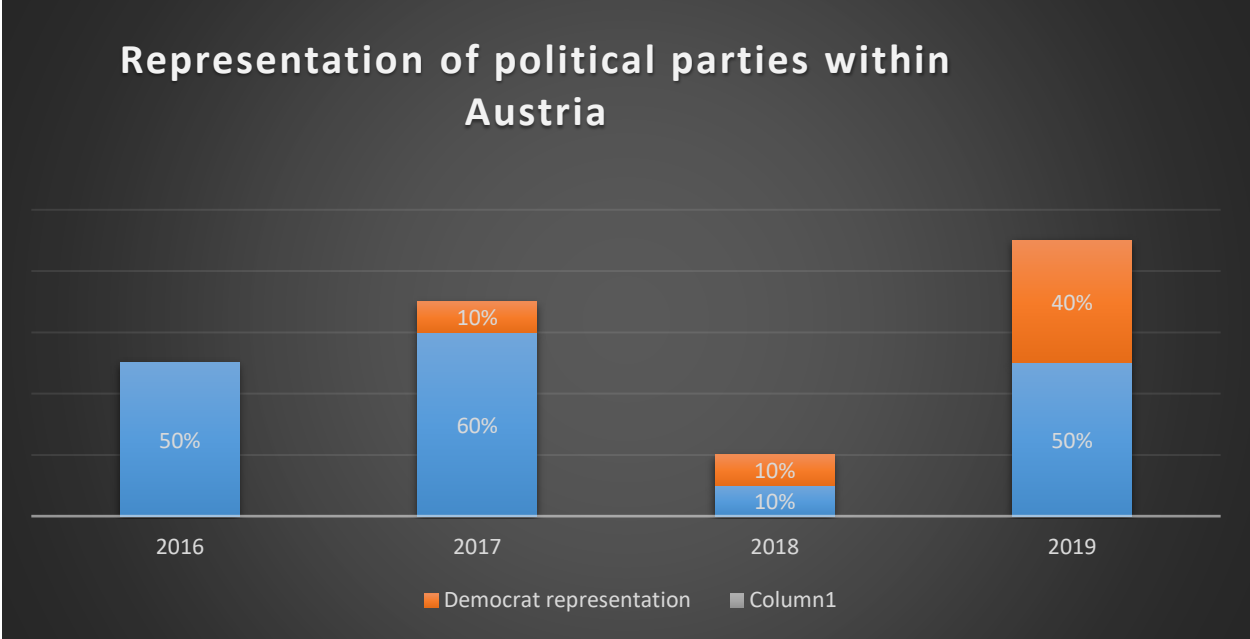
On the other hand, it has become clear that the far-right League Party in Italy has been relentlessly ridiculed by going back to the days when it was calling for extreme racism to reject the issue of migration and migrants. Even more, the far-right party attacks Roman minorities, as Matteo Sylvini have worsened the situation. This will be clearly evident from the activity of the far-right during the second half of September.

**Second: The Activity of the Far-Right During the Second Half of September**

The activity of the far-right intensified during the second half of September, with Austria joining the list of the countries where the far-

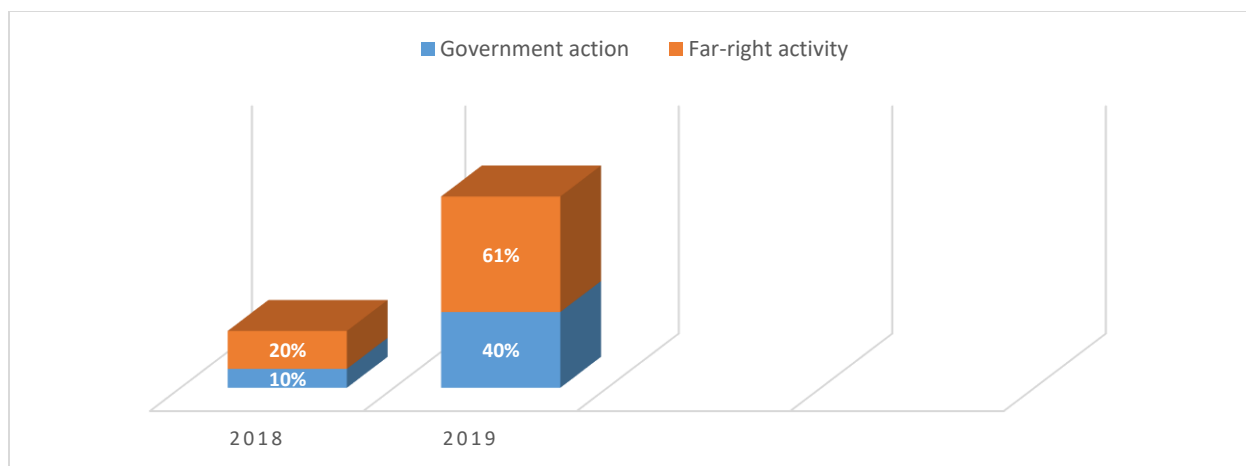


right was most active, despite the long years in which the far-right dominated the political arena. In 2018, the success of the far-right Freedom Party, led then by the Heinz Christian Strassch, at the beginning of the second half of September, Austrian atmosphere was so intense because of the corruption recently seen within the country, which facilitated the election for other candidates, and made it more difficult for the far-right. But, election is not constant and changes continually, and despite the scandal took place in Austria's political scene, the migrant crisis and anti-migration sentiment have enabled far-right parties to promote faster power access, helping Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz to overcome the crisis and win early elections run in Austria that put him in a position to choose between the Democratic Party, and thus the formation of a government, and the far-right party in the future.



On the other hand, the situation remains unstable for the far-right in Italy. As, following the crisis caused by Matteo Salvini attempt to demolish the party and replace it with the seventh presidential league, that was supposed to gain support from the Democratic Party which gained unprecedented popularity during the second half of September.

On the other hand, Germany has seen new actions made by the far-right. The German government issued a report confirming that the far-right is getting weapons inside Germany for carrying out hostile operations against migrants and refugees and that according to the government report issued this month that the German police confiscated weapons by 61% during raids on the far-right. This percentage increased not only from previous months but also increased from previous years, as in 2018, the German Foreign Ministry confirmed that it found 1091 weapon have been seized from crimes committed by the far-right and also compared to 2017, 676 weapon were confiscated, indicating that the movements of the far-right were fast and advanced.

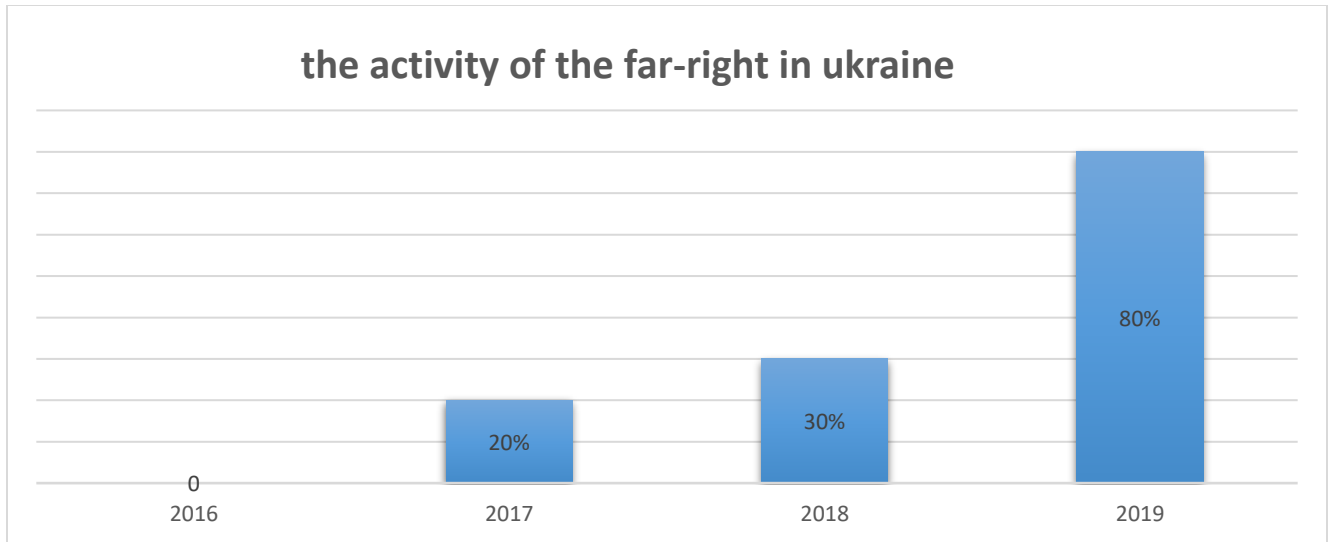


The second half of September also saw trials of eight men accused of forming a neo-Nazi cell aimed at bringing about a systematic change through a violent campaign against migrants, German citizens of foreign

origins, journalists and political opponents in the same region where elections were held during the first half of September (Saxony state), which was regarded by German government and judiciary as one of the most prominent far-right terrorist acts. The authorities believe that members of the group are trying to acquire semi-automatic weapons, attracting others from all over Europe to carry out terrorist operations and the terrorist operation that was planned by the far-right was frustrated.

Additionally, the numbers of the far-right parties are getting spread throughout Europe. The main target of the actions taken by the far-right parties is to eliminate migrants and refugees in line with the extremist ideology they adopt. It is also worth mentioning that there are some far-right actions monitored taking place within Portugal and Ukraine.

The far-right in Ukraine is stockpiling weapons according to the report issued by police on inspecting a prominent party-member store in Ukraine and finding guns and weapons. According to police reports, migrants and refugees inside Ukraine will be targeted in addition to the recent funds obtained by some political parties inside Ukraine, about which no information has been published until the time of writing this report.



In addition to Portugal, calls have been made by extremist right parties outside Portugal to work for the growth of the far-right inside Portugal, contrary to the prevailing situation, as Portugal is among the only five countries in the European Union that don't have an far-right party in parliament, unlike other European countries. The political scene in Portugal is dominated by socialist party, which made it difficult for far-right parties to be formed in Portugal because of their association with other parties such as socialism and others, making us wonder about the situation of Portugal in the coming periods and whether it will respond to the foreign calls of providing financial support to develop far-right within the state?

As for the United Kingdom, the police have confirmed that the far-right is the source of the fastest growing terrorist threat in the UK, in addition to what has been confirmed by the Ministry of Interior (Counter-Terrorism Department) that seven of the 22 conspiracies, by the far-right, were frustrated and the number of operations targeting migrants and refugees have doubled since 2017 and are linked to a terrorist ideology. The problem of the far-right terrorist fighter has become very widespread in Europe, not just in the UK.

## Analytical Vision

During the last four months, precisely prior to September, the far-right parties focused on bringing about changes in the political atmosphere within Europe. Undeniably, they made considerable efforts to seize power and eliminate migration and asylum, more accurately, eliminate existing migration policies such as the current situation in Germany, where the ruling political party is getting less popular.

All far-right parties, commonly seen now in Europe, raise the slogan of xenophobia, which facilitates making money to carry out terrorist operations targeting places of worship and others.

This has made regarding funding such extremist actions or parties to reach the executive authorities within some European countries as a kind of corruption of state institutions or, from other perspective, may be related to the presence of some elements having xenophobia in some European countries, which helped significantly in achieving the goals of the far-right.

For example, according to the monitoring of the actions made by the far-right, the AfD has become the most popular option for the its people, along with the remarkable performance local elections witnessed in Brandenburg at the same day. The outcome served as a warning to how far-right political parties could revive their morale in modern Europe and overcame economic frustration and concern on the issue of migration, as they harness technology, social media, and international networks to address widespread frustration caused by current political situation.

Italy's example also points to the challenges these groups face after toppling the government earlier this year. Salvini was widely expected to become the Prime Minister. Instead, he found himself deprived of forming a coalition of more moderate parties.

Some of far-right leaders are still suffering from the scandal and uncertainty like Austria. The Austrian Freedom party was forced to leave the government in May because of corruption and the anti-migration issues have changed the path of far-right party within Austria.

This makes us be sure that the actions made by the far-right have caused some European countries governments to be involved, and financing the far-right parties within Europe has become suspicious. On the contrary, the crisis of migration and asylum became very serious, despite the fact stating that migration causes growth not economic crisis as referred to by the far-right parties. Although NGOs have shown that there is a significant impact on economic indicators in European countries through the employment of migrants, still the element of xenophobia dominating Political scene within the European countries, which makes us expect the growth of hatred and hostility acts within European countries during the coming months.