



October 2019

# Monthly Report About the Far- Right in Europe



International Alliance for Peace and Development

Introduction

## Introduction

The activity of the far right in October takes the same route as its activity in the previous month, as the reprisals carried out by far-right political parties inside Europe didn't come to an end as evidenced by the general monitoring of this month about the rise of the (far right). The current month's observed activity of the far right which proved that it is now posing a major threat not only to the work of human rights organizations in Europe, but also to countries on a larger scale.

This is also due to the rapid indicators of elections, which held during the previous period in Europe (political parties) and the recent elections of the European Parliament, in which the far right rose to prominence and the partnerships of political elite of those parties to the extension of the idea of hate speech and violence outside the framework of Europe.

During this month report, a number of issues will be highlighted, such as (the situation regarding the new immigration policy and the growth of networks of sympathy for political parties, especially (far right), and the exploitation of political tensions for the rise of the far right, and the idea of exploiting issues (minorities and asylum) in some of their speeches. Therefore, this month, the impact of the far-right on global issues will be highlighted.

## First: The Far Right's Activity during the First Half of October

We found that the activity of the far right in the first half of the current month, focused on the issue of immigration, as modern European politics open new routes to exploit the issues of migrants and refugees to support their position. It has opened new doors to the far right to exploit some issues; such as the new agreement that joins Four European countries (France – Germany – Italy – Malta) and is concerned with the issue of immigration to Europe and also the exploitation of new means of social media such as the case of Britain in order to support the

far right and the issues of extremism. Therefore, we are going to analyze in depth the issues relating to observing the events witnessed by the first half of October.

During the observation of the first half of October, it was announced, in Malta, that a new convention, constituting a new route in the issue of immigration and immigrants, has been adopted, although negotiations regarding this issue are not recent. Indeed, these negotiations began with holding secret meetings at the very beginning of May, as the Special envoy of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees UNHCR, “Vincent Cochel”, the High Commissioner for Refugees, “Filippo Grandi”, the European Commissioner for Migration and Home Affairs, “Dimitris Avramopoulos”, French President, “Emmanuel Macron”, French Interior Minister, “Christophe Castaner”, and French Foreign Minister, “Jean-Yves Le Durban”, have met to discuss a new mechanism for migrants, proposed by Germany at the meeting of prime ministers and the interior.

Germany has suggested that convention at a meeting of prime ministers and interior of the European Union in Paris (which was an unofficial meeting), during which France has persuaded 14 European Union member State to sign the Franco-German agreement and although “Maato Salveni” didn’t attend the meeting held in May, the current situation has changed. As by the end of December, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the countries of (Italy – Malta – Germany –France) have officially announced the agreement on the future situation of migrants and refugees in Europe, during which discussions about asylum conditions and the process of registering entries were held without getting into details. Furthermore, according to what was mentioned during the conference, the agreement will be reviewed by member states in accordance with their internal regulations.

It was expected that another meeting would be held in Luxembourg to continue the negotiations on the agreement, but the meeting did not take place as was agreed upon in October, but the impact of the new policy related to immigration and immigrant affairs may become a new excuse to the far right because, despite the fact that the new policy pursued by the Alliance of European Countries is nothing but a political issue to allay the concerns of societies from all over the European Union.

This is not the first time that Brussels has tried to push the rules related to the transfer of refugees. In 2015, member states in Eastern Europe objected to a plan to impose refugee quotas on all European Union countries, especially those called the “Visegrad Group”, which includes (Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Poland). So, the European Union tried to force these countries to comply to the quotas, causing a long age of bitter wrangling, the last of which was last year and the idea of mandatory quotas was dropped.

It is not believed that the new plan currently being implemented by the group which is related to imposing mandatory quotas on European countries to receive a number of immigrants to Europe will succeed as planned by the French President, although Macron has mentioned in particular that any country of the European Union refuses participation will be severely punished, **indicating that the agreement will be among the terms of punishment in case of violation or non-accession.**

This, as a result, will create wrath against the Eastern bloc that sees immigration as a matter of identity and sovereignty for them, as they do not want African immigrants and Middle Eastern because they do not believe in the liberal values sheltering such great numbers of them.

Moreover, they feel that, the poorer countries of the European Union, are forced to pay for the liberalism they do not support.

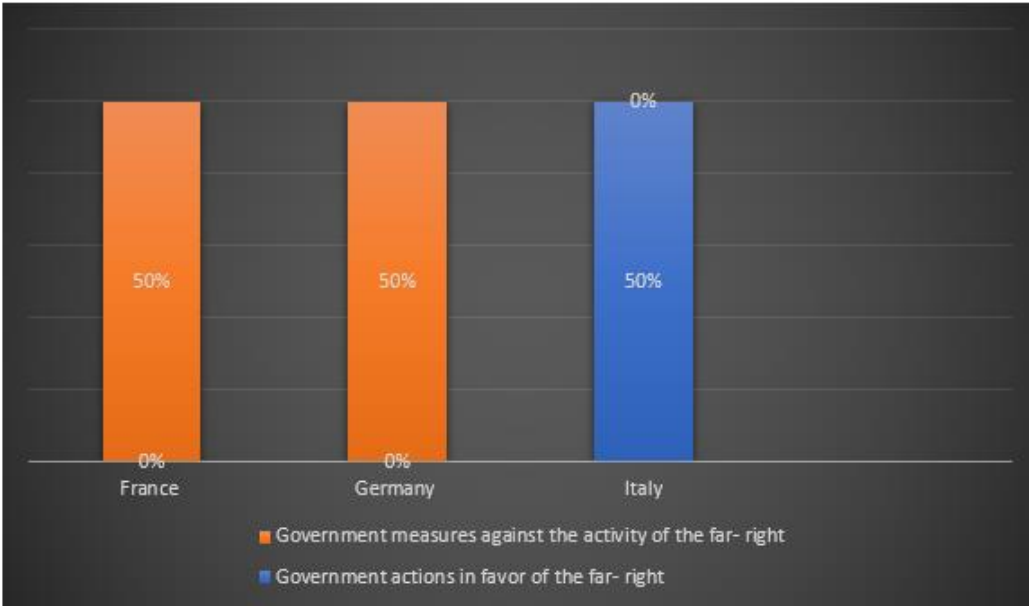
And in general, Western European countries differ in the European Union and the countries that joined it after expansion in 2004 on some important issues, usually related to the role of religion, identity and cultural assimilation.

And the European Union tried to force them to comply regardless of their attitude, resulting in long age bitter wrangling. By last year, the idea of compulsory quotas had been quietly dismissed.

This new plan does not mention mandatory quotas, but they, clearly, intend to be "automatic". Macron has stated, particularly, that any EU country refusing to participate will be severely punished.

The countries of Western Europe in the European Union and the countries that joined after the expansion in 2004 differ on some important issues, usually related to the role of religion, identity and cultural assimilation, and see the European Union differently and the eastern region countries do not want to change the membership of the European Union or reshape it in the form of Netherlands or Sweden, they joined the European Union to become more prosperous and safer than Russian influence.

The new policy to be adopted by the four countries oblige EU countries to accept immigrants, particularly those coming from countries with a Muslim majority, and also France and Germany are seeking to prevent Italy from being drifted towards the far right.



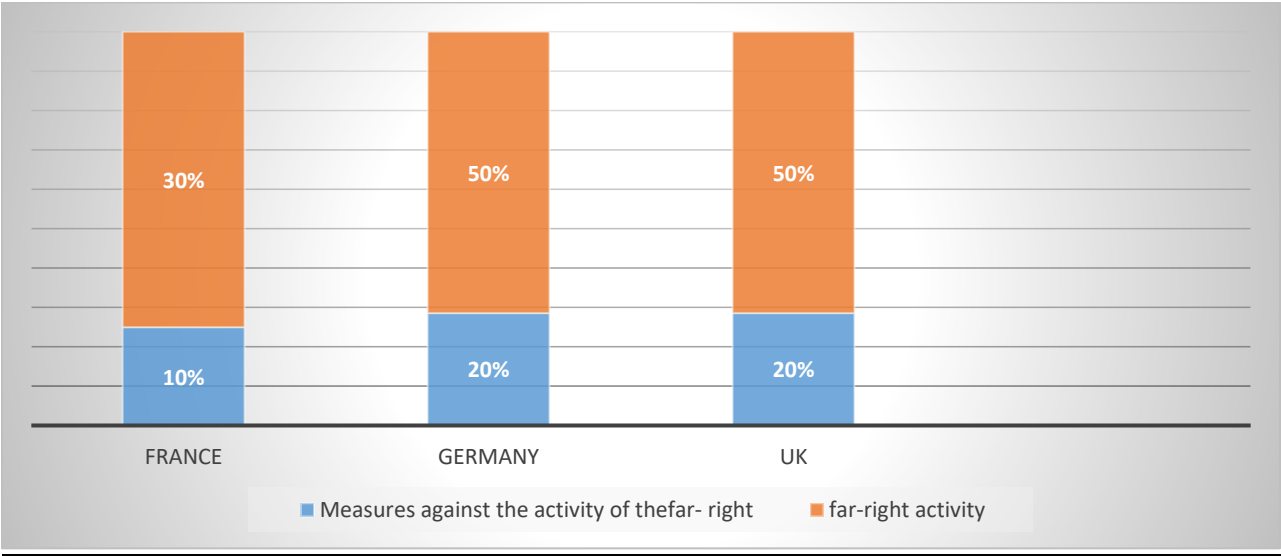
This is also due to a number of reasons that can be inferred from the months prior to October, which made clear France and Germany reject to the existence of the far right party, and now Germany and France are trying to join Italy, especially after a transformation taken place and Mito was eliminated in Italy, and this makes us confirm that the new immigration policy will offer the far right an opportunity to mobilize people against the idea of Islam and the new policy of the European Union. Of course, by monitoring news related to the far right's activity in previous months, the refugee issue was most prominent in Europe and it was also the political cover for far right movements. For example, in Britain, the issue was an advantage for Britain's exit from the European Union and may also be used to reshape the economic orientation of Britain. In France, Macron used the refugees issue as a way to get rid of the far-right party, and in Hungary and Austria, the issue of immigration and refugees was used to lead a strong vision to maintain the local economy, as the ruling party attacked immigrants during the past months and has adopted restrictive legislation.

Moreover, beside the new immigration agreement, the first half of October has witnessed other events, an obvious extension of the far right activity inside Britain became clear. Britain is one of the countries that have been trying in various ways to suppress any role of the far right within the state. For example, in 1935, the British government suppressed the role played by the far right party within the state, and it was known in Britain that all the ideas coming from that party were extremist. The government also warned many local channels and newspapers against writing about the party or even its activities. Unlike today, the presence of the far right has become proven and announced in many local channels and newspapers, and, until today, the BBC never used any expressions like (extremism) or (terrorism) in its description of the far right party, in addition to the current events Britain is getting through regarding its existence from the European Union that has paved the road to the far right-wing to be positioned in Britain.

The idea of the growth of extremist networks in Europe has become very fast, as all international experts have warned against using different networks of social media to attract more numbers of sympathizers with the far right. The far right is using Telegram, 8chan and Gab apps, and promote poisonous political discourse, particularly in Britain, and it was emphasized that such sites, currently exploited by the far right, are what hastened the issue of Britain's exit from the European Union. Telegram And YouTube have recently shared a video that went viral and watched by 17,000 user, the video disseminates messages of hate to pro-European demonstrators, describing them as traitors and accusing them of "surrender and treachery, which is the language reflecting the language of discussion in Britain at the moment with regard to everyone who wants Britain to remain within the European Union.

As pointed by the official councils of the government, far right activists are taking advantage of community tensions by pouncing over the cities and distorting

the truth about immigration and asylum and the idea of Islam in an attempt to convert the local population against religious minorities, particularly Muslims, as mentioned before, and despite all the current challenges facing Britain, the government is still trying to cope with the advancement of hate speech in Britain, which has created a counter extremism committee, which is a non governmental organization, created to address conflicts of hatred existing in Britain, and the committee has issued its first report this month, noting that the extremists (far right) are clearly exploiting internal influences and obviously destabilizing security and stability within the state. But the far right is widely and clearly controlling Britain, as the representation of the far right activity, among the countries restricting it, has grown during the first half of October.



As indicated on the previous graph, both (Germany and Britain) occupy the same rank in terms of activity, comparing to the weak representation of government measures, and despite the government attempts to control the idea of the spread of extremism phenomenon, this does not match the rapid steps taken by the far right during that period.



## Second: The extreme right's activity during the second half of October

The events of the second half of October began with an attempt by the far right in Rome to reposition itself again within the ruling authority. Thousands of Italians went to Rome to attend a far right–wing meeting, called **The Dawn of Italy**, which raised indications to the process of Rome that took place on October 27, 1922, which marked the rise of the Italian Fascist dictator Benito Mussolini to power.

There has been a huge crowd since Matteo Salvini, the leader of the League, was wonderfully expelled from the government, albeit in the presence of armed groups. But, what's strange is that Matteo has insisted that the event must be peaceful and stated in his speech that there will be no anger here because we need the true Italy, and expressed, in his speech, that sovereignty belongs to the people, and we cannot let the general status control the state. Salvini also admitted that his alliance with the Five Star Movement was a wrong, regrettable move.

Last August, Matteo wanted to hold fast and urgent elections that adopted all his quick plans and proved overwhelming failure that led him out of the government. So, Salvini is targeting weak government positions in order to increase his popularity and he has gained nearly 10% of opinion polls.

As for Hungary, the situation is a little bit different, as Hungary is one of the most famous European countries which governments support right–wing activity, and is still opposing immigration. During this month and during Putin's visit to Hungary, Hungary's desire to join the gas pipeline project exceeding Ukraine has been pointed out.

Hungary indicated that it is a member state of NATO and the European Union and will remain so, but this does not rule out that Hungary is also a great ally of Russia in the conflict in Ukraine, because Hungary depend naturally on 70% of the gas passing by Ukraine.

This makes us highlight the participation of the far right in **conflict issues** between countries as well. Against this background, a delegation from the European Union met to participate in the process of visiting Kashmir, which confirms the theory of exploiting global political issues. But we wonder why the visit of the European Union delegation, which includes people representing Yemeni extremist parties inside Europe, was approved? A group of Yemeni extremist parties inside Europe has participated in an all-expenses-paid, guiding tour in Kashmir at the request of an Indian, non – governmental, mysterious organization, and it was a special, formal-like visit as the visitors were met by the Prime Minister and National Security Advisor.

India has long insisted that Kashmir is an "internal issue" that it will not interfere with. As such, why did New Delhi refuse to allow even the United Nations Human Rights Council to send its representatives to the region since the province was closed?

Not only has the activity of the far right extended beyond the European countries, but also the situation in Germany is getting more complicated and the far right is expanding very quickly. This started to emerge as a consequence of Merkel's lack of control on the local elections. Violence has become increasingly widespread to the extent of affecting cultural rights, so the far right has become sending his extremist messages through the arts.

The far right in Germany is fighting a cultural war – and at the forefront is the country's largest opposition party, the group was founded just six years ago, and it has turned from a program opposing euro to the far right-wing nationalism. The fierce anti-immigrant rhetoric helped the group to gain significant influence in regional parliaments, with major victories in three regional elections this fall by spreading hate speeches through the arts. The threat of extremists in Germany

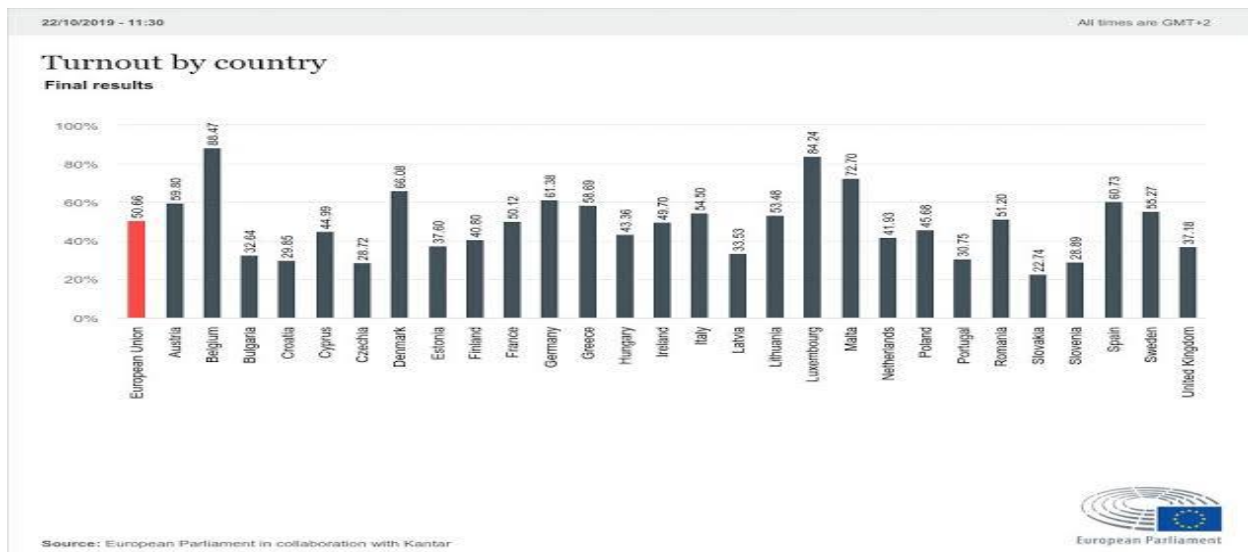
has increased dramatically, and according to the German Intelligence Agency, the head of the constitutional protection (Thomas Haldenwang) has warned in an open session in the Bundestag, that the right-winger has become more varied and confusing.

At the same time, the European Union announced the final participation data of 2019 in the European elections, as the official and final participation rate of the European elections of 2019 was set at 50.66%, an increase of 8.06 in 2014.

After publishing all the data related to the final 28 national participation on October 18, 2019, the electoral commission in the United Kingdom published the final figures of registered voters in the UK for the European elections of 2019. And all the 28 European Union member States, officially announced the final national participation data, and settled the official final turnout on the European level at 50.66%.

The European elections of 2019 were established by the significant increase in voter turnout. In fact, the highest participation rate since the European elections of 1994 was 50.66% which shows a dramatic increase of 8.06 percentage points over the year 2014 (when the participation rate was 42.60%).

This is evident from the official statement announced by the European Union on its official website, which includes countries and participation rates.



As for the participation of youth, socio-demographic analysis shows that there is an increase in turnout for all groups of the population, but it was much greater among young people, although the elderly are still more likely to vote, but the increase between 2014 and 2019 was greater among young people under 25 years old which reached (42%), young people between 25 and 39 years old (47%), compared to those who are at their 55 or over whom percentage reached (%54). Generally speaking, this means that the differences between age groups have multiplied in compare to the 2014 elections..

### Third: The Analytical Vision

During the four months preceding October, Far right parties were focusing on bringing about changes in the political situation inside Europe, and the great efforts exerted by the far right to take over power and eliminate immigrants and refugees, even more precisely to eliminate of the immigration policy pursued by current policies such as the situation in Germany, which began to reduce the popularity of the ruling party and the German scene has become a battlefield.

All the Far-right parties, currently deployed in Europe, raise the slogan of xenophobia, this slogan can make it easier for them to raise funds for the implementation of terrorist operations targeting places of worship and others.

This funding enabled these extremist movements or parties to reach the executive authorities within some European countries as a kind of corruption to state institutions or, from another point of view, it may be related to the presence of some foreigner-hating agents inside some European countries, which helped, somehow, in achieving the goals of the far right.

Funding was not the sole element giving power to these parties, it is also the clear exploitation of political views and social networking sites as well as human rights issues. The influence of the far right has not only affected Europe, but also a number of other countries such as the case of exploiting the Kashmir issue and it is expected to witness tensions during the next period because of the far right.

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