



“After Paris - strategies to fight radicalisation” - Preventive measures and protecting the rule of law

Thursday 5th March 2015

Room JDE 51 - @ Committee of the Regions

2pm-5pm

The tragic events that occurred in France and other cities at the beginning of this year have stimulated a global reaction for the protection of democracy and our core European values. The PES stands united in our fight against extremism, radicalisation and terrorism. Attacks on Democracy can only be fought with more Democracy.

We are witnessing the rise of extremist positions and ideologies within our borders, trying to divide our societies and to increase radical feelings and violent action. All European countries are called upon to counter this threat, which has many different aspects. The role of our political family is to develop concrete political tools and ideas that make a real difference.

The social democratic family is against any form of radicalisation, any form of racial hatred, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and all forms of intolerance, also expressed by hate speech, which constitutes an incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence inflicted upon communities. We are called to fight terrorism but first all to protect democracy and our core values by guaranteeing European internal security.

Radicalisation, extremism and terrorist threats have no national boundaries and should be therefore addressed at European and global level. Prevention is the most effective tool, but also the understanding of common sensitivities and problems is necessary to tackle these phenomena.

We have to increase our security measures, but a security-based approach driven by fear alone is not the right response to the heinous attacks in France, Belgium and Denmark. We must learn from the past and not repeat the mistakes that have already been made.

The aim of the PES Democracy Network meeting is to increase the discussion within our political family on future policy proposals and real solutions. We believe that sharing good practices between local, regional and national authorities and decision-makers at a European level could give us an appropriate platform for our future political activities.

The event will seek to promote a common understanding of the issues by inviting front-line stakeholders (politicians, local and regional authorities, civil society organisations and academics) that will share with us their experiences and present good examples of preventive measures already put in practice in their countries, regions or cities. A second fundamental element will be the discussion whether new mechanisms to guarantee the rule of law should be introduced as one of the main EU tools against extremism, radicalism and terrorism and if so, how we can manage to achieve this.





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Room JDE 51 - @Committee of the Regions – rue Belliard 99-101

13.30 – 14.00 Registration

14.00 – 14.15 Welcome by **Tanja Fajon**, Chair of the PES Democracy Network; Vice-President of the S&D Group in the European Parliament

14.15 – 15.30 Panel 1: Fighting extremism, fanaticism and radicalisation with preventive measures

Omar Ramadan, Head of the Secretariat of the European Commission Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN)

Michaël Privot, Director of the European Network Against Racism (ENAR)

Christine Revault d'Allonnes-Bonnefoy, Member of the European Parliament

Jacob Bundsgaard, Mayor of Aarhus municipality (Denmark)

Jean-François Istasse, City Councillor of Verviers (Belgium)

Comments by **Claude Moraes**, Chairman of the European Parliament's Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee

Followed by Q&A and discussion

15.30 – 15.45 Coffee Break

15.45 – 17.00 Panel 2 – Protecting Democracy by Enforcing the rule of law as a preventive tool

Mercedes Bresso, S&D Coordinator Committee on Constitutional Affairs

Bernd Martenczuk, European Commission Member of Cabinet to First Vice President Frans Timmermans

Ramón Jáuregui Atondo, Member of the European Parliament

Thomas Schmidinger, Associated Lecturer and PhD-Student at the Institute for Political Science - University of Vienna

Dr. Ahmed Pasic, expert on Islam and Muslims minorities' integration

Conny Reuter, Secretary General SOLIDAR

Followed by Q&A and discussion

Closing remarks by Marije Laffeber, PES Deputy Secretary General

