



EPSU Congress Resolution – June 2024

Rise of the far-right: no time to waste in the fightback

The 2024 European elections confirm an alarming development: the far right is on the threshold of power in several countries. Their electoral support has grown steadily over several years and their ideas are becoming normalised in the political debate. The traditional centre-right has been adopting similar policies and no longer hesitates to govern with them, as we have seen in Sweden, Finland and the Netherlands. The European Commission is moving in a similar direction with Von der Leyen and the EPP looking to the far-right elements of the ECR and ID political groups to make up their parliamentary majority. EPSU rejects this and wants the future EU Commission and Commissioners to rally behind democratic, social values, for an inclusive society and against all forms of discrimination. We expect the new Commission and its Strategic Agenda to include quality public services for all people at its core.

The role of trade unions in promoting equal rights

The far-right is the enemy of workers and trade unions. The ECR and ID groups in the European Parliament voted against the minimum wage directive which aims to promote an increase in collective bargaining coverage. Examples of far-right policies include proposals to increase working time, attacks on trade union rights and right to strike, and a weakening of social dialogue institutions politically and financially. You don't have to look too deeply into the far-right agenda to see how it would benefit corporations and support harsh austerity measures.

We must aim to improve working and living conditions and provide quality public services for all workers, irrespective of their citizenship. It is outrageous that the far right would apply national preference to those benefiting from public services. We stand for quality public services for all. EPSU is fighting for inclusive workplaces and anti-discrimination policies that support women, LGBT+ communities and migrant workers.

Europe in need of change

Specific conditions drive voters towards the far right such as the dismantling of the welfare state and the explosion of inequality. Social progress for all is the only alternative. EPSU has a programme to fight the far-right and restrict corporate power. We call for democracy at work, an end to austerity policies, public investment for a just and social climate transition and fairer taxation that focuses on capital, corporations and the wealthy to combat rising inequalities and fund social protection and public services.

EPSU will continue to work with the ETUC and social movements for change and to fight the far right. We want an EU Strategic Agenda for quality public services and all people. Above all, democracy is more than the European elections. Organising workers, growing our unions, strengthening collective bargaining and demanding respect for trade union rights are part of our fight for democracy. EPSU expresses its solidarity with the trade unionists currently fighting the extreme right. Together we mobilise for action and for change.