

We have to demonstrate our refusal and our dreams

The following text was published by Europa Europa in ETC Magazine on May 25th 2014, two days after the EU Parliamentary election, as a reaction to the election results.

After this Sunday's election, eleven countries will have racist representatives in the EU Parliament. In three of those countries, the racist parties were the overall winners of the election. France sends more racists to the EU Parliament than the total number of all Sweden's representatives. That is the parliamentary reality in Europe today.

In our work with the anti-nationalist cabaret *Europa Europa*, we have gathered around our shared will to bring to light the consequences of European migration policy. Since the year 2000, 23 000 people have lost their lives as a result of these policies. They lead to the imprisonment of hundreds of people who haven't committed any crimes, and the deportation of both children and adults to deadly places. This migration policy is the most brutal consequence of the nationalist and racist tendencies characterizing Europe today. As a result of this Sunday's election, racism will get more official representatives, more space, more power and capital, and an increased number of racist parties will get more influence over the common migration policy of the EU.

But the result of the election has also arrived in a reality where people without papers and a legal right to be in Europe are marching from Strasbourg to Brussels to demonstrate their resistance to the migration policy of the EU, against Frontex and the Dublin Convention. A reality where people and organizations come together and create alternative healthcare centres for those who are denied medical care by the states of Europe, where asylum seekers and the paperless in Berlin are occupying Oranienplatz when the city is trying to tear down their temporary homes. In Sweden, people gathered in a mass demonstration against racism in Kärntorp last year, and the people of Malmö took to the streets to show their support to those feminists and anti-racists that were subjected to murder attempts by Nazis at Möllevångstorget on March 8th. These are just some examples of the anti-racist movement that is growing stronger all around Sweden and Europe, a movement that refuses to be quiet when policies are being drawn that differentiate people based simply on the idea of race and where a person happened to be born. A movement that takes the equal value of all humans seriously.

In a time when racism is gaining more power over the parliamentary tools, we have to take control over other tools. When the media proves its total ignorance of history by reporting about the racist invasion of the EU Parliament as if it was just any ordinary election result, and lets violent ideologies stand unquestioned as a result of their so-called "neutral" reporting. Then we have to use all the channels we have access to, to resist against a politics that attacks those that are the most exposed in society. We have to take to the streets and demonstrate our resistance and our dreams. We have to make art, write, demonstrate, create networks, form and formulate strategies that refuse to adjust to a racist view of people, but instead are based on a serious respect of human rights.

Let this election result stand as a painful reminder of the alarming situation, a reminder of the powers that influence politics today. Hitler came to power through a democratic election, we all know what consequences organized, parliamentary racism can lead to. The future will judge us hard if we don't put an end to the Europe that already imprisons innocent people, divides families, and leaves people to drown in the Mediterranean Sea.