



*Recapitulative political statement on the main issues discussed in the General Assembly 2019.*

## **Building a Europe of ALL Peoples**

**The European Free Alliance (EFA), European Political Party created in 1981, that groups 46 parties fighting for self-determination of the peoples of Europe, present in 19 Member States of the European Union (and two states outside the current EU), held its Annual General Meeting in the heart of the EU, Brussels, Flanders from 7 to 9 March 2019. This General Assembly also kickstarted the European campaign for the European elections 23-26**

### **May 2019.**

During its General Assembly, the EFA took stock of the progress of self-determination processes and the defense of peoples, cultures and citizens and their rights within the European Union in an era dominated by Brexit chaos, the upsurge of the far right, the widespread climate of protests and unrest and the detention, more than one year pre-trial imprisonment and trial in Madrid of the Catalan political prisoners.

EFA is gearing up its electoral campaign for an inclusive Europe, for a Europe of ALL Peoples.

The EFA enters in a European campaign after a difficult year with many changes to the rules for European political parties. Only 10 EU parties remain to go in electoral competition. With the Damocles sword called Brexit hanging over us all, EFA risks to lose 3 MEP's. Regardless Brexit EFA enters a campaign hoping to have 10 MEP's and without Brexit 13 MEP's.

In 2009 and 2014 EFA campaigned **for a Vision of a People's Europe**, indicating **It's TIME for Self-determination** for all the Peoples of Europe. This 2019 campaign revolves around a more comprehensive program with 10 chapters aiming at an inclusive Europe. The European Union needs to be the home for **ALL Peoples of Europe**. Let's build together that Europe; A Europe of Peoples, nations and regions.

Building the Europe we dream of, the Europe of ALL Peoples includes minority communities, diaspora communities who deserve more respect; A Europe that includes regions building up governance, claiming more autonomy or devolution; A Europe that welcomes emerging new States like Scotland or Catalonia.

Self-Determination means that all Peoples have the right to determine their own future, from a political, financial, social and cultural point of view, in a progressive, peaceful and democratic way.

In that Europe of ALL Peoples there is a place for the Catalan nation. The democratic, peaceful Catalan process, the Spanish repression and the non-response of the EU institutions to all events in the past 18 months, clearly shows that Spain and the EU retreat from democracy. Democrats who organize votes are put to trial while the deep State Spain surfaces again reminding us of Franco's times. Political crisis must be

solved politically, not through the judiciary and Constitutions must not be instrumentalized for political reasons.

Self-Determination is a Right, not a Crime. **More and more leaders in EU institutions prefer to defend "national interests" of Member States rather than standing up for fundamental rights and values.** EFA wants a strong Europe but wants #AnotherEurope! A Europe that includes ALL Peoples.

EFA stands shoulder to shoulder with our 8 parties in France which for the first time in European elections will be voting under a single constituency. The territorial reform of the last and current French governments failed and are just to be seen as Jacobinist, centralist continuity. We support the different strategies of co-operation between our 6 member parties in the Spanish State building up critical mass against populism and fascism. Our members show exemplary 21st century new forms of **civic nationalism**. It's been crucial years for our member parties in the UK. EFA supports its 4 pro-European parties in their fight to protect the rights of the citizens of Scotland, Wales, Cornwall and Yorkshire. All over Europe the implosion of traditional conservative and socialist parties brings about the threat of populism and different forms of authoritarianism while also new opportunities occur for our members to grow upon failed strategies of classical power parties. You see that from Croatia to Austria and Germany. From Finland, to Poland and Greece. The EFA clearly states that there is no room for the far right in EFA.

A renewed and enlarged EFA Bureau, with the highest participation of women ever known and members representing the full diversity of EFA, will focus on co-operation with new members, deepening our co-operation and synergies to be a party for ALL members so as to enhance the visibility of our common project because now more than ever EFA's founding values and objectives are at the core of the European political debate.

#### **Discussions and decisions of the EFA GA:**

- 1) For the first time in more than a decade EFA organised again a GA in Brussels, in Flanders, the heart of Europe.
- 2) The General Assembly of EFA took note of the end of the auto-suspension of one member party ALPE, one other member party saw its suspension end Pro Lombardia Indipendenza, PSd'Az saw its membership suspended for another year.
- 3) Following parties are deemed to have resigned from EFA: Chunta Aragonesista and Moravané.
- 4) Following parties were accepted as Full members: Patria Furlane and Latvian Russian Union.
- 5) The members of the General Assembly positively evaluated the process of transition of Inseme per a Corsica to Femu a Corsica.
- 6) Observer membership was granted by the General Assembly to Liga Socijaldemokrata Vojvodine [LSV] and the Moravian Movement.
- 7) Our four member parties of the UK indicated that regardless the outcome of the chaotic Brexit process they will remain committed to EFA and continue their

membership. The EFA group President Josep Maria Terricabras presented the activities of the EFA group in this last year of the mandate.

- 8) Since the first direct elections in 1979 already for the 9<sup>th</sup> time European elections are being prepared by EFA parties. The EFA HQ is still gathering information but 20 EFA member parties will soon start campaigning for the European elections of 23-26 May 2019 in 9 Member States of the EU. The campaign is based on the manifesto under the moto: "Building a Europe of ALL Peoples". For the First time EFA will have a **Spitzenkandidat, ORIOL JUNQUERAS** to spearhead the campaign and we presented a declaration on self-determination. The launch event of the campaign had great resonance in the press.
- 9) In the General Assembly on International Women's Day [8 March 2019] we adopted a Declaration. Gender equality may be a core value for the EU but European women still have unequal access to power, prosperity and safety. Moreover, violence against women still constitutes the most widespread violation of women's human rights in Europe. Addressing old and new forms of violence is a priority for the EFA. In total 13 motions were approved in defence of the Alandish and Catalan Autonomous governments; on better protecting rural areas; on the Altsasu case; on the Eu protection of meadow birds; on the liberation of the Catalan leaders; on a taskforce on energy transition; asking the Romanian state to end using anti Hungarian sentiments ; recognising the new Sorbian Parliament; preventing political repression in Latvia; preventing Glorification of Nazism and the raise of the neo-nazi organisations; promoting the autonomy of Veneto and Lombardia; Protecting the Friulian Linguistic minority; addressing inequality and poverty in the UK.
- 10) In total 7 Declarations were adopted on International solidarity; on the EU reform of the Treaties; on the establishment of a European agency for Multilinguism; establishing a planetary sustainable future; strengthening citizens' political participation in the EU; maintaining the Cross-border Interreg after 2020; on Water policies in Europe.
- 11) The EFA as organisation adopted a "*statement on the EFA principles and on the fight against fascist, racist, xenophobic or violent extremist parties*".
- 12) EFA amended once more its **Articles of Association and the Rules of Internal Order** and hereby concludes a full modernisation of our internal legislation.
- 13) EFA renewed its Bureau for the period of 2019-2022. The new Bureau of EFA is composed with 13 members.
- 14) Congratulations with your election to the new EFA Bureau 2019-2022. Our new Bureau is composed by 13 parties [7 men, 6 women].

#### **Presidency of EFA**

- Eusko Alkartasuna, the Basque Country: Lorena Lopez de Lacalle (Independentist, South)

#### **Secretary-General of EFA**

- Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya: Jordi Solé [Independentist, South]

### **Treasurer of EFA**

- Südschleswiger Wählerverband [SSW]: Anke Spoorendonk [Danish Minority, Nord]

### 10 Vice-Presidents of EFA

- Alands Framtid from Aland Islands: Anders Eriksson [independentist, Nord]
- Fryske Nasjonale partij, Fryslan: Olrik Bouma [Autonomist-regionalist, Nord]
- Plaid Cymru, Wales: Jill Evans [independentist, West]
- Nieuwe Vlaamse Alliantie [N-VA] from Flanders: Wouter Patho [Independentist, Nord]
- Partit Occitan [POC] from Occitania: David Grosclaude [Autonomist-regionalist, South]
- Ruch Autonomia Slask [RAS], Silesia: Marta Bainka [Autonomist-Regionalist, East]
- Partit di a Nazione Corsa [PNC], Corsica: Anne Tomasi [Autonomist-Regionalist - South]
- UDB from Brittany: Victor Gallou [Autonomist -Regionalist, West]
- Lista Za Rijeku, city area Rijeka in Croatia: Nelida Pogacic [Autonomist- regionalist, east]
- BLOC from Valencia: Fernando Fuente Cortina [Autonomist-regionalist, South]

15) EFA adopted the closed **budget 2018, the amended budget 2019 and the budget proposal 2020** and the connected activity plans. Higher budgetary possibilities and sound management have to go together with a higher sense of responsibility of all members to generate the needed own resources.

16) Our Affiliated Youth organisation EFAY and our Political foundation Coppieters presented their latest activities and a recent book on Minority women in politics was presented.

17) The **next General Assembly will be organised in April 2020 in the German-Danish border region** and will be framed in the commemoration of 100 years self-determination referendum organised for the population in Germany and Denmark in the border area in 1920.

Brussels, 9 march 2019.