

27
FEB

New report

Convenient Truths: Mapping climate agendas of right-wing populist parties in Europe

Open for the media. A light breakfast will be served.

Registration

Launch event

Wednesday, 27 February 2019

08:00-09:00 AM (please arrive early)

MEPs Salon (ASP 0 G, 1047 Brussels), **there was a change in rooms, information about badges and meeting points below**

- Study presentation with **Stella Schaller** and **Alexander Carius** (both adelphi)
- Discussion hosted by **Jo Leinen (MEP)** and high-ranking panel of policymakers (*tbc*)
- Study will be published in Berlin on 26 February ([ask for invitation to the Berlin event](#)).
- [More press material \(e.g. infographics, copy of the report\)](#).

About the report

Right-wing populist parties are already part of seven governments of EU member states and are expected to **make up a quarter of MEPs after the European elections in May 2019**.

Citizens' trust in democratic institutions and Europe seems to be dwindling, the party spectrum is re-sorting, traditional popular parties are losing influence and multi-party coalitions and minority governments will make governance increasingly difficult. At the same time, we are experiencing a profound transformation of life, work and mobility: European societies are facing epochal changes through digitalisation, urbanisation and climate change.

Against this backdrop, the authors examine in an explorative study the voices and the weight of right-wing populist parties in the formulation of a European climate policy:

- How widespread is disinformation on climate change?
- What arguments and narratives do right-wing populists use for or against climate and energy policy - nationally and multilaterally?
- Does the emergence of right-wing populist parties threaten Europe's position as a pioneer in climate policy?

The authors look at the **21 strongest right-wing populist parties in Europe** (not only EU) and their **attitude to climate research and climate policy** (see parties analysed below).

Qualitative and quantitative research: The study draws on official national electoral programs, public statements and interviews by party leaders and spokespersons and press releases, and analyses the voting behaviour in the European Parliament.

So far, the full spectrum of European parties' stand on climate change has not been qualitatively assessed, contextualized with voting results or interpreted in view of future European policy making. **This study is a first and explorative attempt to fill this gap.**

In the light of growing right-wing populism, the authors identify risks and side-effects for a future European climate policy, discuss the pros and cons of coalitions of democratic parties with right-wing populists, and calls for a change in climate communication.

The *Convenient Truths* report has been written and financed by adelphi.

Parties analysed

- AUSTRIA: Freedom Party of Austria (FPÖ)
- BELGIUM: Vlaams Belang (VB)
- BULGARIA: Bulgarian National Movement (VMRO)
- CZECH REPUBLIC: Freedom and Direct Democracy (SPD)
- DENMARK: Danish People's Party (DF)
- ESTONIA: Conservative People's Party of Estonia (EKRE)
- FINLAND: Finns Party (PS)
- FRANCE: National Rally (RN)
- GERMANY: Alternative für Deutschland (AfD)
- GREAT BRITAIN: United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP)
- GREECE: Golden Dawn (XA)
- HUNGARY: Fidesz
- ITALY: Lega
- LATVIA: National Alliance (NA)
- LITHUANIA: Order and Justice (TT)
- NETHERLANDS: Party for Freedom (PVV)
- NORWAY: Progress Party (FrP)
- POLAND: Law and Justice (PiS)
- SLOVAKIA: Slovak National Party (SNS)
- SWEDEN: Sweden Democrats (SD)
- SWITZERLAND: Swiss People's Party (SVP)

About the authors

Alexander Carius is one of the leading consultants on environmental and development policy in Germany. He translates scientific insights into practical options for governments, non-governmental organizations, industry associations, and companies. ► [Full CV](#)

Stella Schaller specializes in global climate policy, while working at the interface between global sustainable development, climate change and peace. ► [Full CV](#)

About adelphi

adelphi is a leading independent think tank and public policy consultancy on climate, environment and development. Our mission is to improve global governance through research, dialogue and consultation. ► www.adelphi.de

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Venue & badges

Do you have a badge to the European Parliament? If not, we kindly ask you to meet us at **7:30 AM (please be on time)** at the **Visitor's Centre Meeting Point** indicated on the map below.

A contact person will hand out badges and accompany you to the **MEPs Salon** (ASP 0 G, 1047 Brussels).

