



POPULISM AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS - SUBURBAN AND RURAL AREAS

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

11. JULY 2019

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THE PERCEPTION

- ❖ Europe is far away
- ❖ Europe and national politics – intransparent – what is going on there? Who decides, who cares about us?
- ❖ The politicians – an Elite in Brussels, Paris, Berlin and Washington!
- ❖ We are the FORGOTTEN ONES – at the edge, in the „being on our own“ regions (Ossi – Wessi, Centre – Periphery, old industry regions - prosperous regional centers)
- ❖ Our internet is slow, we have no doctors anymore, no shopping malls and public transport is getting worse...
- ❖ We are falling quickly through the „Social Net“
- ❖ Immigration – economic migrants – „real refugees“ – they are competitors on the labour market! And they get preferential treatment even!

THE OFFERED „SOLUTION“ BY POPULISTS

- ❖ We need „honest“ politicians who dare to speak out „how reality looks like!“
- ❖ We must get rid of the elite in Berlin, Paris, Brussels...
- ❖ We have to take back control over our reality! (Brexit – Argument No.1)
- ❖ The „competitors“ have to stay out of our country
- ❖ Cultural „Leitbild“ (Christian-Occidental-White) applies for the whole of the society. „They“ must adapt or „they“ have no right to be here
- ❖ Protect our border!
- ❖ Rigid measures in case of violation of law! Police!
Increase internal security!

REACTION OF GERMAN GOVERNMENT

September 2018 inauguration of Commission „Equivalent Living Conditions“

Aim: tackling regional inequality

Six working groups:

Technical infrastructure, economy and innovation, social care and work, participation and cohesion of society....

Report presented 10.07.2019

WHAT CAN TRADE UNIONS DO?



- ❖ Use of Social Media
- ❖ Use of their own Media
- ❖ Education - discuss - make it an issue!
- ❖ Address rank and file members in factories and in services and administration.
- ❖ Be present and visible! In Cities **and countryside!**
- ❖ Use political alliances
- ❖ Societal alliances (NGO – Churches – civil society)
- ❖ Own Initiatives
- ❖ Cross border!
- ❖ Re-discover regional policies!

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- ❖ Initiatives 2017/18/19 (Workshop, Seminar and Conference)
- ❖ Good Practise – Exchange of experience
- ❖ Learn from neighbours
- ❖ Cooperation with EP, EESC and CoR
- ❖ Cooperation with NGOs – Churches!
- ❖ Ownership – like EU Council Presidency – take over of responsibility for a certain period of time by member organisation
- ❖ Support of regional Networks (Visegrad, Balkan, Nordics...)

USEFUL LINKS

<https://www.etui.org/Events/Trade-unions-and-the-threat-of-populism-and-the-far-right-how-to-win-back-the-w>

<https://www.etui.org/News/Racism-in-the-workplace-still-a-problem-experts-say>

<https://www.bmi.bund.de/DE/themen/heimat-integration/gleichwertige-lebensverhaeltnisse/gleichw>

Books:

Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis, Vance, J.D.

Retour à Reims, Didier Eribon

Twilight of the Elites: Prosperity, the Periphery, and the Future of France, Christophe Guilluy

Die politische Ökonomie des Populismus, Philip Manow

Die Gesellschaft des Zorns, Rechtspopulismus im Globalen Zeitalter, Cornelia Koppetsch