



Statement for immediate release
Brussels, Belgium – 12 June 2024

European Elections: Progressive Forces Must Unite Against Rising Far-Right Influence

The 2024 European Parliamentary elections have unveiled a significant and alarming shift in the political landscape, with far-right groups gaining increased influence. Driven by anti-migrant and anti-Muslim narratives, these groups pose a direct threat to the foundational principles of equality and democracy in Europe. Their hostility towards racialised and LGBTQI+ communities is a stark reminder of the urgent need to defend our core values.

Despite their gains, the far-right remains fragmented and divided. This fragmentation presents a critical opportunity for progressive parties, which have also made notable advances. Now is the time for these progressive forces to build robust coalitions and alliances dedicated to promoting equality and justice. By seizing this moment, we can turn a challenging political environment into a powerful catalyst for positive change.

The far-right's misleading narratives exploit ongoing economic and housing crises, falsely attributing these issues to migrants and refugees. These narratives are not new; they stem from mainstream parties' historical failures to address Europe's responsibilities in the persecution and exploitation of racialised people. Moreover, there has been a lack of a truly intersectional approach to tackling inequalities, economic instability, and growing impoverishment. To counter the rise of the far-right, we must radically change our approach and address these systemic issues at their core.

In this critical political climate, where the European Parliament increasingly fails to represent its diverse population, the European Network Against Racism (ENAR) calls for progressive leaders to exhibit bold and courageous leadership. We must stand resolutely against the far-right, protecting and amplifying the voices of the most marginalised, who will suffer the most from their rise. Upholding equality, justice, and the rule of law requires unwavering commitments from institutions and stakeholders to avoid compromising with the far-right.

To secure a future for Europe that truly embodies justice and equity, we urgently call for the appointment of a Commissioner on Justice, Fundamental Rights, and Equality, and the re-establishment of the Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup in the European Parliament. These steps are crucial to demonstrating a steadfast commitment to addressing systemic inequalities and protecting Europe's most marginalised populations.

The future of Europe and its core principles are at stake. Democracy is at stake. We must act with courage and foresight to counter the far-right's influence and ensure a just and equitable Europe for all.

###

For more information or to arrange an interview, contact:

Nabil Sanallah, ENAR Communications and Press Manager
Mobile: +32 (0)487 400 423 - Email: nabil@enar-eu.org - Web: www.enar-eu.org

Notes to editors:

- The European Network Against Racism (ENAR aisbl) stands against racism and discrimination and advocates equality and solidarity for all in Europe. We connect local and national anti-racist NGOs throughout Europe and voice the concerns of ethnic and religious minorities in European and national policy debate