

We are Europe

C. Falkowski

These elections to the European Parliament are taking place under completely different conditions. Geopolitical events are no longer determined by Europe or the West, but increasingly by China and other new global powers, hitherto classified as developing countries.

And we are all affected by the changes in the biosphere and the climate system: from extreme fluctuations in the climate to food problems and migration flows. These changes, which obviously require closer global cooperation, but rather lead to a resurgence of imperialism (Russia, China) and political particularism (Trump, Orban, etc.), can no longer be ignored. Rather, they should be the impetus for real policy changes, especially at European level; There is little that can be achieved nationally. The elections to the European Parliament are the right time, but will the political parties take it?

But we are all really involved, we can influence the European elections. We, the voters, can vote for stable democratic parties, and the policies that can move Europe forward. A further fragmentation of the party landscape stands in the way of this. Only with a strong European Parliament should it continue to be possible to ensure that democracy, the rule of law and our way of life remain safeguarded through stable and effective institutions.

It has been shown in the United States, but also in Hungary and Poland, that strong institutions are quite capable of protecting democracy and the rule of law and the rights of its citizens. Therefore, it is not at all surprising that the destabilization of democratic institutions and the media are the preferred goals of his opponents. And it is easier to destroy something than to build something; not only physically, but especially in institutions and media.

The rulers in the Kremlin fear nothing more than democracy, the rule of law, free media in Ukraine, more than military might. The Russian invasion of Ukraine is a war in Europe and a war against the European Union; against Europe's values, against our freedom and democracy, against our way of life. The European Parliament should continue to promote Ukraine's admission to the EU, including forms of accession other than the full membership that has been customary up to now.

Autocrats and dictators thrive on the division of society, on the exclusion of "the others", on the creation of a supposed sense of unity for their own group, for which politics is then made exclusively, and not for everyone in society.

The European Parliament is the link between the institutions in Europe and their respective national countries of origin. Especially since the elections to the European Parliament are held according to national regulations and, with the exception of one party, all parties go into the European election campaign with national programmes.

The European Parliament has the task of bridging the distance between national ideas and the European level and to show that Europe is all of us. The European Parliament must be there for the citizens and not the other way around. This idea should be the guideline for those who wish to be elected to the European Parliament. But the focus must also go from the European Parliament back to the national parliaments and parties. The guiding principle for national policy must be European policy, especially German policy should be European policy and not German policy in Europe.

Parliamentarians must be credible and ensure that the European Union is not seen as some kind of parallel event. Unfortunately, there are a number of national-populist parties that want to weaken or even abolish the European Union and its institutions from within the European Parliament. And we will only realise what democracy, what the European Union means, when they no longer correspond to our ideas or even no longer exist, when the self-evident validity of a general set of rules is gradually changing, when the inviolable principle of the separation of powers is weakened and the political culture decays, as can be observed not only in the United States but also in some Member States.

The European Parliament must focus on the common good of all and not on the individual interests of certain groups or individuals. The guiding principle in the European Parliament must be the strengthening of Europe and not the assertion of certain national/nationalist interests.

Europe is more than the sum of its Member States. All of them, including Germany, are without the support of the European Union in the international context, without significance and without influence. Only by working together can we overcome the still small-state notions and secure influence and the right to have a say in the difficult international environment. Ultimately, it is not China or Russia with a turned imperialism (the new world order) or other emerging countries that can put Europe in distress and on the sidelines, but it is its own short-sightedness and intense preoccupation with itself, without strategic orientation towards the future and its enormous challenges.

Democracy, the European Union is not a matter for third parties, but we, the citizens, are involved in it and we should work for it wherever possible; for example, in the "Pulse of Europe" movement: setting an example and opening doors - getting involved in Europe, securing and consolidating the European peace project.

The slogan for the elections to the European Parliament remains: **Whatever you choose, choose Europe.**

The aim is to mobilise as many people as possible to vote for the safeguarding of a democratic, peace-making and social European Union. Convinced Europeans as well as those less interested in politics, for whom the importance of the European Union or even the election does not seem so important.

The European activists of Pulse of Europe are concerned with safeguarding our way of communal togetherness, with the future of Europe, i.e. with the question of what kind of world in Europe we want to live in. Pulse of Europe stands for living together and resolutely opposes destructive, nationalist tendencies. Everyone is welcome at Pulse

of Europe, everyone can make an important personal contribution to protecting Europe and its values: <https://pulseofeuropa.eu/mitmachen>.