



**Pekka Kallioniemi** @P\_Kallioniemi

Jun 14, 2024 · 20 tweets · [P\\_Kallioniemi/status/1801577759845536006](https://twitter.com/P_Kallioniemi/status/1801577759845536006)

In today's #vatniksoup, I'll talk about the recent EU elections and what are their implications for both the Kremlin and Ukraine. Right-wing political parties, some pro-Kremlin, won a lot of seats around Europe, and this result can also change the EU's stance on Ukraine.

1/19



But before we start, I want to promote a truck fundraiser I'm doing together with the fantastic @ArturRehi and @69thSB.

Our goal is 20 000 USD, and you can contribute to this important fundraiser here:

2/19 <https://artursarmy.com/contribute/rehipekka/>

EU's support of Ukraine is essential for their survival against genocidal Russia. So far, this support has been delayed mostly by Orban's Hungary (& to some degree, Fico's Slovakia). Now, this support will probably be challenged by many new members of the European Parliament.

3/19



News | Russia-Ukraine war

## EU pushing to boost military aid to Ukraine

*The push by some EU states to raise support comes as others, such as Hungary, have worked to block military aid.*



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy meets Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo in Brussels on May 28, 2024 [Kenzo Tribouillard/Pool Photo via AP]

28 May 2024

## Ukraine is a dividing line in European election that centrists hope to exploit

*Patrick Wintour*

*Diplomatic editor*

With populists on the left and right winning support across Europe, moderates have found a single issue of their own to campaign on

Wed 5 Jun 2024 06:00 CEST

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Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and French President Emmanuel Macron shake hands after a press conference on June 16, 2022 in Kyiv, Ukraine. Elections for MEPs are being held on 6-9 June. Photograph: Alexey Furman/Getty Images

Campaigning in **Europe** comes easily to populists but less so to centrists. A single word printed in large letters - "diesel" - is enough for the German far-right Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) to tell voters exactly where it stands on the climate debate.

Let's start with some good news: many well-known vatniks failed to go through, including Mick Wallace, Clare Daly, Tatjana Zdanoka & Marcel de Graaff. Thierry Mariani & Maximilian Krah continue their "work" in the European Parliament.

All souped at:

4/19



### Vatnik Soup

#vatniksoup is a Twitter thread series (and a hashtag!) where I'll introduce pro-Russian actors and propagandists from around the world, be they so-called "independent journalists", politicians, mili...

<https://www.vatniksoup.com/?fuck=putin>

First of all, the whole of EU took a hard right turn – the so-called “hard-right” got close to a quarter of all seats, and right-wing parties won big in France, Germany, Austria, Belgium and Italy. In Nordic countries, “hard-right” lost support to left-wing parties.

5/19

**The Economist** Menu Weekly edition The world in brief Search

Europe | Europe votes

# The rise of the hard right threatens Europe’s political stability

European elections could mean gridlock in Brussels and beyond



ILLUSTRATION: ANTHONY GERACE

May 30th 2024 | BRUSSELS Share

INTERNATIONAL · 2024 EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

## European elections: Far-right on the decline in Nordic countries

In Sweden, Finland and Denmark, right-wing anti-immigration groups did not meet expectations, while left-wing parties gained significant ground.

By Anne-Françoise Hivert (Malmö (Sweden) correspondent)

Published on June 10, 2024, at 6:28 pm (Paris) · 4 min read · [Lire en français](#)



Subscribers only



Sweden Democrats party leader Jimmie Akesson in Stockholm, June 9, 2024. TT NEWS AGENCY / VIA REUTERS

Many successful campaigns can be attributed to effective use of social media. For example Fidiás Panayiotou, a man with no political experience but who has 2.6 million YouTube followers, won a seat in the European Parliament representing Cyprus.

The image shows a screenshot of a YouTube channel page for 'Fidias'. The channel name is 'Fidias' with a verified badge. The profile picture shows a man in a hat and a red shirt. The channel bio includes '@FidiasPanayiotou · 2.62M subscribers · 382 videos', 'Using youtube to spread love >', and 'tiktok.com/@fidias\_0 and 4 more links'. There are 'Subscribe' and 'Join' buttons. The navigation menu includes 'Home', 'Videos', 'Shorts', 'Live', 'Playlists', and 'Community'. Below the navigation are tabs for 'Latest', 'Popular', and 'Oldest'. The video grid contains eight thumbnails with titles and view counts:

- I Tried The Top 10 Most Dangerous Sports** (13:18, 112K views · 9 days ago)
- I Spent 100 Million In The Cheapest Country** (10:38, 236K views · 1 month ago)
- 13 Years Old Kid Builds His Own Log Cabin** (12:43, 125K views · 3 months ago)
- Trading \$1 VR Into Apple Vision Pro** (16:44, 521K views · 3 months ago)
- I Spent 30 Days in a VR Headset** (21:19, 170K views · 4 months ago)
- I Recreated Hunger Games In Real Life** (17:52, 243K views · 7 months ago)
- I Spend 10 Days In The Airport For Free** (17:56, 398K views · 7 months ago)
- I Tried The Top 5 Most Dangerous Jobs** (10:00, 1.1M views · 9 months ago)

And as we know, Russia and its allies Iran and the CCP thrive in these online environments, where their disinformation campaigns promote anti-Ukraine, euroskeptic narratives that try to undermine any support for Ukraine.

The success of right-wing parties...



Features | Politics

# 'Pragmatic manipulation': Is Russia playing with European voters' minds?

*Spin operations disguised as news outlets and right-wing politicians muddy the waters with Kremlin narratives, experts say ahead of critical EU elections.*



People walk near signs for the upcoming EU elections, at the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium [File: Johanna Geron/Reuters]

By **John T Psaropoulos**

5 Jun 2024



☰ **CNN** Climate Solutions

# Doppelgängers and deepfakes: How Russian trolls are meddling in the world's second-biggest democratic vote

By Ivana Kottasová, CNN  
🕒 7 minute read · Published 12:01 AM EDT, Tue June 4, 2024

📱 ✕ 📧 🔗



Photo illustration by CNN/Getty Images

...can be attributed to many everyday issues. Probably the biggest of these is immigration, and it's also one of the most common narratives where Russian propaganda and disinformation campaigns thrive:

Another strongly dividing issue is...

8/19

[https://x.com/P\\_Kallioniemi/status/1726300413077631014](https://x.com/P_Kallioniemi/status/1726300413077631014)



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POLITICS | GERMANY

## EU election: Immigration top concern in Germany

Sabine Kinkartz  
05/03/2024

Polls for the European Parliament election are due to close on June 9. According to the latest survey, German voters are showing little interest.

[f](#) [x](#) [v](#)



© Rolf Göttsche/DW  
Image: Rolf Göttsche/DW

Campaigning for the European Parliament election in June is underway

By voting for the far-right Rassemblement National (RN) – which campaigned on the concept of "double borders," the promise of "systematic rejection" of migrant boats, the outsourcing of asylum processing and even the idea that France is a "social assistance office" for foreigners – did French voters primarily signify their rejection of immigration? Nearly half of them (43%) said that immigration had been a decisive issue in their vote in the European elections on Sunday, June 9, where the RN received 31.4% of the vote. These are the findings of an Ipsos exit poll. Of the 16 topics put to respondents, immigration came second, behind purchasing power (45%) and ahead of environmental protection (27%). "This is an important difference from the 2019 European poll, when purchasing power (38%), the environment (38%), France's place in the world (32%) and immigration (32%) were almost at the same level," Ipsos pointed out.

Among right-wing and far-right voters, the weight of the "immigration" subject is even stronger: It is cited by 79% (first place) of Jordan Bardella voters and 57% (also first place) of François-Xavier Bellamy voters but by only 13% of voters on Raphaël Glucksmann's Parti Socialiste-Place Publique list. "Voters from the right to the far right have an anti-immigration stance, while the subject is minor among left-wing voters," noted Emmanuel Rivière, political scientist and associate director of the Grand Public agency.

...the liberal versus conservative debate, where the Kremlin also uses division to sow unrest, while falsely showing themselves as the conservative and traditional safe haven. In the EU, worries over climate change has led to the proposal of environmental regulations...

9/19

POLITICS AUGUST 23, 2023

## Europe's conservative wave



TERESA NOGUEIRA PINTO READING TIME: 10 MIN

The popularity of conservative nationalist movements and political parties is on the rise. One shared position is support for more restrictive immigration policies.



The 2022 election of Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, shown on a visit to the United States on July 27, 2023, was a watershed moment for European conservatives in turning popularity into power. © Getty Images

OPINION  
PAUL KRUGMAN

# Putin and the Myths of Western Decadence

March 28, 2022



"The Romans in Their Decadence," by Thomas Couture, 1847. Photographed by Erich Lessing/Art Resource, N.Y.

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...such as carbon tax and restrictions on land use, which has, to some degree, led to price hikes. Naturally, all these themes are also closely connected to each other: rapid changes in climate drive immigration and affects farming.

**NEWS / AG POLICY**

# How Farmer Protests Across Europe Played a Role in the Recent EU Elections



EU Elections and impact of Farmer Protests Across Europe

By **TYNE MORGAN** June 13, 2024

[f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [✉](#)

CLIMATE

# Sweltering heat across Asia was 45 times more likely because of climate change, study finds



1 of 4 | FILE - Parking attendant Andy Tinto uses laundry clips to put a blue towel over his cap to protect himself from the sun in Manila, Philippines on Monday, April 29, 2024. Sizzling heat across Asia and the Middle East in late April that echoed last year's destructive swelter was made 45 times more likely in some parts of the continent because of human-caused climate change, a study found. [Read More](#)



BY SIBI ARASU

Updated 12:34 AM GMT+3, May 15, 2024

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WORLD NEWS

# Weather forecasters warn Pakistanis to stay indoors ahead of new heat wave



1 of 13 | A man cools off himself during a hot summer day at a park in Karachi, Pakistan, Tuesday, May 21, 2024. Authorities in Pakistan on Tuesday urged people to stay indoors as the country is hit by an extreme heat wave that threatens to bring dangerously high temperatures and yet another round of glacial-driven floods. (AP Photo/Fareed Khan) [Read More](#)

BY MUNIR AHMED

Updated 4:52 AM GMT+3, May 22, 2024

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NEWS

# Climate change threatens future of farming in Europe

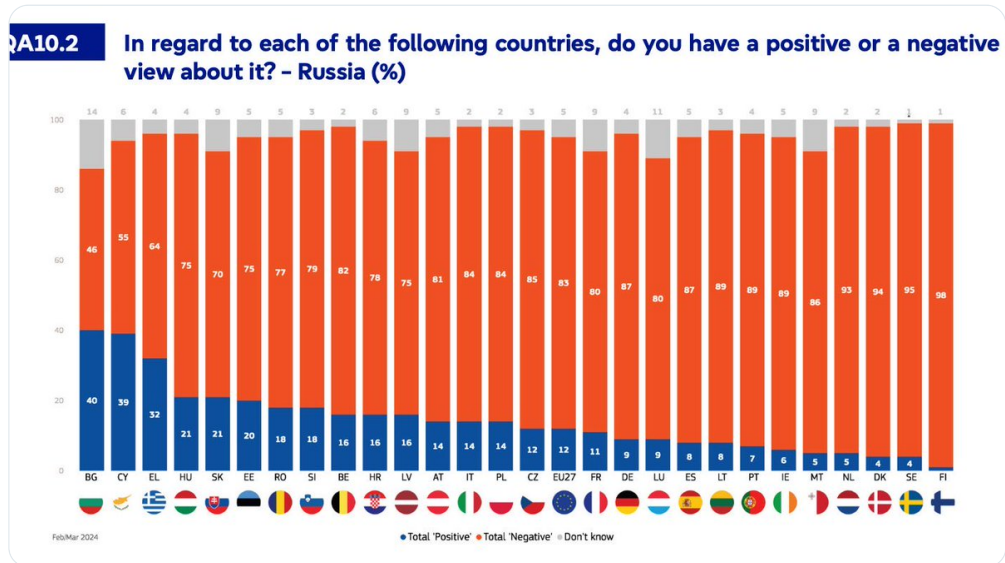
Crop and livestock production is projected to decrease and may even have to be abandoned in parts of Europe's southern and Mediterranean regions due to the increased negative impacts of climate change, according to a European Environment Agency (EEA) report published today. The study says that adapting to climate change must be made a top priority for the European Union's agriculture sector if it is to improve resilience to extreme events like droughts, heatwaves and floods.

Published 04 Sep 2019 — Last modified 23 Nov 2020 — 4 min read — Photo: © Rayya Kartal, Sustainably Yours /EEA

News > Climate change threatens ...

My theory is that people didn't really even consider Russia or Ukraine while voting, rather than just looking for people who could potentially solve problems that affect their day-to-day life. Issues like illegal immigration and asylum-seeking have been a great concern...

11/19



...to some since the 1990s, and employment, inflation & price increases are affecting almost everyone's lives. Many conservative parties rallied around these issues, praising traditionalism, nostalgia & "the good old times", after seeing how well it worked for Viktor Orbán.

Europe

# Finland scrambles to close new migrant route via Russia to Europe

By Anne Kauranen and Riham Alkousaa

June 11, 2024 10:04 AM GMT+3 · Updated 3 days ago

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[1/6] Syrian friends Mohammed and Mahmoud, who asked not to be pointed out in this handout picture taken by Finnish Border Guard, stand among a group of migrants who arrived from Russia to Salla border crossing in Finland November 20, 2023. Finnish Border Guard/Handout via REUTERS [Purchase Licensing Rights](#)





## Polish soldier dies after being stabbed at Belarus border preventing migrants crossing

JUN 6, 2024 | DEFENCE



Q &amp; A

## WHY CONSERVATIVES AROUND THE WORLD HAVE EMBRACED HUNGARY'S VIKTOR ORBÁN

*A sociologist explains why the country's Prime Minister is "the ultimate twenty-first-century dictator."*



By Isaac Chotiner

August 10, 2021



Twentieth-century dictatorships were about ideology and repression, the Princeton sociologist Kim Lane Scheppele says, but Viktor Orbán's brand of authoritarianism works through economic coercion. Photograph by Thierry Monasse / Getty

And this can also be seen from the campaigns of the successful parties: many on the right rallied against “wokeism”, the “global elites”, the EU becoming a “federal state”, EU immigration policies, “15 minute cities”, climate policies and the green transition.

# How '15-minute cities' turned into an international conspiracy theory

By Laura Paddison, CNN

© 6 minute read · Updated 4:23 AM EST, Mon February 27, 2023



A pedestrian area part of the "superblock" plan promoting cycling and car-free zones in Barcelona, Spain. Josep Lago/AFP/Getty Images

NEWS > ENERGY AND CLIMATE

## A triumphant right's first post-election target: Overturning Green Deal car ban

EPP's Weber vows to push to scrap combustion engine ban in talks in coming days.

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**POLITICO**PRO

Free article usually reserved for subscribers



Manfred Weber told POLITICO the EU's ban on the sale of combustion engine cars after 2035 was a "mistake" and promised the party would discuss rolling it back in "upcoming days." | Kenzo Tribouillard/AFP via Getty Images

JUNE 10, 2024 3:07 AM CET

BY KARL MATHIESEN, ZIA WEISE AND LOUISE GUILLOT

The [stunning results from the European election](#) hammered home one reality for leaders on both sides of the Atlantic: People don't like you messing with their cars.

The EU's plan to ban the sale of internal-combustion-engine vehicles by 2035 emerged as a possible casualty of the conservative victories at the polls — a potentially major setback for the bloc's efforts to reduce climate pollution.

Manfred Weber, whose center-right European People's Party won the most seats in the European Parliament, [wasted no time in calling](#) for a reversal of the ban. Weber already has a friend in France, where far-right National Rally party leader Marine Le Pen [told French media](#) that consumers should be able to buy any car they want.

POWERING DOWN —

## Why Germany ditched nuclear before coal—and why it won't go back

The past year has seen record renewable power production nationwide.

TREVELYAN WING, THE CONVERSATION - 4/27/2024, 2:27 PM

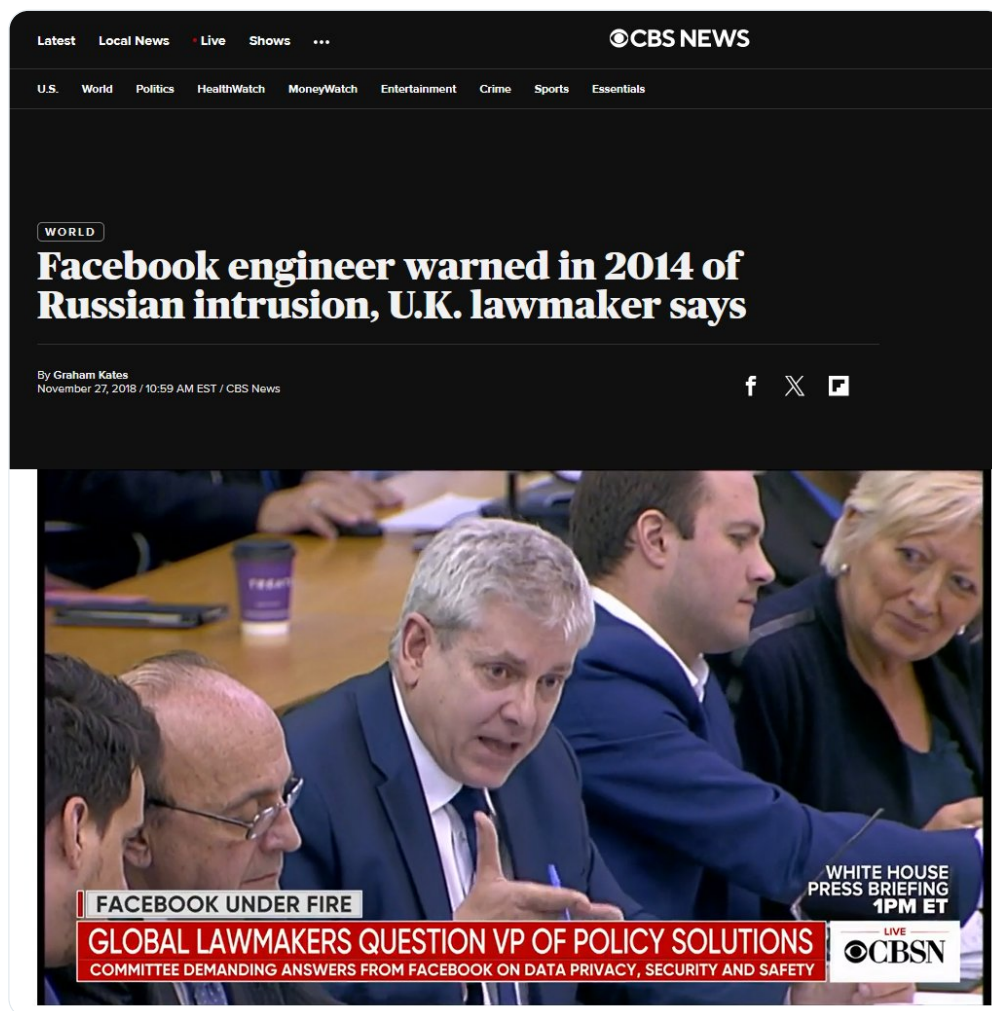


**Enlarge** / Jürgen Trittin, member of the German Bundestag and former environment minister, stands next to an activist during an action of the environmental organization Greenpeace in front of the Brandenburg Gate in April 2023. The action is to celebrate the shutdown of the last three German nuclear power plants.

Incidentally, all of these themes are very prominent in the Kremlin's propaganda and disinformation campaigns in the West, and they've also started rallying around them long before the elections, going back over ten years. And this is what we in the West often fail to...

## The Firehose of Falsehood: the Russian style of propaganda for an age of information abundance.

- High volume and multi-channel approach
- Shameless in its willingness to broadcast lies
- No commitment to, or requirement for consistency
- Rapid, continuous and repetitive messaging
- Point is not to persuade but to confuse and overwhelm
- Assumes a low trust environment *and lowers it further*
- Number of arguments matters more than their quality
- Drown out competing messages through sheer volume



...understand when it comes to Russian active measures – they’re usually trying to change societies with long-term campaigning and information operations. And since we don’t fully understand their strategy,

we're usually reactive when we should be proactive.

15/19


**AP** WORLD U.S. ELECTION 2024 POLITICS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESS SCIENCE FACT CHECK ODDITIES BE WELL NEW

• Louisiana Amber Alert Trevor Lawrence Israel-Hamas war Utah Hockey Club South Florida flooding

EVEN WHEN T  
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POLITICS

# Russian disinformation is about immigration. The real aim is to undercut Ukraine aid



FILE - Phill Cady holds a sign during a "Take Our Border Back" rally on Feb. 3, 2024, in Quemado, Texas. Online actors tied to the Kremlin have begun pushing misleading and incendiary claims about U.S. immigration in an apparent bid to target American voters ahead of the 2024 election. (AP Photo/Eric Gay)

BY DAVID KLEPPER  
Updated 3:00 PM GMT+3, March 1, 2024

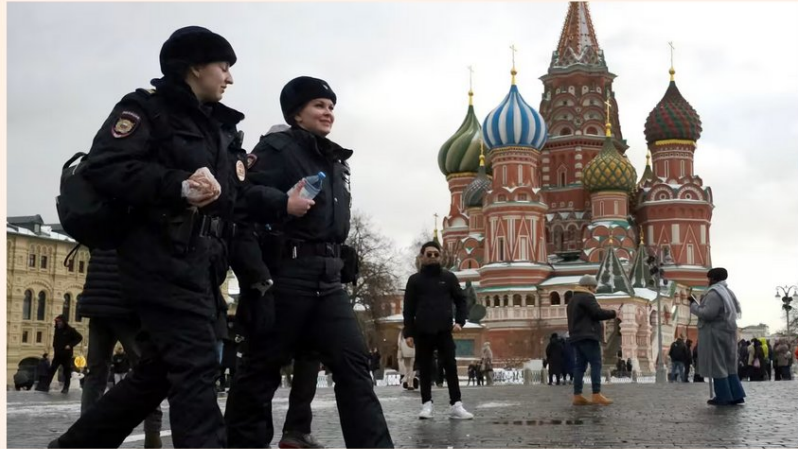
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War in Ukraine [+ Add to myFT](#)

## Russian disinformation on Ukraine has grown in scale and skill, warns Berlin

German diplomat says Moscow's messaging combines greater subtlety and plausibility with automation

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Russia has made Germany one of its main targets for disinformation over the war in Ukraine © Getty Images

Sam Jones in Berlin APRIL 1 2024

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# Revealing Russian influence in Europe:

Insights from Germany,  
France, Italy and  
Ukraine

But what does all of this mean for Ukraine? The European Parliament still remains very much pro-Ukraine, but over time, we'll probably see some MEPs suggesting a softer stance on Russia. For example, since there's money to be made, some will suggest easing up on the sanctions.

16/19



Home > News > World > Ukraine

# Could a strong EU hard-right undermine Ukraine's war effort?



Copyright AP Photo/Dmitry Lovetsky

By [Aleksandar Brezar](#)

Published on 08/06/2024 - 10:45 • Updated 12:13

[Home](#) / [News](#) / [Politics](#) / [The Capitals](#) / Austria split over Russia sanctions

# Austria split over Russia sanctions

By Nikolaus J. Kurmayer | Euractiv.de ⌚ Est. 2min

📅 Feb 27, 2023



The far-right pushing against sanctions reflects a deeply divided country where support for Ukraine is becoming increasingly tenuous. [EPA-EFE/DANIEL NOVOTNY]

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Languages: Deutsch



**Austria's far-right FPÖ continues to uphold its stance against sanctions on Russia, as surveys demonstrate that while Austrians, by and large support punitive actions, the far-right voters do not.**

Sanctions against Russia are generally recognised as important punitive measures in the country that maintains its neutral stance towards conflict and has historically close ties to Russia, though the far-right, polling at 28% according to a 23 February poll, continues to disagree.

"Only 46 of 193 UN member states have imposed sanctions on Russia, 27 of which belong to the EU," the FPÖ's secretary general Christian Hafenecker told parliament on Friday.



**Thierry MARIANI** ✓

@ThierryMARIANI

Les sanctions contre la #Russie ne peuvent pas fonctionner. Dans une économie mondialisée, quand les 2/3 de la planète ne les appliquent pas, ces sanctions sont totalement inefficaces. Pire...en faisant exploser les prix elles ruinent les États qui les appliquent @FranceInfo

Translated from French by Google

Sanctions against #Russie cannot work. In a globalized economy, when 2/3 of the planet do not apply them, these sanctions are totally ineffective. Worse...by causing prices to explode, they are ruining the States that apply them @FranceInfo



8:01 PM · Sep 17, 2022

797 Retweets 31 Quotes 1,747 Likes 13 Bookmarks

Start page > Politics > Member of the Bundestag on travel: AfD-Man leads delegation to Russia

## POLITICS

**Member of the Bundestag on the trip**

### AfD man leads delegation to Russia

17.06.2019, 07:33 watch



Robby Schlund had recently failed with a deputies office at state expenses in Russia.  
(Photo: imago/Eibner)



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**The Ukraine conflict and the sanctions therefore imposed are severely affecting the German-Russian relation. A group of German parliamentarians is trying to bring him closer to their ties in Moscow. The delegation is led by an AfD politician - to displeasure Gysis.**

With groups like Sahra Wagenknecht's party gaining momentum in Germany, the far-left gang will also constantly talk about peace negotiations, probably suggesting that Ukraine should agree to concessions to Russia:

17/19

[https://x.com/P\\_Kallioniemi/status/1757334171586891953](https://x.com/P_Kallioniemi/status/1757334171586891953)



dpa • international

## Germany's Wagenknecht: Peace talks with Russia instead of Ukraine aid

DPA

Tue, June 11, 2024 at 1:34 PM GMT+3 · 1 min read

146



Sahra Wagenknecht, party leader of the Sahra Wagenknecht Alliance (BSW) and member of the Bundestag, gives a press conference after the European elections. Kay Nietfeld/dpa



Finnish MEP Li Andersson has shared her concerns over this far-left, pro-Kremlin bloc, even stating that Sahra Wagenknecht's party (along with Wallace & Daly, who weren't elected) is not welcome in the The Left group unless they show their full support for Ukraine.

## Will the Left Alliance continue with the Putinists in the same group? This is how Li Andersson responds

**European elections** | The Irish MEPs repeating Russian propaganda or the movement of Sahra Wagenknecht, which opposes Ukrainian weapons aid, are not welcome to the left-wing group of the European Parliament, says Li Andersson of the Left Alliance.



Li Andersson, the chairman of the Left Alliance and European election candidate, says the relationship with Russia is becoming a threshold for cooperation between left-wing parties in the European Parliament. PHOTO: HEIKKI SAUKKOMAA / LEHTIKUVA

**Jarno Hartikainen HS**

28.5. 19:09

The party of **Sahra Wagenknecht**, a left-wing populist boosting support in Germany, is also not welcome to a left-wing group, Andersson says. Wagenknecht opposes arms aid to Ukraine and supports the return of gas trade with Russia.


"The arrival of those in the group is completely excluded."




Andersson assures that the positions of the rest of the group will not affect the voting behaviour of the Left Alliance regarding Ukraine's support.

"We will in every vote represent our line. Left-wing MEPs vote for Ukraine's support."

To conclude – as in 2019, several pro-Kremlin politicians were elected to the European Parliament. For now, this shouldn't change support for Ukraine, but we will most probably see some softer stances in the Parliament on Russia in the near future.



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**LATEST NEWS UKRAINE**

# French ex-National Rally leader Le Pen, once Putin's 'friend,' condemns Russian invasion

Despite her party's long-standing ties to the Kremlin and her own reputation as "Putin's friend," Marine Le Pen criticized Russia's actions in Ukraine, calling it a "war at the gates of the EU."

 BY MARIA TRIL - 14/03/2024 - 2 MINUTE READ



Former leader of the French far-right National Rally Marine Le Pen. Credit: The Independent

NEWS > FOREIGN AFFAIRS

## Germany's Russia-friendly parties skip Zelenskyy speech

The Ukrainian leader gave a rousing speech in the Bundestag. But lawmakers for the far-right Alternative for Germany and Bündnis Sahra Wagenknecht boycotted.

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Most of the seats belonging to two parties in the parliament — the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) and the populist Bündnis Sahra Wagenknecht (BSW) — remained empty. | Michele Tantussi/Getty Images

JUNE 11, 2024 7:33 PM CET  
BY NETTE NÖSTLINGER



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## FPÖ Distances Itself from Friendship Treaty with "United Russia"

People > Politicians ♦ Published: April 14, 2024; 22:14 ♦ (Vindobona)

In a press conference, the Third President of the National Council, Norbert Hofer, clarified that the Freedom Party of Austria (FPÖ) relativizes the friendship treaty concluded with the United Russia party in 2016. This comes in light of the recent accusations of an espionage affair involving the FPÖ.



Is party leader Herbert Kickl trying to relativize his party's closeness to Russia given the upcoming election campaign in Austria? / Picture: © Wikimedia Commons / C.Stadler/Bwag / CC BY-SA 4.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0>)

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When you joined the Russian Army  
but you end up in the Russian Air Force



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