

KLAGENFURT DECLARATION

Adopted on November 10, 2018

With great concern we observe that in Europe Right-wing extremism, nationalism and racism are about to become, or are already being made acceptable. In many states, populist parties are about to become an integral part of the political landscapes on municipal, national and European levels. As, for example, in Austria or Italy, these parties are already holding power positions or, if part of the government, are setting the tone. Racist tendencies and sentiments hostile to migrants have become acceptable to the mainstream, changing the political climate to an alarming degree; there is reason to fear that the extremist Right will increase its number of mandates in the EU-Parliament from 35 now up to more than one hundred. This is not only an expression of the crisis characterising the integration of the EU. This also represents a serious risk to the antifascist consensus that, hitherto, had been undisputed among the majority of the European population. However, today, this consensus is threatened by the trend among the European Centre parties to build ideological bridges to the right-wing that is hostile to migration and racist. We witness that the persistence of the predominant political class in Europe, a persistence manifest in the neoliberal restructuring of our continent, fosters only further the social insecurity among the majority of the population, thus opening up wide political spaces and possibilities for the Right.

We do not want to stand by and watch how social insecurity, fear of poverty and existential lack of perspectives are rising, how the embitterment about the political system is transformed into a readiness among the people to accept nationalist demagogy and to support right-wing extremist parties that are, at their core, completely alien to the notion of democracy. As both, spokespersons of civil rights organisations in the Alps-Adriatic Area and as representatives of antifascist associations in Croatia, Slovenia, the Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia in Italy and of Carinthia in Austria we want to build bridges, against this shift to the Right, of social solidarity and humanitarianism in line with the European antifascist heritage by developing our cross-border cooperation and by supporting each other. We call on the progressive European public to strengthen our cross-border cooperation against Neo-Fascism and right-wing extremism on the entire continent. The generation of people who have, personally, borne the European antifascist struggle of resistance has left us a heritage that obliges us to alertness, activity and cooperation. What we have started in Bleiburg/ Pliberk by our activities against the assemblies of Ustaše and Neo-Nazis, we want to carry into the whole of Europe: our continent must never again become a continent of racist and inhuman exclusion and persecution. No pasaran!