

Appeal from the “European Journalists” (EJ) on the European Elections 2019

The elections of the European Parliament at the end of May are **the most important European elections we have ever had.**

It's about:

- whether the EU will remain capable of action and decision-making in the future,
- whether the next EU Commission will be from the democratic center of the European Parliament successfully formed and legitimate, which has always decisively supported European integration;
- whether cooperation, willingness to compromise and understanding or populism, nationalism and exclusion will determine the political agenda.

We should not repeat what we experienced in the United Kingdom during the Brexit referendum: That pro-Europeans paid little attention to the vote and the opponents of Europe went to the ballot box with one voice. Back then, the youth protested too late on London's streets. A narrow majority had already voted for the Brexit. This must not happen from 23 to 26 May! That is why the European Journalists (EJ) call above all on young Europeans to go to the polls and support pro-European parties.

This European election is in no way a suitable protest election, in which one expresses one's acute dissatisfaction with a national government. There's too much at stake! At the end of May, it can only be about Europe:

- open internal borders and good neighbourhood
- free exchange of goods and simple recognition of professional qualifications,
- further exchange programmes (Erasmus) or free Interrail tickets.

Today, no European country can meet the global challenges alone, no government can solve the climate or security policy problems alone. Europe is the promise of a peace, freedom, prosperity and social union.

Without a critical-constructive dialogue with the youth we will not achieve these goals. Killjoys are out of place.

Today more than ever we are dependent on a strong, united and sovereign Europe in order to act on an equal footing with the USA, Russia or China and to safeguard our interests. Europe-hostile right-wing and left-wing parties, some of which have highly dubious relations with Trump or Putin, should therefore never be allowed to influence EU institutions. **It is in the special interest of our youth that the values of Europe, our rule of law, our human rights, our freedom of the press do not fall by the wayside.**

The social networks are tables and garden-parties of the 21st century. We must not leave these networks to ideologists and storytellers. That is why we advise Europe's youth to pay attention to credibility, seek the “best available truth”, use media that take to heart the principle “be first, but first be right”. We, members of the European Journalists (EJ) call on young people: **Realizes how much a life of peace and freedom is worth. Help increase voter turnout. Participates in further developing of the Europe mission together. See what we owe to a common Europe! Learn from history!**

Paolo Magagnotti, EJ President, Trentino TV Rotger Kindermann, EJ Vice President, Luxembourg Word)

(Note: In principle, European Journalists (EJ) only comment on media policy or job-related topics. Considering the outstanding importance of the EP election 2019, we differ a little from this rule.