



European Transport Workers Reject the Normalisation of the Far-Right

In the crucial final days before the 2024 European elections, the ETF Executive Committee, meeting in Brussels on 4-5 June, restates its total opposition to the ideals of far-right political forces and condemns any attempt to normalise their participation in any majority in the next European Parliament.

Far-right messages have been proliferating in a context of stagnating real wages, increase in precarious and nonstandard employment and severe housing shortages in large parts of Europe.

However, we underline that the far-right do not hold the answer to these problems. Time and time again they have shown themselves to be against the interests of European workers. At the EU level, far-right parties have consistently voted against legislation in the European Parliament aimed at improving the lives of working people.

At national level, far-right forces have always acted against the needs of workers. The latest example is Finland, the government, which includes the far-right, has recently passed a package of reforms that undermines the ability of workers to protect their interests through collective bargaining.

Furthermore, the ETF Executive Committee notes the total unwillingness of far-right forces to listen to the demands of transport workers and their unions. Far-right ideology consistently portrays trade unions not as the legitimate representatives of working people but rather as barriers to the effective exploitation of labour. It is for this reason that the ETF Executive Committee believes there can be no cooperation between trade unions and the far-right.

Finally, the ETF Executive Committee condemns the far-right's attacks on the rights of women and undermining the future of young workers. In the face of these attacks we restate our commitment to fundamental rights, including equal pay for equal work, and pledge to continue fighting for decent work for all.

We call upon all democratic forces to abstain from collaborating with the far-right, at European, national, regional, and local level. We direct this appeal especially to those centre-right democratic parties, who are increasingly normalising the far-right by governing with them. At a European level, we will not accept a European Commission whose parliamentary majority includes far-right groups in the European Parliament, as has been speculated in recent weeks.

At the same time, the ETF Executive Committee urges democratic political forces to counter the far-right by providing real and credible solutions to the problems faced by working people. To effectively stop the far-right, these parties must address the serious and structural issues fuelling the rise of extremism, such as by giving workers greater protection against poor working conditions and increasing their power in the workplace and society at large.