

# Current motors of cooperation: **Islamophobia**

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# Far right and Islam

- Far right is defined in context of opposition towards democratic constitutional state and laws and freedoms (liberal democracy) that are by this state guaranteed
- Far right is heading towards homogenous states, civilisations, rejection of any plurality
- Cas Mudde: far right as combination of nativism and authoritarianism
- **Nativism** – key factor defining attitude towards Muslims
- *Us and them*

# Far right and Islam

- Rejection of everything different
- Europe as European civilisation with **Christian roots**
- Islam is understood as strange and destructive element for European civilisation and European culture
  
- Islam and Muslims = enemies
- The hate is even stronger in context of immigration crisis, ISIL, foreign fighters, radicalisation of European Muslims and terrorist attacks in Europe
  
- The issue of Muslims has been resonating in Western Europe since 1990s and belongs to traditional mobilisation issues
- The issue escalated after 9/11 2001 – Muslims became official enemies

- Muslims labelled as minority not able to integrate into European society – not willing to integrate
- Muslims seen as homogenous minority with different religion, culture and life style
- Interpreted as threat to liberal democracy, European heritage, social cohesion and cultural integrity of nations
  
- **Cultural threat**
- **Political threat**
- **Security threat** - Muslims as terrorists; Muslims interpreted as source of religious and violent conflicts; health threat; threat to social and economical system
- **Existential threat** – Great Replacement theory

# Who is responsible for it?

- **Political elites, European Union**
- They are too much politically correct, obsessed with multiculturalism, not able to react quickly
- They act not in the name of interest of own people when they invite immigrants from Muslim countries



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**If you want  
to fight  
against  
Muslim  
Extremism**  
**Your main enemies  
are No1. Western  
Politicians No2.  
The Western  
Media and No3.  
Muslim  
Extremists...**

**IN THAT ORDER**

## Farid Hafez (2014): explanation, why focus on Muslims

- Very beneficial strategy – far right can get rid of traditional association of far right with anti-semitism
- Way how to get new voters, who are not racist, but afraid of Islam in Europe
- Far right spreads/escalates fear related to our private life, family, children – is targeting very basic feelings and very basic human need (security)

# International topic leading to cooperation

- By identifying a common enemy, Islamophobia has great transnational potential
- *„We are European brothers, because we never want to Islamise ourselves“*
- In early 2008, representatives of the FPÖ, the VB, Pro Cologne (pro Köln), the FN and the separatist Platform for Catalonia met in Antwerp to announce the creation of a network they called '**Cities against Islamisation**'.  
Members of the network made a commitment to carry out collective action to prevent the spread of Islam in Europe

# Euroregionale Kommunal

- Joint project initiated by the Austrian FPÖ, the VB and the German REP, was announced in early 2008
- Filip Dewinter called for the creation of a 'European front' standing against illegal immigrants and Islamisation and in support of identity and sovereignty.
- *'Islam does not belong in Europe, which is a continent of castles and cathedrals and not a continent of mosques and minarets',* said Dewinter

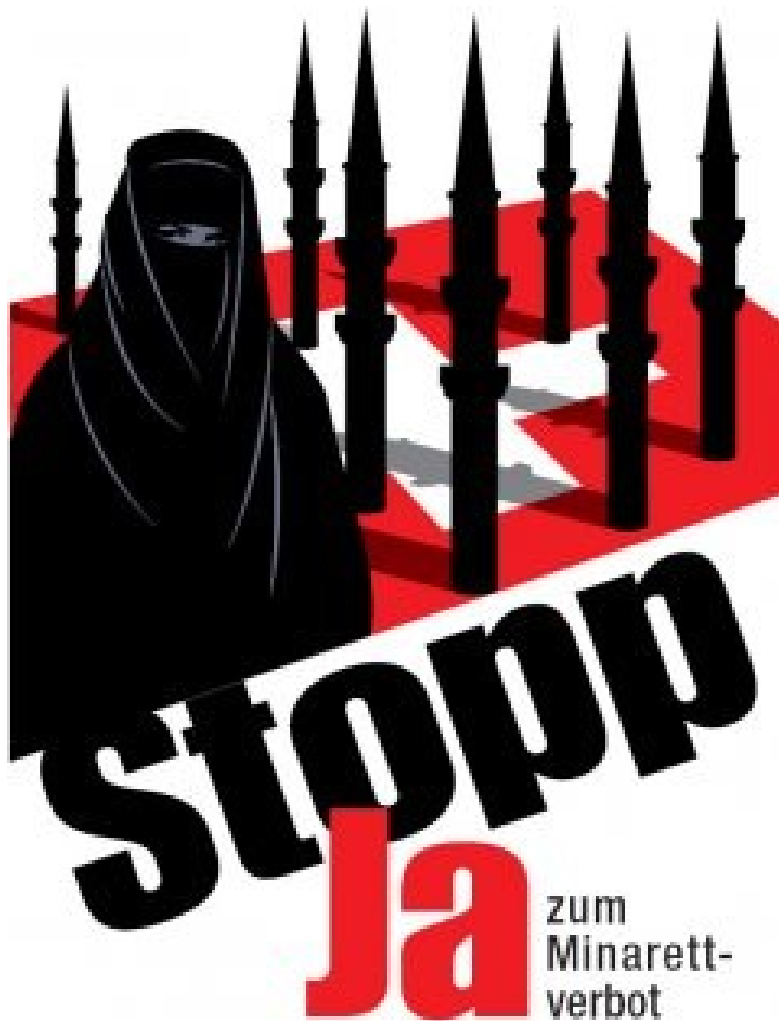


# Anti-Islamisation Congresses

- First one held on 20 September 2008 in Germany
  - Meeting in order to discuss Islamophobic agenda
  - Jean-Marie Le Pen, Filip Dewinter and Mario Borghezio (LN) announced their participation in the congress, saying that the Islamist conquest of Europe and its nation states must be stopped
  - The congress ended in a fiasco, with representatives of the national populist parties unable to meet
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- Second one held in May 2009 in Germany
  - The invitees included the FPÖ, VB, LN, and FN
  - Fiasco: many of those invited did not arrive, while those who did were met by large-scale public protests
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- 3rd one in 2010 as „Anti-Minarett Congress“
  - 4th one 2011 in Antwerp: VB, FPÖ, the REP, SD, LN, DF and SVP, Tea Party sent their deputies

# Fitna

- **Geert Wilders** (PVV): great proponent of Islamisation threat, compared Quran to Mein Kampf and has campaigned to have the book banned in the Netherlands
- Advocating ending immigration from Muslim countries, banning of construction of new mosques
- 2008: movie Fitna
- *„there is no such thing as moderate Islam“*
- In 2009 Wilders launched „Facing Jihad World Tour“ – series of screenings of Fitna to public official and influential organizations around the world





- Patriotische Europäer gegen die Islamisierung des Abendlandes (Patriotic Europeans Against Islamisation of West)
- Movement against Islamisation of German society
- They ask to expel all immigrants with criminal history
- Immigration policy should be more strict, calling for more authoritarian government
- From October 2014 (impulse: Sharia police in Wuppertal, then Charlie Hebdo)
- Offshoots in Norway, Denmark, Spain, Belgium, USA, UK, Sweden, Canada, Austria

# STOPP Islamisierung



Keine  
Parallelgesellschaft

THE OTHER  
ISLAMIC  
BOMB

