How does populism affect and influence EU policy?

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What I will talk about

- Core elements of right wing populism
- EU elections 2014: RWP in the European Parliament
- Possible effects in the EP
- Reactions to RWP in the EP
- Monitoring tool regarding hate speech in the EU election

Core elements of right wing populism

- Populist radical right parties can be a threat to fundamental values of liberal democracies
- 1) Assume the existence of two antagonistic groups of the ,pure people' and a corrupt elite
- 2) Put the general will of the people first even if it clashes with human rights and constitutional safeguards
- 3) Have a nativistic core that combines xenophobic and nationalistic ideas

EU elections 2014: RWP in the European Parliament

- A record number of racist and xenophobic populist parties: 144 RWP MEP's out of 751 MEP's (15,2%)
- They are gaining momentum in all Member States
- Efforts to join forces and to be more active within the EP
- Fragmented group of xenophobic populists with national differences

Possible effects in the EP I

- EP can block and influence EU legislation, funding and resolutions by:
- 1) Shaping voter attitudes and public opinion
- 2) Pressuring mainstream parties to adopt more xenophobic rhetoric
- 3) Obstructing and slowing down parliamentary proceedings
- 4) Fragmenting the right and by pulling some center-right MEP's

Possible effects in the EP II

- 5) Attacking the protective infrastructure for vulnerable groups
- 6) Newly formed political group: increases each MEP's individual funding allowance, more influence in speaking time and committee roles

Reactions in the EP to RWP

- The use of grand coalition (EPP-S&D-ALDE)
- Fringe groups have not yet been able to impose their own views in key EP decisions
- Their tools: parliamentary questions, written and oral statements
- Increase in MEP's voting activity

Reaction from civil society

- #NoHateEP2014 by ILGA Europe and ENAR
- 42 reported incidents: 2/3 have implicit incitement to hatred, prejudice or discrimination
- Targets: migrants, foreigners and asylum-seekers, LGBTI people, Muslims, Roma people, Black people
- Mostly perpetrated by politicians whose party did not make it to the EP, 10 incidents perpetrated by politicians whose party sits as Non-attached MEPs, 10 incidents by politicians whose party sits in the EFD group, 5 perpetrators now sit in the EP