

THE EUROPEAN DISSENT ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT MEMBERS OF EUROPEAN DISSENT pdf

1: European Dissent Issues First National Statement | South Seattle Emerald

European Dissent Accountability Statement Draft in Progress 6/29/06 Preamble We intend this to be a living document, as a guide for work, and to be reviewed to reflect changes as our work progresses.

Member states should adopt necessary laws, create specialized war crimes units, and ensure that these units have financial and political support. Expand Protesters, with photos of victims killed in chemical attacks in Iraq, gather outside the district courthouse in The Hague on November 21, , as the trial opens against Dutch businessman Frans van Anraat. The court convicted Van Anraat of complicity in war crimes for having supplied Saddam Hussein with chemicals that were used in attacks on the Kurds in the late s, and sentenced him to 17 years in prison. This situation creates a unique opportunity for European states to make a meaningful contribution to justice for the atrocities in these countries. The increased presence of asylum seekers means that previously unavailable victims, witnesses, material evidence, and even some suspects are now within reach of national judicial authorities. National courts can have extra-territorial jurisdiction over crimes committed abroad when the suspects or the victim are a national of that country or for crimes that are considered so grave that ensuring accountability for them should be of concern to humanity as a whole. There has been considerable progress in the prosecution of crimes under international law by national courts in the last 20 years. Argentina and South Africa have opened investigations regarding grave human rights violations in China, Spain, Paraguay, and Zimbabwe. A recent study on 12 countries exercising universal jurisdiction found tangible progress “ such as arrests, indictments, or convictions ” in 27 cases in . While, in principle, it would be preferable for justice to be carried out in the countries where the crimes are committed, this is often not possible. It is a critically important avenue toward justice for victims who have nowhere else to turn and can help spur accountability in the countries where the crimes were committed. Recognizing the important role of EU member states in ending impunity, the EU, in and , adopted two decisions creating a network of investigators and prosecutors working on cases involving crimes under international law, the European Genocide Network, and recommending that member states create specialized war crimes units. Several EU countries, including the Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, Sweden, France, and Germany, have created such war crimes units, made up of police and prosecutors with specific expertise and dedicated to these cases. The EU Genocide Network has enhanced cooperation and facilitated the sharing of best practices between EU member states through biannual meetings. According to media reports, prosecutions and investigations are underway relating to war crimes and torture in these two countries in France, Finland, Germany, Sweden, and the Netherlands. Today, European countries are better prepared to investigate grave international crimes and should do so in a way that secures accountability without stigmatizing entire groups of asylum seekers, the organizations said. Yet, the current situation and increased demands on national judicial authorities highlight that further improvements are needed to ensure effective national prosecutions of grave international crimes. Not all EU member states have national laws defining crimes under international law, and some lack jurisdiction to prosecute such crimes when committed abroad, leaving impunity gaps within the EU. Only a minority of EU member states have set up specialized war crimes units, and more should consider doing so, the organizations said. Even in the countries that have war crimes units, they are often understaffed and under-resourced with just a handful of investigators and prosecutors despite a mounting number of cases. Diplomatic considerations sometimes seem to hamper cases that touch on powerful countries such as the United States, Israel, or China. Some countries, including Belgium and Spain, have limited or effectively abandoned their universal jurisdiction laws in the past, following diplomatic pressure. It is also critical to establish effective cooperation between immigration services “ which are on the first line in identifying potential victims and suspects ” and judicial authorities. Some countries, such as the Netherlands, have created specialized war crimes units in their immigration services that screen asylum seekers for potential involvement in war crimes. In Germany, Syrian asylum seekers are systematically asked to provide “ on a

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voluntary basis – information they may have about grave international crimes and this information is passed on to the police war crimes unit to be processed. In October , the European Genocide Network adopted a strategy that lists these and other steps that the EU and member states should take to enhance national prosecutions of crimes under international law. The EU Day Against Impunity should also be a yearly occurrence to highlight progress and remaining challenges.

2: Turkey's War on Dissent Goes Global – Foreign Policy

Mission Statement. Draft in Progress 6/29/06 We are persons of European descent who recognize that our varying ethnic histories have been forged into a common "white community" in order to nurture and sustain racism.

A European project confined to transnational market-making is found wanting in terms of social competence as well as civic-democratic enablement. It seems undeniable that the attempts by the European Union EU to enhance its democratic standing have so far had limited success. For a political sociology of European democracy, an increasing gap between a European society and the formal-political world of the EU raises a host of significant and interesting questions. The paper will tie in with some of the recent sociological studies that focus on European democracy, civil society, and social movements, and will contribute to the delineation of a specifically political-sociological approach to European democracy. Anti-politics; Democratic deficit; Dissent; EU; Political Sociology; Social Movements The democratic nature of the European integration project is contested, and contestation seems to be on the increase, or at least becoming more visible, with the current economic crisis. For political sociology, an increasing gap between a European society¹ and the formal-political world of the EU raises a host of significant and interesting questions. A focus on European society, and contestation and supranational social movements in particular, ties in with a number of recent and emerging trends in the study of European integration. In general terms, such a focus ties in with a political sociology of European integration, democracy, and civil society, and more specifically with the study of critique, contestation, and dissent. I suggest that a focus on the latter can be particularly useful in a number of ways. In a more general sense, I suggest that it is particularly in times of crisis, when existing, instituted imaginaries tend to lose their grip on reality, that critical perspectives can provide fruitful hints as to alternative trajectories. I will, first, briefly discuss the emergence of political sociological approaches to European integration. Second, I will argue for the need for a political-sociological approach in the context of wider European studies. Fourthly, I will further elaborate such an interpretative approach by relating it to normative political theory. And, finally, the article closes with a brief excursus into an empirical application of the approach by looking into critique on European democracy as articulated recently by European social movements. A Sociology of Europe In recent years, there has clearly been an upsurge in the sociological study of European integration Rumford ; Delanty and Rumford ; Favell and Guiraudon ; Roche A key message of these sociological approaches is that the analysis of European integration cannot be confined to European institutions, state-EU interaction, and formal politics, but needs to include attention for social and public interaction within and beyond nation-states, including in an emerging European society or societies. Different emphases can be found in the various calls for a sociological study of European integration. Originally, significant attention was paid to a possibly emerging European identity Delanty , ; Kohli as well as forms of Europeanization, in the social-constructivist sense of the meaning that is attached to emerging European social structures cf. Delanty and Rumford Others have explored the fruitfulness of the sociological study of political and legal elites Cohen and Vauchez , also emphasizing a Bourdieuan emphasis on fields and habitus Kauppi ; Georgakakis and Weisbein And yet others have focused on the analysis of an emerging European public sphere or set of public spheres Van de Steeg ; Giorgi, von Homeyer and Parsons , public attitudes in different European states Medrano , as well as the role of civil society Kohler Koch ; Kohler Koch and Rittberger ; Smismans and social movements Della Porta a,b in the European political constellation. For a recent overview, see Blokker In this, I will focus on what can be seen as a rather recent, and still relatively marginal, addition to this literature, that is, a political-sociological approach that uses a sociological lens to study the role of civil society, democratic contestation, and trans-national movements in the context of European integration significant examples include Liebert and Trenz ; Della Porta a, b; Kaldor et al. I will particularly explore the way in which a political-sociological approach can be fruitfully combined with insights from both the sociology of critical capacity and political theory in order to explore a plurality of morally informed

democratic discourses and potential democratic innovation. The Relevance of a Political Sociological Approach Political sociology traditionally tends to focus on the inter-relationships between the state, society, and the individual. As remarked by Rumford, it is however not possible for political sociology to continue in a traditional manner, i. In particular in the European context, a key focus of attention of a political sociology has to be the transformations of the democratic state in its liberal, representative and constitutional guise, of society understood as a territorially confined sphere of interaction, and of citizenship as grounded in a singular political community. One related and particularly interesting and rich tradition is that of East-Central European dissidence. In that tradition, Vaclav Havel, for instance, referred to the anti-political stance in this way: Risking to simplify the extensive debate on the EU, it could be argued that a good part of the attention has gone into defining the nature of the European integration project itself as based on multi-level governance, grounded in intergovernmentalism, etc. Lord ; Lord and Harris ; Hix ; Rittberger Here, much of the attention is then on the nature of the EU itself, or on a rather one-way understanding of change, that is, adaptation to the European project. Alternatively, scholars have engaged in the normative theorizing of European democracy in which specific normative ideas of post-national democracy are fleshed out cf. Bohman ; Eriksen In this complex and often abstract debate, a wide range of viewpoints can be identified. From a more political-scientific and empirically informed perspective, some deny any democratic deficit on the EU level and endorse a continuous grounding of democratic sovereignty in nation-states Moravcsik ; Scharpf In this, however, little attention is paid to processes of democratic practice, contestation, claims-making, and imagination in wider European society. There seem in this few attempts to explore how citizens, as well as a variety of social actors and social groups throughout the EU, perceive a democratic deficit, endeavour to make sense of the European project, and, in some instances, propose alternative views of European integration. What is too often left out of the picture is a potentially significant part of the politicization process of the European project and one that might take on more importance in times of crisis, i. Blokker and Brighenti If one agrees with the observation that democracy in Europe is, if not in crisis, then at least going through a process of important transformation cf. Below, I will elaborate on a number of recent initiatives that have an explicit European dimension. Political Sociology and Pragmatic Sociology I suggest that one significant contribution that a political sociology of European democracy could make is a qualitatively informed exploration of existing structures of meaning-giving with regard to the European project, as being available, or being constructed, as cultural repertoires and sets of propositions and articulations throughout European society, and on which various actors draw. I will come back to this distinction below. For a more nuanced account, see Cas Mudde, [http:](http://) Some of the key tenets of this approach appear to be particularly useful for an explorative agenda of available and emerging public, democratic narratives in the European context cf. Balli ; Eder ; White Firstly, pragmatic sociology understands social action as drawing on available cultural repertoires in individual attempts to make sense of the world. It explicitly values the critical competences of individuals themselves. The assumption is that individuals will draw on different cultural repertoires in distinct instances of social interaction, without being fully determined by these repertoires. In this, pragmatic sociology points to the constrained nature of making sense of the world, on the one hand, but on the other, also to the possibility of a creative reworking of existing repertoires of meaning-giving. Secondly, pragmatic sociology does not depart from a fixed, institutionalized idea of civil society in which it is understood as located in an aprioristically defined social position nor from a predefined normative understanding of what publicness or civicness entails. Rather, the idea of a civic grammar 12 is that it is one grammar among others, which competes in making sense of the world, and which can emerge in a variety of settings. This assumption allows one to identify civic claims and forms of critique in different contexts Eder This means that also less institutionalized forms of social interaction enter into focus. In this, sociological inquiry might take into account the views of significant, politically active but marginal social actors whose non- inclusion seems to be exactly one of the key ingredients of the democratic deficit. The six grammars or orders elaborated in what is the key publication of the approach - On Justification - are: Critique is thus not only of a reformist kind, but

can also take a radical form in which a different way of achieving a just reality is indicated cf. Political Sociology and Political Theory A useful starting point for the identification of a plurality of regimes of justification or, in our case, ways of justifying the European integration project is by taking recourse to existing normative theories of the European project. In this way, it is possible to identify a number of general principles of legitimacy, all of which invoke some kind of common good to which the European order would need to respond. These three modes of legitimation overlap to some extent with well-known views on Europe that range from an intergovernmental idea of the European polity, to a federal idea of Europe, to a multi-levelled governance idea of Europe. The assumption is, however, that there is a limited set of available grammars. For instance, the minimalism of the problem-solving model is endorsed by distinct political elites afraid of losing sovereignty as well as parts of citizens and civil society in Europe from various political backgrounds afraid of losing national control over, for instance, welfare and unemployment , but it is also clearly the object of critique from the part of those that imagine a more maximalist and politicised view of the European project, in which for instance an expansion of rights to a wide range of groups is endorsed. It seems fair to argue that these theoretical models also relate to diffused models justificatory practices regarding a European polity. At the same time, at least in theoretical debates, these mainstream narratives are now complemented by novel, innovative ways of depicting a political Europe, thereby indicating alternative general principles that might underpin European political integration. These include a deliberative view, a cosmopolitan, and a civic, bottom up view. Deliberative democracy has become a much debated perception of the future of the European project, not least influenced by developments in the EU itself, that is, the Conventions on the European Charter of Human Rights as well as on a European constitution. A deliberative approach endorses wider inclusion of those affected by political integration, it suggests a deliberative method for important political processes such as the constitution- making process , and it suggests that through such wider inclusion and possibility of deliberation forms of domination and tyranny of the majority can be avoided cf. Such an order entails the relativization of national identities, the development of a politics of recognition, and the emergence of a public culture which recognizes various constituent groups Delanty In contrast, some of the thrust in the deliberative model is towards political institutions and so-called stakeholders. While, as we see below, grass-roots engagements with and critique of Europe do not necessarily take a radical view, it does seem useful to indicate more unconventional visions of the European project into an analytical framework in order to capture possibly marginal, unorthodox viewpoints. Such radical tests identify imperfections of the European regime more clearly than other articulations of critique. One source of theoretical grounding for such a view can be detected in some of the writings of James Tully. What is more, both procedures of negotiation and norms of integration are open to debate. In this open-ended model, the emphasis is on democracy as an indeterminate and on-going project. One problem of frame analysis, according to Lilian, is that it largely treats frames in a utilitarian way, that is, as mobilizing instruments, while moral, ethical, or juridical dimensions of engagement are neglected Lillian A problem that both frame analysis and pragmatic sociology encounter is the risk to reduce repertoires or frames to static and intellectual structures ultimately disattached from practice, and thus an understanding of such repertoires as external to, rather than produced in, action Lilian The relation to post-national democracy is a fragile one, in that democracy is mostly seen as relevant on the national level, while the supranational is seen as a realm related to the executive rather than decisional dimension of politics. Eriksen and Fossum It is important to note that this often entails a call for inclusion beyond formal members of the polity. These tend to articulate the crisis and are often stemming from the margins rather than from the center. And such languages and practices include in their more radical instances forms of dissent and civil disobedience. In the context of our discussion of the relation between the European project and democracy, this in general terms means that attempts to hold onto the status quo of the instituted reality are often expressed in terms of the denial of an increased democratic deficit. It is the latter perspective that is often part of the language of more marginal actors such as pro-democracy movements. In this way, the imperfectness and lack of legitimacy of existing arrangements is exposed cf. In our focus on

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European democracy, reality would refer to a largely taken for granted institutional constellation and related set of justificatory ideas regarding the EU, while the world would include alternative, non-instituted ways of organizing and thinking about European democracy, a Europe in potentia. We no longer accept these policies. They flout democracy; they have already plunged Europe in a particularly severe economic crisis. They awaken xenophobic demons that the creation of Europe was in principle intended to eradicate. We want to improve the European social model and defend the people, not banks, corporations, and their main shareholders. This requires other policies, which means also to review the institutions and treaties; not in the sense of a hardening of punitive neoliberalism, but rather for reclaiming democracy. What is lacking today is a balance of power to implement these alternatives and devise political processes in order to bring back the European project on the track of democracy, social and ecological progress. The alternative summit we call for will be a first step towards achieving these goals Alter Summit a; emphasis added. Europe is in crisis because it has been hijacked by neoliberalism and finance. In the last twenty years - with a persistent democratic deficit - the meaning of the European Union has increasingly been reduced to a narrow view of the single market and the single currency, leading to liberalisations and speculative bubbles, loss of rights and the explosion of inequalities. Unfortunately, there is no room for discussing narratives invoked by such movements here see Ruzza Elsewhere, I have explored the complex relations between populism and democracy, see Blokker This is not the Europe that was built through economic and social progress, the extension of democracy and welfare rights. This European project is now in danger Another Road for Europe ; emphasis added.

3: Programs – “The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond

*the journey of european dissent an antiracist white organization affiliated with thy tt irvw wi ueyqn in new orleans vol1
may statement of european dissent.*

Such demands simply ask NGOs to deliver what they demand of others: After all, he who seeks equity, it is said in law, must come with equity. Transparency is an indispensable aspect of accountability: Access to relevant and timely information about NGO activities is crucial to ensure that internal and external stakeholders can hold the organization to account. Not only must NGOs be transparent and honest, they also must be perceived as such. Otherwise a government can politically isolate them, leaving them unable to generate voluntary support for their work. In Zimbabwe, for instance, the newspapers often publish sickening slams on NGOs by the government or by members of the public. Such headlines have fueled public mistrust. An example can be seen from an informal interview with an observer during the NGO exhibition conference in Harare in October. Pointing to newspaper headlines and to 4x4 vehicles parked outside the exhibition hall, he said: So where do all these funds go to? Indeed, increased resources have left problems seemingly unchanged, producing public disgust, apathy, and discontent. People are increasingly calling on NGOs to show greater transparency and honesty. Who might oppose greater transparency? Transparency can conflict with the principle of confidentiality and the right to privacy, which are entrenched in the laws of most states. The concerns over confidentiality and privacy are legitimate, but a wealth of information can still be made available to stakeholders and the wider public. There is also the selfish desire of rent-seekers to hide their ill-gotten gains, coupled with the fear of losing power to the newly informed. Stakeholders, including the general public, require information from NGOs in order to assess and evaluate their activities. In this realm, transparency means access to such information. Transparency builds trust and confidence on the part of stakeholders and the public in general. For the sake of this article, I adopt the following working definition: People seek information from NGOs to learn how money meant for community development was spent. It is in this context that NGOs need to explain and justify their actions. Relative Transparency Some NGO leaders assert that their organizations are more accountable than some governments, and with some justification. The treaty establishing the European Commission, for instance, guarantees any European Union citizen access to EU parliament, council, and commission documents. But when the organization Statewatch sought a document setting out far-reaching changes to the code of public access to EU documents, the Council turned down the request on the remarkable ground that its "release could fuel public discussion on the subject. Although the right of access is guaranteed by the constitution and some international instruments, the government has used controversial legislation to narrow the space for public debate, silence those perceived as critical of its policies, and shield itself from domestic and international scrutiny. Civil society organizations and human rights activists have also been targets of state intimidation and harassment. Many have been forced to work in increasingly restrictive and oppressive conditions, facing threats, disruption of meetings by the police, ongoing surveillance by state security agents, and arbitrary arrests. Factors Influencing Transparency in Zimbabwe Transparency and honesty in the NGO sector depend largely on the interconnection of external and internal factors. External factors shape the environment in which NGOs operate, such as cultural values, socioeconomic and political exigencies, and the influence of donors. In my study of NGOs in Zimbabwe, I found that socio-political developments have exerted enormous impact. NGOs in Zimbabwe have gone through series of challenges with regard to their legal framework, their formation and legitimization, their priorities and methods, and their strategies and the way those strategies are implemented, coupled with demands to show increased transparency and demonstrate honesty in the administration of resources. The hostile attitude has taken precedence as a result of political crises occasioned by the election, which the opposition political party, NGOs, and the international community condemned for flaws and widespread voting irregularities. The government has decided to implement stringent policies to stifle NGO activities and

especially clamp down on critical organizations, all on the pretext of correcting NGO financial mismanagement and lack of control. In terms of internal factors, NGOs in Zimbabwe are plagued by inadequate organizational capabilities—poor leadership, bad governance structures and management, wastage of resources, and insufficient skills to get the job done. The stakeholders and the general public are entitled to information about the management of development funds. A majority of Zimbabwean NGOs display increased transparency of this sort to their foreign donors, but not to other stakeholders. In respect to finances and remunerations, many Zimbabwean NGOs are not transparent toward the communities that benefit from their interventions. Transparency and honesty indicators—such as budgeting and monitoring, auditing and evaluation, producing reports and press releases, holding public meetings, properly exploiting information and communication technologies, and project management in general—all require skills, capacity, and dedication. Skills and capacity often are lacking. Overall, Zimbabwean NGOs appear to be above average in honesty. True, many NGOs exaggerate their successes while playing down their failures. Some also address desperate financial situations by engaging in practices that one might describe as dishonest. But many are transparent and honest about their strengths and weaknesses. Fraud and corruption are ordinarily predicated upon personal benefit. Such practices, however, undermine transparency and honesty standards. They should therefore be discontinued. At a minimum, such practices should be specifically negotiated with donors and other stakeholders. Of the great number of NGOs in Zimbabwe, only a small proportion are truly fraudulent. The activities of such a small group will not tarnish the internationally recognized good work of the many other NGOs. Increased transparency in NGOs should diminish the corruption: Communicating NGO Accomplishments It is noteworthy that despite the hurdles, NGOs are still able to engage and organize villagers into groups and committees, thereby giving them the opportunity to discuss common problems and prioritize their strategies. NGOs continue to render services to their beneficiaries despite fears of intimidation, arrest, and torture. They also manage to network with partners and maintain good rapport with foreign donors. Other strengths of NGOs include teamwork within individual organizations and fairly good communication with all stakeholders other than the government. Weaknesses include inadequate management skills; poor planning in relation to identifying issues systematically and strategizing goals; the inability to clearly identify the beneficiaries of a given project; the inability to counter the misinformation of the government-controlled media and thereby eradicate public bias; and the lack of proper documentation of activities and practices, which hinders learning and exchange of ideas. Additionally, they have not been able to adopt a common national code of ethics. While NGOs have adopted various means to communicate their efforts to the public, without a nationwide, coordinated approach to their common problems, the circumstances necessary for NGO transparency and honesty will remain elusive. In particular, Zimbabwean NGOs have not been able to come together as a force to confront or engage the government. In a less hostile socioeconomic and political environment, NGOs would be able to manage the available resources human, material, information, and financial in a transparent and honest manner acceptable to all parties. But do NGOs have the full backing of donors and other stakeholders to confront or engage the government, bearing in mind the tense political environment? NGOs might improve their situation by strengthening their advocacy and awareness-building networks. With increased promotion of their activities, the successes and the failures alike, they will be able to win the hearts and minds of donors and the general public, thereby fostering a positive image of themselves while at the same time rebutting the vindictiveness and bias of the government information system. Independent radio stations can also play a significant role. Through these avenues, NGOs can break through the bias of the government-controlled media. The result will be enhanced public awareness of what NGOs do and whom they represent. Only then can NGOs get the support they need from their beneficiaries and the wider public. NGOs are not secret cults but private institutions that carry out public functions. They are part of civil society, and are therefore expected to be open and accountable. NGOs should endeavor to show increased transparency to their beneficiaries and the wider public through making public their reports. Transparency and honesty require NGOs to show their successes and their failures. This will ensure that they properly represent

the organization. They should undergo compulsory orientation and have access to the founding document or constitution. If NGOs want to prove themselves transparent and honest, they should also make available their reports, records, and other relevant information to social scientists seeking to survey their experiences, successes, failures, and problems. The outcome of such analyses will in no small measure contribute to knowledge. This sector of scientists, in fact, could serve as a laboratory for NGOs, carrying out clinical diagnosis and evaluation of NGO strengths and weaknesses. In Zimbabwe as in most developing nations, these people are virtually ignored, which leads to wasted resources. Such collaboration and interaction with social scientists will educate NGOs and the public, and it will help policymakers as well as existing and potential donors. In Zimbabwe, this would be particularly useful because trust has become a scarce commodity. The public could rely on the findings of social scientists who, with nothing to gain or lose, can produce unbiased analysis. Language is a key component of information sharing, especially where the majority of beneficiaries or recipients are illiterate. To maximize information sharing, reports, records, documents, and other materials must be made available in multiple local languages and in a simplified form that the majority of people might understand. For instance, thematic programs, interviews, and discussions should take local languages into consideration. In areas where this is not affordable, the usual word of mouth can still be relied upon. Most NGOs in Zimbabwe have a hierarchical structure, with power concentrated in the director or chief executive. A much more transparent approach can discourage dishonesty: Such a system should encourage engagement and negotiation between and among stakeholders. Monitoring and control structures: All NGOs should have proper procedures for receiving cash, keep incoming funds separate from outgoing funds, and limit access to the safe and petty cash to specified individuals. Further, receipts for money paid out must be taken, and receipts given for money received. All staff must be given rudimentary training in accounting and handling of cash. In addition, occasional inspections must be made of purchases to ensure that receipts and invoices represent actual transactions. Many NGOs in Zimbabwe need capacity-building in the areas of operational management, monitoring and evaluation, strategic planning, and report writing. Most of the managers and directors are self-made chief executives with little or no qualification. The management staff and field staff need more management training if they are to handle their ever-increasing tasks. Training could be provided by several local institutions or by institutions from abroad. NGOs should also learn from one another. In-house training can also send a signal of relative job security, which can improve staff dedication and output.

4: Communicating dissent on monetary policy: Evidence from central bank minutes

The members of European Dissent are persons of European descent who "dissent" from the racist institutions and values designed to benefit them. Since its inception, white anti-racist groups developed throughout the country.

Toggle display of website navigation Argument: May 1, , Journalists, professors, political opponents, and human rights activists have been among the 50, people the Turkish government has arrested in the name of prosecuting those it claims are linked to terrorism. The rule of law and the independence of the judiciary, in lower courts in particular, have been seriously compromised. What is happening inside Turkey has rightly been condemned, including by the European Court of Human Rights. Turkey has long been abusing international law enforcement mechanisms such as Interpol to pursue dissidents across borders. And in the past year, it has stepped up its efforts to persecute and intimidate political refugees abroad. This database works as an international criminal alert, notifying all countries in the database that a person is wanted by police. Entering 60, people into a database designed to help locate the most dangerous criminals on the planet is clearly an abuse of the system. To give a sense of perspective, in there were just under 13, new Red Notices issued across the globe. My organization, Fair Trials, has documented examples from many countries “ including Russia, Indonesia, Egypt, and Venezuela ” of Interpol alerts being abused for political purposes, in many cases seeking to silence journalists, human rights defenders, and political opponents. If Interpol wishes to remain a trusted tool in the fight against crime, it must ensure that it is not abused by governments seeking to enforce political vendettas. Last summer, both Dogan Akhanli a German-Turkish writer and a well-known critic of the Turkish government and Hamza Yalcin a Swedish-Turkish journalist were arrested in Spain on the basis of Interpol alerts. The cases led journalists to question German Chancellor Angela Merkel about the issue while she was on the campaign trail in As well as listing members of terrorist groups such as the Islamic State, the website lists well-known and outspoken human rights activists, journalists, and other dissidents as terrorists. In some cases, the government is offering hundreds of thousands of euros in reward money for information on these individuals. Bounties, it seems, have found a place in the modern age of online policing. Bahar was labeled a terrorist in for taking part in a peaceful protest in the European Parliament, an act that courts in three different countries have since ruled was a legitimate exercise of his right to free speech. First, Turkey used Interpol, issuing a Red Notice that led to Kimyongur being arrested on three separate occasions “ in the Netherlands, Spain, and Italy. As a result, he was deprived of his liberty for a total of six months while awaiting a decision on his extradition. After the countries refused to extradite Kimyongur to Turkey, in each case allowing him to return home to Belgium, Interpol finally deleted the alert. In March, Belgians started a petition demanding that their government take all necessary measures to protect Kimyongur from further threats and persecution. Although he was eventually let go by the Czech courts, he will continue to face the threat of arrest when traveling unless the Red Notice against him is revoked. In , Bulgaria handed over Abdullah Buyuk, a Turkish asylum-seeker subject to a Red Notice, to Turkey when the Bulgarian Interior Ministry decided he did not have the legal right to remain in the country, despite two Bulgarian court decisions refusing extradition. By putting a bounty on people, Turkey is using Teror Arananlar as it used Interpol before to strike fear into the hearts of people like Kimyongur, Cibelik, and Sevimli. The Teror Arananlar website, and the threats and violence directed against dissidents, is part of a disturbing trend by the Turkish authorities to sow discord among diaspora communities, to create an atmosphere of fear and mistrust, and to prevent individuals from criticizing the government even from the supposedly safe haven of the EU. Turkish dissidents living in the EU deserve to live freely without fear of Turkey pursuing them across borders. Brussels should vocally support member states so that they are able to provide adequate protection to targeted individuals to ensure citizens are not subject to politically motivated arrests. EU institutions must take a collective approach to this issue, both legally “ the European Court of Human Rights is currently investigating the extradition of Buyuk “ but also politically.

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5: A Political Sociology of European "Anti-Politics"™ and Dissent | Paul Blokker - www.enganchecuba

European Dissent Statement on Donald Trump: The success of Donald Trump's campaign for the presidency of the United States demonstrates the extent to which white supremacist beliefs still permeate our society.

Thousands of asylum seekers have been trapped for over a year in horrifying conditions in Greece, since the adoption of the EU-Turkey deal, and the organizations are deeply concerned that refugees with disabilities are being overlooked in the humanitarian response. Expand Lagkadika camp, Thessaloniki, home to asylum seekers and other migrants, as of January 5, The rocky terrain in many camps makes it difficult for people who use wheelchairs to move independently, including to access basic services such as toilets or showers. Photograph by Emina Cerimovic. The event will bring together Parliament members, European Commission representatives, organizations of people with disabilities, refugees, United Nations agencies, and aid organizations. January 18, Video Greece: Together with thousands of other migrants and asylum seekers, they remain unprotected from freezing temperatures. Participants will discuss the specific problems that refugees, asylum seekers, and other migrants with disabilities face in Europe and steps the EU should take to address the problems. Nujeen Mustafa, who uses a wheelchair and who sought refuge from the war in Syria in Germany in , will highlight that behind the statistics on migration are human beings fleeing deadly violence, some in the most challenging circumstances. They deserve dignified reception conditions, whether or not they have a disability. In January, Human Rights Watch published its findings that people with disabilities were not being properly identified in the refugee reception system in Greece. Both documented that people with disabilities had difficulties getting access to basic services such as shelter, sanitation, and medical care, and like others, had limited access to mental health care. As result, he had to start wearing diapers. But the needs of many other people with disabilities in Greece have not been met. Another problem is the lack of control and monitoring by the EU, and particularly the European Commission, to ensure that these funds benefit people with disabilities and other at-risk groups. The humanitarian response in Greece is the most expensive in history when measured by the cost per beneficiary, according to humanitarian aid specialists. The Greek government, with the support of the EU and its member states, should remove all obstacles in its asylum system preventing refugees from receiving the assistance they need. The European Commission should also ensure that the allocated aid benefits all refugees without discrimination, including people with disabilities. As a first important step, the European Commission should clearly instruct the Greek government and its partner agencies operating aid programs for refugees to ensure the inclusion of people with disabilities, and request information about how the programs it funds benefit people with disabilities and other at-risk groups. The member states of the EU should also accelerate relocation of asylum seekers, including those with disabilities, from Greece to other EU countries. Your tax deductible gift can help stop human rights violations and save lives around the world.

6: Dissent | Definition of Dissent by Merriam-Webster

European Dissent, a national network of white anti-racist organizers who work in accountability with the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond and boasts a very active Seattle chapter, issued their first national statement this week.

7: European Parliament: Spotlight on the UAE "LobeLog

The democratic nature of the European integration project is contested, and contestation and dissent seem to be on the increase, or at least becoming more visible, with the current economic crisis.

8: European Americans - Wikipedia

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9: Accountability and Transparency - IJNL Vol. 6, Iss. 3

Dissent definition is - to withhold assent or approval. law: a statement by a judge giving reasons why the judge does not agree with the decision made by the.

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