



PRESS KIT

LAUNCH OF EFA CAMPAIGN FOR THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS 2019

What is EFA?

The European Free Alliance (EFA) works to make the idea of a “Europe for all Peoples”, a political and cultural reality at the European and international level. It is an umbrella organisation that gathers 45 progressive nationalist, regionalist and autonomist parties throughout the European Union (EU), representing stateless nations, regions, and traditional minorities in Europe. It focuses its activity on the promotion of the right of self-determination of peoples, human, civil and political rights, democracy, internal enlargement, multi-level governance, devolution of powers, cultural and linguistic diversity; as well as on nationalism, regionalism, autonomy and independence. The right to self-determination is a cornerstone of the EFA’s program and ideology.

The European Free Alliance is a European Political Party recognized by the European Parliament since 2004. It is financed by the European Parliament and EFA Members. It is classified as a non-governmental organisation (asbl/vzw) under Belgian law.

The European Free Alliance is a pro-European party that endorses the European Union’s values, namely the principles of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and the rule of law. Through its constituent member parties, the European Free Alliance represents peoples from over 18 EU Member States.

2019 Manifesto

This program was approved by EFA General Assembly in 2018 in Landshut and it sums up the model of Europe that EFA claims for: a Europe for ALL peoples. In this context, all the peoples of Europe have to be able to freely choose their destiny. EFA presents a plan for peace and freedom in Europe, claims for more sustainable and green policies, defends linguistic justice and gender equality, proposes social justice to stop any kind of discrimination, and promotes a more democratic and solidarity Europe in which young people are involved in all decision making processes.

This 2019 EFA manifesto lays the policy foundations for this group. It will provide a common basis to work on throughout the 2019-2024 parliamentary term. The full document is available on our campaign website: youdecidenow.eu. You can also find copies of this manifesto in 6 different languages at the welcoming desk.



Candidates



Florian Weber

Bayernpartei



Jordi Sebastià

Bloc Nacionalista Valencià



Ana Miranda

Bloque Nacionalista Galego



Josu Juaristi

EH Bildu



Oriol Junqueras

Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya



Diana Riba

Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya



Jordi Solé

Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya



Less Károly

Magyar Kereszténydemokrata Szövetség



Geert Bourgeois

Nieuw-Vlaamse Alliantie





Candidates



Assita Kanko

Nieuw-Vlaamse Alliantie



Johan Van Overtfeldt

Nieuw-Vlaamse Alliantie



Marc Demesmaecker

Nieuw-Vlaamse Alliantie



Caroline Verdoodt

Nieuw-Vlaamse Alliantie



François Alfonsi

Régions et Peuples Solidaires



Lydie Massard

Régions et Peuples Solidaires





Declaration on self-determination

The notion and the implementation of the right to self-determination is well known in the history of Europe and of the world. The citizens of stateless nations have often used this right to democratically express their will and to take responsibility for their own future.

Exercising this right can lead to many different outcomes, all democratic options, from integration within a State to full political independence and creation of new States, reflecting the desire and the political aspirations of the peoples.

Self-determination entails the right for all people to determine their own future. The right to define and choose their own political status, their constitution and government, and the form of economic, cultural and social development.

Moreover, the right to self-determination is a fundamental principle of international law, recognized as a right belonging indistinctly to all peoples, enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

The European Free Alliance, aiming to strengthen its commitment in advocating for the right to self-determination,

DECLARES

1. that the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, be they civil, political, economic, social or cultural, can only be reached if the right of self-determination is respected;
2. that self-determination is a fundamental democratic right which completes and guarantees the implementation of human rights;
3. that its political action will be devoted to advocate for this right at the European level by demanding to the European institutions the respect, the defence and the promotion of the right to self-determination and ensuring that its implementation is guaranteed and shielded at the highest level.

The European Free Alliance, its members and all the political leaders undersigning this declaration, stand for human rights, for the right of peoples to decide upon their own future and, thus, for the universal right to self-determination.



Letter by EFA Spitzenkandidat Oriol Junqueras

Building a Europe of ALL Peoples

Dear all, thank you for being here today.

I send you my words from the prison of Soto del Real, Madrid, a few weeks after the beginning of an unfair and shameful trial, which frontally attacks the fundamental pillars of democracy and that radically denies one of the fundamental rights to any people: the right to self-determination.

This strongly contrasts with the idea of a rich and diverse Europe, in which its peoples build together a project of unity and political cooperation.

Since the first direct elections of the European Parliament, the European Free Alliance has been the voice of all the peoples in Europe who are fighting for the recognition of their rights. Because of this, and because I think that democracy is always the best defence against repression, I have decided to make a step forward as the European Free Alliance's lead candidate in the upcoming European elections.

I see my candidacy as the best way to denounce and oppose the repression that Spain imposes on us, Catalans, but ALSO to show that we continue to defend the freedom and diversity of a ALL peoples in Europe, the rights of minorities, stateless nations and regions of Europe.

Dear Friends, let me share with you my reflection on the Europe in which we live and that of the Europe we actually want to build: a Europe for ALL Peoples.

Throughout the last decades, the Western world has made efforts to build socially and economically inclusive institutions. These institutions aimed at turning heterogeneity into virtue and difference into opportunity. That's why the European Union has the potential to act as a unity, as a bigger project, while preserving the specificities of its peoples and nations.

In the last century, Europe suffered terrible wars that left wounds still difficult to heal. There have been periods in which differences were persecuted with the ultimate goal of achieving a homogeneous and uniform society, that would extirpate any kind of political dissidence or criticism.

However, even in the darkest periods of our contemporary history, the democratic values prevailed in some parts of the European territory where fundamental values were guaranteed

Unfortunately, we are recently experiencing once again that the discourse of fear is fragilizing our democracies. Populist, reactionary, xenophobic and misogynistic messages are undermining the legitimacy of democratic institutions. In such a situation of political disorientation and lack of clear references, media often normalizes this dangerous political narrative.

I am very concerned about the situation in some European countries, where the extremist parties are no longer marginal but have become decisive forces in government. The humanitarian drama in the Mediterranean Sea, the constant violation of civil and political



rights, the dismantling of the welfare state, the increase of the inequality or the hate speech towards minorities, are just some of the worrying effects of these exclusion policies.

Our project is the construction of another Europe, of a Europe for ALL peoples, which has freedom, justice, subsidiarity and diversity as basic pillars. A Europe that will put the focus of its policies on its peoples.

We want the European Union to be a free, open and diverse space. We want a European Union that allows a relationship of fraternity with the rest of the peoples of this planet. We need a welcoming Europe, a Europe that leaves no room to racism, gender-based violence and fascism. We need a democratic European government that works for economic prosperity, social justice, equal opportunities and transparency. We need the European Union to enforce the rights and freedoms of all European citizens without exceptions.

The European Union can no longer be a union of nation-states that defend their own interests. The recognition of plurality is a fundamental requirement for the construction of a peaceful and socially just Europe. That is why we will campaign for the European elections with the strength of our political commitment to freedom and justice and bearing in mind our historical responsibility. We have an ethical commitment to defend an inclusive model of society which is now under attack. Our project is an integrating project that opens doors to everyone.

The time has come for the European Union to work for ALL the peoples of Europe. The time has come for Europe to become the guardian of solidarity, tolerance, democracy and fundamental rights that are being dismantled in recent times. We appeal to all those who believe in this inclusive model of society, which is the fruit of the struggle of many generations, and that has led us to enjoy the highest levels of equality and well-being in history.

Now, we have to defend more than ever the democratic and progressive values in Europe so that Europe understands that defending the right of the peoples to decide upon their own future is to defend also the democratic future of Europe. A Europe of all Peoples.

Oriol Junqueras i Vies

EFA Spitzenkandidat