



Twelve Terrible Candidates...

European Elections 2009



This PES document presents a selection of terrible European election candidates of other European political parties. We criticize not the candidates but their views. We do so because voters have a right to see not only the candidates they can vote for directly, but also their European allies. The selection presented a difficult choice and there are certainly other candidates with even more absurd or offensive views.

Nonetheless, outside our social democratic family there are an unknown number of candidates who deny the holocaust, defend fascism, oppose Government action on climate change and hold other views that deserve to be condemned or laughed at. Whatever your reaction, we are pleased to present some candidates with views that will contribute nothing positive to the European Parliament.

Silvio Berlusconi, Italy

Partito del Popolo della Libertà (EPP)

Head of list in all five electoral regions



Reason for inclusion

Silvio Berlusconi is heading his party's European election lists in all five Italian electoral regions but has absolutely no intention of being an MEP for any region.

Mr Berlusconi has been put on trial at least six times over financial matters. Although found guilty on three occasions, he was later acquitted or benefited from the expiry of the statute of limitations

Mr Berlusconi and his family control half the television output, one of four national newspapers, one of two news magazines and the biggest publishing house, giving him long-term influence on the views of his compatriots that no contemporary politician can rival.

Derk-Jan Eppink, Belgium

Lijst Dedecker (Lijst Dedecker is not in the European Parliament and has not confirmed which group they would join) / First on reserve list (de facto head of list, as actual head of list, Jean-Marie Dedecker, has stated he will not take up his position).



Mr Eppink is a former fonctionnaire with the European Commission, a journalist and author of many books on the EU, now standing for the right-wing Lijst Dedecker.

Reason for inclusion

"As a Dutchman living in Flanders I have the impression that the life of a white, heterosexual Dutchman with a good job

and an expensive car is not easy. He has to pay taxes and has to shut up. He gets blamed for racial and sexual discrimination, the fact that he earns much money is deemed 'anti-social' and his car pollutes the environment. As he does not belong to any minority group, he is 'unlucky'. Soon he will have to pay penance for slavery."

Jaime Mayor Oreja, Spain

Partido Popular (EPP)

Head of list



Mr Mayor Oreja is Member of the European Parliament and head of the Spanish delegation to the EPP-ED group.

Reason for inclusion

Mayor Oreja has not spoken in a European Parliament plenary session since November 2007.

Mayor Oreja refused to support the Declaration condemning General Franco's regime 70 years after his coup d'état in the Plenary of July 2007.

"Why should I have to condemn Franco's regime?"

"I did not condemn Franco, I praise the democratic transition. How can I condemn what represents, without a doubt, a very big part of Spanish society?"

Igor Gräzin, Estonia

Estonian Reform Party (ALDE)

Third on the list (de facto second, as actual second candidate announced he will not take up office if elected)



Reason for inclusion

Mr. Gräzin signed papers for establishing Libertas as a Europe wide political party, and later claimed that his signature was false. However, the papers that Libertas submitted to the European Parliament include a copy of his passport and Parliamentary Card.

"I know many nice Finns and some of them are even politicians. I truly love to be with them in Sauna or a forest ranger's home. But when it comes to policies I have always a feeling that it is better to look over your shoulder, all the time.

".... Finns are nice people who fail endemically with their governments. The depressive shock of Winter War and all that followed in Moscow will take generations to pass. (Think about Moses!) Paradox was: we were enslaved, but our soul remained free; Finland remained free but kekkonens-paasikivis-koivistos still sit in many Finns' sub-freudian consciousness.

"TO SUM UP. Estonian pleasures (festivals, drinking, some soft porno etc) come for both of us: Finns and Estonians. But when it comes to the security and political issues, then better to look to Swedes, Byelorussians and NATO.

Brice Hortefeux, France

Union pour un mouvement populaire (EPP)

Third on the list of 'Centre Massif Central' electoral district and is the Minister of Social Affairs and Employment.

Reason for inclusion

Brice Hortefeux once said on TV that illegal immigrants were neither "honest" nor "clean".

As a Minister for immigration, integration; national identity and co-development during the French Presidency, he pushed forward a very conservative European Pact for immigration which was considerably watered down by the Council.

He made it more difficult for foreign families to come to France to reunite with a relative working legally in France and settled strict yearly quotas for the expulsion of immigrants, without distinguishing those newly entered in the country or those who had been living, working and paying tax for years.

He is now a Minister for Work and Employment, and he is pushing forward a law to allow people to work on Sundays, introducing a serious breach in French tradition. However, he does not give the impression of a serious minister who knows well the reality of the work market or its impact on the daily life of the people he is working for, not even knowing what the amount of the minimum salary in France is.

While France is ranking 23rd out of 30 OECD countries for youth unemployment (18% of 15 – 24 year olds are unemployed), the Minister for Employment and Social Affairs is absent from the debate on the economic crisis.

Monica Macovei, Romania
Partidul Democrat-Liberal (EPP)
Second on the list

Monica Macovei is the former Minister of Justice.

Reason for inclusion

A perpetual critic of the justice reform pace in Romania after being dethroned as Minister of Justice, Mrs Macovei is a controversial person. She uses foreign events as an opportunity to criticize her own country and to brand as corrupt opposing politicians. Macovei even said recently that Romania should not receive EU funds anymore, clearly an issue contrary to the country's



interests. She enjoys high EPP support for her positions (this political family has always been a strong critic of Romania), being awarded a 'Woman of Europe' title in 2008, for supposed merits relating to justice reform in 2005-2006 (and not 2007 or 2008). The award was given by EPP MEP Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou, head of AIPFE (International Association for the Promotion of Women in Europe) and handed by Hans Gert Poettering, former EPP Group leader in the EP.

János Áder, Hungary
Fidesz (EPP)
Fourth on the List



Hungarian MP and former leader of conservative opposition party Fidesz

Reason for inclusion

János Áder, chairing the plenary sitting in the Hungarian Parliament in December 2008, compared the handshake of Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsány and Finance Minister János Veres, following the adoption of the budget, to the infamous moment when the then East German President Honecker kissed the then Soviet President Brezhnev on the mouth.

The comparison of elected Socialist Parliamentarians with communist dictators, and to a shockingly subservient gesture, is offensive, and ridiculous.

Hynek Fajmon, Czech Republic
Občanská demokratická strana (due to leave EPP to set up new group with British Conservatives) Seventh on the list



Hynek Fajmon is Member of the European Parliament since 2004.

Reason for inclusion

Mr Fajmon voted against the European Parliament's report on EU future policy on climate change (e.g. the 'Florenz report').

"The Earth's climate has changed, is changing and will change regardless of whether or not we want it to. This will not be influenced in any way by the absurd undertakings which the EU is imposing on itself in this area. The Florenz report asserts that the climate undertakings adopted by the EU in 2007 are insufficient and that they must be increased. I do not agree with this. As long as the EU is the only part of the world reducing its emissions then the target of reducing global emissions will never be achieved. All we will achieve will be that a large proportion of European businesses will relocate and jobs will be lost. The report's authors want to change everything in Europe, from food menus to tourism, where social tourism is to become the official aim. Even Mao-Tse-Tung would feel proud of such a cultural revolution where everything old is chucked out and replaced with the new."

Peter Šťastný, Slovakia
*Slovenská demokratická a kresťanská únia (EPP)
Second on the list*

Peter Šťastný is Member of the European Parliament since 2004. Between 1980 and 1995, he was a professional ice hockey player in the North American National Hockey League (NHL).



Reason for inclusion

Mr Šťastný, whose Slovak party is in opposition, initiated a monitoring group for Slovakia in the European People's Party, despite the fact that Slovakia has a democratically elected parliament and a legitimate government. Mr Šťastný's initiative gave the impression that Slovakia lacks a democratic system of government and does not respect human and citizen rights.

Marian Krzaklewski, Poland
*Platforma Obywatelska (EPP)
Head of list in Podkarpacie electoral region*



Marian Krzaklewski was the leader of right-wing party, Solidarity Electoral Action, which fell apart when internal struggles undermined its public support.

Reason for inclusion

"The [Polish] Constitution is worse than the Soviet invasion."

"It is much harder to down half a litre of vodka than to bring down the government."

"17th October can last one, two or even three days."

Nick Griffin, United Kingdom
British National Party
Head of list



Mr Griffin is the leader of the far-right British National Party.

Reason for inclusion

Mr Griffin was convicted for incitement to racial hatred and Holocaust denial.

“I am well aware that the orthodox opinion is that six million Jews were gassed and cremated and turned into lampshades. Orthodox opinion also once held that the Earth was flat ... I have reached the conclusion that the 'extermination' tale is a mixture of Allied wartime propaganda, extremely profitable lie, and latter witch-hysteria”.

Dear Reader who would you include?

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