

**Question for written answer E-004370/2021
to the Council**

Rule 138

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Subject: Time to address extreme left-wing violence in Europe

The pan-European phenomenon of extreme left-wing violence threatening people with different opinions must be addressed, as the Slovenian EU Council Presidency has stated.

In Greece, this form of violence has been murderous, even against minors and pregnant women.

In Spain, during the pre-electoral period, a wave of violent riots by extreme left-wing groups caused widespread catastrophe and left dozens of people injured.

In France, the *islamo-gauchisme* (Islamist far-left) movement terrorises people whose opinions differ from theirs.

In 2019, Italy reported 98 terrorist attacks and 111 arrests for anarchist and extreme left-wing violence.

According to the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention, 40 % of elected Swedish Democrats have reported violence against them, with half of the attacks being carried out by 'left-wing extremists'.

A recent Europol and EU intelligence and Situation Centre report¹ revealed an increase in extreme left-wing violence.

The Slovenian EU Council Presidency aims to discuss a) the usefulness of agreeing on specific EU actions against left-wing violent extremism, as has been done for right-wing violent extremism, and b) whether policies at international level are sufficient to address the problem.

1. Does the Council intend to address far-left violence in internal policies, in the same way that it has tackled 'political terrorism, including the threat from the extreme right or left' through foreign policy?
2. Could a mapping of ideological violence be useful in finding customised solutions to the problem?
3. Does it agree that the protection of human life should be the EU's top social priority?

¹ <https://agenceurope.eu/en/bulletin/article/12753/8>