

# European Election 2024

## Living Without Fear and Harm

(preferably not only in Europe)

### European Election 2024



**Go Vote! Freedom, Equality, Care and Cooperation**

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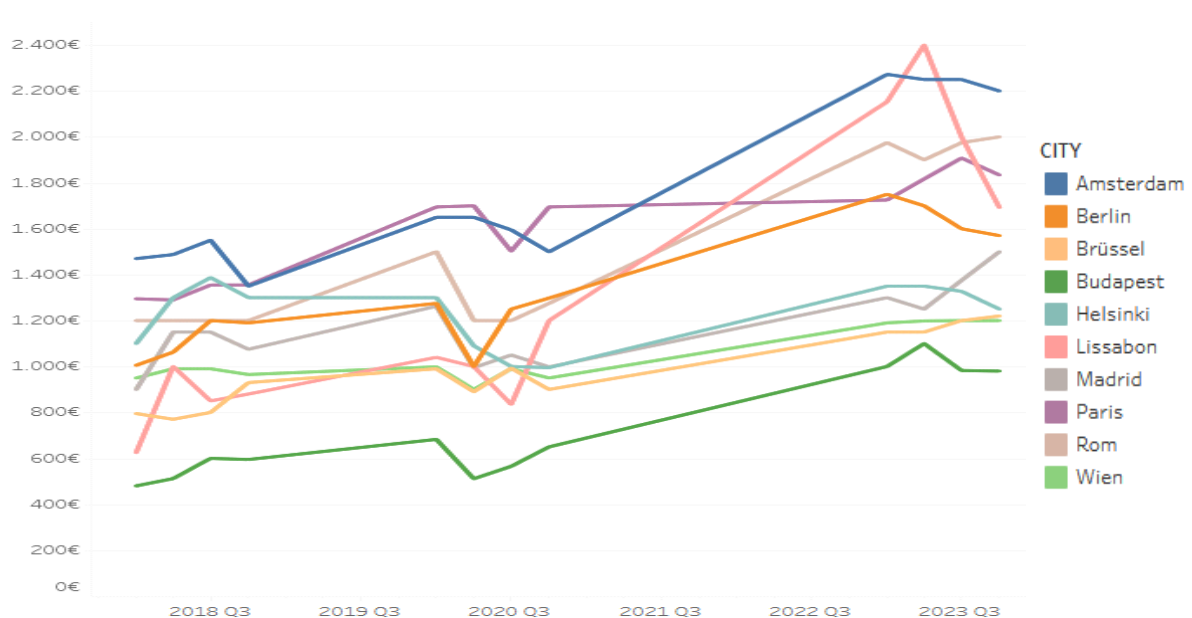
#### Introduction

*What would be a left-wing demand?*

#### *Nonsense from the AFD*

There are cracks running through Europe - not just between those who are for and against Europe, but between those who are wealthy and live in good, paid-off homes, and those who live in homes in need of renovation or rented accommodation. And these cracks are between urban and rural areas, between the south, east, west, and north, or the center of Europe.

*Exploding rents in urban centers:* These cracks follow money and capital: tenants live in the truly major urban centers with corresponding companies and branches, while the majority of homeowners reside in rural areas or the "periphery." And with growing migration to the centers, there is increasing fear of unaffordable rents, eviction, and homelessness - often even among people who have had long careers and are now retirees.



The number of evictions in Berlin increases annually by about 300. Figure 1 shows the exploding rental prices in the European capitals for new rentals, which the lower two-thirds of the population can no longer afford. As Figure 1 shows, rental prices in all European capitals have increased by at least 200 euros in just 5 years, averaging 400 euros, and sometimes even up to 800 euros. Which person has an additional 400 euros or even 800 euros to spare to pay their correspondingly increased rent?

*Houses in need of renovation and decaying in rural areas:* But it's not just the rents in the centers of production and money that are the problem, but also the condition of the houses and the rising interest rates in rural areas in Europe, especially in the East, South, and West. There, more people live in rural areas, the economy is even more dominated by agriculture, crafts, and industry, and incomes are low. And more than 90% of people there live in their own homes or apartments (Figure 2, horizontal axis. To explain the vertical axis: wealthy countries have a larger service sector), which often need extensive renovation and modernization and also pose a real problem in terms of energy consumption.

The European Central Bank has severely limited the possibility of obtaining money for renovation by raising interest rates. If there were any money reserves available at all to obtain loans for renovation. And even less money is available to change the apartment in such a way that less energy is consumed. However, less energy consumption through better insulation is what we need to limit climate change.

Thus, homeowners in rural areas face further indebtedness (the number of registered mortgages is increasing, mortgage interest rates have risen significantly, especially in Eastern Europe). The exodus from rural areas and creeping expropriation continue: the youth move to urban centers or migrate to the center or north of Europe, the value of properties in the "periphery" declines, and when the parents die, a half-ruin remains, which is sold for little money and possibly still burdened with mortgages. This further compels the youth to seek work at any price in the meat industry, logistics, and cleaning because a return to the parental home is no longer possible. And then rent eats away at the wages earned in the centers.

### **What would be a left-wing response to these problems?**

*In the short term, rent controls in major urban centers are inevitable.*

*Social housing construction in European major cities:* In urban centers, a share of at least 85% of condominiums or social housing could be a solution. If the share of ownership decreases, social housing construction must be correspondingly increased.

Specifically, nonprofit cooperatives with social housing should be supported if they offer opportunities for democratic participation. Because we are smart enough to shape our everyday environment alone and together.

*Partial expropriation of housing construction companies:* If the share of privately rented apartments together with condominiums exceeds this value of 85%, then significant rent increases threaten. Therefore, in this case, housing construction companies should be expropriated of a corresponding number of apartments.

*Long-term low-interest loans for the lower 50% with homeownership,* if it needs renovation or modernization. Completely interest-free loans could help with the energy renovation of these houses, and these loans could then be repaid with the money saved from energy costs.

So, a left-wing response would be that the many are not deprived of their private property in housing, which forces them into fear of homelessness and debt, and makes them even more dependent on any form of work.

### **And what do the alternative losers demand for Germany and elsewhere in Europe?**

For example, no climate policy requirements for buildings. **How sweet:** They welcome the perpetual rain in the North and the heatwaves with water shortages in the South!

For example, the repeal of the "Residential Real Estate Credit Directive." **How wonderful,** so we can plunge into the next financial crisis even sooner!

For example, reducing migration. **How nice,** then we'll see AfD members in the jobs currently held by migrants. One thing is for sure - it will be pleasantly quieter again!

**And what are they not demanding?** Any help for people suffering from high rents or lack of money for renovations.

**The AfD - just a party of the well-off and socially established.**