

News from European Parliamentary Labour Party

Press Release

London, 24th October 2008

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Stop the BNP in Europe!

This years London elections saw the election of a BNP Assembly Member. The recent elections in Austria saw the two far right parties share 29% of the vote. All across Europe Labour, Social Democrat and Socialist parties are facing an electoral fight with the far right.

On Monday 27th October, the first public event to plan fighting the BNP in the upcoming European Elections will take place at the House of Commons. The European Parliamentary Labour Party and the Young Fabians will be hosting a discussion on how progressive voices and forces should act together to prevent the BNP and other far right parties winning seats in the 2009 European Elections.

Labour MEP Claude Moraes, who will be speaking at the event, commented:

"The European Union was born from the ashes of a Europe divided by racist and fascist politics. It is abhorrent to see them on the rise again. If we look at the example of the fingerprinting of Roma and Sinti people in Italy we see the danger of the rise of the far right in European countries."

"Campaigns and action to tackle the forces dividing our societies could not be more timely. Labour MEPs are committed to standing up against the shameful politics of division, hatred and xenophobia which characterise the far right." added **Claude Moraes MEP**.

Labour MP David Lammy, who will also be speaking at the EPLP and Young Fabian event commented: *"It is deeply disturbing that the BNP won a seat on the Greater London Assembly back in May - we now have a bigoted voice with a say in the future direction of our diverse capital. In the European Elections in 2009, the stakes are even higher. In the wake of the very worrying election results in Austria, it is vital that we stand together to oppose racism, fascism and extremism wherever we see it. Unions, churches and faith*

groups across Europe are involved in fighting the far right like never before. It is time again for politicians to lead this fight. We are kicking extremism off our football terraces; we are kicking it out of our shops and factories. Let's kick it out of our politics too."

Notes to editors:

1. The event will take place on **Monday 27th October 18:00-20:00 Attlee Suite, Portcullis House, House of Commons**. Please get in touch with Brian.Duggan@europarl.europa.eu if you like to attend the event.

For more information please call the European Parliamentary Labour Party press officer, Silke Thomson on +32 479 790 053.

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