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Right and far-right rubber-stamp NGO witch-hunt report at European Parliament

Pia Engelbrecht-Bogdanov · Tuesday, November 24th, 2026

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The European People's Party has today sided with the far right in approving the final report from the so-called Scrutiny Working Group (SWG) on NGOs, entrenching its longstanding assault on European civil society. This report emanates from an illegitimate body set up last year as to ostensibly scrutinise the EU's funding of civil society organisations, particularly those receiving funding on environmental issues via the EU's LIFE programme.

The report reconfirms that no evidence of wrongdoing by NGOs exists. The European Parliament has spent a year wasting its time on attacking those who take citizen concerns to the EU level, instead of investigating the real and repeated allegations of EU funds misuse by the far right.

The SWG has been boycotted by progressive groups from the offset. As a result, today's vote mirrors a year-long echo chamber at which the European right has peddled myths and falsehoods about civil society. Their objectives were clear from the outset. This political circus was meant to discredit civil society, distract from its core mission, and ultimately defund it in the next EU budget cycle.

Nick Aiossa, Director at Transparency International EU, said:

> "The far-right are today rejoicing at a sham report from an illegitimate Parliamentary body. These are attacks that one would normally see coming from autocrats. It is beyond parody that some of the same MEPs who voted in favour of this nefarious report belong to political groups alleged to have misspent vast amounts of taxpayers' money. The Parliament should return to its roots of supporting civic space and

> scrutinising real wrongdoing.”

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