A CRUCIAL YEAR FOR EUROPE

On the 2024 European elections

Letter to the readers of "La Presse" (4/12/2023)

The division of the world is deepening. In the great geopolitical crises of Ukraine and Israel, the attacked side becomes the object of aggression simply because "the West" is behind it. This is equated with the U.S. struggle for world domination, which provokes a corresponding reaction.

90% of the world's population increasingly rejects domination. The U.S. and Europe are still ahead, but it is shortening significantly and the recovery process of up to 90% is accelerating. Countries such as China and Russia are dramatically increasing their military budgets, fighting against the dominance of the dollar as the world's reserve currency and trying to gain technological independence from the United States.

The U.S. is self-sufficient in most areas and can return to an isolationist path at any time. Europe, on the other hand, is dependent, above all, on energy and raw materials. The European strategy can only be to conclude multipolar partnerships before the bills are paid. Of course, Europe must defend its values, first and foremost by living them firsthand. It has become a continent of peace and must therefore commit itself to peace, partnership, and tolerance. As all major problems such as the climate crisis, financial speculation and refugee flows can only be tackled in the form of global solutions, this requires an agreement within Europe and therefore the ability to act globally.

2024 is a crucial year for Europe. The European Parliament is re-elected, and the Commission is appointed for a five-year term. Five crucial years in which the face of the world will change. In a positive or negative direction for us and for Europe? We still have the opportunity to decide in our hands. And this is something that we should seriously discuss in the coming months. The future of future generations should be worth it for us.

Dr. Christoph Leitl, President of the European Movement Austria, 1040 Vienna