**Working session**

**"How could the EU support local structures in the prevention of radicalization policies": "The city at the heart of the prevention of radicalization. Three cities, three case studies”. 24 de enero de 2018. Altiero Spinelli A5G-1**

**INTRODUCTION AND WELCOMES: 5 minutes**

Dear Members, dear guests, friends, good morning to all and welcome to your house, the European Parliament.

First of all I would like to thank the enormous effort that the promoters of this project have been doing. For me it is an honour to be part of Practicies and to promote a key issue: the fight against radicalization and terrorism. Specifically the creation of a European network in the field of research and identification of best practices in the fight against radicalization. I think it is a unique opportunity and I will spare no effort in helping to achieve this task.

To finish the acknowledgements, I would like to make a special one to Seraphin, Rut, Arantza, Julio and Bernard in recognition of their involvement and hard work to give life to Practicies. Practicies is a key project that has the partnership of 9 European universities, 10 cities (including mine, Madrid) 8 companies and associations and 6 public institutions (such as the Ministry of the Interior of Spain). In addition, the advisory board is made up of academic personalities of the highest level.

Finally, I would also like to mention my colleague Rachida Dati, the other member who is also part of the advisory board and who has not been able to join our session, but who will be fully available to guarantee the success of the project. And also I would like to present my other colleagues at the advisory board of Practicies, who are present today; Ms Verena Fabris, responsible for the *Extremism Information Centre* at the Centre of competence for Open Youth Work in Austria, and Ms. Dominque Bons, Founder of the association *Sirye ne bouge, agissons, who represents the parents of radicalised sons and daughters.*

I am also pleased to have with us Silvio Mascagna, from Mr Commissioner King cabinet, and Mr Filippo Terrus from the cabinet of Mr Lambertz, the president of the Committee of the Regions. Welcome you both to the European Parliament thank you very much for your presence.

We are here to address a serious social problem that needs an urgent institutional, academic, political and social response.

In a globalized world, in front of global problems, the answers cannot be local. Not even national. They have to be global responses but locally managed. Think globally, act locally. That is the idea behind Practicies.

To talk deeply about it, I’m giving the floor to **Dr. Nada Milisavljevic,** the Policy Office from the European Commission, DG Migration and Home Affairs, the ones who approved the project Practicies. She will inform us about the *“EU strategies to support local structures in prevention policies”. Nada, please, the floor is yours.*

[10 minutes]

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Thank you Nada. \*\* (algunas palabras de transición para presentar al próximo ponente).

Now I would like to give the floor to **Prof. Séraphin Alava.** Seraphin is the Project Coordinator of PRACTICIES European. He is the main leader of the project who know better than anyone the technicalities and specificities of it. Seraphin will talk about the city at the heart of the prevention of radicalization. Seraphin, please, the floor is your.

[10 minutes]

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Thank you very much Seraphin \*\* (palabras de transición y presentamos al siguiente)

**And last from this panel, but not least, I give the floor to Prof. Rut Bermejo**. Rut works at the University Rey Juan Carlos from Madrid. She is also an expert and one of the main promoters of Practicies. She will talk about *How should we design and implement prevention policies in the cities? The relevance of research. Rut, the floor is yours.*

[10 minutes]

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\*\*\* A continuación le das la palabra y presentas a las otras 2 miembros del advisory board que no están en el panel:

* **Ms Verena Fabri**s Responsible for the *Extremism Information Centre* at Centre of competence for Open Youth Work in Austria, who will inform about their valuable job with youth and;

* **Ms Dominque Bons**. Founder of the association *Sirye ne bouge, agissons, who represents parents whose sons have got radicalised.*

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Before going ahead with the next panel I would like to make some remarks about a practical question: ***“What role should be played by European Parliament and the rest of EU institutions to help the cities as relevant actors?” (5 minutes)***

As MEP I have spent a good part of my work advocating for policies that promote the prevention, detection and deactivation of radicalization processes. That is why I decided less than a year ago to create AWARE: the first network of women against radicalization and extremism. We intend to become a meeting point for the dozens of valuable initiatives that are being developed throughout Europe, so that they can share information, knowledge and good practices.

Precisely the fusion and connection of initiatives like AWARE with Practicies are the key to success, and that is what Practicies represents: ***a European network capable of mobilizing European cities and researchers from the fields of humanities, social sciences and more to offer new methods and approaches to understanding the phenomenon of radicalization leading to violence and to build new prevention tools and practices.***

The EU approved in 2005 the EU Strategy for the fight against terrorism, with its four pillars of prevention, protection, persecution and response, and the different updates give a response to the new challenges related to radicalization and terrorism. The respective national governments were responsible for complying with these agreements while involving civil society entities.

More than ten years later, it is clear that these efforts have not reached our expectations. The European Union's strategy to combat radicalization and terrorist recruitment has failed in its application to these second generations to whom, precisely, they were addressed. In recent years many other initiatives have been developed, but they have proved a moderate effectiveness. The causes are both the great disparities between Member States in undertaking responsibility for counteracting radicalization and terrorist recruitment and the urgency of undertaking combined European action to effectively contain and prevent such processes.

The worst thing is that in the European Institutions, as well as within the EU countries, there is widespread confusion about what the real nature of the problem is and what should be done about it. It urges the rethinking of the concept of radicalization. We need to clarify whether the measures to be adopted in this process are only aimed at preventing individuals from being involved in terrorist activities or trying to face up to rigorist and extremist views of the Islamic creed. For example the spread of Salafists and similar ones, whose actions provoke the segregation of entire collectivities of Muslims within European societies. And also have created fractures between Muslims and non-Muslims exploited by terrorists.

When we talk about the fight against terrorism we should not be tempted to reduce it to a technical security problem. It certainly is, but also appeals to the deepest foundations of the European Union. Because when a young man born and raised in Europe leaves his family, his friends and his country to go to Syria or Iraq and join the ranks of the most abhorrent terrorist organization, this not only frightens us, but also disconcerts us.

How is it possible? We ask ourselves. What are we not doing right? If, instead of traveling to the Middle East, he stays in his country to kill fellow citizens, fear and confusion grow. And when the one who leaves everything is a young girl who submits to a life of submission without rights, we simply cannot understand it. And this is one of the challenges: understand and make understand.
No, it's not just a security problem. They are a failure of European values. A failure that explains other phenomena very different from radicalization, such as growing populism or xenophobia. And it is a problem that appeals, no doubt, to the security forces and the intelligence services, but also to all the political institutions responsible for promoting the European construction, the European dream of freedom, equality and fraternity.

The European Commission promotes groups of experts to detect and disseminate best practices against radicalization in Europe: the Policy Planning Network on polarization and radicalism (PPN) and the radicalization knowledge network (RAN). However, much of the information generated by these groups is not public. It is necessary to share and also to designate an expert by Member State to be responsible for disseminating information in each country. Another problem is that there is no real organized and coordinated structure to guide and standardize the best practices of all Member States.

There is a lot of information exchanged and a lot of funding for different ad hoc projects. There are networks, but without a unified and common guide. Although there is a working group in the RAN aimed at local authorities, there is no long-term vision to coordinate and create a European structure that develops a true European policy of cities against radicalization. And this is the key.
Something essential and necessary that the European Union should do about this, is to create a common structure, which could be called a "**European Platform of Cities Against Radicalization**". This Platform should support the coordination of local agents at European level and establish common policies, their regulation and permanent monitoring. Its importance in the prevention and fight against radicalization is vital.

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So without more delay I am pleased to go ahead with the following guests who will reflect about *the challenge of radicalization in the cities: when cities innovate in prevention.*

To talk about this issue I am pleased to present a real expert on the topic. He has been implementing the cutting edge policies on prevention of radicalisation in Spain at the municipality of Málaga. I am pleased to present you Mr. Julio Andrade, Vice- mayor of the city of Malaga, who will talk about “The cross-cutting plan for conviviality and prevention of violent radicalisation in the city of Malaga”. Julio the floor is yours.

[15 minutes]

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\*\*\*(algunas palabras de transición para presentar al próximo ponente).

And finally I have the pleasure to introduce **Mr. Bernard Clerfayt**. Mayor of the city of Schaerbeek and member and vice-president of the Brussels Parliament.

Mr Clerfayt, please, the floor is yours.

 **CONCLUSIONES -- 5 minutos**

*\*\*\* Antes de empezar, puedes ceder la palabra en este momento a Silvio Mascagna, del gabinete de King, a Johanna Lindblom Deputy Secretary General from the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe and to Filippo Terruso member of the CdR president.*

So before giving the floor to the audience I would like to summarised some of the main ideas that we have raised today:

* **PRACTICIES is a necessary initiative**. It is a pioneering idea, whose main achievement is to share something crucial: work and knowledge, that is, synergies between administrations and public institutions, the private sector and civil society to prevent and raise awareness about hate speech and radicalization.
* But we still need to create European structures in all areas of the fight against radicalization. Practices is an excellent and brilliant initiative, a **starting point to continue** **creating a real European policy of cities against radicalization.**
* In this sense it is vital **to create a common intelligence service**, where bureaucratic obstacles are eliminated and where all the relevant information is shared. All this would greatly facilitate the work of detection and prevention of municipalities.
* Of course, this is where the need for a **truly common defense policy** comes from, perhaps with a European army. And, of course, we need a **common foreign policy** that is much more ambitious and powerful than the current one. These are political challenges that take us to greater European integration and we could talk about it at length, but that exceeds the purpose of this act.
* We have the academic ground, the initiatives and the willingness of many people to get involved in this cause. But **we lack coordination and institutional impulse to create a real European policy against radicalization**, which systematizes, shares and replicates the success stories and the accumulated experience of many people, organizations and municipalities.