

EU ON BRINK: ‘Mistrust in European politics is GROWING’ - French say bloc could be DOOMED

TRUST in European politics is surging and the need to protect Europe’s borders is a now matter of life and death for the bloc, France’s leading conservatives said in an open letter. The bloc’s free movement rules cannot apply to “illegal immigrants and terrorists,” who in recent years have exploited the EU’s porous borders, the right-wingers wrote in the letter published in the French daily Le Figaro.



French anti-riot CRS police officers escort migrants and refugees

Conservative leader Laurent Wauquiez and top right-wingers Bruno Retailleau, Christian Jacob and Franck Proust wrote: “Europe is faced with a matter of life and death: it must either choose to protect itself, or disappear.

“The first thing Europe needs to protect is its borders. The fact that some two million people have managed to enter the Schengen area illegally in the past two years is a collective failure.

“Migratory pressures have spiralled out of control, and Europe won’t be able to cope with the huge influx of migrants for much longer.

“Member states need to retake control of their national borders, at least until the EU finds a better way to protect its external borders and alleviate the migratory pressure.”

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Head of France's rightwing Les Republicains (LR) opposition party Laurent Wauquiez

The French hardliners added that it should be "up to Europeans to decide who can enter Europe".

"The principle of free movement of people cannot include illegal immigrants and terrorists," they warned, referring to Tunisian jihadist Anis Amri to support their argument.

The 24-year-old extremist killed 12 people in December 2016 after he ploughed a truck into a crowded Christmas market in Berlin.

The youth, who was a paperless immigrant, was illegally registered under 14 aliases, according to German officials.

"The fact that [terrorists] have been able to travel freely across Europe tragically demonstrates the need to radically reform the border-free Schengen zone," they continued.

“We need to see things as they really are: mistrust in the European project is growing, as demonstrated by Brexit and the recent elections in Austria, Germany and Italy. But these concerns are legitimate, and should be seen as beneficial electroshocks.

“If we are truly attached to the idea of a united Europe, then we must fix the bloc’s ‘deepest flaws’,” the right-wingers said.

“We cannot go on as before – more norms, more technocracy, further expansion – it is the worst possible solution. Just more of what doesn’t work, basically.”

Europe must also protect its civilisation, they said: “Some have tried to strip Europe of its borders and identity... But it is now time for us to change the European Union, and to turn it into the Europe Europeans actually want.”

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