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Campaigns Without Frontiers: The Europeanisation of the 2019 Elections to the European Parliament Based on the Appearance of Foreign Politicians in National Campaigns

A compelling feature of the 2019 European elections was the appearance of foreign politicians in the domestic campaigns of the member states. Besides some Spitzenkandidaten, politicians like Matteo Salvini, or Viktor Orbán campaigned outside their own countries. Others, like Marine Le Pen were used in campaign communication by parties in other nations, for example as an impending threat to the European Union. We could consider them "imported goods" as they previously had no or limited political presence in other nations but suddenly their names and ideas became elements of politics. This development suggests that the gradual Europeanisation of continental politics is not only issue based but also character based and may create a new, common cast of characters recognizable in all member states. Our research focuses on the appearances of such politicians to assess the different models of Europeanisation observed during the latest campaign. Findings based on the European Election Monitoring Centre data indicate that there is an increasing emphasis on such bottom-up processes in long-term Europeanisation.