

***‘Navigating Europe from the Periphery: CHEGA’s Radical Right Populist Discourse in the 2024 European Parliament Elections’***

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**Summary:** This article examines CHEGA’s discursive strategy during the 2024 European Parliament elections, exploring how this late-emerging Radical Right Populist (RRP) party from Portugal articulated core ideological tenets of the RRP party family — nativism, authoritarianism, and populism — and related themes in a supranational context. Employing a case study design and qualitative content analysis (QCA) of televised interviews and CHEGA’s European manifesto, the study investigates whether the party strategically recalibrated its domestic nationalist-populist discourse for the European arena. The findings reveal that nativism dominates CHEGA’s rhetoric, particularly through anti-immigration narratives, economic nationalism, and appeals to national sovereignty framed within EU subsidiarity debates. Populist anti-elite narratives target both domestic and European elites, while authoritarian themes such as security and law-and-order concerns remain present but less prominent. Overall, CHEGA primarily uses the European Parliament as a platform for domestic signaling rather than full Europeanization, confirming the relevance of the second-order election thesis. This study contributes to comparative literature by advancing our understanding of how peripheral and late-emerging RRP actors engage with European-level institutions, broadening the geographic scope of radical exemplary scholarship beyond Western and Northern Europe.

**Key words:** European Union; Radical Right Populist; CHEGA; European elections 2024