

= Progress Party (Norway) =

The Progress Party (Bokmål : Fremskrittspartiet , Nynorsk : Framstegspartiet , FrP) is a political party in Norway which identifies as classical liberal (libertarian) and conservative @-@ liberal . Academics broadly categorise the party as neoliberal (moderate or non @-@ radical) populist , while the party itself , Norway 's Prime Minister Erna Solberg , centrist parties , and some scholars reject any comparison with foreign right @-@ wing populist parties . In coalition with the Conservative Party , the party won the 2013 parliamentary election and entered into its first ever government .

Founded by Anders Lange in 1973 as an anti @-@ tax protest movement , the party values individual freedom strongly , supports market liberalism , and advocates downsizing bureaucracy and the public sector , while also proposing increased spending of Norway 's public Oil Fund to invest in infrastructure , rejecting the notion of the " budgetary rule " . The party also seek a more restrictive immigration policy and tougher integration and law and order measures . In foreign policy it is strongly Atlanticist , and pro @-@ globalization . Long @-@ time chairman Carl I. Hagen was from 1978 to 2006 the undisputed leader of the party , and in many ways personally controlled the ideology and direction of the party ; most notably demonstrated by effectively expelling the most radical libertarian faction in 1994 , and anti @-@ immigration populists in 2001 . The current leader of the party is Siv Jensen , who since 2013 is also Norway 's Minister of Finance .

The party became the second largest party in Norway for the first time in the 1997 parliamentary election , a position it also held following the elections in 2005 and 2009 ; in 2013 it dropped to third largest . The other parties in parliament historically refused any formal governmental cooperation with the Progress Party , but after a long period of work to unite the political right in Norway , helped by Siv Jensen devising a more moderate liberal leadership , the party entered into a coalition with the Conservative Party , which from 2013 makes up the current Norwegian government (with parliamentary support from two smaller centrist parties) .

= = History = =

= = Anders Lange 's Party = = =

The Progress Party was founded at a meeting at the movie theater Saga Kino in Oslo on 8 April 1973 , attended by around 1 @, @ 345 persons . The address was held by Anders Lange , after whom the party was named Anders Lange 's Party for a Strong Reduction in Taxes , Duties and Public Intervention , commonly known as Anders Lange 's Party , and abbreviated ALP . Lange had some political experience from the interwar era Fatherland League , and was part of the Norwegian resistance movement during the Second World War . Since the end of the war , he had worked as an independent right @-@ wing political editor and public speaker . Lange held his first public speech as chairman of ALP at Youngstorget in Oslo on 16 May the same year . ALP was to a large extent inspired by the Danish Progress Party , which was founded by Mogens Glistrup . Glistrup also spoke at the event , which gathered around 4 @, @ 000 attendees .

Originally , Anders Lange wanted the party to be an anti @-@ tax protest movement rather than a common political party . The party had a brief political platform on a single sheet of paper that on one side listed ten things the party was " tired of " , and on the other side ten things that they were in favour of . The protest was directed against what Lange claimed to be an unacceptable high level of taxes , subsidies , and foreign aid . In the 1973 parliamentary election , the party won 5 percent of the vote and gained four seats in the Norwegian parliament . The main reasons for the success has later been seen by scholars as a mixture of tax protests , the charisma of Anders Lange , the role of television , the aftermath of the 1972 EC membership referendum and the political development in Denmark . The first party conference was held in Hjelmeland in 1974 , where the party established its first political conventions .

= = = Progress Party and Carl I. Hagen = = =

In early 1974 , Kristofer Almås , Deputy Member of Parliament Carl I. Hagen , along with some others , broke away and formed the short @-@ lived Reform Party . The background for this was a criticism of ALPs " undemocratic organisation " and lack of a real party program . However , in the same year , Anders Lange died ; consequently Hagen stepped in as a regular Member of Parliament in Lange 's place . As a result , the Reform Party merged back into ALP already the following year . The party adopted its current name , the Progress Party , on 29 January 1977 , inspired by the great success of the Danish Progress Party . The Progress Party performed poorly in the 1977 parliamentary election , and was left without parliamentary representation . In the 1978 party convention , Carl I. Hagen was elected as party chairman . Hagen soon started to expand the political program of the party , and built a conventional party organisation , a step which Lange and some of his followers had opposed . The party 's youth organisation , the Progress Party 's Youth , was also established in 1978 . Hagen succeeded in sharpening the image of the party as an anti @-@ tax movement . His criticism of the wisdom of hoarding billions of dollars in the " Oil Fund " hit a nerve owing to perceived declines in infrastructure , schools , and social services and long queues at hospitals .

= = = 1980s : Establishing the party = = =

While the Progress Party dropped out of parliament altogether in 1977 , it returned in the following 1981 parliamentary election with four representatives . In this election , the political right in general had a great upturn , which garnered the Progress Party increased support . The ideology of the party was sharpened in the 1980s , and the party officially declared that it was a libertarian party at its national convention in Sandefjord in 1983 . Until then , the party had not had a clearly defined ideology . In the campaign for the 1985 parliamentary election the party attacked many aspects of the Norwegian welfare state , and campaigned for privatization of medical care , education and government @-@ owned enterprises , as well as steep cuts in income tax . In the election , the party lost two of its four members of parliament , but was left with some power as they became the kingmaker . In May 1986 , the party used this position to effectively throw the governing Conservative @-@ led government after it had proposed to increase gas taxes . A minority Labour government was established as a result .

The first real breakthrough for the party in Norwegian politics came in the 1987 local elections , when the party nearly doubled its support from 6 @.@ 3 % to 12 @.@ 3 % (county results) . This was largely as immigration was for the first time seriously taken up as an issue by the party (although Hagen had already in the late 1970s called for a strongly restrictive immigration policy) , successfully putting the issue on the national agenda . Its campaign had mainly been focused on the issue of asylum seekers , but was additionally helped by the infamous " Mustafa @-@ letter " , a letter read out by Hagen during the electoral campaign that portrayed the future Islamisation of Norway . In April 1988 the party was for the first time the second largest party in Norway in an opinion poll with 23 @.@ 5 % . In September 1988 , the party further proposed in parliament for a referendum on the immigration policy , which was regarded by political scientists as the start of the party 's 1989 election campaign . In 1989 , the party made its breakthrough in national politics . In the 1989 parliamentary election , the party obtained 13 % , up from 3 @.@ 7 % in 1985 , and became the third largest party in Norway . It started to gain power in some local administrations . The first mayors from the party were Håkon Rege in Sola (1988 ? 1989) , Bjørn Bråthen in Råde (1990 ? 1991) and Peter N. Myhre in Oslo (1990 ? 1991) .

= = = 1990s : Libertarian schism , consolidation = = =

The 1993 parliamentary election halved the party 's support to 6 @.@ 3 % and ten members of parliament . This drop in support can be seen as the result of an internal conflict within the party that came to a head in 1992 , between the more radical libertarian minority and the majority led by Carl I.

Hagen . The libertarians had removed the party 's focus on immigration , declaring it a " non @-@ issue " in the early 1990s , which was heavily punished by voters in 1993 , as well as 1991 . Social conservative policy platforms had also been liberalised and caused controversy , such as accepting homosexual partnership . The party 's unclear stance on Norwegian membership of the European Union also contributed greatly to the setback , by moving the focus away from the party 's stronger issues (see also Norwegian European Union membership referendum , 1994) .

While many of the libertarians , including Pål Atle Skjervengen and Tor Mikkel Wara , had left the party before the 1993 election or had been rejected by voters , the conflict finally culminated in 1994 . Following the party conference at Bolkesjø Hotell in Telemark in April of that year , four MPs of the " libertarian wing " in the party broke off as independents . This was because Hagen had given them an ultimatum to adhere to the political line of the party majority and parliamentary group , or else to leave . This incident was later nicknamed " Dolkesjø " , a pun on the name of the hotel , with " dolke " meaning to " lit. stab (in the back) / betray " .

These events have been seen by political scientists as a turning point for the party . Subsequently the libertarians founded a libertarian organisation called the Free Democrats which tried to establish a political party , but without success . Parts of the younger management of the party and the more libertarian youth organisation of the party also broke away , and even tried to disestablish the entire youth organisation . The youth organisation was however soon running again , this time with more " loyal " members , although it remained more libertarian than its mother organisation . After this , the Progress Party had a more right @-@ wing populist profile , which resulted in it gaining electoral support .

In the 1995 local elections the Progress Party regained the level of support seen at the 1987 elections . This was said largely to have been as a result of a focus on Progress Party core issues in the electoral campaign , especially immigration , as well as the party dominating the media picture as a result of the controversy around the 1995 Norwegian Association meeting at Godlia kino . The latter particularly gained the party many sympathy votes , as a result of the harsh media storm targeted against Hagen . In the 1997 parliamentary election , the party obtained 15 @. @ 3 % of the vote , and for the first time became the second largest political party in Norway . The 1999 local elections resulted in the party 's first mayor as a direct result of an election , Terje Søviknes in Os . 20 municipalities also elected a deputy mayor from the Progress Party .

= = = 2000 / 01 : Turmoil , expulsion of populists = = =

While the Progress Party had witnessed close to 35 % support in opinion polls in late 2000 , its support fell back to 1997 levels in the upcoming election in 2001 . This was largely a result of turmoil surrounding the party . The party 's deputy leader Terje Søviknes became involved in a sex scandal , and internal political conflicts came to the surface ; Hagen had already in 1999 tried to quiet the most controversial immigration opponents in the parliamentary party , who had gained influence since the 1994 national convention . In late 2000 and early 2001 , opposition to this locally in Oslo , Hordaland and Vest @-@ Agder sometimes resulted in expulsions of local representatives . Eventually Hagen also , in various ways , got rid of the so @-@ called " gang of seven " (syverbanden) , which consisted of seven members of parliament . In January 2001 , Hagen claimed that he had seen a pattern where these had cooperated on several issues , and postulated that they were behind a conspiracy to eventually get Øystein Hedstrøm elected as party chairman . The seven were eventually suspended , excluded from or voluntarily left the party , starting in early 2001 . They most notably included Vidar Kleppe (the alleged " leader ") , Dag Danielsen , Fridtjof Frank Gundersen , as well as Jan Simonsen . Only Hedstrøm remained in the party , but was subsequently kept away from publicly discussing immigration issues .

This again caused turmoil within the party ; supporters of the excluded members criticized their treatment , some resigned from the party , and some of the party 's local chapters were closed . Some of the outcasts ran for office in the 2001 election in several new county lists , and later some formed a new party called the Democrats , with Kleppe as chairman and Simonsen as deputy chairman . Though the " gang of seven " took controversial positions on immigration , the actions

taken against them were also based on internal issues ; it remains unclear to what degree the settlement was based primarily on political disagreements or tactical considerations . Hagen 's main goal with the " purge " was an attempt to make it possible for non @-@ socialist parties to cooperate in an eventual government together with the Progress Party . In 2007 , he revealed that he had received " clear signals " from politicians in among other the Christian Democratic Party , that government negotiations were out of the question so long as certain specific Progress Party politicians , including Kleppe and Simonsen (but not Hedstrøm) , remained in the party . The more moderate libertarian minority in Oslo , including Henning Holstad , Svenn Kristiansen and Siv Jensen , now improved their hold in the party .

= = = 2001 ? 05 : Bondevik II years = = =

In the 2001 parliamentary election the party lost the gains it had made according to opinion polling but maintained its position from the 1997 election , it got 14 @. @ 6 % and 26 members in the parliament . The election result allowed them to unseat the Labour Party government of Jens Stoltenberg and replace it with a three @-@ party coalition led by Christian Democrat Kjell Magne Bondevik . However , the coalition continued to decline to govern together with the Progress Party as they considered the political differences too large . The Progress Party eventually decided to tolerate the coalition , as it promised to invest more in defence , open more private hospitals and open for more competition in the public sector . In 2002 the Progress Party again advanced in the opinion polls and for a while became the largest party .

The local elections of 2003 were a success for the party . In 36 municipalities , the party gained more votes than any other ; it succeeded in electing the mayor in only 13 of these , but also secured 40 deputy mayor positions . The Progress Party had participated in local elections since 1975 , but until 2003 had only secured a mayoral position four times , all on separate occasions . The Progress Party vote in Os ? the only municipality that elected a Progress Party mayor in 1999 ? increased from 36 @. @ 6 % in 1999 to 45 @. @ 7 % in 2003 . The party also became the single largest in the counties of Vestfold and Rogaland .

In the 2005 parliamentary elections , the party again became the second largest party in the Norwegian parliament , with 22 @. @ 1 % of the votes and 38 seats , a major increase from 2001 . Although the centre @-@ right government of Bondevik which the Progress Party had tolerated since 2001 was beaten by the leftist Red @-@ Green Coalition , Hagen had before the election said that his party would no longer accept Bondevik as Prime Minister , following his consistent refusal to formally include the Progress Party in government . For the first time the party was also successful in getting Members of Parliament elected from all counties of Norway , and even became the largest party in three : Vest @-@ Agder , Rogaland and Møre og Romsdal . After the parliamentary elections in 2005 , the party also became the largest party in many opinion polls . The Progress Party led November 2006 opinion polls with a support of 32 @. @ 9 % of respondents , and it continued to poll above 25 percent during the following years .

= = = 2006 ? present : Siv Jensen = = =

In 2006 , after 27 years as leader of the party , Hagen stepped down to become Vice President of the Norwegian parliament Stortinget . Siv Jensen was chosen as his successor , with the hope that she could increase the party 's appeal to voters , build bridges to liberal conservative parties , and head or participate in a future government of Norway . Following the local elections of 2007 , Progress Party candidates became mayor in 17 municipalities , seven of these continuing on from 2003 . Deputy mayors for the party however decreased to 33 . The party in general strongly increased its support in municipalities where the mayor had been elected from the Progress Party in 2003 . The best result came in Nordreisa , where the party held the mayor from the last election , with an increase from 24 @. @ 6 % to 49 @. @ 3 % .

In the months before the 2009 parliamentary elections , the party had , as in the 2001 election , rated very highly in opinion poll results which however declined towards the actual election . Earlier

in the year , the Progress Party had achieved above 30 % in some polls which made it the largest party by several percentage points . With such high gains , the election result was in this case relatively disappointing . Before the election the gains continued to decrease , with most of these losses going to the Conservative Party which had a surprisingly successful campaign . The decline in support over a longer period of time can also be seen as the Labour Party was since 2008 accused of " stealing " policies from the Progress Party . The Progress Party did , regardless , achieve a slight gain from the 2005 election with 22 @. @ 9 % , the best election result in the party 's history . It also for the first time got represented in the Sami Parliament of Norway in 2009 , with three representatives . This made it the fourth largest party in the Sami parliament , and second largest of the nationwide parties . In the informal school elections in Norway , the party became the largest party in Norway with 24 % of the votes .

Since early 2010 , opinion polls regularly showed a majority support for the Progress Party and Conservative Party together . The Progress Party however saw a strong setback for the 2011 local elections . The party lost 6 % in vote share , while the Conservative Party gained 9 % . According to political scientists , most of the setback could be explained by a low turnout of Progress Party supporters .

In coalition with the Conservative Party , the party won the 2013 parliamentary election and helped form its first ever government , the Solberg 's Cabinet , although the Progress Party itself lost seats and is now the third largest party instead of the second largest .

= = Isolation = =

Ever since its foundation , other parties have consistently refused the Progress Party 's efforts to join any governing coalition at the state level . The reasons have mainly included concerns about the party 's alleged irresponsibility and its position on immigration issues . Following the increased support and importance of the Progress Party in the 2005 elections , the Conservative Party stated they wanted to be " a bridge between the Progress Party and the centre . " This is because the centrist Liberal Party and Christian Democratic Party reject the possibility of participating in a government coalition together with the Progress Party . In addition , the Progress Party does not want to support a government coalition that it itself is not a part of . In 2010 , the Conservative Party went even further when its leader Erna Solberg stated that the Progress Party was now such a big party that it " must " be part of any centre @-@ right governmental negotiations after the 2013 elections . At the municipal level , the Progress Party however cooperates with most parties , including the Labour Party . In 2007 it also attracted some unusual attention when the local Porsgrunn Progress Party was involved in some limited cooperation with the Socialist Left Party and the Red Party .

= = Ideology = =

The Progress Party currently regards itself to be a " liberal people 's party " , and its ideology to be classical liberalism or conservative liberalism . The party identifies itself in the preamble of its platform as a liberal (liberalistisk ; " liberal , libertarian ") party , built on Norwegian and Western traditions and cultural heritage , with a basis in a Christian understanding of life and humanist values . Its main declared goal is a strong reduction in taxes and government intervention . The party is today considered to be conservative liberal , but has sometimes been described as populist . While more fundamental libertarianism was earlier a component of its ideology , this has in practice gradually more or less vanished from the party . As of the late 2000s , the party has also been influenced by Thatcherism , particularly with Siv Jensen becoming party leader .

The core issues for the party revolve around immigration , crime , foreign aid , the elderly and social security in regards to health and care for the elderly . The party is regarded as having policies on the right in most of these cases , both fiscally and socially , though in some cases , like care for the elderly , the policy is regarded as being on the left . It has been claimed that the party changed in its first three decades , in turn from an " outsider movement " in the 1970s , to libertarianism in the

1980s , to right @-@ wing populism in the 1990s . From the 2000s , the party has to some extent sought to moderate its profile in order to seek government cooperation with centre @-@ right parties . This has been especially true since the expulsion of certain members around 2001 , and further under the lead of Siv Jensen from 2006 , when the party has tried to move and position itself more towards conservatism and also seek cooperation with such parties abroad .

= = = Economy = = =

The party is strongly individualistic , wanting to reduce the power of the state and the public sector . It believes that the public sector should only be there to secure a minimum standard of living , and that individuals , businesses and organisations should take care of various tasks instead of the public sector , in most cases . The party also generally advocates the lowering of taxes , various duties , as well increased market economy .

The party also notably want to invest more of Norway 's oil wealth in infrastructure (particularly roads , broadband capacity , hospitals , schools and nursing homes) and the welfare state . This position , that has used a sense of a welfare crisis to support demands to spend more of the oil fund now rather than later , is part of its electoral success .

The party wants to strongly reduce taxation in Norway , and says that the money Norwegians earn , is theirs to be kept . They want to remove inheritance tax and property tax .

= = = Society = = =

In schools , the party wants to improve the working environment for teachers and students by focusing more on order , discipline and class management . The party wants more individual adaptation , to implement grades in basic subjects from fifth grade , open more private schools and decrease the amount of theory in vocational educations .

The party regards the family to be a natural , necessary and basic element in a free society . It regards the family to be a carrier of traditions and culture , and to have a role in raising and caring for children . The party also wants all children to have a right of visitation and care from both parents , and to secure everyones right to know who their biological parents are . The party opposed the legalization of same @-@ sex marriage in 2008 , questioning how children would " cope " with the law .

During the national convention in May 2013 , the party voted in favor of both same @-@ sex marriage and same @-@ sex adoption . The party has for several years been a proponent for legalizing blood donation for homosexuals .

The party believes that artists should be less dependent on public support , and instead be more dependent on making a living on what they create . The party believes that regular people should rather decide what good culture is , and demands that artists on public support should offer something the audience wants . It also wants to abolish the annual fee for the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation and privatise the company . Otherwise , the party wants to protect and secure Norwegian cultural heritage .

Since the party distances itself from discrimination and special treatment based on gender , religion and ethnic origin , the party wants to dissolve the Sami Parliament of Norway , which is based on ethnic classifications . The party wants to uphold Sami culture , but wants to work against any special treatment based on ethnic origin regarding the right of use of water and land .

= = = Populism = = =

The Progress Party has historically sometimes been portrayed externally as a populist or right @-@ wing populist party (or other similar terms) , both by opposing politicians , as well as some scholars . Depending on definitions of populism , other scholars have however found that populism is at best a minor element of the party , or that its policies historically have been more consistent than for instance those of the Labour Party , which has moved more towards the Progress Party and

neoliberalism since the 1980s . Political scientist Anders Todal Jensen has argued that the Progress Party is the only populist party in Norway , with all the other parties in contrast having strong elitist foundations . He has suggested that populism could actually be a sign of health as the structures of the traditional parties make them poorly able to ? listen to the people ? in the same manner that the Progress Party may .

= = = Law and order = = =

The party supports an increase in police forces , and more visible police on the streets . It wants to implement tougher punishments , especially for crime regarding violence and morality offences . The party also wants to establish an ombudsman for victims and relatives , as it believes today 's supportive concern focus too much on the criminals rather than the victims . It wants the police to be able to use more non @-@ lethal weapons , such as electroshock weapons . It also does not accept any use of religious or political symbols with the police uniform , and wants to expel foreign citizens who are convicted of crime with a frame of more than three months imprisonment .

= = = Immigration = = =

From the second half of the 1980s the economic and welfare aspects of immigration policy were mainly a focus of Progress Party criticism , including the strains placed by immigration on the welfare state . During the 1990s the party shifted to focus more on cultural and ethnic issues and conflicts , a development which can also be seen in the general public debate , including among its political opponents . In 1993 , it was the first party in Norway to use the notion of " integration politics " in its party programme . While the party has made numerous proposals on immigration in parliament , it has rarely received majority support for them . Its proposals has largely been rejected by the remaining political parties , as well as the mass media . Although the party 's immigration policies have been compared to those of the Danish People 's Party and the Sweden Democrats , leading party members have rather seen its immigration policies to resemble those of the Dutch People 's Party for Freedom and Democracy and the Danish Venstre , when those parties were in government .

Generally , the party wants a stricter immigration policy , so that only those who are in need of protection according to the UN Refugee Convention are allowed to stay in Norway . In a speech in the 2007 election campaign , Siv Jensen claimed that the immigration policy was a failure because it let criminals stay in Norway , while throwing out people who worked hard and followed the law . The party claims the immigration and integration policy to be naïve . In 2009 , the party proposed an official goal of reducing accepted asylum seekers by about 90 % , from 1 @,@ 000 to 100 a month , the standards then said to be used in Denmark and Finland , although less than 100 a year was proposed in 2008 . In 2008 , the party wanted to " avoid illiterates and other poorly resourced groups who we see are not able to adapt in Norway " ; which included countries as Somalia , Afghanistan and Pakistan . The party opposes that asylum seekers are allowed stay in Norway on humanitarian grounds or due to health issues , and seeks to substantially limit the number of family reunifications . The party has also called for a referendum on the general immigration policy .

A poll conducted by Utrop in August 2009 showed that 10 % (14 % if the respondents answering " Don 't know " are removed) of immigrants in Norway would vote for the Progress Party , only beaten by the Labour Party (38 % and 56 % respectively) , when asked . More specifically , this constituted 9 % of both African and Eastern European immigrants , 22 % of Western European immigrants and 3 % of Asian immigrants . Thus , it was above all immigrants from Western countries that contributed to the Progress Party , whereas those from Asia were very unlikely to support it ; however , many immigrants from Africa also voted for the Progress Party . Individuals of immigrant background are increasingly active in the party , most notably Iranian @-@ Norwegian Mazyar Keshvari and the current leader of the youth party , Indian @-@ Norwegian Himanshu Gulati .

= = = Foreign policy = = =

The Progress Party is in principle open to a referendum on Norwegian membership of the European Union , although only if a majority of the public opinion is seen to favour it beforehand . Currently , the party considers an eventual membership of Norway in the European Union to be a " non @-@ issue " , believing there to be no reason for a debate of a new referendum at present . The party regards NATO to be a positive basic element of Norway 's defense , security and foreign policy . It also wants to strengthen transatlantic relations in general , and Norway 's relationship with the United States more specifically . The party considers its international policy to " follow in the footsteps of Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher . "

Of all the major political parties in Norway , the Progress Party has shown the strongest support for Israel . Recently , it has supported the right of Israel to defend itself against rocket attacks from Hamas , and was the only party in Norway which supported Israel through the Gaza War (2008 ? 09) . The party also wants to relocate the Norwegian embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem .

The party sees the most viable form of foreign aid policy , to be for developing countries to gradually manage themselves without Western aid . It believes that free trade is the key for developing countries to gain economic growth , and that " the relationship between aid and development is at best unclear . " The party is strongly critical of " forced contribution to government development aid through taxation " , which it wants to limit , also as it believe this weakens the individual 's personal sense of responsibility and generosity (voluntary aid) . The party instead supports an increase in support for global health and vaccination initiatives against global epidemics such as HIV , AIDS and tuberculosis , and to increase the support after emergencies and disasters .

= = International relations = =

The Progress Party does not belong to any international political groups , and does not have any official sister parties . Historically the party has not compared itself to other European parties , and has sought to rather establish its own identity . In 2008 however , the party for the first time set out to build its international reputation by hiring two international secretaries to travel internationally and establishing contact with politicians and parties abroad . This was cited especially to " not risk being declared as extremists by opponents the day we form a government " . An international secretary for the party in the same year said that the party had been connected with a " misunderstood right @-@ wing radical label " , partly because people with nationalistic and " hopeless attitudes " had previously been involved in the party . Such persons were said no longer to be involved .

= = = Denmark = = =

The Progress Party was originally inspired by its Danish counterpart , the Progress Party , which ultimately declined , lost parliamentary representation , and fell into the fringes of Danish politics . In recent years , the Norwegian party has rather considered Denmark 's Venstre to be its sister party . Formally , Venstre is aligned with the Norwegian Liberal Party , and as late as 2006 the international secretary of Venstre said that " we have nothing in common with the Norwegian Progress Party " . In 2009 however , the prominent Venstre MP Inger Støjberg gave her support for the Progress Party , saying there were " great similarities " between the parties , and that Venstre stood " shoulder to shoulder " with the Progress Party , although this position was not supported by Venstre 's party chairman Lars Løkke Rasmussen .

The party has also been compared to the more national conservative Danish People 's Party (DF) , with journalist Lars Halskov suggesting that the great support for the party resulted from a combination of the immigration policies of the DF and the liberalism of Venstre . Political scientist Cas Mudde has also regarded the Progress Party to be somewhere in between these two parties . Kristian Norheim , the international secretary for the Progress Party , in 2008 however distanced himself from DF , citing a right @-@ turn in its immigration policy , and left @-@ turn in its financial

policies to be problematic . In 2007 , Norheim also claimed that the Progress Party were " globalisation friendly " , in contrast to DF , and that DF ideologically and politically was in Norway rather comparable to the Democrats .

= = = Other = = =

The Progress Party has by some been compared to parties such as the Dutch Pim Fortuyn List , French Front National and the Freedom Party of Austria . It has been approached for cooperation by some of these parties , including the Belgian Vlaams Belang , French Front National and the Freedom Party of Austria , only to be rejected by the Progress Party . In 2008 , the Progress Party international secretary Kristian Norheim specifically distanced the Progress Party from such parties . He regarded many of these parties to be " national social democratic " , and stressed their lack of liberalism as inconsistent with the Progress Party 's platform . The Progress Party has also been compared to the Alternative for Germany by Jan Simonsen , who he also cited as a blending of conservatives and economic liberals .

The Progress Party mentions among parties it consider itself closest to internationally the Danish Venstre (Liberal Party) , the Estonian Reform Party , the Dutch People 's Party for Freedom and Democracy , the British Conservative Party and the Czech Civic Democratic Party . In 2009 the British Conservative Party invited party leader Siv Jensen to hold a lecture in the House of Commons , which was seen as a further recognition of the party internationally , with the approach by the Danish Venstre the previous month .

In the United States , the Progress Party generally supports the Republican Party , and was in 2010 called " friends " by the Republican Party chairman as he said he looked forward to the continued growth of the party and free market conservative principles . For the 2008 US election , a survey found that the vast majority of Progress Party MPs and county leaders supported Republican Party candidates for president , although a few individuals supported Democratic Party candidates . The party also has some connections with the American Tea Party movement .

= = Party leadership = =

= = = Party leaders = = =

Anders Lange (1973 ? 1974)
Eivind Eckbo (1974 ? 1975) (interim)
Arve Lønnum (1975 ? 1978)
Carl I. Hagen (1978 ? 2006)
Siv Jensen (2006 ?)

= = = Parliamentary leaders = = =

Anders Lange (1973 ? 1974)
Erik Gjems @-@ Onstad (1974 ? 1976)
Harald Bjarne Slettebø (1976 ? 1977)
Carl I. Hagen (1981 ? 2005)
Siv Jensen (2005 ? 2013)
Harald T. Nesvik (2013 ?)

= = = Deputy party leaders = = =

= = Election results = =

= = = Parliamentary elections = = =

= = = Local elections = = =