



IDENTITY
AND DEMOCRACY

PLENARY BOOKLET

11 – 14 DECEMBER 2023

The dangers of EU-China relationship

We cannot deny the importance of maintaining strong relations with China, but we should keep in mind how important it is to be assertive towards Beijing.

We should defend our interests, and not give the impression that we absolutely need them.

They are one of the privileged commercial partners for several EU countries, but we should avoid to become subjected to their own interests.

The blind environmental policies imposed by the Commission since 2019 led our economies to develop a constantly growing dependency on China, both in products and critical raw materials, resulting in a detrimental effect on our companies and economy.

We should also keep in mind that China is an anti-democratic regime, that constantly threatens Taiwan, and it is not a market economy, with its lavish state aid that distorts competition.

We need a balanced approach towards environmental and social issues, because we cannot accept to sacrifice our economic and social model while on the other side there is no respect for basic rules.

We are ready to cooperate for a mutual benefit, but we don't want to give them all the advantages for now and the future.



Marco Zanni

“We cannot deny the importance of maintaining strong relations with China, but we should keep in mind how important it is to be assertive towards Beijing.”

President ID Group, Italian delegation - LEGA PER SALVINI PREMIER

Stop hating against free speech!

Freedom of expression is a cornerstone of any democratic society, fostering an open exchange of ideas and opinions critical for societal progress. Unrestricted freedom of speech is paramount, allowing citizens to voice their thoughts without fear of reprisal. It is crucial, however, to emphasize that calls to violence cannot be considered an expression of free speech; such actions infringe upon the rights and safety of others.

While acknowledging the need to curb incitement to violence, I staunchly reject the EU's idea that its hate speech legislation aligns with the principles of free expression. The concept of hate crimes remains ambiguous, and defining speech as violence blurs the line between the two. Consequently, I resist all attempts to regulate hate speech in the EU, as it risks stifling genuine discourse and limiting the diversity of perspectives.

However, it is also not within the purview of the EU to force full freedom of speech on the Member States. Germany, for instance, imposes restrictions on speech beyond calls to violence, with mere insults classified as crimes.

Addressing such constraints is a matter for proponents of free speech in the Bundestag, where we must work collaboratively to broaden its scope without relying on EU-level interventions. It is imperative to uphold the principles of free expression while respecting the sovereignty of the Member States.



Gunnar Beck

“It is imperative to uphold the principles of free expression while respecting the sovereignty of the Member States.”

2nd Vice-President ID Group, German delegation - ALTERNATIVE FÜR DEUTSCHLAND

Critical Raw Materials Act: emerging obstacles to EU mining ambitions

This week we will be voting on the agreement sealed between the European parliament and the Council on the Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA), the provision aiming at reawakening domestic mining that already proved to be a weak response to counterparts' global measures as the American IRA.

The very noble objectives of the Act - notably increasing competitiveness, growth and strategic autonomy - reveal a not so subtle admission of failure of the EU, which is once again forced to intervene, in the very late attempt of reversing a dangerous trend for European markets. Such admission comes at a time where provisions as those included in the Green Deal do nothing but increase our dependencies on commodities, triggering a process towards deindustrialization and delocalisation of emissions, which smacks of hypocrisy.

In the effort to pursue its mining revival, particularly for lithium and cobalt, the EU did not realise that the stringent targets imposed might be difficult to achieve according to the current capacities of the

Member States and most importantly relying upon a short-term financing only.

Little attention was paid to other critical materials, for instance certain types of steel, which are no less strategic for our defence industries. On top of this, current energy prices are spiking and hinder the development of metal refining activity.

As usual, on-the-ground realities do not always align with the virtuous ambitions mentioned above, and most importantly expose a poor judgement of the EU legislator on the events taking place on the global scene. China keeps militarising raw materials, introducing export restrictions, while the US started importing from Mexico in an order of magnitude dating back to 10 years ago.

We are facing systemic shocks, as I have been reporting for some time, which coupled with inadequate EU response capacities will exacerbate the fragility our value chains running parallel to increasing consumptions to which our citizens will not have access.

Marco Campomenosi

"We are facing systemic shocks which will exacerbate the fragility our value chains running parallel to increasing consumptions to which our citizens will not have access."



MEP ID Group, Head of Italian delegation - LEGA PER SALVINI PREMIER

The EU is trying to legalise surrogacy!

On Thursday, 14 December, the European Parliament will vote on a proposal for a European regulation aimed at “ensuring the recognition of parenthood throughout the European Union, irrespective of how the baby was conceived”. Beneath this embellished title lies a process for recognising surrogacy on a European scale, bypassing the laws of the Member States.

The regulation would guarantee that all families, including "rainbow families" to quote the text, whose parent-child relationships are not currently recognised in all Member States, would be able to maintain their parent-child rights when they move within the Union. This obviously includes children conceived through surrogate motherhood, a form of modern slavery that has fortunately been banned in a large number of European countries, including France.

This scandalous practice is no more and no less than a double commercialisation of the human body: that of the woman who carries a child for others and that of the child, sold like a consumer good. Some people hide behind the notion of "ethical surrogacy motherhood", but this grotesque oxymoron cannot fool us, as the abuses associated with this practice are now well known.

In 2022, Emmanuel Macron himself reaffirmed his firm opposition to surrogacy, describing it as a "red line". We will therefore be closely examining the votes of the Macron MEPs, without expecting much, to be honest. In committee, they will vote in favour of this text. In “Macronism”, doublespeak is not just an art, it’s a rule.

Jean-Paul Garraud

“In 2022, Emmanuel Macron himself reaffirmed his firm opposition to surrogacy, describing it as a ‘red line’.”



MEP ID Group, Head of French delegation - RASSEMBLEMENT NATIONAL

In search of citizens

MEPs are spotlighting a critical aspect of EU law enforcement — the impact on citizens. The Commission's current strategic approach to the enforcement of EU law is favoring systemic issues over individual cases, allegedly creating concerns about overlooking real-life impacts.

Currently, for significant and systematic breaches, the Commission steps in. However, smaller and individual cases often get pushed back to national courts. That is what some MEPs claim in an Oral Question to the Commission.

In reality, this OQ is not about citizens demanding action from the Commission. It is rather about MEPs abusing citizens' legitimate concerns to further their political agenda of centralization. They want to create more power for the EU and more power for themselves.

What is wrong with national courts governing the affairs between citizens and their governments? Nothing; this is how the EU should be run. The EU should be a club of Member States. Instead, it tries to find its own citizens, and it only can do so in the Member States. But, alas, nobody can be a citizen of two states just as no one can be a servant to two masters.

Once the EU steals Member States' citizens, it will turn into an empire while the Member States will be robbed of their citizens, sucked out like empty shells. This does not strike me as the future we should strive for. As citizens, let us always remember ourselves that we are the flesh to the bones of our national state.



Joachim Kuhs

“The EU Commission's current strategic approach to the enforcement of EU law is favoring systemic issues over individual cases, allegedly creating concerns about overlooking real-life impacts.”

MEP ID Group, Head of German delegation - ALTERNATIVE FÜR DEUTSCHLAND

The Right to Freedom of Speech

The December plenary session has the EU walking on thin ice. The Pagazaurtundúa-report on extending the list of EU crimes to include hate speech puts our democracy at risk.

The mere existence of hate speech in our judiciary is in and of itself irreconcilable with the basic principles of democracy. The social contract between the government and the people entails that citizens enjoy certain rights and freedoms which the government needs to protect.

One of those fundamental rights is the right to freedom of speech. Citizens should be able to express themselves freely. Moreover, free speech specifically exists to protect contested opinions with which others do not agree. It is therefore essential to any democracy. The only limit to free speech is inciting violence.

The introduction and penalization of hate crimes begs the following questions:

Who gets to say what falls under hate and what doesn't? Who will be punished and who won't?

The door is left wide open for wide-ranging interpretations, because words are interpreted in dozens of ways. This leaves our democracy vulnerable to a politicization of our judiciary. Judges will arbitrarily be able to punish those with uneasy opinions.

We are standing on the barricades to protect our right to freedom of speech.



Tom Vandendriessche

“The introduction and penalization of hate crimes begs the following questions: Who gets to say what falls under hate and what doesn't? Who will be punished and who won't?”

MEP ID Group, Flemish delegation - VLAAMS BELANG

We don't need a Spitzenkandidaten principle

The report on the 2024 European elections once again shows how the EU is increasingly developing into a centralised entity. A lead candidate system and transnational lists are to be elected.

However, we do not need a Spitzenkandidaten principle in the EU elections. Nor do we need EU-wide transnational electoral lists. Both together would only give voters the impression that they are electing something like an EU government in the European elections. But that is not the case.

We see the EU as a union of sovereign states. That is why it also makes sense for the Council, as the body of the member states, to agree on a person for the office of President of the Commission, who must then be confirmed by the European Parliament anyway. The Council has therefore repeatedly spoken out against the Spitzenkandidaten principle for good reason. The report calls for this procedure to be reversed: Parliament should make the proposal and the Council should approve it.

This is not our approach and does not comply with the current rules. In the 2019 EU elections, we saw how the Spitzenkandidaten principle, which was not provided for anywhere, failed.

The large political groups declared their support for it, and then Ursula von der Leyen suddenly became head of the Commission, ousting Manfred Weber, the lead candidate from her own group. The traditionally extremely low voter turnout in the EU elections clearly shows that citizens are alienated from the EU.

In 2019, the turnout was just 51 per cent, and in previous elections it was always below 50 per cent. Europe's citizens rightly have the impression that they are not adequately represented by Brussels. But if they don't want even more Brussels centralism, they need to strengthen those who are preventing it - parties like the FPÖ and its partners.

Harald Vilimsky

“Europe's citizens rightly have the impression that they are not adequately represented by Brussels.”



MEP ID Group, Head of Austrian delegation - FREIHEITLICHE PARTEI ÖSTERREICH

2023 UN Climate Change Conference

The 2023 UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) took place in Dubai from 30 November to 12 December 2023. The irony of the location of this event cannot be ignored. Even more ironic is the fact that over 160 world leaders attended the climate conference and travelled there by private jet.

As if this wasn't enough, Putin also flew to the Middle East, with two fighter jets at his side, to discuss oil deals with the UAE and Saudi Arabia, while the delegates at COP28 were trying so hard to "reckon with fossil fuels". While those attending the COP28 were discussing the doomsday scenarios of global warming, Munich airport was shut down for days due to extreme snowfall and freezing temperatures.

It all sounds like a bad joke. For ordinary citizens, it just seems like a luxury meeting of the world's billionaires to discuss how the rest of the world should behave (whilst not applying the same rules to themselves).

The conference represents a departure from free-market solutions and it pushes an environmental agenda that places an extreme burden on business and individuals alike.

The goals put forward at conferences like these are completely unattainable and are light years away from the realities of everyday life faced by ordinary citizens. These citizens cannot afford to put up solar panels, or buy electric cars. We should not force farmers to stop producing food.

Climatic changes have happened all throughout history, and mankind must think quite a lot of itself if it truly believes that we are the ones causing these changes.



Jaak Madison

"Climatic changes have happened all throughout history, and mankind must think quite a lot of itself if it truly believes that we are the ones causing these changes."

MEP ID Group, Estonian delegation - EESTI KONSERVATIIVNE RAHVAERAKOND

ID initiatives for the Plenary Session

17 amendments to the report on **the creation of a European Certificate of Parenthood;**

2 amendments to the report on **the implementation of the 2018 Geo-blocking Regulation in the digital single market;**

2 amendments to the report on **extending the list of EU crimes to hate speech and hate crime;**

1 amendment to the report on **EU-US relations;**

2 amendments to the report on **EU-China relations;**

5 amendments to the report on **the implementation of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe;**

1 amendment to the JMR on **Copenhagen criteria;**

1 amendments to the ENVI report on **foodstuffs for human consumption;**

2 amendments to the report on **European Health Data Space;**

1 amendment to the objection on **maximum residue levels for tricyclazole;**

10 amendments to the resolution on **the fact-finding investigation for Frontex scrutiny.**

ID Group Honors Raisa Blommestijn with the Women Fighting for Freedom Award 2023

The ID Group is pleased to announce that Raisa Blommestijn, a prominent Dutch presenter, legal philosopher, and dedicated advocate for free speech, has been selected as the recipient of the Women Fighting for Freedom Award 2023. This award is bestowed upon women who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to upholding freedom and independent thought.

Raisa Blommestijn, currently serving as a presenter for Ongehoord Nederland, has been at the forefront of providing alternative perspectives and fostering open dialogue in the media landscape. In an era where diverse opinions are crucial to a thriving democracy, Blommestijn's work stands out for its unwavering dedication to presenting news from a different viewpoint, challenging the status quo, and promoting intellectual diversity.

The award ceremony will take place on **Wednesday, 13 December 2023 in the European Parliament.**





WOMEN FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM AWARD 2023



RAISA BLOMMESTIJN

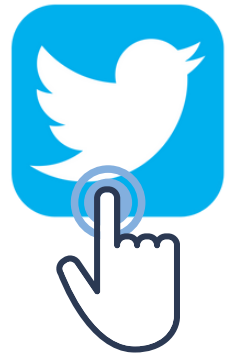
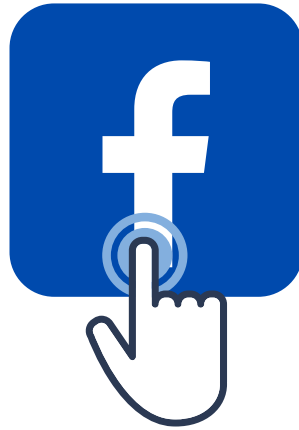
ONGEHOORD NEDERLAND PRESENTER

MEP CHRISTINE ANDERSON AND
MEP TOM VANDENDRIESSCHE
INVITE YOU TO THE AWARD CEREMONY

WEDNESDAY, 13 DECEMBER 2023 AT 16:00

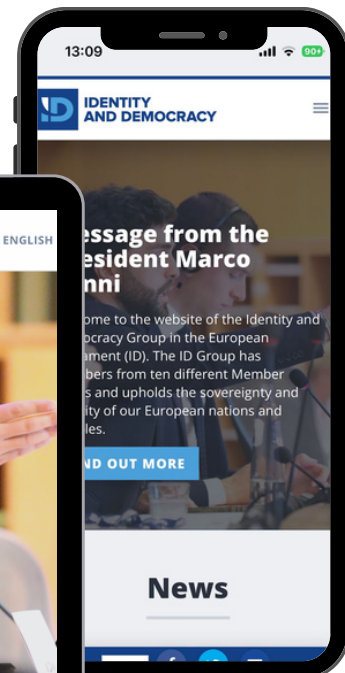
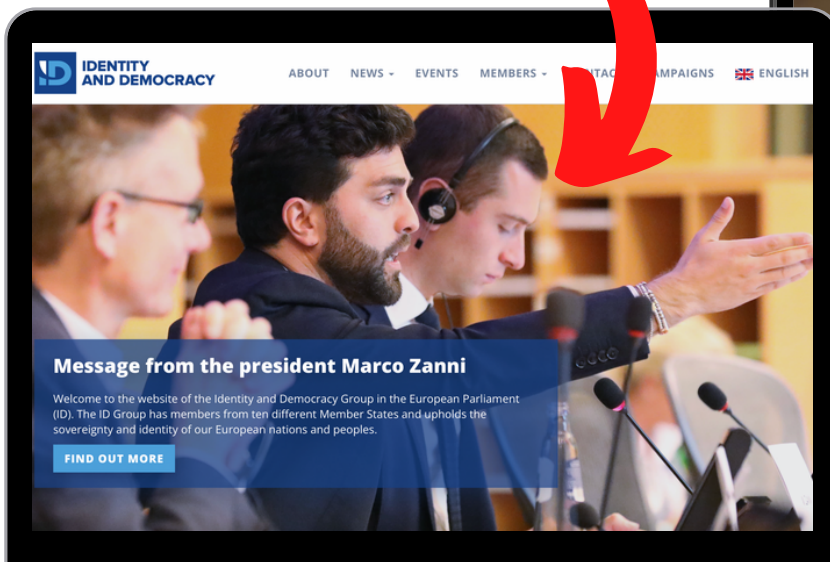
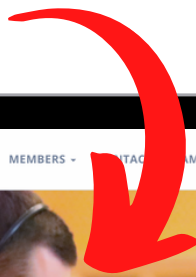
SDM 7
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Follow us on social media!



Visit our website www.idgroup.eu and sign up to our Newsletter!

Click here!



Defending the identity of peoples and the sovereignty of nations!

The Identity and Democracy Group, founded in June 2019, has 59 members in the European Parliament, coming from 8 countries: Italy, France, Germany, Austria, Flanders (Belgium), Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia.



IDENTITY AND DEMOCRACY GROUP

BRUSSELS

Zweig Building - 07K014
60 Rue Wiertz
B-1047 Brussels

STRASBOURG

Louise Weiss Building - T04055
President Robert Schuman Avenue
1, CS 91024
F-67070 Strasbourg Cedex

WWW.IDGROUP.EU