



IDENTITY  
AND DEMOCRACY

# PLENARY BOOKLET

11 – 14 SEPTEMBER 2023

# Air Quality: Another slap for our territories

The proposal for a Directive on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe, which is part of the disastrous Green Deal package, aims at further improving air quality in the EU.

While we agree with the importance of prioritising the health of citizens and the consequent need to reduce air pollution, the Commission's proposal, and especially the Parliament's position as drafted by the socialist Rapporteur, contain numerous criticisms.

The implementation of such a proposal would have serious economic and social implications on large territories of the EU, and especially on Italy, for which it is already difficult to reach the current limit, due to the morphological and climatic conditions of its territories.

For these reasons, we have tabled a motion to reject the proposal during the vote in Plenary, to underline once again our opposition to these type of unrealistic measures.

As usual, this Commission, blinded by its "green ideology", does not take into account the characteristics of our territories, thus risking to damage the economy of some EU regions.



## Marco Zanni

**“This Commission, blinded by its ‘green ideology’, does not take into account the characteristics of our territories, thus risking to damage the economy of some EU regions.”**

*President ID Group, Italian delegation - LEGA PER SALVINI PREMIER*

# Von der Leyen is a danger to the people

In her upcoming State of the Union (SOTEU) speech, we are anxiously awaiting Ursula von der Leyen's stance on the controversial Fit for 55 program, a cornerstone of the European Union's misguided climate agenda. It is high time for Von der Leyen to acknowledge its detrimental effects.

Fit for 55, with its strangulating regulations and irrational targets, was sold to the public as a beacon of climate progress. However, as the EU grapples with its longest-running economic recession in recent history, lasting a staggering 15 years, it's essential to assess the program's impact on our industries.

Fit for 55's rigid policies are leading to deindustrialization and cause massive job losses and economic strain, all the while the EU is torn apart by unprecedented geopolitical shifts.

However, while we may be hoping for a sobering acknowledgment of Fit for 55's shortcomings in her SOTEU speech, it is much more likely that Von der Leyen will step up her climate policies. In times of crisis it is crucial to safeguard economic stability and job creation. The Commission, on the other hand, puts climate policy ahead of the wellbeing of our economy at any time.

Ursula von der Leyen is, and always has been, the wrong person for the job of President of the Commission, or any other political top job. Distant, aloof, without any insight into how an economy works and can thrive, every day that she stays in office is endangering income and wealth of European citizens. In my personal opinion, she should have stepped down long ago.



## Gunnar Beck

**“Fit for 55's rigid policies are leading to deindustrialization and cause massive job losses and economic strain, all the while the EU is torn apart by unprecedented geopolitical shifts.”**

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



# EU-Tunisa: granting stability to the area prevents illegal migration and criminal activities

Since the 2010 Arab Spring, we fully realized how much the political stability of the Southern Mediterranean is of strategic importance to Europe and its interests. As a matter of fact, a jeopardized and unrested North Africa causes spikes in illegal migration, in smuggling and trafficking activities as well as in terroristic threats. This is the reason why we are deeply concerned about the latest developments in Tunisia, where an unprecedented social and economic situation is causing political unrest and dangerous uprisings.

Italian and European coastlines are at the forefront of this phenomenon. A flow of illegal migrants is heading toward our countries, pressuring our reception systems and posing serious threats to public security. Thanks to the Italian government, the European Union and its Member States are finally working together with the Tunisian authorities to build up a common pathway that could help Tunisia out of the economic crisis.

The International Monetary Fund should intervene as well without imposing excessive conditions that could jeopardise any effort to grant stability to the area. Indeed, Europe and its partners should work with those countries of transit and departure of migrants that could help to restrict and block the phenomenon.

Nevertheless, Europe is still missing a wider and decisive approach on migration policies, as the Parliament is mostly proposing leftist policies on the issue, being the current majority influenced by socialists and greens, while the European Commission's proposals have been unsatisfying so far.



## Marco Campomenosi

**“Europe is still missing a wider and decisive approach on migration policies, as the Parliament is mostly proposing leftist policies on the issue.”**

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

# Iran: the repression continues!

On 16 September 2022, the young Mahsa Amini died in custody after being arrested by the morality police for failing to comply with strict dress regulations, in this case the veil. The brutal death of this young woman, as a result of wearing a veil incorrectly, sparked worldwide outrage and months of demonstrations in Iran against the Islamist regime in power. Put down in violence and bloodshed, this revolt enabled Iranian women to alert the world to their situation.

One year on, nothing has changed. Worse still, the noose has tightened even more around the relatives of the victims of the repression in Iran. On Tuesday, 5 September, according to the Kurdish human rights organisation Hengaw, the authorities arrested Mahsa Amini's uncle. He is being held in an unknown location, undoubtedly for arbitrary reasons.

The arrests, fake trials and executions are on the rise. In Iran, Muslim women are paying with their lives for refusing to wear the veil, and at the same time,

in France, the Islamists are leading an offensive with the abayas, an Islamic garment. While the French Minister for Education banned the abayas from schools, the irresponsible politicians of the Greens and France Insoumise accused the Minister of having introduced "clothing police". What an intolerable insult to the thousands of young women persecuted in Muslim countries by the terrible morality police and therefore the dress police!

Our delegation is proud to have organised, from the beginning, a number of official events to support and even help the Iranian people, oppressed by obscurantism and Islamic totalitarianism. They can count on the continuity of our actions and the strength of our determination!



## Jean-Paul Garraud

**“Our delegation is proud to have organised a number of official events to support and even help the Iranian people, oppressed by obscurantism and Islamic totalitarianism.”**

*MEP ID Group, Head of French delegation - RASSEMBLEMENT NATIONAL*

# Wolves create local problems that distant leaders have ignored too long

Ursula von der Leyen has finally embraced a policy shift we have demanded for quite some time. This policy change, although welcome, comes with a hint of irony. After a wolf tragically took the life of her beloved pony, Dolly, Von der Leyen has emerged advocating for European laws allowing the controlled culling of wolves.

While it's encouraging to see a leader adapt her stance based on personal experiences, some may question why it took such a close-to-home incident to spark this change. It's a reminder that even the most prominent figures can sometimes overlook certain issues until they personally encounter them.

Nonetheless, Von der Leyen's newfound commitment to addressing our concerns surrounding wolf populations is a step in the right direction.

It's a testament to the power of firsthand experience in shaping one's perspective. It is also a call to set policies at a lower level, closer to real life experiences of citizens.

The current caste of leaders resides in ivory towers in places distant from their constituents. Chinese walls around them shield them from citizens and their troubles. It is high time for political power to devolve back to the local, regional, and national level.



## Joachim Kuhs

**“After a wolf tragically took the life of her beloved pony, Dolly, Von der Leyen has emerged advocating for European laws allowing the controlled culling of wolves.”**

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

# Punish the corrupt or control the critical?

The Plenary is to vote on the reform of the European Parliament's Rules of Procedure and the Code of Conduct for Members of Parliament, which president Roberta Metsola - following 'Qatargate' - strongly and rightfully wanted with her 14-points Plan. Qatargate proved that this Parliament failed in its self-regulatory actions, the enemy was within the walls. Hence, our Group supports measures to strengthen integrity, independence and accountability.

Amendments of the left-wing groups however derailed the Report, which has now a content that goes beyond what is needed to punish the corrupt. The most critical proposals currently on the table are about a new advisory committee on the Code of Conduct, that will be composed of five MEPs and three 'external experts', appointed by the president of the Parliament.

This new advisory committee would not only proactively monitor possible conflicts of interests and breaches of the Code of Conduct,

it is also foreseen that alleged breaches may be signalled directly to this advisory committee.

Thus, a system of reporting violations or potential conflicts of interest would be created, probably on complete anonymity, whereby anyone could report a 'violation' directly to what may become a politically appointed 'comité de salut public'.

In light of the role and the powers it has, this restructured advisory committee risks to become another political tool to be used against EU-critical groups like ours. It seems clear that such a tool could be easily abused. Members risk to be judged and influenced in their political work. If the text does not change, it seems quite difficult that ID could support it.



## Gerolf Annemans



**"EU-critical Members of Parliament risk to be judged and influenced in their political work."**

*MEP ID Group, Head of Flemish delegation - VLAAMS BELANG*

# Stop accession negotiations with Turkey

The EU remains the biggest beggar towards Turkey and the regime of Turkish President Erdoğan. Much indicates this development in the light of the EU Commission's annual report on Turkey.

Many warnings and many admonitions, but basically no consistent actions or measures towards a country that is failing in all areas of the accession catalogue. It is therefore completely incomprehensible that on the one hand the situation in Turkey and the attitude of the Erdoğan regime towards the EU is massively criticised, but on the other hand the process of Turkey's accession to the EU is adhered to.

There is discussion of a continuous distancing from the values of the EU, of provocations in the eastern Mediterranean against the EU and its Member States, of the lack of political will for reforms, failures in the rule of law and fundamental rights, of the abuse of anti-terrorism measures, of ongoing attacks on opposition parties,

of the instrumentalisation of migrants as a means of political pressure or of the spread of the Grey Wolves, who are close to the Erdoğan regime, in the EU member states. Almost like a mantra and like déjà vu, given the fact that these listings take place every year. But one wonders why the EU should then continue with the process of Turkey's accession.

Therefore, not a word is mentioned about the fact that in the Turkish presidential elections this year, in Austria alone, 74% of Austrian Turks voted for Erdoğan's AKP.

So the question is not whether Turkey will continue to be a candidate country with or without Erdoğan anyway. The question should rather be: When will the EU Commission finally stop these absurd accession negotiations?

## Harald Vilimsky

“The question is not whether Turkey will continue to be a candidate country with or without Erdoğan anyway. The question should rather be: When will the EU Commission finally stop these absurd accession negotiations?”



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



# State of the Union: hopefully the last one

## by Von der Leyen

As this year's State of the Union address takes place during this plenary session, it is time to give a critical assessment of the "accomplishments" of 2023. The Commission's website lists the main achievements of the Von der Leyen presidency as defending European peace in Ukraine and investing in Europe's prosperity by building a green economy.

Firstly, while this year did see the start of the Ukrainian counteroffensive, support from the Union and its biggest Member States has still been lagging and underwhelming, and major breakthroughs in the war have taken longer than needed.

On top of that, according to recent news, the import of Russian LNG gas by Western Europe takes place on an even larger scale than before the start of the war. While around 13 billion cubic meters of LNG was imported by EU countries in 2021, during the first half of 2023 almost 11 billion cubic meters has already been imported to EU countries.

Furthermore, words like prosperity and a green economy rarely go together in the same sentence. Starting with the EU ban on the sale of new petrol and diesel cars from 2035 and ending with continuous incentives to shut down coal or shale rock mines across the EU, we are drifting further and further away from the promised prosperity of the Union.

Prosperity currently feels like a pipedream for ordinary people who struggle to even afford basic necessities such as food and electricity. Meanwhile, the Union, whose citizens make up less than 6% of the total world population, has set its focus on further restricting its production and economy, while the rest of the world continues with business as usual.

The 2024 elections will give us the possibility to change the leadership of Europe. As it is, the current head of the Commission has failed in defending European peace and ensuring a prosperous future.

## Jaak Madison

**"The 2024 elections will give us the possibility to change the leadership of Europe."**



*MEP ID Group, Estonian delegation - EESTI KONSERVATIIVNE RAHVAERAKOND*

# ID initiatives for the Plenary Session

1 amendment to the report on **Establishing a Single Market emergency instrument;**

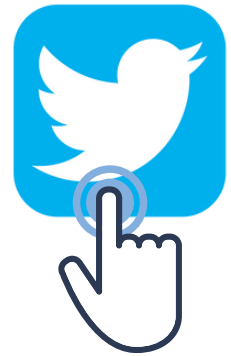
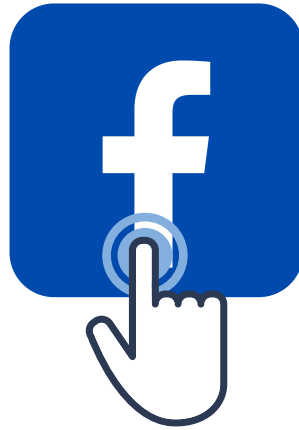
1 amendment to the report on **Standards of quality and safety for substances of human origin intended for human application;**

6 amendments to the report on **Turkey;**

6 amendments to the report on **Ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe;**

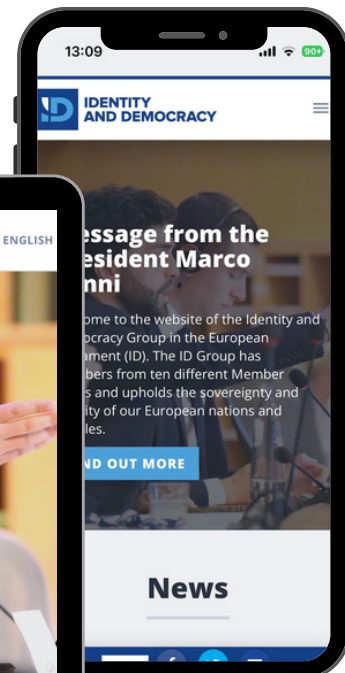
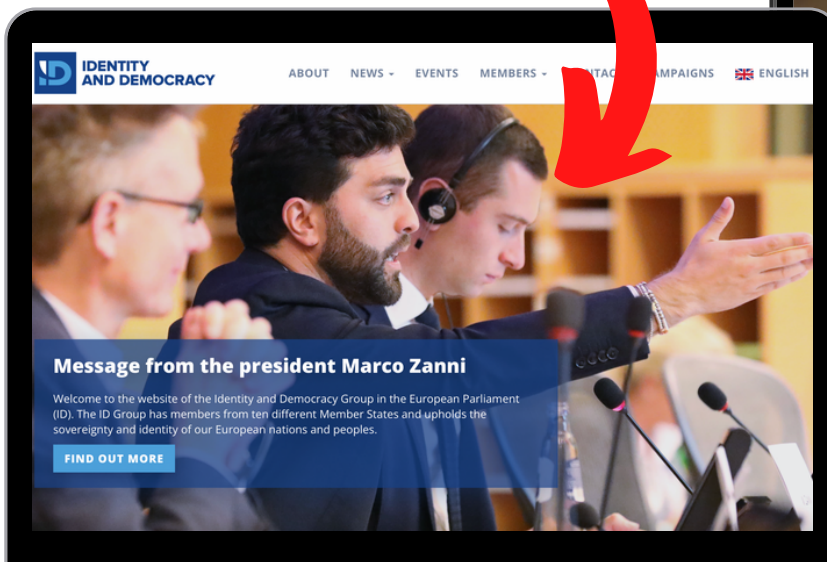
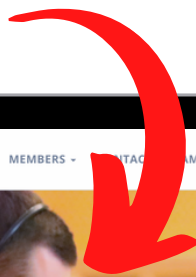
2 amendments to the report on **Parliament's Rules of Procedure with a view to strengthening integrity, independence and accountability.**

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# Defending the identity of peoples and the sovereignty of nations!

The Identity and Democracy Group, founded in June 2019, has 62 members in the European Parliament, coming from 8 countries: Italy, France, Germany, Austria, Flanders (Belgium), Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia.



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