

29th issue

IDENTITY AND DEMOCRACY GROUP



Plenary Booklet



12 to 15 DECEMBER

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The EU to strengthen relations with the USA to resist China's expansionism: Better late than never

In a scenario such as the current one, during which we have been experiencing for months a crisis in the supply of raw materials, a considerable rise in consumer costs, and rising inflation, redesigning a European strategy to make the Continent autonomous from third states becomes crucial.

Protecting infrastructure from China's expansionist aims, in particular, must be one of the pillars on which to build the Union of tomorrow. To do so, however, Brussels must eliminate the contradictions that it has continued to replicate in recent years, and even during the Covid pandemic. Maintaining relations of cooperation and dialogue with the Asian giant isn't necessarily a bad thing, but continuing to expose oneself to subservience towards Beijing, because of the natural resources it holds or the spending power with which it dominates markets, is a dangerous game.

That is why we welcome the announcement that came a few days ago from Commission President Ursula von der Leyen about the potential formation of a joint EU-US front to make us more independent from China. However, the EU, once again and as in the case of Russia, is showing that it is moving too late in relation to a world that goes very fast and does not have time to wait for the slow pace at which the Brussels bureaucracy moves.



Marco Zanni

"Protecting infrastructure from China's expansionist aims, in particular, must be one of the pillars on which to build the Union of tomorrow."

President ID Group, Italian delegation - LEGA PER SALVINI PREMIER

Dodging questions

Right after the assault on Nord Stream 2 the ID Group has asked what steps the Commission has undertaken to investigate the assault and what it will do to protect critical infrastructure. The Commission was unable to deliver their response within the deadline. Now it will have to try dodging our questions in Plenary on Thursday.

The lack of interest of the Commission with regard to the fate of such an important pipeline into the EU is quite peculiar if compared to how forcefully it usurped the power to regulate such pipelines from third countries into the EU. It was only in 2017 that the Commission proposed a directive that would expand the scope of the Commission's regulatory power then applicable to EU-internal pipelines to pipelines to and from third countries. Trilogues lasted almost a year, so that the Directive was adopted just before Jean-Claude Juncker's term as President of the Commission ended.

It is particularly interesting to note the Commission's apparent incapacity to investigate the cause of the destruction of a multi-billion euro asset, when it fought so hard to grab regulatory control over it.

We may never learn what happened to Nord Stream II, but we are certainly clear about the EU's nature: It wants to have it all, but all it has it turns to dust.



Gunnar Beck

"It is particularly interesting to note the Commission's apparent incapacity to investigate the cause of the destruction of a multi-billion dollar asset..."

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

Rights and inclusion: no one must be left behind

The European Parliament will debate on the state of implementation of the path towards equal rights for persons with disabilities. The report we are called to discuss states some undeniable truths: people with disabilities have to confront many obstacles in all aspects of their daily life. Lack of access to public transport and healthcare, use of sign language, funding and access to education still represent major impediments to the detriment of a full enjoyment of their rights.

The world of disability is represented by a multitude of people with completely different needs and requirements. It is our duty, as representatives of this House, to make sure to intercept such needs and respond with solid actions now more than ever. The pandemic has left a huge void, causing delays in care, making clear that it is of utmost importance to make up for lost time and enable the more fragile to lead a dignified life, by any means.

Lega has always been at the forefront in the protection of the rights of the weakest and will continue to support the effective implementation and enforcement of related EU legislation such as the EU Disability Card and in broader terms the new European Strategy for Disability 2021-2030. It is crucial in this sense to set aside any ideological rift and provide Member States, as well as their local communities, with the means to strengthen and improve services and guarantee support to persons with disabilities and their families. Concrete actions are needed to make our cities fit for all.



Marco Campomenosi

"The pandemic has left a huge void, causing delays in care, making clear that it is of utmost importance to make up for lost time and enable the more fragile to lead a dignified life, by any means."

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

387,000 euros for an EU event with a maximum of six people!

On Tuesday, 29 November, the European Commission's External Aid Service organized a gala in the Metaverse, a virtual and shared space accessible via 3D or 2D video conference interaction, to promote its Global Gateway initiative. This initiative aims to develop new infrastructures in developing countries.

Thus, it had planned robots in the form of rubbery avatars dancing to house music on a tropical island. Although it is accessible for free, this ceremony in the Metaverse has received a more than mixed reception. Indeed, the correspondent for Devex, a media platform for the global development community, noted on Twitter that he was ultimately the only remaining guest of the evening, after "a confusing initial discussion with the other five humans who showed up."

The Commission spent a total of 387,000 euros on the event, which was a resoundingly unsuccessful event. This is an actual waste of public money.

In this economic and energy crisis period from which Europeans are suffering, the Commission considers it a priority to spend hundreds of thousands of euros to organize such an event. This level of disconnection from Brussels is hardly surprising. But when will it stop?



Jean-Paul Garraud

"The Commission spent a total of 387,000 euros on the event, which was a resoundingly unsuccessful event. This is an actual waste of public money."

MEP ID Group, Head of French delegation - RASSEMBLEMENT NATIONAL

Persecution of Christians all around the world

This is the last plenary sitting of the year. Shortly we will be celebrating Christmas. Time and time again, we have stressed in Plenary the dire situation of Christians all around the world. Many of them will have to celebrate in rather unpleasant circumstances. They suffer from persecution, are oftentimes harassed, and sometimes are prohibited from practicing their religion. In many Muslim countries, Sharia rule turns Christians into tribute payers. In Nigeria, massacres happen regularly. In China, Christians are forced underground or must join the official Church, which registers them like Caesar Augustus, regulates their services and demands to replace images of Jesus with portraits of Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China and Chairman of its Communist party.

That is why we have asked to put "The persecution of Christians all around the world" on the agenda.

We were not at all surprised to that our request was rejected by the majority of the Parliament. The European Parliament has fallen prey to a militant left that ever tries to axe the roots of our culture. The West, which translates as the beautiful word "Abendland" into German, rests on what Christianity has built. It is a major, if not crucial part of our identity. We will continue the good fight for our identity, culture, and democracy. Merry Christmas!



Nicolaus Fest

"The European Parliament has fallen prey to a militant left that ever tries to axe the roots of our culture."

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

Chinese government crackdown on peaceful protests

China once again stressed its totalitarian character. In an absurd attempt to contain the spread of Covid, the Chinese government stuck to outrageously totalitarian methods that have a proven track record of inefficiency. Dozens of Chinese citizens took to the streets in response to the CCP's zero-Covid policy. Their legitimate concerns however were met with a ruthless crackdown by the authorities.

But the fuse was lit. Because what started as a few local protests against the zero-Covid policy, turned into much more. Nationwide Chinese citizens took to the streets to protest against censorship and for freedom of speech. Composed, yet brave, the people of China showed up and stood up for freedom. Their symbol: a sheet of white paper, highlighting the utter lack of free expression in communist China.

The brave Chinese protestors show us two things. Firstly, they demonstrate never to take freedom for granted. We built an exceptional civilizational model where our inalienable rights are guaranteed, where individual liberty is a valuable concept. It is absolutely worth defending this. Secondly, the protests served as a healthy reminder that until very recently our respective governments reacted in an eerily similar fashion when citizens dared to question the prevailing Covid-policy of lockdowns and vaccine mandates. China may be on the other end of the globe, but its totalitarian methods lay right around the corner.



Tom Vandendriessche

"China may be on the other end of the globe, but its totalitarian methods lay right around the corner."

MEP ID Group, Flemish delegation - VLAAMS BELANG

387,000 real euros for a fake world

The President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, made the first move: In her "State of the Union" last September, she saw the "metaverse" as one of the pressing challenges of the future. The term goes back to Neal Stephenson and his science fiction novel "Snow Crash," published in 1992. It refers to a sort of virtual reality as a parallel to the physical world. A bit like Brussels. The foreign aid department of the EU Commission has taken this seriously. It has commissioned such a "metaverse" from Media Consulta GmbH (mc-group). The topic: "Global Gateway" - a kind of reaction of the EU to China's Silk Road project, which intends to mobilize up to 300 billion euros in investments by 2027. The project is as nebulous as the definition of Metaverse. Many doubt that 300 billion can actually be "leveraged" with EU money. Possibly another variant of Ursula von der Leyen's PR cloud cuckoo homes. According to its own information, the mc-group as contractor for the "Metaverse" is the largest German communications agency and sees itself as number one in Europe.

This week, the "Global Gateway Metaverse" was opened with a "gala" ("Ready for the party?"), so to speak. What is shown there is stunning. You can roam around a bit as an avatar; the information value tends towards zero. That the intention was to "arouse curiosity and encourage" an audience "primarily on TikTok and Instagram" to "engage with the broader content of the campaign" and thus "raise awareness of the EU's activities on the world stage" is a bad joke. Even more shocking is that the Commission is said to have paid 387,000 euros for it. Real money from European taxpayers, it is important to note, not virtual money. Any of these taxpayers can see for themselves online here what Von der Leyen's Commission is spending its EU contribution on. The developer platform Devex even quotes the reactions of some Commission department employees to the disaster: "Depressing and shameful," says one. "Digital garbage," another. There is really nothing more to add to that. Except, perhaps, that in view of the result, we would like to have our money back.

Harald Vilimsky

"The project is as nebulous as the definition of Metaverse. Many doubt that 300 billion can actually be "leveraged" with EU money."



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

If you take Christ out of Christianity, what is left?

The black and white mainstream media wants us to believe that the socio-economic problems brought about by immigration will be solved by increasing immigration. Simultaneously, the mainstream media sees conservative politicians in both the US and Europe as a problem because they want to limit immigration from third world countries.

The hegemony prevailing in the EU sees increasing multiculturalism as an intrinsic value. At the same time, it wants to reduce the importance of Christianity. Christian traditions, such as Christmas celebrations, are being driven out of schools. Liberal politicians have become allergic to the message of Christianity. Liberals want to change the message of the church to match their political ideology, i.e. climate change and the rainbow idea.

This is all done in the name of tolerance. Christ is not tolerated, but the spread of Islam is seen as a progressive and miraculous thing.



Laura Huhtasaari

"Christian traditions, such as Christmas celebrations, are being driven out of schools. Liberal politicians have become allergic to the message of Christianity."

MEP ID Group, Head of Finnish delegation - PERUSSUOMALAISET

Russian tactics never change

90 years after Holodomor, the genocide of Ukrainians through starvation by the Soviet Union, Russia is still using the same old playbook.

It is estimated that up to 10 million people died as a result of this horrendous strategy. Russia is denying to this day that it was a deliberate man-made starvation campaign and greatly downplays this tragedy. This denial is made easier because of Western journalists and academics who idolized the Soviet project in the 1930s and decided not to accurately report on this or even argued that it was for "a noble cause". The most famous of them was Pulitzer Prize winner Walter Duranty of the New York Times who played a big role in the cover up. Those journalists who accurately reported on this genocide were vilified and accused of spreading fake news.

There is still a lot of sympathy for Communism, which is being echoed in our Western universities, as well as support for Vladimir Putin by people who

cannot get rid of their rose-coloured glasses.

The Soviet Union brought death by hunger to millions of Ukrainians. Now the same state, just with a different name, is bringing death by cold. The Kremlin is targeting energy infrastructure to make Ukrainians suffer during the winter. Bombing power plants achieves no military objectives, but it does not need to: As it was with the Soviet Union, making people suffer is a goal in itself. In the Kremlin's mind those who were against collectivization have to starve to death and now Ukrainians who do not support joining Russia deserve to freeze to death.

Russian tactics to further their imperialistic aims and to keep people afraid have not changed nor will it change as long as Russia does not have to answer for their crimes. Appeasements by Mr. Scholz and Mr. Macron towards Putin are only guaranteeing that Russian aggression will continue to happen.

Jaak Madison

"The Soviet Union brought death by hunger to millions of Ukrainians. Now the same state, just with a different name, is bringing death by cold."



MEP ID Group, Estonian delegation - EESTI KONSERVATIIVNE RAHVAERAKOND

ID initiatives for the Plenary Session

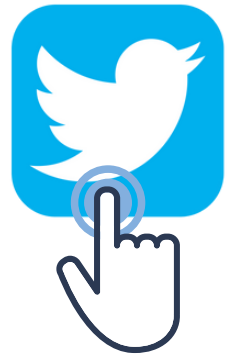
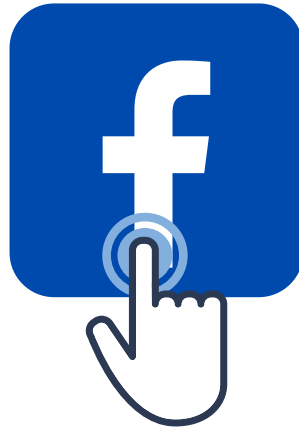
2 amendments to the **Amending Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources, Directive on the energy performance of buildings and Directive on energy efficiency;**

4 amendments to the **Implementation of the New European Agenda for Culture and the EU Strategy for International Cultural Relations.**

Concerning the human rights urgencies, the Group proposed the following topic:

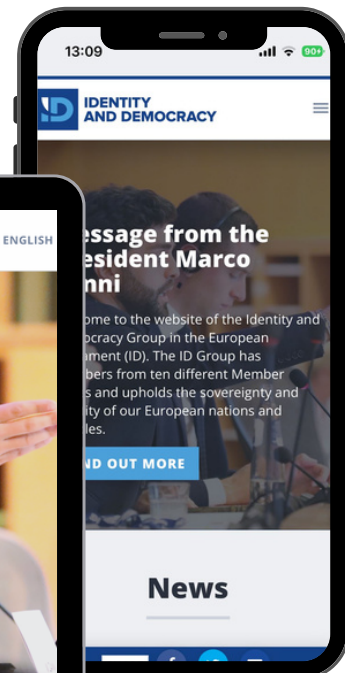
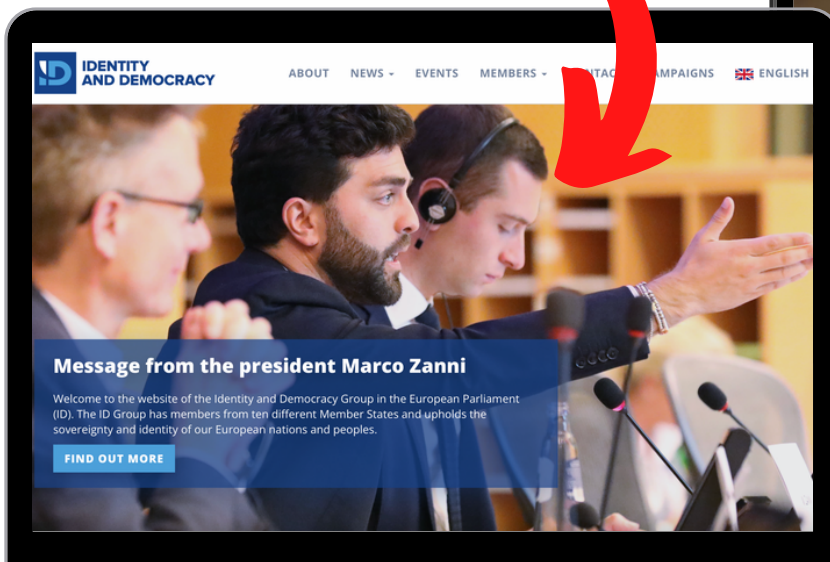
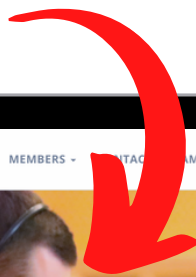
The Persecution of Christians around the world.

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Defending the identity of peoples and the sovereignty of nations!

The Identity and Democracy group, founded in June 2019, has 64 members in the European Parliament, coming from 9 countries: Italy, France, Germany, Austria, Flanders (Belgium), Czech Republic, Finland, 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