

*32nd issue*

IDENTITY AND DEMOCRACY GROUP



# Plenary Booklet



13 to 16 MARCH

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# Preventing deaths at sea by stopping illegal migration

Last week we all heard about the sad event that took place near the Italian coast, where more than 70 people lost their lives when a boat transporting migrants sank. It is always tragic to deal with situations where so many individuals, including young people, lose their lives.

It is unacceptable that in 2023 such misfortunes are still happening, but it is especially intolerable that some political parties use these lives to attack centre-right governments. After many years, the European institutions are still unable to react to the migration phenomenon, and they are unaware that there is only one solution: stop the departures.

Stopping these clandestine routes at their origin would prevent all these deaths and would put an end to the business of the smugglers, who have been working freely in the Mediterranean for the past decade.

NGOs clearly have a role in facilitating these trips between Africa and Europe; we should put an end to their business, which has also an enormous cost in terms of human lives.



## Marco Zanni

*"Stopping clandestine migration routes at their origin would prevent all these deaths and would put an end to the business of the smugglers..."*

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

# Deaths at sea: a common EU response to save lives and action to ensure safe and legal pathways

We are witnessing another tidal peak in the migrant crisis. The numbers of illegal migrants have risen uncomfortably. Unfortunately, given the EU's open border policy, people die while trying to cross the Mediterranean illegally into the EU. As the political left will not allow any human tragedy to go to waste, these tragic deaths are instrumentalised and put at the center of public attention, while the alarming number of migrants remains almost unnoticed.

All of this is not inevitable and can be avoided by the right policy. The UK is now planning to deport any illegal migrant directly from the shores of the British isles to Rwanda, copying partially the Australian No-way Policy. What a great way to disincentivise illegal immigration! Denmark has begun calling for asylum processing centres outside of the EU, far from its borders. And within the Parliament, the EPP now has adopted the policy of the ID Group to call for physical barriers as border protection.

All of this together would make illegal migration into the EU much harder and reduce the number of people who perish at sea. It is merely a matter of time until the pieces come together and our call for a policy restricting migration will prevail in the EU. However, the EU is, as is so often the case, trying to delay the inevitable, and flood Europe with millions of additional migrants - something which Europe simply cannot afford. It is not a question of if or when we should act. We must act now, to prevent further human deaths and our own economic ruin which will help no one.



## Gunnar Beck

*"Within the Parliament, the EPP now has adopted the policy of the ID Group to call for physical barriers as border protection."*

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

# Iran: the Regime cannot poison people's longing for freedom!

After the death of Mahsa Amini in September 2022, protests surged in more than 300 cities and 31 regions in Iran, where a strong movement of young citizens, minorities and women stood up against the Islamic regime. In response, the dictatorship reverted to violence, imprisonments, torture and killings to quell any form of opposition in the country.

We - the European Parliament - are closely following the development of the situation in Iran, which is fiercely escalating. As it is well known, hundreds of schoolgirls got poisoned recently all around the country, and this ominous crime seems to aim at intimidating especially those who are fighting for equality and freedom against Islamic fundamentalism. It is highly probable that the perpetrators are from conservative religious circles close to the Iranian regime and its apparatus. Nevertheless, the Iranian authorities are denying any involvement in the event,

but after months of repression and human rights violations we legitimately distrust the Regime and we express, from our side, solidarity and support to Iranian people.

The Iranians are fighting against a theocratic and illiberal dictatorship. Europe should stand firmly at their side by sanctioning the regime and support them in building a secular and democratic republic.

These poisonings are an inconceivable crime that gives us a clear idea of how much the situation worsened in the country, and that urges Europe to act internationally to sanction the regime and its efforts to repress the voices of its own people.



## Marco Campomenosi

*"The Iranians are fighting against a theocratic and illiberal dictatorship."*

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

# Iran: the way for going further in the horror!

In Iran, the serial poisonings in schools reserved for the majority of girls have multiplied at an alarming rate. This series of events is seen as a "revenge" by the regime, in reaction to the youth uprising following the death of Mahsa Amini.

On Sunday, 5 March across the country, more than two hundred elementary, middle and high schools were targeted by poisonings of suspicious origin. The girls were complaining of breathing difficulties, nausea and headaches. The perpetrators of these acts, which occurred in Tehran, Rasht, Mashhad and other cities, have still not been identified. While the population is concerned and demands answers, the Iranian authorities denounce the action of supposed "enemies of Iran" or put the responsibilities on the young girls who are victims, under the pretext that they would try to create disorder in their schools. The world is upside down!

Although it is necessary to be cautious about these accusations, a large number of citizens believe that the government is in fact at the origin of these poisonings.

After initially denying the existence of the problem, the authorities are now restricting all information on the subject. For example, a journalist who had been following the case in the city of Qom for the Qomnews website since the first poisoning at the end of November, was arrested last Monday. The freedom of the press is a priority in a situation of great turmoil like this one.

The Iranian Islamist regime continues to tyrannise and oppress the population. More than ever, we provide our support to these proud and courageous people who are fighting against obscurantism and totalitarianism.



## Jean-Paul Garraud

*"The Iranian Islamist regime continues to tyrannise and oppress the population. More than ever, we provide our support to these proud and courageous people who are fighting against obscurantism and totalitarianism."*

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



# Energy performance of buildings

The EU has become self-indulgent, gluttonous and limitless in its general approach towards the policies it pursues. For example, the EU now wants to oblige owners to make energy efficiency their top, if not only, priority. Its new plan will demand massive amounts of money to be spent on dubious energy saving measures, the cost of which by far outweigh the benefits.

In Germany, minister of economic affairs, the Green Robert Habeck, goes even further. He is clamouring for an outright ban of gas and oil heating systems. Not even 2 years ago, the German government massively subsidized the installation of new gas heating systems for its citizens.

Today, all of this is about to be made worthless by the misrouted ink stroke of an errant minister. Habeck is now promoting the use of heat pumps instead.

These rely heavily on electrical power, which has become a scarce resource, even more so given the transition towards battery-powered cars and the phasing out of nuclear energy. Moreover, electricity has become dirtier than before under Germany's traffic-light coalition with the Greens, as the share of coal-based power generation has risen to 33 %. Anyone with his eyes open can see the next German energy disaster in the making.

Both Germany and the EU are in desperate need of a return to rational, self-interested policies, based on Christian virtues, humble in its approach, restricted in what it strives for, and deeply grounded in reality.



## Joachim Kuhs

*"Electricity has become dirtier than before under Germany's traffic-light coalition with the Greens, as the share of coal-based power generation has risen to 33 %."*

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

# The European Semester: A cover-up

On the agenda: the Tinagli report on the European Semester 2023, which tries to coordinate the economic and budgetary policies of the Member States in an effort to safeguard the macroeconomic stability of the Economic and Monetary Union.

In a monetary union, like it or not, fiscal coordination is necessary to ensure the stability and even survival of a common currency. Otherwise, there may be negative spill-overs from highly indebted and overspending countries to frugal ones. Since the Eurozone consists of economically divergent and diverging economies, a monetary union is likely to fail, even with an aggregated fiscal policy. But that is a huge taboo in the European enclaves.

According to the report, the EU budget (186 billion euro in 2023) is so limited that new ways must be found to finance collectively strategic investments. Therefore, the Commission has come up with a European Sovereignty Fund. This new fund will be financed through common debt, which is a clear violation of the European Treaties.

However, the Tinagli report also claims that the green and digital transformation of the economy can only succeed at the European level thanks to the Resilience and Recovery Facility. This is highly irrelevant for the macroeconomic stability of the Union. On the contrary, the green obsession of the Commission is rapidly destroying the competitiveness of European industry. The report also pleads for the use of Sustainable Development Goals in the Semester. The aim of the European Semester should be fiscal coordination. Nothing more, nothing less.

The Eurozone is a construction error. With the European Semester, the Union wants to cover up this error. It wants to take control over the fiscal policies of the Member States and push its green agenda. This is increasingly destroying national autonomy.



## Gerolf Annemans

**"The EU wants to take control over the fiscal policies of the Member States and push its green agenda. This is increasingly destroying national autonomy."**

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

# Property owners face cost explosion with EU directive on energy efficiency of buildings

Instead of taking care of restoring affordable energy for citizens, the EU institutions are planning an assault on the constitutionally guaranteed fundamental right to property. The EU's plan to issue a directive on the energy efficiency of buildings is a deep cut into property rights. The current text, which was revised by the Committee on Research and Energy (ITRE) in the EU Parliament, among others, not only contains regulations that increase construction costs for new buildings, which must now be emission-free and equipped with solar technology by 2028, but also for the owners of existing residential buildings.

This will lead to unbearable financial burdens that will drain owners of their last savings. The ITRE report adopted in February stipulates that all residential buildings must achieve at least energy efficiency class E by 2030. This includes about 15 percent of Austria's buildings. In addition, all residential buildings are to achieve energy efficiency class D by 2033.

For non-residential buildings, these short time periods are even tightened to the years 2027 and 2030 respectively. For the FPÖ, this demand on the part of the EU is unacceptable.

Accordingly, the FPÖ delegation will reject the revised EU Directive on the Energy Performance of Buildings (EPBD). Even though inflation and astronomical building costs are causing massive collapses in housing construction across Europe, the EU once again intends to push for a wave of renovations at sheer unimaginable cost for citizens as part of the Green Deal.

Instead of another cost explosion for citizens, the EU should finally think about how to efficiently tackle inflation and the far too high energy and living costs, which are already causing millions of citizens in Europe to despair.

## Harald Vilimsky

*"The EU should finally think about how to efficiently tackle inflation and the far too high energy and living costs..."*



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



# The EU's schizophrenic behaviour when it comes to women's rights

Last week, large parts of the world celebrated international women's day. In stark contrast to this, more than 1000 schoolgirls have been poisoned since November 2022 in Iran. Although these actions have been attributed to "extremists", there are also suggestions that the poisonings are tacitly endorsed by the Iranian regime.

These instances of poisoning come in the wake of the death of Mahsa Amini in September last year - according to her family she was severely beaten by Iran's morality police for "improperly" wearing a hijab and later died while still in police custody. Protests have since taken place across the country in support of women's rights.

Since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, women have been systematically oppressed in Iran. Despite continued attacks against women and countless other gross human rights violations in the country, despite Iran's continued support of Russia even during the invasion of Ukraine, despite the fact that Iran has sanctioned certain Members of the European Parliament, and despite the fact that the Iranian regime supports and uses terrorist

organisations as proxies, the EU remains committed to the nuclear agreement (JCPOA) with Iran and has allocated €87 million to Iran in terms of the Multiannual Indicative Programme under the NDICI Global Europe for Iran for the 2021-2027 period. You would think that at least one of the key focus areas of the programme would be women. You would be wrong. The primary aim of the funding goes towards sustainable growth, jobs, climate, environment and the green transition (of course!), and cross-border challenges (including migration, forced displacement and drug-related issues).

And let us make no mistake - the suppression and persecution of women is a key characteristic of Islam. Yet the EU still glorifies the suppression of women by regularly portraying headscarves as a desirable feature of women's freedom. The headscarf is the primary symbol of the suppression of women and should never be glorified or promoted, especially not by the EU institutions.

## Jaak Madison

*"Yet the EU still glorifies the suppression of women by regularly portraying headscarves as a desirable feature of women's freedom."*



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

## ID initiatives for the Plenary Session

5 amendments to **European Semester: Employment and social priorities for 2023;**

1 amendment to **European Semester for economic policy coordination 2023;**

6 amendments to **Data Act;**

18 amendments to **Energy performance of buildings;**

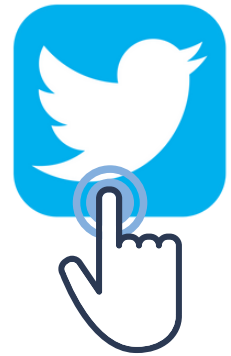
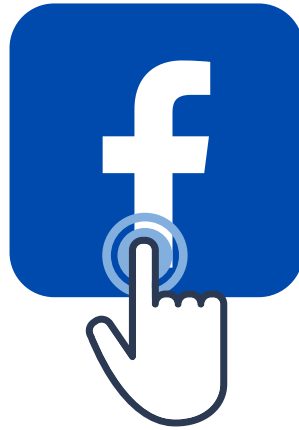
2 amendments to **the functioning of the EEAS;**

a rejection amendment to **Binding annual greenhouse gas emission reductions by Member States;**

a rejection amendment to **Land use, land use change and forestry;**

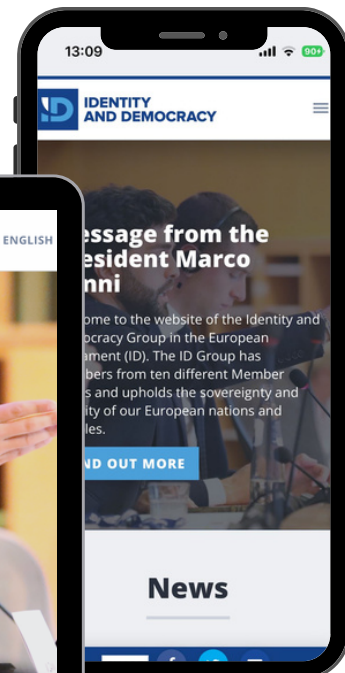
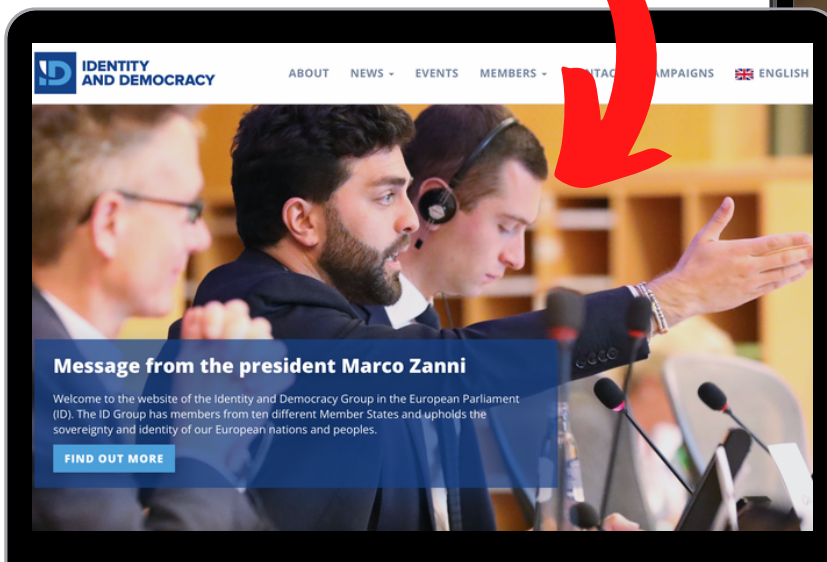
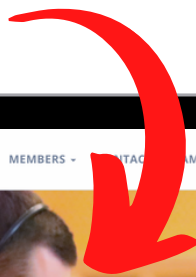
a rejection amendment to **Revision of the Market Stability Reserve for the EU Emissions Trading System.**

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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.



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