



IDENTITY
AND DEMOCRACY

PLENARY BOOKLET

15 – 18 JANUARY 2024

NGOs: The time for accountability has come

The transparency and accountability of NGOs have long been sensitive topics for this Commission and very crucial for our Identity and Democracy Group.

In 2019, the European Court of Auditors slammed the Berlaymont for its absolute opacity regarding funds destined for NGOs. It was a warning to which the European leadership offered half-hearted responses, postponing the provision of lists of organizations to the ECA until two years later.

More recent is the Qatargate affair, which embarrassed the entire European Parliament and endangered its institutional prestige by unveiling a system of ad hoc calls for tenders and corruption aimed at transferring resources to an NGO.

It is usual in Brussels to demand a lot from European citizens, imposing on them measures and costs that are more often than not unreasonable,

but when it comes to ensuring transparency on how taxpayers' resources are used, the first ones to set a bad example so far have been the Eurobureaucrats themselves.

Consistent with the initiatives already taken by our Group, we will continue to demand even stricter rules on NGOs and the legitimacy of their purposes. This is a dutiful act towards citizens and necessary when public funding is at stake.



Marco Zanni

“When it comes to ensuring transparency on how taxpayers' resources are used, the first ones to set a bad example so far have been the Eurobureaucrats themselves.”

President ID Group, Italian delegation - LEGA PER SALVINI PREMIER

A two-pronged attack on citizenship

Citizenship, a cornerstone of national identity, is facing unprecedented challenges. For decades, various political forces have sought to dilute its significance by supposedly administrative or humanitarian measures simplifying passport acquisition and tolerating illegal entry into Europe. This approach undermines the intrinsic connection between citizenship and national traditions.

The European Parliament's latest report exacerbates this issue. By advocating the idea of enhanced EU citizenship, it encroaches on the exclusive rights of sovereign states to grant citizenship. This initiative, which has neither an adequate legal base nor democratic legitimacy, risks overshadowing national identities and practices.

It's essential to remember that citizenship is fundamentally a subject matter of national responsibility, not a supranational one.

The EU's attempt to grab power over citizenship overlooks the intricate complexities of national citizenship laws and the rich cultural and political diversity of its Member States.

As the EU seeks to redefine citizenship from above, certain political groups, mostly from the left, aim to erode it from within, transforming it into a mere commodity, detached from tradition, language, and culture. We must counter both these threats - the EU's top-down approach and the internal dilution of citizenship's value. The European Parliament should honor Member States' democratic sovereignty in defining citizenship matters, and at the national level, we must strive to preserve the sanctity of our citizenship: Citizenship must never be found for easy pick-up off the bargain rack.



Gunnar Beck

“The EU's attempt to grab power over citizenship overlooks the intricate complexities of national citizenship laws and the rich cultural and political diversity of its Member States.”

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

Nutrition and health claims on foods? We defend the European agri-food sector!

During the January plenary session, the Parliament is to vote on a report on the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1924/2006 on nutrition and health claims made on foods.

This fifteen-year old regulation - shortly called NHCR - applies to voluntary nutritional and health claims on food and food supplements in all commercial communication, which includes labelling, presentation and advertising of products.

Even though NHCR sets out a general and voluntary scheme for nutrition and health claims, the text mentions in a positive way the front-of-pack nutrition labelling for products made available in the internal market.

Such labelling is highly detrimental to our traditional agri-food production and the majority of the sector is fiercely against its imposition on the Member States.

We have to fiercely monitor the situation, as our citizens pleaded with us to fight against every attempt of penalizing European consumers and imposing a nutritional model based on ideologically oriented patterns.

Moreover, these attempts are aimed at dismantling the industrial backbone of our agri-food sector.

As a matter of fact, the extremists of the green transition want to penalize traditional farming and agriculture in favor of new synthetic productions, fostered by multinationals.

In this context, our Group will always defend and protect the agri-food sector and the health of our citizens.

Marco Campomenosi

“The extremists of the green transition want to penalize traditional farming and agriculture in favor of new synthetic productions, fostered by multinationals.”



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

Another hypocritical report on fundamental rights!

The European Parliament is putting to the vote its traditional report on fundamental rights, in line with what is regularly produced here: a poor text overall. In particular, it criticises Member States for failing to respect “their human rights commitments” and the Union’s “values”. The latter are subjective, and their application is only monitored when a country displeases Brussels.

For example, the Qatargate scandal, Mrs von der Leyen’s text messages to the CEO of Pfizer, the independence of the judiciary under the current Spanish government and the treatment of freedom of the public media by the Polish parliamentary majority are all relatively untouched by the report.

On the other hand, the report attacks Hungary as always, a country whose government has refused to submit to the ideology of Brussels.

The text is favourable towards the migrants flooding our continent, expressing concern that their fundamental rights are not being “respected”. The report also mentions “systemic racism” and “Islamophobia” in the EU, but overlooks Christianophobia, which is on rise in Europe. Our countries are being invaded and Christians attacked on their soil, but the Parliament is looking the other way and letting it happen.

The few positive points, such as the reminder of press freedom, are not enough to counterbalance this report positively. We will ensure that it is not adopted.



Jean-Paul Garraud

“The European Parliament is putting to the vote its traditional report on fundamental rights, in line with what is regularly produced here: a poor text overall. It criticises Member States for failing to respect their ‘human rights commitments’ and the Union’s ‘values’.”

MEP ID Group, Head of French delegation - RASSEMBLEMENT NATIONAL

Tackling left-wing activism masquerading as NGO operations

We welcome the Parliament's attempt to tackle NGO transparency and accountability. It's a first step towards scrutinizing NGOs, a sector that has long operated without sufficient oversight. However, our proposed amendment seeks to address crucial gaps in this report.

Key among our concerns is the seemingly overlooked issue of NGOs contributing to illegal migration and engaging in unregulated lobbying within the EU. In the aftermath of the Qatargate scandal, our amendment calls for stricter transparency measures. We believe the Parliament must adopt a more introspective approach to this significant corruption scandal by enhancing the monitoring of NGOs' financial sources and structures.

Furthermore, our amendment advocates for including NGOs in the Anti Money Laundering and Anti Tax Avoidance Directives, thereby safeguarding against potential financial malpractices.

It's crucial to delineate the roles of NGOs and governments, especially in sensitive operations like search and rescue, which may inadvertently support illegal migration. NGOs must adhere to strict transparency and accountability standards to maintain public trust and uphold democratic integrity. Thus, the Parliament's current stance on NGOs, in our view, represents just the initial step towards a more rigorous examination of what we perceive as left-wing activism masquerading as NGO operations.



Joachim Kuhs

“NGOs must adhere to strict transparency and accountability standards to maintain public trust and uphold democratic integrity.”

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

Belgian presidency: keeping up appearances

At the end of the legislature, it is of great symbolic value that Belgium will assume the presidency of the European Union. Commission President Von der Leyen has already indicated that she expects Belgium to willingly push along as much of the European Commission's extremist federal agenda as possible.

Belgian governments are blind slaves to that agenda and EU-critical voices are made suspicious in Belgium. Belgian politicians who arrive in the European Parliament always almost automatically become servants of the EU system, including Flemish elected representatives who are critical of the EU at home, but once in the European Parliament enthusiastically argue for more resources for the Multiannual Financial Framework.

On the other hand, we know a Belgian system that is completely stuck and presents the almost worst budget figures from the entire Union. European Commissioner for Economy Paolo Gentiloni warned about Belgium's ever-rising government spending.

Belgium is on its last legs and the momentum is approaching when the only solution will be an orderly split-up of the country. Meanwhile, Belgium is keeping up appearances with its short-lived presidency ahead of the European elections, which will cost taxpayers at least an extra 50 million euros and possibly more, with over 100 recruitments and the purchase of designer furniture.

As the Belgian Charles Michel leaves the building in search of job security, in Von der Leyen's eyes the presidency will not disappoint and will heat up the classic fare of open borders, 'green' transition, rule of law, enlargement and Treaty changes. The only Treaty change that we can accept however is one that ensures that competences are transferred back to Member States.



Gerolf Annemans

“Belgian governments are blind slaves to the extremist federal EU agenda.”

MEP ID Group, Head of Flemish delegation - VLAAMS BELANG

The extension of the EU crime list to include hate speech is politically motivated

The report on extending the list of EU crimes to include hate speech and hate crimes is another attempt by Brussels to develop a scenario, based on flimsy justifications and quite serious issues, in which parties critical of the EU or those that reject mass migration or Brussels' centralist course are to be sidelined and could even be prosecuted.

The fight against "hate speech" is to be expanded accordingly and added to a list of EU offences. This means that new rules are also to be drawn up and defined by Brussels when it comes to expressing opinions. This almost seemingly censorial rage from Brussels is nothing new, as it is epitomised by the unspeakable Digital Service Act, which is intended to combat precisely this "hate speech" on online platforms. In principle, the fight against hate speech, incitement to hatred and bullying is to be advocated and it is precisely these that are prosecuted under criminal law at national level. In other words,

the courts in the Member States already have a blueprint on how to combat them and act accordingly.

Therefore, this whole project must be seen as politically motivated. It is precisely the centralists and left-wingers who determine what is meant by this term. Because from a left-wing perspective, it is already "hate speech" if you denounce illegal mass migration to Europe or even advocate secure borders. The report does emphasise that "freedom of expression will continue to be guaranteed under the new rules".

However, such statements are Orwellian Newspeak in Brussels and have become part of the standard repertoire. In this respect, we will not support this project under any circumstances.

Harald Vilimsky

"Hate speech. It is precisely the centralists and left-wingers who determine what is meant by this term."



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

The EU pushes to further criminalize freedom of expression

The report titled “Extending the list of EU crimes to hate speech and hate crime” has reached plenary level.

As we stand, there is already an existing directive from 2008, which gives the Member States the obligation to criminalize hate speech. In 2021, the European Commission came up with a proposal to include hate speech and hate crimes in the list of EU crimes – next to crimes like terrorism and sexual exploitation.

This would allow setting EU-wide minimum sanctions in the future with a regular directive. The report urges the Council to add these new crimes to the list.

Firstly, the unanimity requirement in the Council should not be classified as “detrimental” and Articles of the Treaties, which oblige the EU to have respect for the different legal systems and national identities, should not be ignored in the pursuit of a political agenda.

In addition to that, subsidiarity as an enshrined principle of EU law is ignored. This proposal further codifies “European criminal law” at the cost of national sovereignty. Future additions to the EU crime list can be expected.

Most importantly, the various hate speech laws and punishments constitute an attack on the freedom of expression. While we can agree that calls to violence should be reprimanded, the wide definition of hate speech leaves ambiguity as to which cases will be prosecuted.

The ID Group continues its fight against the ever-widening censorship in the EU. The next chance for Europeans to take a stance is during the 2024 elections.



Jaak Madison

“The ID Group continues its fight against the ever-widening censorship in the EU. The next chance for the Europeans to make their stand is at the 2024 elections.”

MEP ID Group, Estonian delegation - EESTI KONSERVATIIVNE RAHVAERAKOND

ID initiatives for the Plenary Session

3 amendments to the AFCO report on the **Implementation of the Treaty provisions on national parliaments;**

8 amendments to the AFCO report on the Implementation of the **Treaty provisions on EU citizenship;**

an alternative motion for a resolution for the CONT report on **Transparency and accountability of non-governmental organisations funded from the EU budget;**

6 amendments to the CONT report on the **Protection of the European Union's financial interests - combating fraud;**

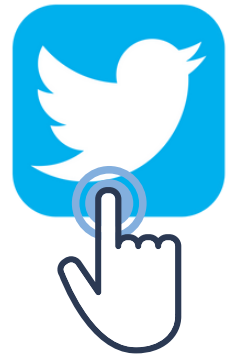
1 amendment to the CULT report on the **Implementation of the Erasmus+ programme;**

2 amendments to the ENVI report on **Nutrition and health claims made on foods;**

8 amendments to the LIBE report on the **Situation of fundamental rights in the EU;**

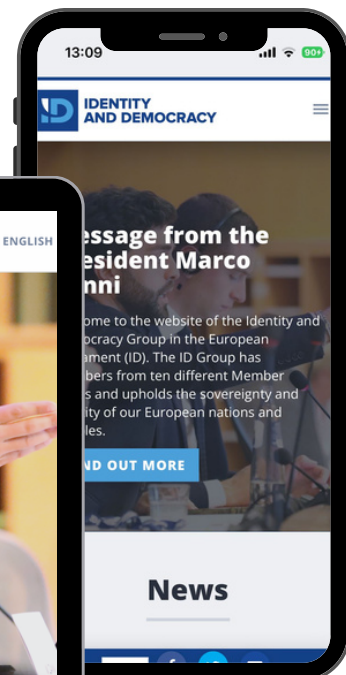
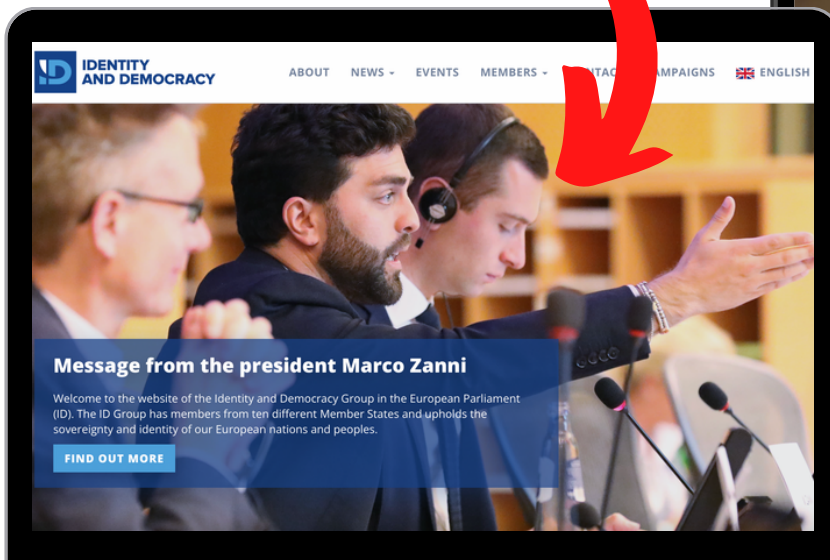
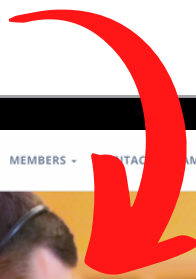
2 amendments to the LIBE report on **Extending the list of EU crimes to hate speech and hate crime.**

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Defending the identity of peoples and the sovereignty of nations!

The Identity and Democracy Group, founded in June 2019, has 58 members in the European Parliament, coming from 8 countries: Italy, France, Germany, Austria, Flanders (Belgium), Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia.



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