

*30th issue*

IDENTITY AND DEMOCRACY GROUP



# Plenary Booklet



16 to 19 JANUARY

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# **Qatargate and its aftermath: a chance for the Parliament to turn the page and start over**

The Qatargate scandal has embarrassed the European Parliament. It is bringing to the surface all the contradictions of the hypocritical left, which is used to moralizing and cutting out political opponents from the democratic process, while at the same time putting questionable behavior into practice. In this plenary session, as the Identity and Democracy Group, we proudly present our candidate for the position of vice president of the European Parliament scheduled to replace Eva Kaili who previously held this position. Our candidate is Annalisa Tardino, our group's coordinator in the LIBE Committee, who the Identity and Democracy Group unanimously chose to fill such an important role. Annalisa is a person who plays a valuable role, with great competence, and experience. She is a woman, young, capable, esteemed by the whole group, and also appreciated by political forces belonging to other European families.

The right person who will be able to honor the prestige of the office for which she is competing and who can turn the EU institutions around. As well as a symbolic occasion for the Euro Chamber to pay a form of respect to the democratic vote cast by millions of European citizens in 2019. The Parliament should put this bad page behind it and restart with new momentum by making transparency, integrity, and respect concrete principles, not slogans. Each political group deserves to have the right representation, as is the case in every democracy on the continent.



## **Marco Zanni**

*"Annalisa is a person who plays a valuable role, with great competence, and experience. She is a woman, young, capable, esteemed by the whole group, and also appreciated by political forces belonging to other European families."*

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

# Stop urgency resolutions in the European Parliament

In the aftermath of Qatargate scandal, ID has suspended its work on urgency resolutions. Originally intended as an instrument that grants the Parliament the possibility to react quickly to grave humanitarian crises, it has, under the firm grip of the leftist groups, have been perverted into an instrument of the woke foreign policy.

Urgency resolutions have regularly exceeded the strict limit of 500 words that the rules of procedure foresee. Long before Qatargate, on September 14, 2022, we raised this issue with senior Parliament officials. However, the Vice-President in charge waved it off, claiming that breaking the rules does not matter as this has always been the status quo. We found this incredible, but shrugged it off - this is the EU, after all, no surprises, move along.

Now, in the wake of Qatargate, the urgencies have obviously come under special scrutiny.

We were nonetheless quite pleasantly surprised, when President Metsola announced in last week's Conference of Presidents that from now on she would only admit such urgency resolutions, which comply with the rules of procedure, i.e. those not exceeding 500 words. This means a small victory for us, even when it comes late.

It could also be a starting point for a major overhaul of the procedure for urgencies. We need to address the blatant lobbying of NGOs, which even deliver template texts to the other groups and have significant lobby power on the topics that the Parliament addresses. Calling for scrapping the thing as a whole is an option that we should seriously consider.



## Gunnar Beck

*"Urgencies resolutions under the firm grip of the leftist groups, have been perverted into an instrument of the woke foreign policy."*

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

# Freedom and secularism: we stand with the people against the ominous Iranian regime

In this plenary session, we are going to discuss, once again, the European response to the Iranian regime's repression and persecutions against the people protesting for their freedom since late 2022. On Monday a consistent delegation of Iranian exiles protested outside the Parliament demanding to take stronger actions against the regime: first of all, listing the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a terrorist organisation.

We discussed the Iranian regime's crimes several times in this Chamber, and I truly believe we should keep them in the spotlight to put pressure on those who are responsible for them. The recent execution of Mr Alireza Akbaril, former deputy defence Minister who had a British-Iranian dual nationality, is the last chapter of the bloody escalation unleashed by the regime against its own people.

Thus, we believe it is time to act severely at international level to sanction Iran, and Europe should not back off the Iranian nuclear deal anymore as the landscape has so obviously changed during the last few months. The West should not legitimise the Iranian regime in any way, and we all have - as people's representatives - the duty to express our solidarity with those who protest for freedom and secularism.



## Marco Campomenosi

*"We believe it is time to act severely at international level to sanction Iran, and Europe should not back off the Iranian nuclear deal anymore..."*

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



# Committee of inquiry into Qatargate: MEPs bury the case!

Since December 2022, the European Parliament has been shaken by an unprecedented corruption case.

The Greek social-democrat vice-president Eva Kaili, as well as three other people, have been imprisoned in the framework of the investigation into facts related to Qatar, which allegedly paid large sums of money to influence decisions within the European institution in its favor.

Nevertheless, this extremely serious affair has the merit of illustrating the hypocritical policy of certain moral preachers, including the socialists, while they are the only ones concerned, for the moment, by this unprecedented scandal in the European Parliament.

The MEPs adopted a resolution aimed at burying the affair.

It encouraged the establishment of a parliamentary committee of inquiry only at the end of the judicial investigation, that is to say, in...a few years!

Obviously, this commission of inquiry is indispensable now. The aim is not to examine what is in the judicial domain but to analyse and propose measures that would go against all these networks of influence that spread in the European institutions.

All light must be shed on this affair and all attempts to interfere in the EU.

We will see to it!



## Jean-Paul Garraud

*"All light must be shed on the Qatargate affair and all attempts to interfere in the EU. We will see to it!"*

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

# Who lobbied the Commission?

The investigation into the Qatargate corruption scandal is losing steam. First of all, the Parliament has not been driving the investigation, but the Belgian criminal authorities, in collaboration with their Greek and Italian counterparts. They uncovered the scandal, while the Parliament has completely failed to be transparent. As a reminder, within the Parliament it is solely a corruption affair of a single group, namely the Socialists and Democrats. The Parliament reacted with a resolution that failed to single out the S&D, blocked any efforts into investigating what even happened and pushed off the establishment of an inquiry committee until after the criminal investigations have concluded. That will be years from now - certainly after the elections in 2024.

The Commission suffers from the same lack of appetite in shedding light on the corruption and helping with the investigation.

To whom have its staffers talked? Have Commission decisions been influenced by representatives of Qatar, Morocco, S&D, or the NGOs involved? We do not know. This is why we put forward an Oral Question to the Commission asking for details on how it has assisted with the investigations of the authorities. Alas, as well known, there are almost no procedural rights that protect us as parliamentary minority. Being at the mercy of the other groups, they have simply rejected our request. But even that speaks for itself. We have, at hand, a corruption scandal of unknown magnitude, and no one wants to pull away the blanket and uncover all the crimes that might have been perpetrated.



## Nicolaus Fest

*"We have, at hand, a corruption scandal of unknown magnitude, and no one wants to pull away the blanket and uncover all the crimes that might have been perpetrated."*

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

# 30 years of the internal single market: cause for celebration?

In 1958, the common market was first created by the Treaty of Rome. It was intended to eliminate trade barriers between Member States with the aim of increasing economic prosperity. Later, the Single European Act of 1986 included the objective of establishing the internal market in the European Economic Community Treaty, defining it as 'an area without internal frontiers in which the free movement of goods, persons, services and capital is ensured'.

Removing trade barriers between sovereign European nations has always been a staple of European cooperation. It is probably the single biggest justification for any supranational organisation to exist. Over the last decades however, European institutions have strayed further and further from their original purpose. Economic harmony has degenerated into political and cultural uniformity. The European institutions, strengthened by the power economic cooperation has given them, have since usurped numerous national competences.

**Gerolf Annemans**

*"The union of economic prosperity  
has spiraled into a union of social  
atrocities."*

The union of economic prosperity has spiraled into a union of social atrocity. The economic success of the European community is now being used as a bargaining chip of getting Member States to subscribe to the dogmatic 'union of values'. Sanctions and withholding of funds have been the blackmail tools of morally bankrupt bureaucrats in enforcing their so-called values.

The 30th anniversary of the Single Market is one without candles or cake. While it certainly had effect on our economic efficiency and standard of living, its direct consequence is the suffocating unification we are currently undergoing. On this birthday, let's keep economic cooperation on the forefront of European cooperation. Let's reject the union of social values and forced cultural uniformity. Let's return to the single market.



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

# The top of a left-corrupt iceberg?

Brussels is where you no longer know where reality ends and satire begins. At the center of the current mega-corruption scandal is Eva Kaili, a Greek MEP from the Social Democrats who was one of the 14 (!) vice-presidents of the European Parliament.

What Parliament President Metsola tries to conceal as an "attack on European democracy" does not come from the outside, but is plain corruption inside the EU institutions. The fact that the bribe money for Kaili apparently came from Qatar is one of the punch lines of this case. The Gulf emirate is at the forefront of EU efforts to replace gas dependence on one authoritarian regime with another. Suddenly, the woke Sharia that is so often invoked no longer applies.

The next punch line is that the house searches in the Brussels Kaili network revealed a total of around 600,000 euros in cash in suitcases and bags, while the EU is doing everything it can to push back cash as a means of payment for Europe's citizens.

Brussels and the European Parliament are most eager to bring about regime change in Hungary because the ultras in the centralist fan curve dislike Orbán's resistance. For blocking funds to Hungary, they cite corruption in the country, which they now find in the midst of their own ranks.

It's nice that EU Commission President Von der Leyen now wants an ethics council for EU institutions. She could then start right away with the procurement of vaccines and the text messages with Pfizer boss Bourla, which have still not been released.

Furthermore, the question arises whether this was only the top of an iceberg. The NGOs and their left-wing promoters who sit in all EU institutions, influence crucial political decisions, which, as in the case of illegal migration, are not in the sense of European citizens.

This must finally end!

## Harald Vilimsky

*"The NGOs and their left-wing promoters who sit in all EU institutions, influence crucial political decisions..."*



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



# Food price inflation in Europe

Because of the COVID crisis, the fertilizer market had severe disturbances and later on the import of grain, energy and wheat from Russia stopped almost completely.

Most of the European countries have put no effort in stockpiling at least some reserves of cereal or energy. Until now if there has been crisis, the helping hand of Brussels has been there to help some countries out. In this case, we can't change the global market prices for different products. The EU is becoming a hinterland between east and west.

Instead of focusing on certain important core functions, the Brussels bureaucrats have been constructing castles in the air and trying to create the United States of Europe.

The EU should focus on some core functions instead of being constantly ideological and imperialistic.



## Laura Huhtasaari

*"Instead of focusing on certain important core functions, the Brussels bureaucrats have been constructing castles in the air and trying to create the United States of Europe."*

*MEP ID Group, Head of Finnish delegation - PERUSSUOMALAISET*

# The EU's wishful thinking about the hijab hits reality

The Iranian protests, which started last year in September, have been directed towards the change of government, protection of personal rights, abolishment of the morality police and with it the mandatory hijab. By December, almost 500 people have died in relation to the Iranian governments' response. Another almost 20 000 have been arrested. In addition, several protesters have been executed after a court decision.

The European Union has adopted sanctions against the members of the Iranian government and security forces. According to the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the EU, Josep Borrell, the EU strongly condemns the unacceptable violent crackdown of protesters and the EU stands with the Iranian people.

It is worth remembering, that only two years ago the EU supported with taxpayers' money, a new "anti-discriminatory campaign", whose slogan was "beauty is in diversity as freedom is in hijab". According to the campaign, wearing a hijab is liberating, should be respected and is entirely the person's own free choice.

## Jaak Madison

*"The EU should learn for the future, that wearing the hijab is not liberating and often not a free choice."*

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

Reality is different. In Iran, hundreds of protesters have already died, in large part protesting against the mandatory hijab, which was liberating only recently according to the EU. Even in Europe itself wearing the headscarf is not always due to free choices. Muslim girls and women come from strictly religious families, where they live according to the traditions and it is difficult to consider it a free choice in that case. In many European countries and cities huge muslim communities have been formed, where additional pressure comes from the community and not only the family.

The EU should learn for the future, that wearing the hijab is not liberating and often not a free choice. This should also be considered when running different social campaigns, where until now wishful thinking has replaced the acceptance of reality. While Iranian people put their lives at risk protesting wearing the hijab, the EU should not spend taxpayers' money on trying to make it look positive at any cost.



## **ID initiatives for the Plenary Session**

2 amendments to the **annual report on the Implementation of the common foreign and security policy;**

4 amendments to the **annual report on Human rights and democracy in the world and the European Union's policy on the matter;**

1 amendment to the **annual report on the Control of the financial activities of the European Investment Bank;**

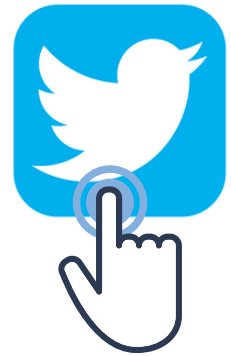
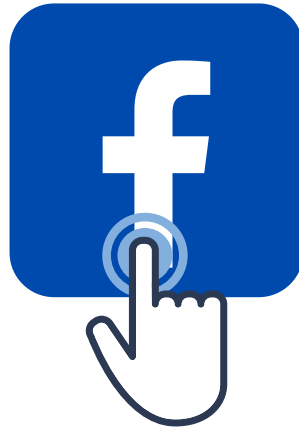
2 amendments to the **annual report on the Protection of the European Union's financial interests – combating fraud;**

1 amendment to the **motion for a resolution on the 30th Anniversary of the Single Market;**

3 amendments to the **regulation on shipments of waste;**

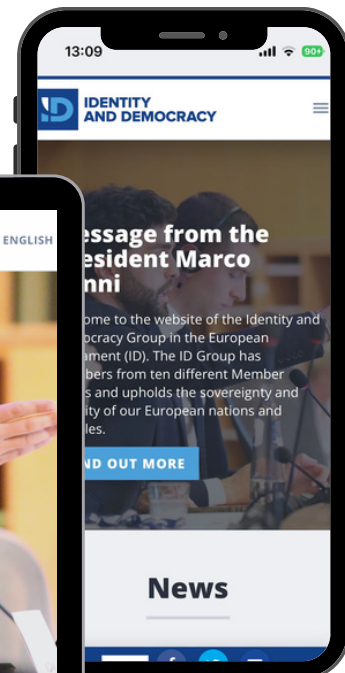
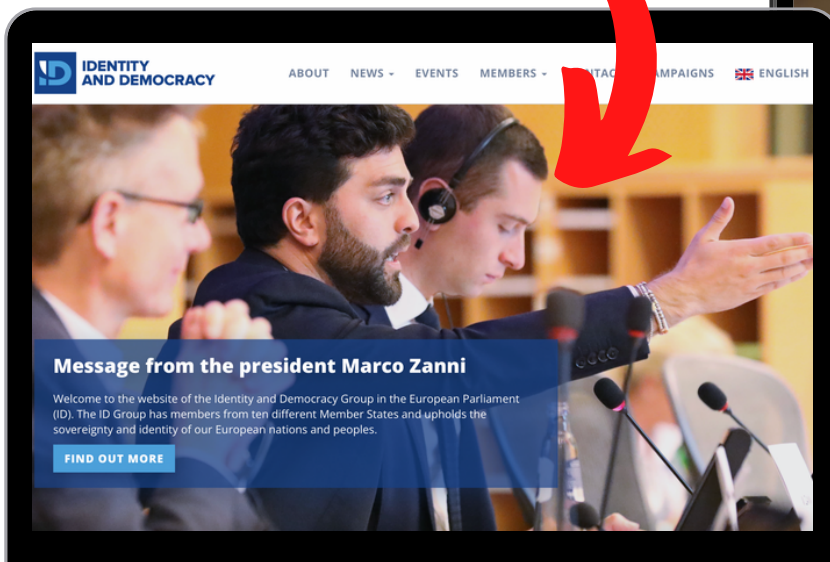
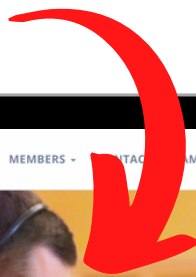
an Oral question on **Lobbying of the Commission by Qatar, Morocco, NGOs, and S&D officials.**

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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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