

33rd issue

IDENTITY AND DEMOCRACY GROUP



Plenary Booklet



17 to 20 APRIL

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EU-China Relations

In the last months, the EU Institutions have demonstrated many times a complete lack of strategy in taking political decisions.

The recent trip to China of Macron and Von der Leyen has brought attention to the EU's geopolitical positioning, a topic we have been discussing for years and which has never led to clear political action by the EU Institutions.

The French President turned what was originally a trip aimed at dialogue on sensitive issues, such as Taiwan and the war in Ukraine, only into a personal showcase.

The EU is looking for a coherent strategy now, when all the legislation which will put us in the hands of China has already been presented. These are all short-sighted choices which will only make the EU more dependent on China, with the risk of repeating the mistake made years ago with Russia.

The Chinese influence in Europe is not a recent issue, China has reached Europe a long time ago and it is gaining power through critical infrastructure such as ports, logistics and telecommunications.

Everyone must be aware of this and we should act to safeguard these strategic sectors.



Marco Zanni

"The Chinese influence in Europe is not a recent issue, China has reached Europe a long time ago and it is gaining power through critical infrastructure such as ports, logistics and telecommunications. Everyone must be aware of this and we should act to safeguard these strategic sectors."

President ID Group, Italian delegation - LEGA PER SALVINI PREMIER

Instrumentalisation of Dieselgate against the combustion engine

Some car makers were quite inventive in bending, circumventing, and breaking the rules on diesel engine emissions. Rules, however, that were set by the EU as part of its broader regulatory war against the combustion engine. Rules, which were meant to make the combustion engine less competitive. And also rules, that were designed to burden some specific car brands, giving others some regulatory edge over their competitors.

The ECJ's recent judgment granting a right to compensation from the car manufacturer has brought the scandal to an end. Why this belongs on the Plenary agenda, remains a mystery, however.

Over recent years, the Court handed down numerous important judgments in which it clarified, redefined or often extended the boundaries between of European and national law. There were likewise highly sensitive cases where everyone expected the Court to limit the power of the Commission, the ECB, or the

reach of Union law but the Court refused to apply usual interpretative criteria. None of these cases were ever discussed in the plenary.

On the contrary, the majority actively blocked any such endeavours, trying to avoid the attention such public debate could garner.

This brings us to the real reason why the majority wants to discuss Dieselgate in Plenary. It is not about compensating defrauded consumers, it is about putting another nail in the coffin of the combustion engine by reminding everyone of the scandal that let the "dirty Diesel" fall out of public favour.



Gunnar Beck

"The reason why the majority wants to discuss Dieselgate, it is not about compensating defrauded consumers, it is about putting another nail in the coffin of the combustion engine."

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

Europe must support Iraq in a path towards development and well-being of its people

International efforts, including in particular partnerships and cooperation, will be fundamental in supporting Iraq in implementing its reform agenda. Through my most recent on-site experience, during an official mission of the European Parliament, I have witnessed the need for a common and shared commitment against dictatorships and violence for the defence of democratic values and freedom. In this regard, the efforts of the government of Baghdad and those of the autonomous region of Kurdistan must be recognized.

Nonetheless, progress still needs to be made. The path towards the safeguard and respect of minorities, such as the Christian and Yazidi ones, is still long. In recent years, such minority communities have suffered the horrors of war under oppressive regimes.

Efforts should equally be strengthened in the defence of Iraq from the undue influence of cumbersome neighbours such as Turkey and Iran, who often

violate its independence and claim to direct its political decisions. The same applies to dealing with the aftermath of China's presence, which is expanding its influence in Iraq through substantial investments in various sectors, whose consequences should also be taken in due consideration.

Europe must support Iraq in finding, autonomously and without any external pressure, a path leading towards development and well-being of its people, also through international trade instruments. This is owed to a population tormented by 40 years of war and by tactical errors, also committed by governments of our continent.



Marco Campomenosi

"Europe must support Iraq in finding, autonomously and without any external pressure, a path leading towards development and well-being of its people."

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

Pact on Migration and Asylum: the European Parliament speeds up!

On 28 March, the members of the European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) voted by a large majority for reports aimed at reforming European migration policy before the 2024 European elections, i.e. before the arrival of a new majority likely to block it. This is a clear example of Brussels-style democracy.

On the pretext of reducing mass immigration to our continent, the measures making up the Asylum and Migration Pact will worsen it.

Here are some examples.

According to a "solidarity mechanism", Member States will have to commit themselves to receiving asylum seekers or providing aid to European countries on the front line.

The proper implementation of this solidarity will be monitored by a "European relocation coordinator", a person without any democratic legitimacy.

If necessary, the European Commission will be able to organise additional relocations and, in case of "crisis", will distribute migrants to the Member States on a compulsory basis.

The international protection of migrants will be facilitated, and family reunification encouraged.

The initial measures, proposed to protect the external borders and "ensure a balanced text", are reduced to a minimum or even abolished.

The immigration ideology of the European Parliament was no longer to be demonstrated, but, in this case, we could say that Brussels feared the rise in power in all our States of an electorate that rejects this policy. We will not let this happen!



Jean-Paul Garraud

"On the pretext of reducing mass immigration to our continent, the measures making up the Asylum and Migration Pact will worsen it."

MEP ID Group, Head of French delegation - RASSEMBLEMENT NATIONAL

How the EU budget fails citizens

Nothing demonstrates better the failure of the EU than its vast budget. Tons of money, expropriated from the European taxpayers, wasted on countless projects and leftist policies that do not benefit society. Why, for example, is the EU budget spent on the UNRWA, which is stirring antsemitic hate with its school books? Why is the Parliament crying for even more money for UNRWA?

It seems that the Parliament has not really grasped how difficult the situation for Europeans has become. If it had, it would not regret the gradual decrease of the EU budget as a percentage of EU gross national income. It seems quite outlandish to call for "additional resources" to "provide the necessary funding for important new policy initiatives."

We are living in difficult times. Many Europeans suffer from low wages. They are pressured by the ECB's loose monetary policy that has led to inflation.

Calling for more money for the EU is the opposite of what we should do. The appropriate reaction would be being frugal about the EU's budget, applying noticeable budget cuts, and scaling back on overambitious policy proposals.

A restart of the European project is desperately needed. European cooperation can thrive without billions being redistributed and the current EU's man-on-the-moon-like projects. There is hope for such a restart, because humans' creative nature is at its best when challenged by serious problems.



Joachim Kuhs

"It seems that the Parliament has not really grasped how difficult the situation for Europeans has become."

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

The EU and the Council of Europe in a new relationship?

This week we will vote on the institutional relations between the EU and the Council of Europe. The relevant report focuses on an agreement on the cooperation and the relations between the two, in order to 'avoid the frequent overlapping' of 'areas of competence' in the field of human rights.

Some passages of the report are fully acceptable, notably those calling for clarification of the relationship between the EU and the CoE. The problem is that the federalist EU does not grasp the concept of European cooperation and the intergovernmental approach (states working together) of the CoE...

The references to the rule of law, in particular to the establishment of a European mechanism for monitoring respect for the Rule of Law, repeatedly invoked by the European Parliament to control the internal policies of States such as Poland and Hungary, and the references to the Istanbul Convention, do not allow our support for the Report.

The EU and the Parliament should be told off. They have no competence to define the rule of law or to create new mechanisms for the protection of this so-called rule of law outside of the binding treaties.

Further on, the report does not lack references of the likings of the European Parliament to the enlargement process for the Western Balkans, Turkey, Ukraine, Moldova and even Georgia, "the widespread and severe exclusion, discrimination and poverty which Roma face in Europe" and "strengthening institutional cooperation between the EU and the CoE on gender equality." My delegation will vote against this report.



Gerolf Annemans

"The EU and the Parliament should be told off. They have no competence to define the rule of law."

MEP ID Group, Head of Flemish delegation - VLAAMS BELANG

EU leaders travel by private jet, but force citizens to give up for the climate

This week, reports on the EU's Green Climate Agenda will be put to the vote. Given the economic and geopolitical situation, this is primarily a burden for the people of Europe. Although this is the case, the EU still wants to stick to the "Fit for 55" agenda. However, it seems that in the EU some are "more equal" than others are, because the Brussels jet set has long since lost all credibility with the people.

When EU Commission President Von der Leyen and Council President Michel fly to the climate conference in Sharm al-Sheikh in a business jet, it only shows the full cynicism of the Union's leaders. According to published press reports that have analysed the travel data of Council President Michel, he has completed 72 of 90 flights of his term in office so far since 2019 with the means of transport that has by far the highest CO2 emissions: the private jet. Commission head Von der Leyen is not much behind him: Out of 83 trips since taking office until the end of October last year, she made 45 in a business jet.

The entire EU Commission has used business jets 154 times in this period.

Therefore, these elites are forcing European citizens to make deep cuts through their Green Deal directive. In exchange for the world's only CO2 reduction plan, people are supposed to make expensive retrofits to their flats and houses, give up the internal combustion engine and switch to much more expensive e-cars, and endure all sorts of other measures that make their lives more expensive. It is really no wonder that people no longer feel represented by such detached elites.

The Green Deal is a burden programme for the average citizen that does not seem to apply to the Eurocrats. Meanwhile, the hypocrites who want to forcibly mission us continue to sit in private jets.

Harald Vilimsky

"The Green Deal is a burden programme for the average citizen that does not seem to apply to the Eurocrats."



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

The EU's obsession with the non-discrimination directive

European states are among the most equal societies in the world. The European Union and its Member States have always been committed to the principles of equality before the law and non-discrimination. These are common values on which European states are founded and these values are firmly embedded in the national constitutions of all the Member States, as well as in the Treaties of the European Union.

Yet the European Parliament and Commission continues to push for a so-called "horizontal anti-discrimination directive", which was proposed by the Commission in 2008 and has been blocked by the Council ever since. The Commission's continued pursuit of this directive without Member State support sends a clear message that it has no regard for the position or sovereignty of the Member States and that it is only interested in furthering its own political agenda.

The 2022 Eurobarometer survey released by the European Parliament found that the rising cost of living is the most pressing worry for 93% of Europeans,

followed by the threat of poverty and social exclusion (82%).

At no point is there any mention of European citizens being concerned about discrimination.

Quota systems aimed at bringing about statistical equality do more harm than good and undermine the work done through centuries to ensure equal rights. Requiring gender representation based on demographics undermines women who are more than capable to be appointed to management positions based on merit and regardless of their gender. We reiterate that all persons should be judged and rewarded solely on the basis of merit and qualifications.

Focusing on differences between individuals or groups increases discrimination instead of alleviating it. The aim should always be equality of opportunity, and not equality of outcome.

Jaak Madison

"Focusing on differences between individuals or groups increases discrimination instead of alleviating it. The aim should always be equality of opportunity, and not equality of outcome."



MEP ID Group, Estonian delegation - EESTI KONSERVATIIVNE RAHVAERAKOND

ID initiatives for the Plenary Session

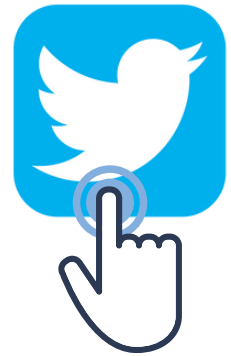
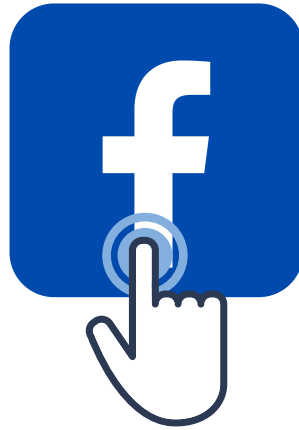
A rejection amendment for the **Revision of the EU Emissions Trading System**;

A rejection amendment for **Monitoring, reporting and verification of greenhouse gas emissions from maritime transport**;

A motion for a resolution on **Combating discrimination in the EU**;

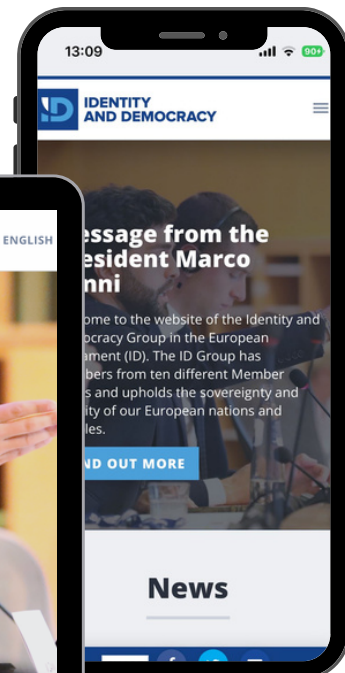
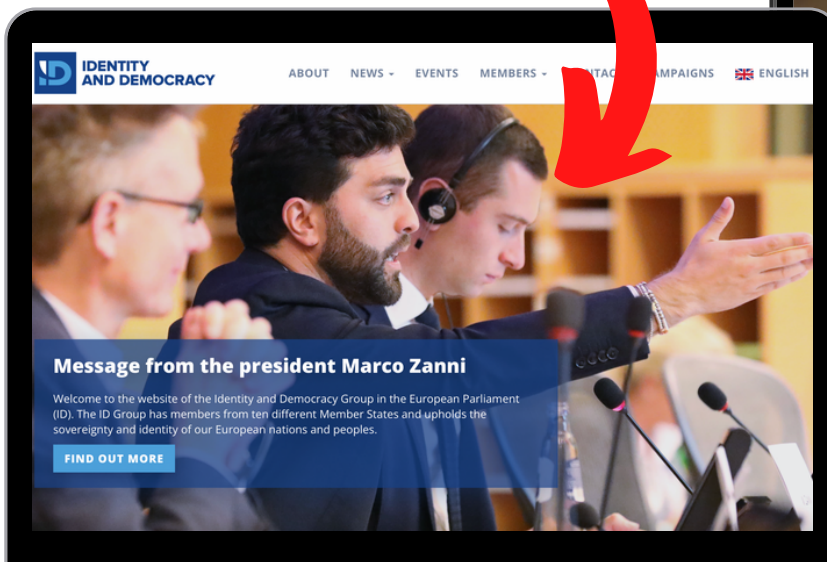
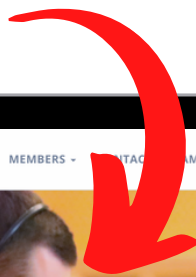
8 amendments to the **Guidelines for the 2024 budget**.

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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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