



IDENTITY
AND DEMOCRACY

PLENARY BOOKLET

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Nature restoration law: VdL's stubbornness will be the EU's downfall

Nature restoration is part of the broader Green Deal strategy with which the European Commission has decided to put its stamp on the legislative term that is drawing to a close.

However, although in principle some of the goals for climate and biodiversity protection could be supported, the practical implementation of this project has proved disastrous. Ambition has turned into wishful thinking and pragmatism has been replaced by an ideology that has produced unattainable rules and goals. These goals come with very high costs in economic terms, sustained entirely by European citizens.

The list of poor choices is very long; it ranges from the onerous transition from internal combustion engines to electric cars that is already benefiting the Chinese market and leading to disastrous job losses throughout Europe, to the mandatory energy efficiency for real estate,

via the senseless rules on agriculture that have led to protests by thousands of workers in the sector and higher costs for European consumers.

By continuing down this path, Ursula von der Leyen, who recently announced her intention to run again for the presidency of the Commission in 2024, proves once again that she cares more about her own future than that of nearly 500 million citizens.



Marco Zanni

“Ursula von der Leyen, who recently announced her intention to run again for the presidency of the Commission in 2024, proves once again that she cares more about her own future than that of nearly 500 million citizens.”

President ID Group, Italian delegation - LEGA PER SALVINI PREMIER

The lack of diversity of thought within the ECB

Based on testimonies from ECB staffers, later confirmed by Christine Lagarde, the ECB's Frank Elderson, a member of its governing board, has indicated a strong preference for staff compliance with its green agenda, implicitly suggesting that those not aligned with its climate objectives may find themselves out of favor: "I don't want these people anymore," Elderson boldly exclaimed. This contempt for diversity of thought raises critical concerns about the openness of debate within such a pivotal institution as the ECB.

The ECB's guidelines demanding staff alignment with green policies are alarmingly narrow-minded. This edict not only suppresses vital internal debate but also undermines the diversity of thought crucial for robust policy formulation. Institutions thrive on the exchange of ideas; silencing dissenting voices weakens the foundation upon which policies should be built. By enforcing a monolithic perspective on climate issues, the ECB risks compromising its broader mission and credibility.

It is essential to foster an environment where all opinions can contribute to nuanced and effective solutions.

This approach by the ECB is not just a misstep; it's a dangerous precedent for institutional governance, one that prioritizes conformity over the critical, diverse dialogue necessary for tackling complex monetary challenges.

That is why we call on MEPs to urge the ECB to foster an open culture of internal debating. The ECB's policies are horrible, but let us at least make sure that dissenting voices within the institution can survive until we see better monetary policies.



Gunnar Beck

"Institutions thrive on the exchange of ideas; silencing dissenting voices weakens the foundation upon which policies should be built."

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

The pitfalls of the EU transparency and political advertising craze

After two years of talks and negotiations, this week the European Parliament is called upon to endorse the provisional agreement reached on a new regulation on targeted political advertisements. Despite its good intentions, the European Commission has succeeded once again in setting up a legal provision that threatens freedom of expression and participation in public debate, not to mention increase the already intricate application of privacy policies.

It is crucial to underscore that citizens' right to full transparency with regard to financing instruments used for online political communication remains undiscussed. However, the new framework will most likely foster a regime that could severely limit certain forms of political speech and impose far-reaching limitations on political speakers who wish to distribute their messages.

But that's not all. Although efforts have been announced to reduce information requirements for SMEs, heavy burdens remain for advertising service providers, and this simplification is only a façade.

Such requirements should not be underestimated, particularly in light of the unnecessary pressure exerted on such providers, which will be exposed en blanc to an excessive scrutiny of public communication.

The new instrument risks undermining Member States' ability to protect their citizens, which is one of the main missions of a democratic State - a notion the Commission seems to forget. These little details weaken democracy today and a system we have fought long and hard to defend.

Lega's political action revolves around fairness and transparency as central tenets of the democratic process. Nonetheless, we should refrain from advocating for integrity and authenticity via bureaucratic provisions that exacerbate fractures in public debate.

The path towards transparency should not be strewn with pitfalls arbitrarily determined by a ruling class that wants to ignore the burdens it imposes on its citizens and companies.

Marco Campomenosi

"The new framework will most likely foster a regime that could severely limit certain forms of political speech and impose a far-reaching limitations on political speakers who wish to distribute their messages."



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

EU–Chile agreements: the mortal blow for European farmers

A few weeks after massive protests by farmers across Europe, the European Parliament is preparing to deliver the death blow. On Thursday 29 February, the free trade agreement between the EU and Chile will be put to the vote. This treaty is an environmental and health scandal, but above all it will help to kill off European agriculture, and French agriculture in particular.

The agreement will lead to an almost complete lifting of customs duties on many products. As a result, 18,000 tonnes of poultry, 9,000 tonnes of pork, 4,000 tonnes of sheep meat and 2,000 tonnes of beef could be imported into Europe. And let's not forget the thousands of tonnes of olive oil, eggs, etc.

Fearing that some Member States might refuse to support the agreement, the European Commission has split it into two distinct parts.

The trade part will not need to be ratified by all the countries, and will therefore only be adopted by a vote in the European Parliament. This procedure is a blow to the sovereignty of the Member States and represents a further step towards a European Union that erases our Nations.

French and European farmers can rely on us to oppose these free trade agreements that are destroying our agricultural sectors.



Jean-Paul Garraud

“French and European farmers can rely on us to oppose these free trade agreements that are destroying our agricultural sectors.”

MEP ID Group, Head of French delegation - RASSEMBLEMENT NATIONAL

Stop the revolving doors

The European Investment Bank (EIB), comes into the picture when there is a lack of funding for the EU's over-ambitious policies. The EU then wants the EIB to bolster finances through a process that involves taking on debt and leveraging the capital raised. This practice, inherently risky due to its reliance on leveraged finance, provides ample ground for skepticism towards the EIB. Multiple precedents of public institutions avoiding bankruptcy at the expense of taxpayers, who ultimately bear the cost of rescuing financially imprudent public entities, further exacerbates this concern.

For those unconvinced by the arguments against leveraging and indebting the EU through the actions of unelected and unaccountable public officials, examining the EIB's financing priorities may offer additional perspective. The bank primarily allocates its funds towards the EU's climate goals, proudly branding itself as the EU's climate bank. Additionally, it commits significant resources to projects outside the EU.

Recent developments have highlighted significant governance issues within the EIB. The transition of former MEP Cornelia Pieper from the EU-Parliament directly to the EIB's board exemplifies the institution's political entanglements and the EU's hypocrisy concerning revolving doors, which apparently applies only to transitions from public officials into the private sector. This situation underscores the broader concerns regarding the political dependence of the EIB and the inconsistencies in the EU's stance on post-public service employment. In this week's plenary, we will call out those Members of the European Parliament that support this practice.



Joachim Kuhs

“The bank primarily allocates its funds towards the EU's climate goals, proudly branding itself as the EU's climate bank. Additionally, it commits significant resources to projects outside the EU.”

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

Towards a perpetual QR society

The proposed European Digital Identity, presented as a convenient solution for simplified access to services, actually may be hiding a sinister agenda. A decision must be made that could have profound consequences for our future freedoms and privacy.

Let us not be deceived by the mask of convenience. Although the idea of a digital wallet containing our documents seems innocent at first glance, it hides a dangerous intention. It threatens to reduce us to mere data points in a vast surveillance system, where every transaction, every movement, every interaction is recorded and scrutinized. It threatens to make our freedoms dependent on a digital green light. It is in danger of not being a digital comfort, but a digital leash.

Privacy experts have been sounding the alarm since this proposal emerged, warning of the dystopian future it entails. A permanent log of our lives, accessible to bureaucratic eyes, opens the door to totalitarian control.

After all, how voluntary is a system that enforces compliance by denying access to essential services? The European Union wants a comprehensive and perpetual QR society.

We should be most vigilant. We must reject this digital panopticon masquerading as progress. We must protect our freedoms against the encroachment of a Chinese-style social credit system. The choice before us is clear: embrace a future of surveillance and control, or uphold the principles of freedom and autonomy that define our democratic society.



Gerolf Annemans

“The EU Digital Identity threatens to make our freedoms dependent on a digital green light.”

MEP ID Group, Head of Flemish delegation - VLAAMS BELANG

We want control of our external borders back

We finally have to organise EU asylum law in such a way that we regain control over which and how many people are allowed to enter Europe. For many years now, we have been experiencing continent-spanning migration movements from the Arab world and Africa, most of which have nothing to do with fleeing persecution, but are driven by the goal of improving their personal economic circumstances - fuelled by the generous social benefits in the EU. From the point of view of migrants, this is understandable.

However, we are not the welfare office of the whole world - and we cannot sustain this economically. That is why we need to restrict the right to asylum and thus make refoulement at the external borders possible. If we do not do this, everyone must realise: Mass immigration will continue and permanently change Europe - not for the better, as we can see every day. The truth is that around two thirds of people who apply for asylum in the EU are not entitled to protection. They are not persecuted, which would make them refugees under the Geneva Convention.

They are not endangered in their country of origin in terms of their life or integrity. According to Eurostat data, only a third of asylum applicants have fulfilled these criteria in recent years. The remaining two thirds simply have no right to be here. However, the migration pact does not address the main problem in any way: The policy of open borders with asylum procedures for everyone is not restricted in any way. So it will continue, migration pact or not.

Nevertheless, in view of the growing discontent among the European population, Brussels is trying to get this pact signed and sealed in time for the EU elections and sell it as a success. One should not be fooled by this. The only chance of getting the migration disaster under control is to strengthen right-wing parties in the next European Parliament.

Harald Vilimsky

"We are not the welfare office of the whole world - and we cannot sustain this economically. That is why we need to restrict the right to asylum."



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

We have to maintain unanimity voting in the Council

Veto rights in the Council can be exercised by member states regarding sensitive issues such as foreign policy, EU membership, EU-level taxation, social security, and defence policy. For other matters, a double majority is required (55% of member states and 65% of the population), and for less controversial matters, a simple majority is sufficient.

In recent years, there has been much talk about limiting veto rights to supposedly make the EU more efficient. However, in reality, the EU seems constantly engaged in exploring ways to centralize more power. During the undemocratic "Conference on the Future of Europe," it was decided in 2022 that the Council should be able to decide on foreign policy based on qualified majority.

The ability to make independent decisions on matters directly affecting citizens is not only a right but also a responsibility. The proposal to abolish veto rights threatens the core of our national autonomy and undermines the principles on which our great nations are built.

The exercise of veto rights in the Council should not be seen as a means of obstruction; it is a safeguard against decisions that could harm our national interests and values. In an increasingly complex global landscape, it is essential that we retain the ability to protect our citizens and maintain control over our foreign policy.

The existence of the veto right ensures that each member state has a voice, preventing power from being overly concentrated and ensuring that decisions take into account the unique needs and concerns of each country. Cooperation between nations is important, but this must not come at the expense of our ability to shape our own future independently.



Jaak Madison

"The exercise of veto rights in the Council should not be seen as a means of obstruction; it is a safeguard against decisions that could harm our national interests and values."

MEP ID Group, Estonian delegation - EESTI KONSERVATIIVNE RAHVAERAKOND

ID initiatives for the Plenary Session

10 amendments on **Standard essential patents;**

an alternative motion for a resolution to the **Commission's 2023 Rule of Law report;**

a rejection amendment on **Nature restoration;**

6 amendments on **Financial activities of the European Investment Bank;**

a rejection amendment for the **European Digital Identity framework;**

5 amendments to the **EU-Chile Framework Agreement;**

1 amendment to the **ECB annual report;**

3 amendments to the **MFF revision;**

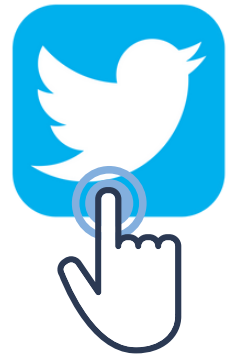
3 amendments on the situation in **Syria;**

9 amendments to the annual report on **Human rights and democracy in the world;**

1 amendment to the annual report on **Common security and defence policy;**

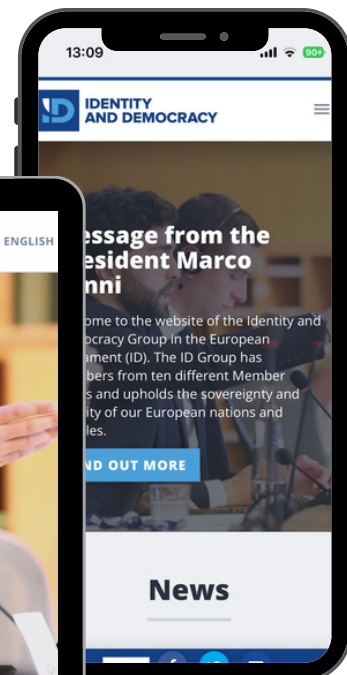
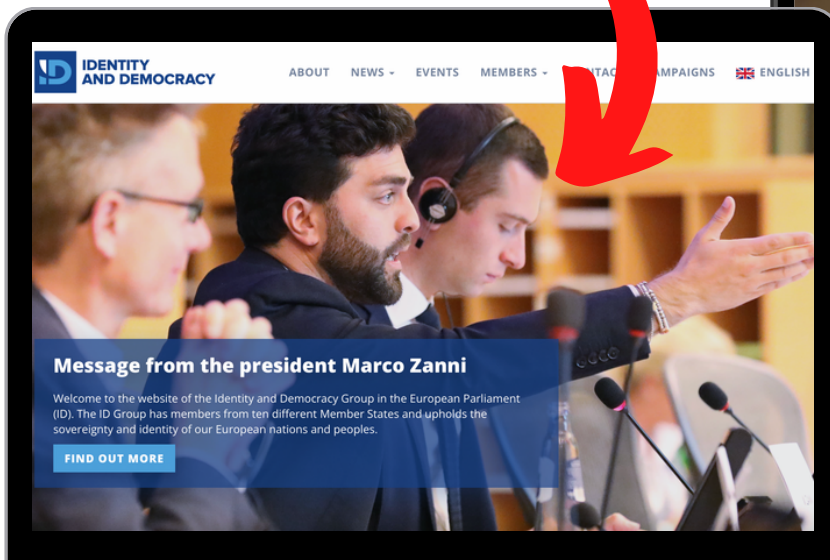
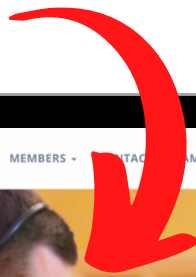
2 amendments to the annual report on **Common foreign and security policy.**

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Defending the identity of peoples and the sovereignty of nations!

The Identity and Democracy Group, founded in June 2019, has 59 members in the European Parliament, coming from 8 countries: Italy, France, Germany, Austria, Flanders (Belgium), Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia.



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