



IDENTITY
AND DEMOCRACY

PLENARY BOOKLET

2 – 5 OCTOBER 2023

STOP THE BUSINESS OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

For 20 years now, the Italian coasts have been assaulted quite regularly by uncontrolled flows of illegal immigration, mainly from the African continent. So far the European Commission has failed in facing this problem and even its new proposals risk to be totally ineffective, if they do not start from this basic concept: migrants must not be sent on a journey across the Mediterranean that is dangerous for those who undertake it, harmful for those who receive them, and which only benefits the criminal business that constantly earn money from immigration.

It's a shame that what we suspected for years now has been confirmed, namely that some Member States finance NGOs to bring these people towards the Italian shores: we must stop this immediately, we have to go back to enforcing our borders and provide support to the countries where immigration originates, in order to solve the problem at its root.

Departures and arrivals can decrease, as Matteo Salvini has shown in 2018 and 2019 in the Italian Government; however, someone clearly has other interests, primarily economic, and so what we regularly see, particularly in the summer months, is allowed to persist.

The European Union should start from these basic principles if it really wants to curb migratory pressure, otherwise the situation will become increasingly unsustainable, primarily for Italy but also for other European countries.



Marco Zanni

“It's a shame that what we suspected for years now has been confirmed, namely that some Member States finance NGOs to bring these people towards the Italian shores.”

President ID Group, Italian delegation - LEGA PER SALVINI PREMIER

Parliamentary wrecking balls and decent housing

The European Parliament often raises absurd topics for debate. The most recent example is the plenary week's discussion on "Decent Housing for All." As it is criticizing the lack of decent housing in the EU, the European Parliament resembles a wrecking ball operator warning of imminent building demolitions.

Ironically, the European Parliament has contributed to the skyrocketing housing costs. Its climate agenda mandates expensive insulation, modern heating systems, and obligatory renovations. While emphasizing energy efficiency, it fails to recognize the financial burden imposed on homeowners, who then transfer the costs to tenants.

The Parliament lacks insight into how its fiscally wasteful policies force the ECB to further inflate the Euro. Inflation drives up the prices of assets that guard against inflation, primarily real estate, imposing additional expenses on both owners and tenants.

European Parliament members, particularly those on the left, seem unwilling to acknowledge their failed policies. Instead, they advocate for increased intervention in the sector, such as imposing maximum rents and similar regulations. Regrettably, the so-called center-right of the EP aligns with the left much too often. Europe would be better off if Christian Democrats actively opposed left-wing communism rather than succumbing to it.

The only real opposition to the pervasive leftist ideology in the European Parliament is the ID group. In 2024, we will be back even stronger in the EP, as more and more citizens become aware of the important task we fulfil in Brussels and Strasbourg.



Gunnar Beck

"Ironically, the European Parliament has contributed to the skyrocketing housing costs. Its climate agenda mandates expensive insulation, modern heating systems, and obligatory renovations."

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

China: Von der Leyen's initiative comes very late

Von der Leyen's announcement to open a probe into China over cheap electronic vehicles flooding the EU is certainly welcome, but comes severely late and at a time of very delicate political and trade relations between the blocs. It has been years ID Group, and in particular Lega, has been drawing attention to China's unfair commercial practices for years.

China started to impose export bans on critical materials, over which it holds the greatest availability at global level. The bloc is the ultimate beneficiary of ideologist choices that led to the adoption of the Green Deal, a set of norms with no clear industrial background that favours greater Chinese penetration into our internal market over a pragmatic transition that places at its core our socio-economic fabric.

Against this backdrop, considering the delay with which the Union began formulating a strategy on raw materials supply, the pattern is clear:

the Commission is leaning towards a process of deindustrialization that puts the Union at a dramatic competitive disadvantage compared to global players.

This is the result of political choices that have succumbed to the demands of extremist left-wing parties currently leading the majority of this Parliament.

Approaching the end of this term, we believe it is time for accountability. We have reached a breaking point where other majority parties should now decide whether they want to recklessly keep going along with pro-Beijing policies or want to take note of their failures.



Marco Campomenosi

"We have reached a breaking point where other majority parties should now decide whether they want to recklessly keep going along with pro-Beijing policies or want to take note of their failures."

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

Media freedom: the draft European legislation is... liberticide!

The European Commission is pushing hard for the adoption of the Media Freedom Act. Under the guise of harmonising the media market, increasing its transparency and strengthening pluralism, this legislation is, in reality, a real disaster for our sovereignty and our freedom. As it is often the case with the European Union, a dangerous and harmful text hides behind a cosy and consensual title.

This regulation seeks to tackle private and, above all, public interference in the media. Brussels is choosing its targets carefully, in this case Hungary and Poland. These two countries, regularly attacked by the EU, are said to be too intrusive in the editorial line of their national media. What hypocrisy on the part of the European Commission, which also turns a blind eye to what is happening in France. For example, Delphine Ernotte, Director General of France Télévision, a 100% state-owned company, recently declared that France should be described not as it is but as it should be, i.e. as ultra 'progressive'. And everyone knows what that means when they listen to France Inter or watch France Télévision's political programmes, which are powerful relays for left-wing or even far-left thinking.

It should also be remembered that in February 2023, the Minister for Culture, Rima Abdul Malak, implied that the broadcasting licences of CNews and C8, channels owned by the Bolloré group, should not be renewed by Arcom. Because they differ from the current line of thought of the self-proclaimed "camp of Good", these channels are regularly called into question, by the government and moralizing right-thinkers, who are unhappy that a few media escape their control.

We must therefore denounce this text from the European Commission for what it is, i.e. an attempt by the European Union to take control of the media, going far beyond its competences. Once again, Brussels is trying to insidiously interfere in the lives of Europeans to put them under its influence. It is therefore imperative that we defend media freedom by refusing to harmonise European regulations and letting each Member State decide for itself. It is also a question of sovereignty. Let the European Union stop meddling in matters that do not concern it, and let Hungary and Poland breathe at last!

Jean-Paul Garraud

"Under the guise of harmonising the media market, increasing its transparency and strengthening pluralism, this legislation is, in reality, a real disaster for our sovereignty and our freedom."



MEP ID Group, Head of French delegation - RASSEMBLEMENT NATIONAL

Scale down the Union budget and spend it only where it is needed

The Commission, always seeking more ways to spend, has proposed a mid-term revision of the EU's long-term budget. Astonishingly, the Committee on Budgets is demanding an additional €10 billion for 2024-2027. One can only hope, albeit very remotely, that the Parliament will reject this request for a budget revision and more funding.

As the ID Group, we firmly believe that instead of a revision, we should call for the elimination of all programs that are clearly underperforming and also those where there is no need for Union-level action. The EU has taken on numerous tasks and responsibilities that we want to return to the Member States. The bloated budget should be scaled down to better align with the funds required for the few tasks that can only be accomplished at Union level.

Time and again, the ID Group has advocated for providing assistance to third countries only when there is a clear

willingness to cooperate on the most pressing issue of our time: preventing mass migration. This position has been adopted by the Parliament, but the Commission chooses to ignore it most of the time.

Overall, we must acknowledge that the Commission, and certainly the majority in the House, are unwilling to reduce the budget or allocate it where it is genuinely needed. We will continue working to garner a parliamentary majority to bring about this necessary change. Until then, we will continue to make the Union's wasteful spending transparent to our voters.



Joachim Kuhs

“The EU has taken on numerous tasks and responsibilities that we want to return to the Member States.”

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

Europe must line-up behind Armenia

A tragedy is taking place at Europe's doorstep. This week, more than 70.000 Armenian refugees from Artsakh have crossed into Armenia proper after the government of the region announced to disband.

The government's dreadful decision was forced militarily. A short Azerbaijani offensive, preceded by a brutal war in 2020 and a month's long blockade of Artsakh, coerced the region to capitulate. The Armenian natives of Artsakh are now at the hands of Azerbaijan's military and its dictator, Ilham Aliyev.

Fearful of the inevitable takeover of the region by Aliyev's soldiers, frightened by the vengeful rhetoric and history of violence of the Baku regime against ethnic Armenians, the inhabitants of Artsakh decided to flee their homes. More than two thousand years of Armenian, Christian presence in the region is being wiped out. This is ethnic cleansing.

The southern part of Armenia, nestled in between Turkey, Nakhichevan and Azerbaijan may now be up for grabs.

The numerous statements about a corridor connecting Turkey and Azerbaijan imply that both Erdogan and Aliyev mean business. Armenia stands in their way, isolated. The Armenians are denied statehood by two regimes, using aggressive and revisionist rhetoric.

The rules-based international order is allowing Azerbaijan to ethnically cleanse the country of Armenians. It can never allow a Turkish-Azerbaijani move on Armenian territory. Any attack on the sovereignty of Armenia must be met with severe consequences.

The European Union on the other hand showed to excel in indecisiveness. It is time for the EU to support Armenia. The EU must halt the gas deal with Azerbaijan. The Aliyev-regime must not go unsanctioned when they are ethnically wiping out Armenians and threatening to annex parts of Armenia proper.

Gerolf Annemans

More than two thousand years of Armenian, Christian presence in the region is being wiped out. This is ethnic cleansing. The Aliyev-regime must not go unsanctioned.



MEP ID Group, Head of Flemish delegation - VLAAMS BELANG

"No-way" is the way

Rarely has the complete failure of EU migration policy since 2015 been as obvious as it is these days on Lampedusa. The signal is: anyone can come because the Union has no control over who and how many people are here. The EU is incapable of securing its external borders.

Moreover, this is not due to a lack of border protection, but first to the legal framework. Everyone who makes it to the external border is allowed in and given an asylum procedure. Even though we know that the majority of migrants have no right to protection.

In the end, it doesn't matter, because more than 80 percent of those whose asylum procedure is negative stay here anyway.

The Dublin system has collapsed; every migrant can de facto choose which EU country he wants to go to. Effective controls at the internal borders? No such thing. 6.6 million asylum applications in the EU from 2015 to 2022.

This year, another million or more will be added, and the levels of the migration crisis are within reach.

The mass immigration under abuse of the right of asylum will not stop. At least until the EU finally changes its asylum law and restricts it. Only with rejections will external border protection become possible at all, which is currently in reality only a reception committee.

The negotiated migration pact will not bring any real change in this respect, but will only postpone the problem. It continues to include quota regulations for distribution, and it will take years before even the first steps are taken to realise them, especially since the so-called partners who are showering the EU with millions are again refusing to be reception centres for the migrants.

Therefore, only a consistent "no way" policy can solve the problem in the end.

Harald Vilimsky

"The Dublin system has collapsed; every migrant can de facto choose which EU country he wants to go to."



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

Housing: government handouts are not the answer

The socialists have asked for a debate on "decent housing for all!" to be placed on this week's plenary agenda.

Housing, like any other expenditure, costs something. If such housing is organized centrally by the state, who pays for it? Instead of letting each person work hard to improve their living conditions, should the government collect everything from their work to the state with taxes?

Let's remember a sobering lesson from history: too much government control over housing, as seen in the Soviet Union, resulted in a stark divide – 95% struggling in poverty while only 5% enjoyed privilege.

So, what is the alternative? We should embrace a more market-oriented approach, one that fosters economic growth with lower taxes and an economy-friendly environment. This approach seeks to empower individuals and families to make their based on their preferences

and means, rather than relying on government handouts.

Lower taxes can stimulate economic activity and create jobs, allowing more people to afford housing without undue government intervention. A bureaucracy-light environment can streamline the housing market, reducing red tape and making it easier for individuals to buy, rent, or invest in properties.

Investing in infrastructure, providing incentives for private-sector involvement, and supporting entrepreneurship can lead to an increase in affordable housing options. The growth of our economy can translate into better opportunities for all, making housing more accessible without the pitfalls of excessive government control.

Competition is what has created the level of development we have today. If the contribution of the individual is no longer valued, development will no longer take place.

Jaak Madison

"Let's remember a sobering lesson from history: too much government control over housing, as seen in the Soviet Union, resulted in a stark divide – 95% struggling in poverty while only 5% enjoyed privilege."



MEP ID Group, Estonian delegation - EESTI KONSERVATIIVNE RAHVAERAKOND

ID initiatives for the Plenary Session

6 amendments to the report on **The mid-term revision of the Multiannual Financial Framework;**

2 amendments to the report on **Classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures;**

1 amendment to the report on **Urban wastewater treatment;**

10 amendments to the report on **European Media Freedom Act;**

2 amendments on the new **European strategy for a better internet for kids;**

a motion for a resolution on the **Situation in Nagorno-Karabakh after Azerbaijan's attack.**

We have also asked (together with ECR) a vote to reject the committee's decision to enter into negotiations for the **LIBE report on Schengen Borders Code.**

ID GROUP PRESS RELEASE

28.09.2023

In light of the worrying situation created by the influx of illegal migrants to Lampedusa, the ID Group calls for a complete overhaul of EU migration policies, namely the proper implementation of a rigorous asylum policy in accordance with international law, while blocking illegal immigration, ensuring effective border controls, and enforcing an adequate repatriation policy. This is the position of the ID Group after 26 MEPs of the Group have been visiting the island of Lampedusa to observe the crisis situation at the hotspot.

The aim of the visit was to get first-hand experience about the difficulties faced by locals and local authorities in dealing with an unprecedented influx of migrants. These issues include overcrowding, security concerns, social tension and conflict, and an immense strain on resources. The dire situation also has an impact on the local economy, which relies heavily on tourism.

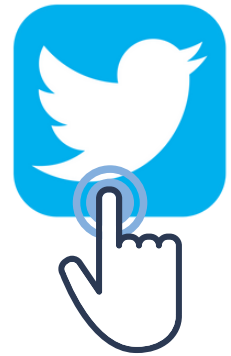
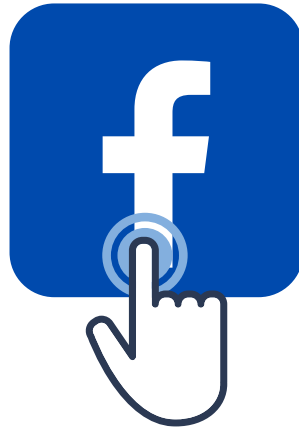
Although many thousands of African migrants have been arriving at Lampedusa lately, the MEPs found that the hotspot, which only has room for 400 migrants, surprisingly had been entirely emptied of migrants right before the group's long-planned visit. The MEPs met with the mayor of Lampedusa, the coast guard and representatives from all kinds of organisations in the camp to learn about the situation on the island. Red Cross Italy, responsible for the coordination at the hotspot, confirmed that they mainly receive single male adults.

The problems at the Lampedusa hotspot highlight the complete failure of the EU's migration policy and the need to rethink these policies in order to prevent illegal migration, address the root causes of migration, enhance border security, and preserve national sovereignty to decide who has a right to enter the state's territory.

We have a duty to protect the rights of ordinary citizens and to prevent people from making the perilous journey across the Mediterranean. The only way this can be done is by –

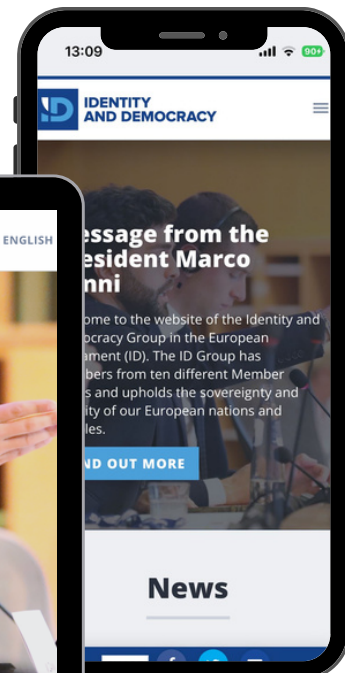
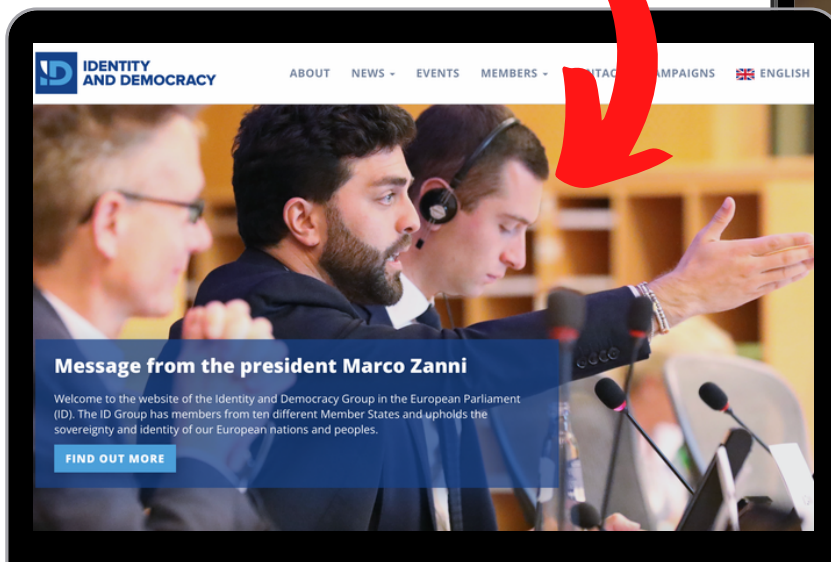
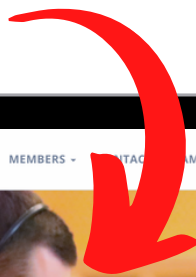
- opening asylum application centres outside Europe - no asylum applications shall be lodged within EU borders;
- shifting the focus of the common European asylum system from migrants to refugees;
- insisting on a policy of regional placement of refugees close to their countries of origin - asylum centres should be opened in third countries;
- making funding to third countries conditional upon the effective implementation of return and readmission agreements;
- ensuring that those illegally residing in Europe are returned to their country of origin;
- removing all pull-factors that make Europe an attractive destination for economic opportunists, and
- blocking all illegal immigration while ensuring effective border controls (“no-way 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 60 members in the European Parliament, coming from 8 countries: Italy, France, Germany, Austria, Flanders (Belgium), Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia.



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