

PLENARY BOOKLET

Identity and Democracy



4 - 7 APRIL

PLENARY SESSION

2022

DEATH NOTICE

Mr Enno Samp



Dear readers,

We have some very sad news to share: Our very valued German press spokesman Enno Samp was found dead in his office on the 25th of March 2022. He died of natural causes.

Enno Samp leaves behind a child. Our special condolences go out to both the child and mother.

We are all stunned by the sudden loss. A sunny day has turned dark. In the often strangely unreal parliamentary business, Enno Samp's death reminds us that life is only a gift.

SOCIALIST HYPOCRISY IN TIMES OF WAR

Marco ZANNI, President ID Group



I find it rather bizarre that the socialists wanted to present a topical debate to identify the similarities between Vladimir Putin's regime and right-wing movements in Europe.

Reason and common sense are once again sacrificed in the name of hypocrisy, accusing political adversaries while clearly ignoring critical situations in their own camp.

Their political family includes Gerhard Schröder, the former German Chancellor and a prominent member of the SPD, known to all for his close business ties with Moscow's energy companies, whom we can unquestionably define as the main curator of Putin's interests in the EU.

We cannot forget the socialist-led government in Malta, which has always guaranteed easy passports for the Russian oligarchs.

If we look at Europe's relations with Russia in recent years, no one can lecture the others.

But above all, with a dramatic conflict still going on in Ukraine, this should not be the main focus of those who want to work for the restoration of peace at the moment.

Those who have benefited from favours from Putin are certainly not sitting in the parties that are part of Identity and Democracy, and we prefer to leave polemics and useless debates to others, in order to focus on the efforts needed to resolve a conflict that has led us to relive the worst memories of our past.



If we look at Europe's relations with Russia in recent years, no one can lecture the others.



Marco Zanni, President ID Group, Italian delegation - LEGA PER SALVINI PREMIER

ONGOING HEARINGS UNDER ARTICLE 7(1) TEU REGARDING POLAND AND HUNGARY



Gunnar BECK, 2nd Vice-President ID Group

Triggering the article 7(1) TEU procedure against Hungary, as well as blocking the country's request for 7.2 billion euros in grants under the Recovery and Resilience Facility did not deter the Hungarian electorate to massively endorse the incumbent government of prime-minister Orban.

Currently, Hungary hosts over half a million refugees from Ukraine.

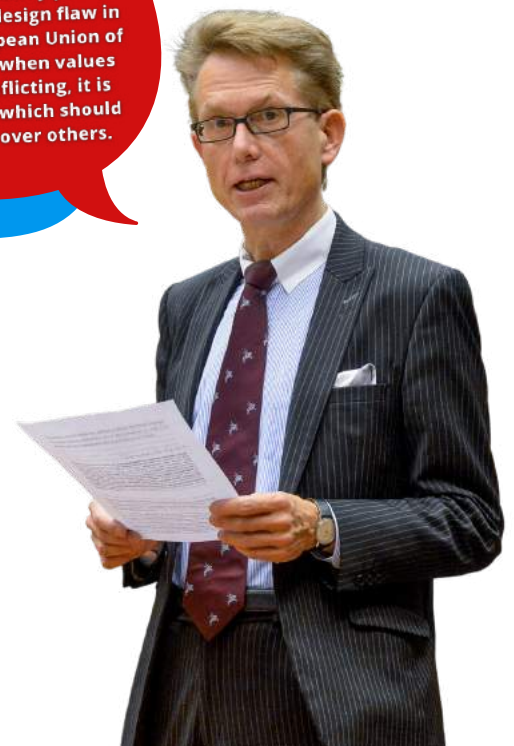
Orban has used this momentum to pressure the Commission to release the funds.

Backed by a clear mandate from the Hungarian people, he has put the Commission in a difficult spot: either completely overhauling its stance on Hungary to aid the refugees, thereby embarrassing the European Court of Justice over its recent ruling on the legality of the rule of law conditionality, or persisting in its crusade against illiberal democracies at the expense of the Ukrainian refugees.

In both scenarios, the Commission loses, and Orban wins.

It is an ingenious strike which clearly points out the design flaw in the European Union of Values: when values are conflicting, it is unclear which should prevail over others.

Orban now demonstrates how the founding values enshrined in article 2 TEU do not constitute a moral code, but an arsenal of legal weaponry to be used against Member States that don't fit the progressive mould.



Gunnar Beck, 2nd VP of the ID Group, German delegation - Alternative für Deutschland

CHINA'S PRO-RUSSIAN NEUTRALITY SIGNALS NEW CHALLENGES FOR THE EU



Marco CAMPOMENOSI, Italian Delegation

The 23rd EU-China summit took place on 1 April 2022 via video conference, where both parties extensively discussed Russia's military aggression against Ukraine, which is endangering global security and the world's economy, as well as food and energy security.

There was a dramatic urgency for this summit in order to try influencing China to refrain from supporting Russia in the brutal war in Ukraine. It is clear that China was optimistic that the exchanges on international trade were not going to be overcast by other topics.

Nevertheless, China expected EU leaders to understand its position on the Ukraine crisis and not let it affect future EU-China relations. However, is it possible to neglect the obvious and ongoing issue of human rights violations by this partner?

If the European Union has seen its position weaken, it is due to its excessive dependency on energy from Russia but also even more due to the link with China's manufacturing. If today China provides itself with gas and other raw materials or commodities from Russia - as maybe Russia will not be able to export them to the EU - the position of China will be even more advantageous.

China's pro-Russian neutrality signals new challenges for the EU; alongside their desire for Europe not to cooperate with the US.

The EU needs to talk in a straightforward manner and clearly address all these issues with China. We cannot have a unbalanced playing field with a country that does not respect European values.



China's pro-Russian neutrality signals new challenges for the EU; alongside with their desire of Europe not to cooperate with the US.



Marco Campomenosi, Head of Italian delegation - LEGA PER SALVINI PREMIER

A 2023 BUDGET NOT ADAPTED TO THE CHALLENGES OF TOMORROW

Hélène LAPORTE, French Delegation



The European Parliament is voting this week on the EU's general budget for 2023, as proposed by the Council, which will then form the basis on which the European Commission will have to present its budget proposals.

The military autonomy of the Union that would be the corollary cannot be achieved in the absence of a genuine single European diplomacy.



The budget guidelines are questionable in several respects.

First of all, this budget does not take into account the recent situation of the energy market, hit by an unprecedented rise in prices which has a direct socio-economic impact on European citizens and which accentuates fuel poverty. Increased energy independence is a major challenge.

Energy independence must improve the affordability of energy for citizens and businesses, in particular SMEs, notably through the promotion of projects of common interest.

The enlargement policy in the Western Balkans is not appropriate. The EU has enlarged too quickly with countries that do not meet European standards. The Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA III) should be reviewed.

Finally, the European Defence Fund undermines the independence of the Member States in an area of sovereignty: our armies and their military resources.



Hélène Laporte, Head of French delegation - Rassemblement National

GERMANY, A COUNTRY TO WATCH



Nicolaus FEST, German Delegation

No plenary session in the EU Parliament goes by without Poland and Hungary being accused of violations of the rule of law. These allegations are usually ill-founded and driven by Brussels' grudge against the conservative governments of these countries.

Inevitably, one has the feeling that the EU measures with different yardsticks.



For example, the EU's claim that there would be LGBT-free zones in Poland is pure fiction. The truth is that several Polish local authorities have committed themselves to the 'Municipal Charter on the Rights of Families', which stands against the 'demoralisation' of childrearing and where the 'LGBT' abbreviation is not even mentioned.

Another example is the allegations that the Hungarian Child Protection Act discriminates against sexual minorities. But the fact is that it only aims to push back the influence of LGBT propaganda, which is the good right of the Hungarians.

Instead of constantly attacking Warsaw and Budapest, the EU should better deal with real violations. In contrast to Poland or Hungary, the irregularities at Berlin's ballot stations during the general election in 2021 are not properly addressed, Germany's opposition members are brutally attacked by Antifa, whereas lawmakers from the governing parties are appointed as Supreme Constitutional Court Judges.



Instead of constantly attacking Warsaw and Budapest, the EU should better deal with real violations.



Nicolaus Fest, Head of German delegation - Alternative für Deutschland

THE RULE OF LAW DEBATE: LITTLE TO DO WITH PRINCIPLES

Gerolf ANNEMANS, Flemish Delegation



Yet again Parliament holds a debate this week on the ongoing hearings under Article 7 TEU regarding Poland and Hungary.

Last month I participated in a combined AFCO/LIBE mission to Poland. Defined as a fact-finding mission, mainly on the issue of respect for the Rule of Law, the mission turned out to be exactly what was feared: an opportunity solely to stigmatise the actions of the Polish Government, choosing to meet almost exclusively with NGOs opposed to it.

The European Parliament, together with the Court of Justice of the European Union, is tightening the noose. Poland is a conservative country without the Euro that does not surrender to mass migration. That, of course, makes the European Parliament angry. This has little to do with the principles of the Rule of Law.

Poland is not a country moving towards autocracy, contrary to the feelings of the majority of the EP. Wise words during the mission came from Judge Wiesław Johann, Vice President of the Polish National Council for the Judiciary, who stated that “in Poland, the Constitution is the supreme law.” So it should be in every Member State.

The EU should stop the crusade against Poland simply because constitutional law is protected and enforced.

The EU is a cooperative Union and each Member State must be able to retain a large degree of freedom. Those who want to turn the EU into a centralised federal State are going much too far.



The EU should stop the crusade against Poland simply because the constitutional law is protected.



Gerolf Annemans, Head of Flemish delegation - Vlaams Belang

PROTECTION FOR THOSE WHO NEED PROTECTION



Harald VILIMSKY, Austrian Delegation

The war in Ukraine has reached a new dimension for Europe in taking in refugees. Millions of people have to leave their homes in the face of the war and find protection and help in neighbouring states.

One of these neighbouring countries is Poland. The country that before 24 February, the day of the Russian invasion, was still being scolded for its refugee policy.

What a contrast when you now see the pictures of grateful women and children being welcomed with open arms in Polish cities. And what a contrast to the refugees coming across the Ukrainian-Polish border and the young men who for weeks tried to cross the Polish border by force via Belarus and enter the EU illegally.

Now, according to recent reports, it seems that those migrants who once could not enter the EU via Belarus are using Ukraine and its already scolded population as a carte blanche to get into the EU easily.

Officials are already warning against forged passports being used by illegal migrants to get to Germany or Austria in the wake of the Ukraine war.

Accordingly, the authorities must continue to strengthen controls in order to prevent illegal migration to the EU.

We therefore demand not only solidarity with Ukraine's neighbouring countries, but also appropriate means to ensure that the EU's external borders continue to be protected.

Furthermore, we demand that rejections of illegal migrants must remain possible. Those who do not come in do not have to be laboriously deported. But this is what the pro-migration groups are resisting. They stick to the Brussels dogma: anyone who makes it to the EU's external border must be let in.

We must help those who have actually lost everything because of the war in Ukraine and not those who wish for a better life by obtaining a status illegally.



The authorities must continue to strengthen controls in order to prevent illegal migration to the EU.



Harald Vilimsky, Head of Austrian Delegation - Freiheitliche Partei Österreich

REAL REFUGEES NEED OUR SUPPORT



Jaak MADISON, Estonian Delegation

Astonishing things have happened since Russia invaded its neighbouring country Ukraine. Tens of thousands have perished, cities have been bombed to rubbles, war atrocities have been committed and millions of people are on the move trying to find refuge. The most vulnerable are of course children.

Ukrainian refugees are real refugees not like the ones that came before, most notably during the migration crisis 2015 and 2016. The vast majority of those who are fleeing Ukraine are women and children while men stay and fight for their country's future. They are escaping to their neighbouring countries where culture and religion are similar, and not travelling through countless safe countries without documentation and then violently storming borders. This time we do not have to facilitate economic migrants who are mostly young men leaving their families behind while demanding subsidies from the state. There is no need to fear bombs, hostile religion or a huge rise in crime statistics. This time we really can offer our help to refugees - to our unfortunate neighbours.

Commissioner Johansson has repeatedly said that Europe needs more migrants to make up for the aging population. Now the same people can truly show their solidarity with Eastern European nations by sharing the burden, especially when it comes to children and young people.

Western countries have the capacity to take in more people than they currently do. We can make room for real refugees by sending illegal migrants back to their home countries. Ukrainian children need this support more and they have every legal and moral right to it. Of course, we have to consider capabilities of each nation and it must be strictly voluntary admission, but right now Western Europe could do a lot more.

This time war refugees are truly welcomed! Ex-chancellor Merkel could now speak out as well and invite them to Germany. German people could welcome them with flowers in Cologne without later fearing for their safety at evening festivities. Let us help our eastern brothers - Wir schaffen das!



We can make room for the real refugees by sending illegal migrants back to their home countries.



Jaak Madison, MEP Estonian Delegation -
Eesti Konservatiivne Rahvaerakond

STOP THE UNFAIR RISE IN ENERGY PRICES DUE TO EU POLICIES!

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN OUR PETITION](#)

#STOPRISINGENERGYPRICES



**IDENTITY
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With its Green Deal, the EU will make energy prices even higher. Due to rising demand, prices are soaring and our external suppliers are taking advantage of it.

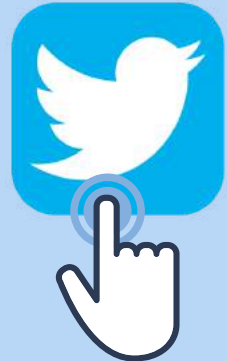
Our energy sovereignty is under threat.

We are waiting for the European Commission, who is so quick to give lessons to all Europeans, to explain to us how ordinary people will be able to heat their homes in the winter, or use their cars.

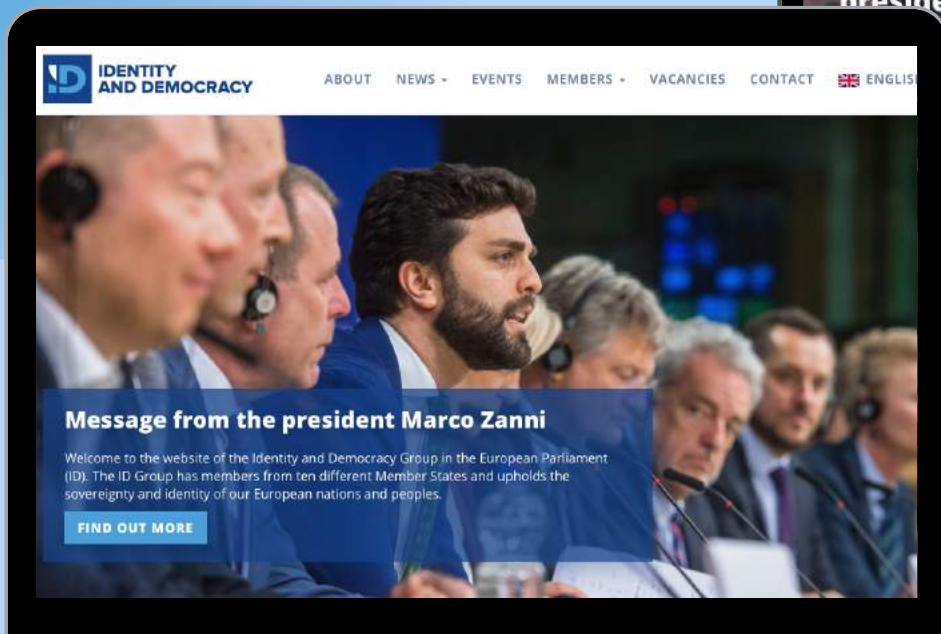
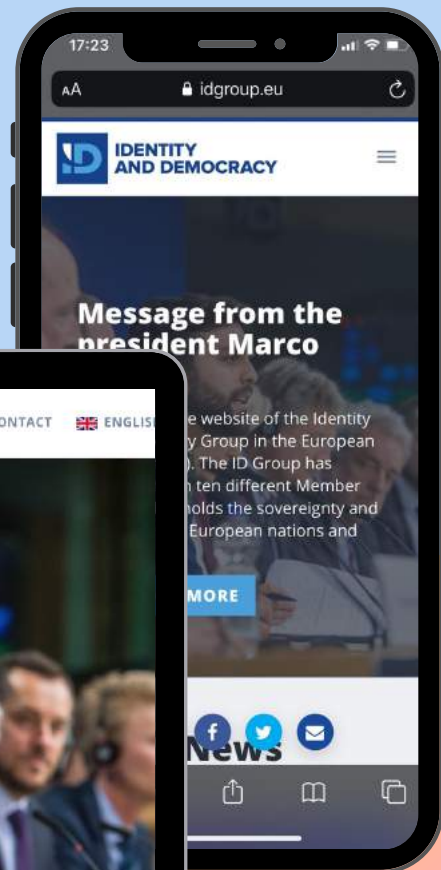
The EU Commission needs to drop its unrealistic and expensive plans!

Support us by signing this petition [here](#) and sharing it with your friends!

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Defending the identity of peoples and the sovereignty of nations!

The Identity and Democracy group, founded in June 2019, has 65 members in the European Parliament, coming from 10 countries: Italy, France, Germany, Austria, Flanders (Belgium), Czech Republic, Finland, Denmark, Estonia, the Netherlands



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AND DEMOCRACY**

IDENTITY AND DEMOCRACY GROUP

BRUSSELS

Zweig Building - 07K014
60 Rue Wiertz
B-1047 Brussels

STRASBOURG

Louise Weiss Building - T04055
President Robert Schuman Avenue 1
CS 91024
F-67070 Strasbourg Cedex

WWW.IDGROUP.EU

@IDGROUPEP

@IDGROUPEP

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