

PLENARY BOOKLET

Identity and Democracy



4 - 7 JULY

PLENARY SESSION

2022

EUROPE'S FUTURE: A BATTLE BETWEEN PRAGMATISM AND IDEOLOGY

Marco ZANNI, President ID Group



Since the day the war in Ukraine began, not only the world has changed, but also the lives of European citizens. The two-year pandemic and rising energy costs have been aggravated by the sanction war with Russia and the rising gas, oil, grain and commodity prices. As our Continent heads into an unprecedented economic crisis, with inflation at record highs in most European states, some in the EU seem to want to continue insisting on the mantras of green deal and green transition. Forgetting too lightly the magnitude of the impact of rising costs on the lives of citizens and businesses.

Only by developing quick and effective tools will it be possible to avoid the worst and ensure that next fall does not turn into a nightmare for growth and jobs in Europe. As the Identity and Democracy Group, we will do whatever it takes to ensure that the EU seizes the opportunity of this period of uncertainty and crisis to change its ideological approach to the issues that matter most to people. This is the time to think about all the mistakes of the past. Now is the time to act and make important decisions, with pragmatism and adherence to reality.



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

THE EU INCREASES THE COST OF LIVING

Gunnar BECK, 2nd Vice-President ID Group



The sanctions against Russia are backfiring. Energy prices are hurting ordinary citizens, while Russia remains largely unaffected. The rouble hits its strongest level in 7 years. China imports 2 million barrels of Russian oil per day now, an all-time high. India's imports are approaching 900.000 barrels per day. Russian oil export revenues increased by € 1.6 billion in May to about € 20 billion. In addition to this, Nord Stream 1 closes down in August due to maintenance, and it is unsure whether gas will start flowing again after maintenance works are concluded.

Meanwhile, the cosmetic interest rate hike of the ECB is enough to increase mortgage payments for European families, but not enough to lower inflation. Underleveraged homeowners in northern Europe and over-indebted governments in southern Europe are in deep trouble. An economic correction of monstrous proportions is inevitable. Persistently high inflation will be the new normal and new EU and national taxes are already on the horizon.

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

DIGITAL SINGLE MARKET: THE NEW RULES POISED TO REMAKE EU DIGITAL ENVIRONMENT



Marco CAMPOMENOSI, Italian Delegation

During the next plenary, we will be voting on the digital services package - notably on the Digital Services Act (DSA) - one of the most controversial pieces of legislation put forward by the Commission this term.

Following the political agreement reached and after prolonged exchanges with the French presidency - which regrettably involved only a part of political groups - Lega is set to confirm its negative vote on the provision designed to 'revamp' EU's online environment. The agreement in fact worsens the final text and endorses our suspicions regarding the danger of encroaching on freedom of speech.

Trusted flaggers - a newly introduced figure that de facto institutionalizes the practice of "fact checking" - will now be granted such status for an indefinite period. Large platforms will be obliged to oversee risks deriving from the use of their services and find solutions to circumvent them, likely by intervening on the contractual clauses of their terms and conditions.

The governance setup enshrined in the agreement now grants increased powers to the Commission, which will apply - for the first time under EU legislation - a 'supervisory fee' on large platforms for monitoring the correct implementation of the regulation.

In our view, such a heavy-handed approach risks creating a system of content control well beyond judicial and democratic scrutiny. In this context, little to no safeguard is provided against the real dangers of arbitrary enforcement of social media policies such as selective censorship and political bias. It is clear that some content should not be distributed but it is quite troubling that limits to freedom of expression only come in last order under the Commission as well as EP majority groups' priorities.

Nevertheless, Lega's commitment remains unchanged: we will continue to aim for protecting fundamental freedoms to avoid the excessive concentration of power in the hands of privileged channels of information.



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

THE HISTORIC ENTRY OF THE RN INTO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY UPSETS THE EUROPEAN UNION



Jean-Paul GARRAUD, French Delegation

The result of the French legislative elections on June 19th caused a real political earthquake in Europe.

With the entry of 89 deputies into the National Assembly under Marine Le Pen's leadership, the Rassemblement National becomes the first opposition party and creates a certain commotion in Brussels.

Since the European press has rushed to point out the "uncertainty" in which France was plunged with the regret that democracy has expressed itself and is worried about the rise of what it wrongly calls "the far right."

The loss of his absolute majority in the National Assembly will jeopardize Emmanuel Macron's European political activity. Indeed, the capacity of the Head of State to carry out the reforms promised in Brussels is reduced.

Any further accession of a Member State to the European Union will also most likely be blocked because it requires, except in the case of a referendum, a vote in the national Parliament.

Therefore, Emmanuel Macron's influence on the European scene has considerably shrunk, and his status as a political leader in Europe has disappeared.

The French elections dealt a heavy blow to the certainties of globalist ideology and provoked immense hope for European patriots.

It is up to us to catch this moment to prevent the centralization of the European Union for the benefit of Brussels, a process that has accelerated dangerously under the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

A presidency that, contrary to what the government tries to make believe, has failed on many levels: migration, agriculture, energy, and even purchasing power.



It is up to us to catch this moment to prevent the centralization of the European Union for the benefit of Brussels.



Jean-Paul Garraud, Head of French delegation - Rassemblement National

TOUGHER STANCE ON ILLEGAL MIGRATION URGENTLY NEEDED

Nicolaus FEST, German Delegation



The recent situation at the EU's border in Melilla shows that the EU asylum system is fundamentally flawed.

Recently published figures from the EU asylum agency show that the number of asylum applications has risen by 33% from 2020 to 2021. The agency also notes that the vast majority of these applicants are young men coming from Islamic countries - notably Afghanistan and Syria - who seek to make Germany their new home and become dependent on the German taxpayer.

Disturbingly, the number of asylum seekers are now at the same levels as it was back in 2018, further highlighting that the whole asylum system has collapsed, yet the EU is still not taking proactive steps to stop its abuse.

Taking a soft approach to illegal immigration was never the solution to the crisis. As seen in Melilla, the pull factors offered by the EU to claim asylum in Europe continues to attract swathes of migrants.

For 7 years now it was, and still is, high time to take a much tougher stance on migration for the protection of our people, cultures and identities.



Nicolaus Fest, Head of German delegation - Alternative für Deutschland

SITUATION AT MELILLA BORDER SHOWS EU ASYLUM SYSTEM IS FUNDAMENTALLY FLAWED



Tom VANDENDRIESSCHE, Flemish Delegation

The storming of the Melilla border is a new low in the ongoing migration crisis. Illegal border crossings are becoming increasingly violent. According to eyewitnesses, the migrants were armed with sticks and iron bars. While climbing border fences, several migrants fell several meters down. 120 Moroccan officers, who tried to prevent the crossing, were injured. The Moroccan security forces speak of a “violent and organized attack”.

However, more than 100 migrants reached a reception center where their individual situation is now being assessed. This means the creation of a perverse pull factor effect. Illegal migration should not offer any perspective in the EU. In this way, we would encourage more illegal and aggressive assaults, resulting in more deaths. Even Moroccan MP's recognize the situation and call for “future collaboration efforts to fight organized crime and illegal and violent migration.”

In recent years, thousands of migrants have tried to enter the Spanish exclaves in various ways. Climbing barriers, swimming along the shoreline or hiding in vehicles. It is high time that action is taken against this illegal invasion. A Rapid Reaction Force should be mobilized at such crossings. A zero-tolerance policy must be introduced: anyone crossing illegally loses any right to stay in Europe.

Only in this way can we break the business model of the people smugglers. And only in this way can we guarantee the safety of our own citizens.



Anyone crossing illegally loses any right to stay in Europe.



Tom Vandendriessche, MEP Flemish delegation - Vlaams Belang

BIH IS A MAJOR ECONOMIC AND SECURITY THREAT TO THE EU

Harald VILIMSKY, Austrian Delegation



The EU's hasty enlargement plans meanwhile include countries like Ukraine or Moldova. Even Georgia in the distant Caucasus has been given a "European perspective" and one wonders what criteria the EU will impose on these countries for accession?


Bosnia and Herzegovina is also one of those countries where the only criteria is that a potential EU accession should solve all the country's problems. However, one forgets what is at stake for countries like Austria, which is almost a direct neighbour of Bosnia and Herzegovina. On the one hand, it is about stability and an economic balance within the EU, which would be seriously endangered by a quick accession of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We remember the billions in financial aid for Greece or the generally financially weak member states in Eastern Europe. Moreover, particularly in these economically turbulent times, shouldn't the citizens of Europe rely on the fact that the Bosnian state will solve all its economic and social problems itself by joining as quickly as possible?

One must be concerned that countries like Austria will be forced to pay Bosnia's debts in the future and that a brain drain will become evident in these countries, especially among young people, as it is already the case in Croatia.

On the other hand, a potential EU accession of Bosnia and Herzegovina would primarily be a question of security policy.

According to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime as well as Europol, there are still hundreds of thousands of illegal small arms in circulation in the country. This combined with the serious spread of Islamism in Bosnia and Herzegovina can lead to fatal consequences, as we already witnessed in Paris on 13 November 2015.

Therefore, we reject a possible accession as well as the start of possible accession negotiations.



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Harald Vilimsky, Head of Austrian Delegation - Freiheitliche Partei Österreich

IT IS THE EU WHO DOES NOT BELIEVE IN THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY



Jaak MADISON, Estonian Delegation

Day in and day out we hear in the European Parliament how Poland and Hungary do not respect the independence of the judiciary but now, when the highest court in a foreign democratic country comes to the conclusion that is not to the liking of the EU, then complete mayhem brakes out.

The US Supreme Court recently overturned a 1973 ruling that the Constitution guaranteed an absolute right to abortion. It is important to note that nowhere in the Constitution was it written and only left-leaning judges could interpret the right to privacy as the right to abortion. Of course, the right to life is ranked higher in the hierarchy anyway.

Abortion is not a human right in terms of any international treaty, nor is it included as a fundamental right in the EU treaties. Even the most liberal countries do not have it as a constitutional right. Like in Canada, there is also no law granting the right to an abortion. In Germany, abortion is even technically illegal under Section 218 of the German criminal code, but not punishable during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy.

Media coverage can give the false impression that because of this overturn by the Supreme Court ruling, abortion is now somehow illegal in the US. This is false: all it did was give individual states the right to decide for themselves.

The principle of subsidiarity, one of the forgotten core beliefs of the EU, functions the same way. The idea is for the people to decide at the lowest level possible as it means more transparency and democratic participation. Considering the will of the people and trusting them to make right decisions is not a concept that the EU thinks highly of.

Now Americans can democratically choose their own abortion policy in their home state by voting for the correct representative and the EU has no right to interfere in their internal affairs. Is it too much to ask that the European Parliament spend its time trying to better lives of the EU citizens amidst an energy crisis and skyrocketing inflation instead of attacking the independence of the judiciary in a foreign democratic country?



Jaak Madison, MEP Estonian Delegation -
Eesti Konservatiivne Rahvaerakond

What you will **NOT** find in the next Plenary

EEAS residence in New York

Next week a new building project is expected to be voted in the committee on Budgets: that is **the request by the European External Action Service (EEAS) to proceed with the purchase of a new residence in New York.** **No plenary vote** will then be scheduled for the purchase of this new property, as is the case with the files concerning building policies.

The EEAS is seeking approval from the Budget Authority to purchase a new residence for the Head of the European Union Delegation to the United Nations in New York, which will replace the current residence at 50 UN Plaza, rented since 2016. The more than 279 m² of the current residence does not in fact seem to be enough for the EEAS as it would like to proceed with the purchase of a new house for a **total cost of 20 million euros.** The highly desired new residence, a **five-story townhouse** with no less than **543 m²** of floor space, is located **in the heart of Manhattan**, at 138 East 65th Street. As if that were not enough, peacock feather wallpaper, a leather-covered commercial elevator would seem to be just a few of the luxuries found in this new house.

The ID Group deplores **the lack of transparency in the building policy** of European institutions and is always highly critical of these various projects.

In this particular case, it is of the opinion that the EEAS request represents an even more scandalous **waste of taxpayers' money.**



ID initiatives for the Plenary Session

An alternative motion for a resolution on the **EU Action plan for the social economy**;

3 Amendments to the **2021 Commission Report on Bosnia and Herzegovina**;

4 Amendments to the **Financial Activities of the European Investment Bank**;

3 Amendments to the **Control of the financial activities of the European Investment Bank**;

2 Amendments to the **Protection of the European Union's financial interests**;

An alternative motion for a resolution to the **common European action on care**.

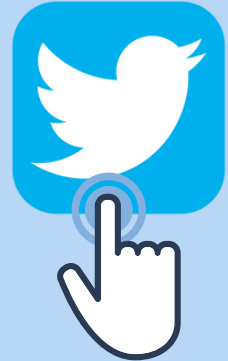
Concerning the human rights urgencies, the Group proposed the following topics:

The murder of Father Samson in Tanzania;

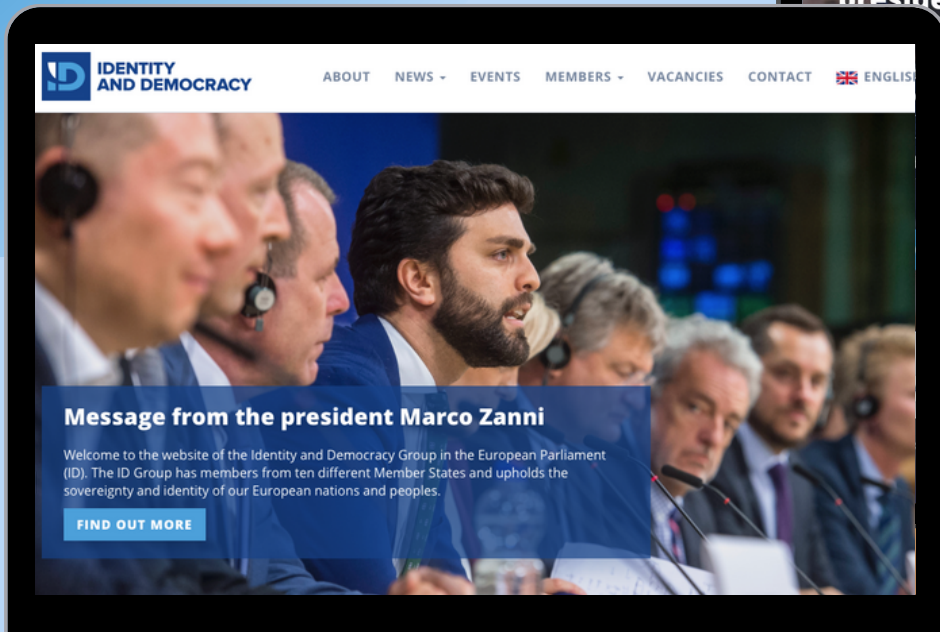
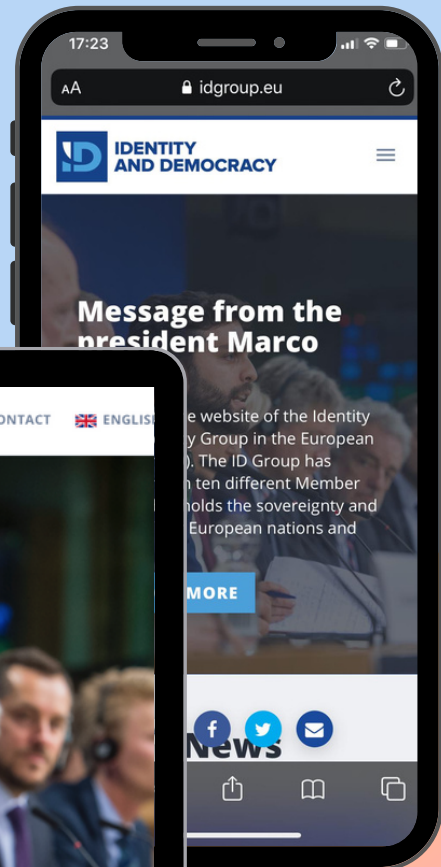
Crackdown on protests in Iran;

Haiti, the murder of the Italian nun and the situation of the Christian community.

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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



**IDENTITY
AND DEMOCRACY**

IDENTITY AND DEMOCRACY GROUP

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