

# PLENARY BOOKLET

## Identity and Democracy



**4 - 7 OCTOBER**

**PLENARY SESSION**

**2021**

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# THE FUTURE OF EU-US RELATIONS: TIME FOR BRUSSELS TO PUT ASIDE ITS HYPOCRISY

MARCO ZANNI, President ID Group



The debate on the future of EU-US relations today is confronted with a reality that goes far beyond the forecasts of the EU institutions.

Those who yesterday hated Donald Trump, hailing the advent of Joe Biden in the White House, are now disappointed.

The wish for a common approach to the security and defence challenges, contained in the text of the report presented in this plenary session in Strasbourg, had to deal with the precipitous withdrawal, in August, of Western troops from Afghanistan.

The presumed creation of a synergy within the framework of enhanced cooperation on international trade and investments has clashed with the recent events of the sale of submarines that directly involved a European country.

Painting Biden as the symbol of political correctness does not make US strategies any less focused on achieving US national interests.

In some circles in Brussels, the same mistake was made with the acclaimed Obama, when he was even nominated for the Nobel Prize despite having no particular merits.

Yesterday the enemy of Europe was not Trump, today it is not Biden.

It is fundamental for the EU to set aside hypocrisy, to maintain good relations and cooperate with a country that remains an indispensable bastion of democracy, and to avoid once and for all attributing to itself patents of presumed moral superiority.



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

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# IS THE MONEY PAID TO TURKEY WELL SPENT?

Nicolas BAY, 1st Vice-President ID Group

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As the EU has paid €6.5 billion to Turkey as part of the migrant deal, Parliament wonders if EU taxpayers' money is being well spent. The answer is 'no'.

The taxpayers' money was mainly used by Erdogan to build up a stock of migrants on Turkish soil.

On the one hand, they are used to colonise northern Syria and the Kurdish territories; on the other hand, they are cynically used as a means of pressure, thrown by the hundreds of thousands on the shores of Greece and Europe.

And Erdogan demands more and more money...

This institutionalised racket must stop!

The European Commission has, for once, decided to sanction Belarus, which is using exactly the same kind of hybrid threat. It is time to punish Turkey.

We now know, although Brussels has repeatedly argued otherwise, that sanctions are possible and effective when countries are economically dependent on European nations.

Stopping funding, suspending diplomatic visas, ending the customs union through which Turkey saves hundreds of millions, freezing Turkish assets, ending the EU accession process: there is no shortage of solutions to make Ankara respect us.

It's time to apply some.

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**And Erdogan demands more and more money... This institutionalised racket must stop!**



Nicolas Bay, 1st Vice-President ID Group,  
French delegation - Rassemblement National

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# THE AFFORDABILITY OF ENERGY IS THE SOCIAL QUESTION OF THE 21ST CENTURY

Jörg MEUTHEN, 2nd Vice-President ID Group

The massive increase of the prices of electricity, gas and coal during the last months has led us to a serious energy crisis.

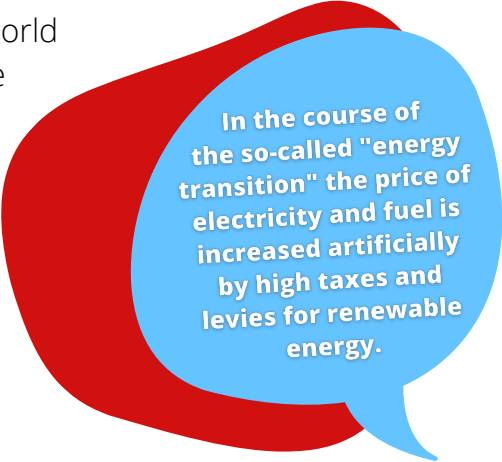
The high energy prices block the economic recovery after the coronavirus pandemic and millions of Europeans face a cold and dark winter.

But this crisis is not only a consequence of the general situation on the world market, it is even more a result of the disastrous energy policy of the EU and many national governments.

In the course of the so-called "energy transition" the price of electricity and fuel is increased artificially by high taxes and levies for renewable energy.

The one-sided ideological promotion of inefficient sources, such as solar or wind energy, is a threat to the energy security in Europe and a massive financial burden to the consumers and businesses.

The affordability of energy is the social question of the 21st century, so the taxes on fuel and electricity must urgently be lowered and we must go back to a balanced energy mix of different, efficient and reliable energy sources.



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Jörg Meuthen, 2nd Vice-President ID Group,  
German Delegation - Alternative für Deutschland

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# TOURISM: SOME CRITICAL ASPECTS EUROPE SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT

Marco CAMPOMENOSI, Italian Delegation

Before the beginning of the summer, we voted on the EU Digital Covid Certificate in order to provide a valid instrument to travellers within the EU, considering especially the need to lift the sanitary restrictions and relaunch the entire tourism ecosystem. Simultaneously, the European Standardization Organisation has released various protocols on health and safety which every tourism service provider could implement to get a "Covid safety seal label".

In the upcoming Plenary Session, an Oral Question to the Commission asks for a first assessment of these measures in terms of efficiency and noteworthy results, demanding at the same time an overview about the financial support that has been given to the SMEs.

As we await to hear back from the Commission, I seize the moment to pinpoint some critical aspects that we believe Europe should take into account as a part of its coordinated approach towards tourism overall.

As a matter of fact, discrepancies and unfair competition among Member States do exist, and the EU is not doing enough about it, even though some actions could be taken without any budgetary commitment.

I would like to bring to your attention two examples.

The profession of "tourism guide" has different access criteria from one country to another, and this is giving a competitive advantage to Eastern Europe, where the access is easier than elsewhere. Another case is the risk of a wrong application of the so-called Bolkestein Directive on the Italian maritime states concessions.

This situation is generating uncertainty among those SMEs which are located on the seaside, refraining them from making investments. Therefore, we urge the EU to intervene.

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

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# US-EU RELATIONS: ONE MORE SUBMISSION?



Jérôme RIVIÈRE, French Delegation

During the October plenary session, MEPs will vote on a report by Socialist Tonino Picula on the future of relations between the United States and the European Union.

This text, without saying so, is one more act of the European Union towards subjugation to the United States.

Without the slightest trepidation, breaking with any principle of political and diplomatic neutrality, the rapporteur, whose party is the Communist League of Croatia, celebrates the election of Joe Biden.

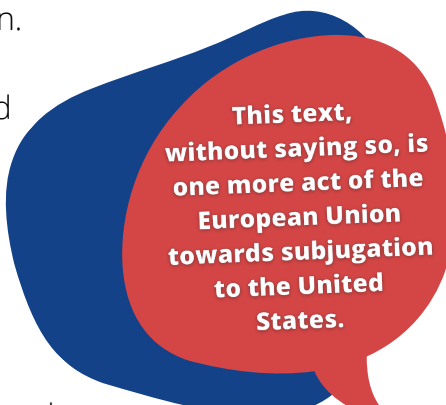
The report calls for permanent and prior consultation between Washington and Brussels, particularly in order to position themselves with regard to Moscow and Beijing.

This means making the member countries enter into a logic of following American interests.

It totally omits today's realities, and comes at a time that demonstrates European, and particularly French, naivety following the submarine crisis.

If it was drafted before this crisis, the timing is very bad for the relevance of this text, which tends to make one smile in view of the affront in Australia.

Finally, this text forgets that the European Union is not a block, and it never leaves room for the nations. We must fight it.



**This text, without saying so, is one more act of the European Union towards subjugation to the United States.**



Jérôme Rivière, Head of French delegation -  
Rassemblement National

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# BANKING UNION IS NOT THE SOLUTION



Gerolf ANNEMANS, Flemish Delegation

Should citizens and businesses be protected against mismanagement and the possible bankruptcy of banks?

Yes, of course, because our people simply don't have enough time and resources to protect themselves against this individually.

Is the Banking Union a good solution for this?

Absolutely not, because the Banking Union does not address the fundamental problems of the banking sector.

Thirteen years after the financial crisis, there are still no partitions or firewalls between savings banks and investment banks.

We still risk financial crises because banks are too big, take too many risks and invest more in each other's products than investing in the real economy.

What's more: the European Parliament is arguing for economies of scale with even larger cross-border banks, with all the possible disastrous domino effects that entails! Have we learned nothing from the crisis?

It was small and medium-sized banks that kept Europe afloat!

Of course people's money in bank accounts should be protected. But one uniform deposit guarantee for the entire European Union simply does not take into account the different risks in our countries.

Banking supervision must therefore remain a national competence.



**Banking supervision must remain a national competence.**



Gerolf Annemans, Head of Flemish delegation  
- Vlaams Belang



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# FACILITY FOR REFUGEES KEEPS EU IN STRANGLEHOLD

Harald VILIMSKY, Austrian Delegation



The implementation report on the EU Trust Funds and the Facility for Refugees in Turkey shows once again that the EU has not understood anything about the migration issue and continues to use an instrument that mainly plays into the hands of Turkey and its president. Besides additional funds for development aid, further financial means are to go to Turkey.

Above all, it is the inaccuracies in the report that give the impression that the EU is financing development measures, when in fact all the funds come from the taxpayers in the member states. But it is much more the current state of affairs that is in no way satisfactory.


Instead of a solution-oriented strategy, such as the construction and protection of the external borders, there is again no adequate response to the hybrid warfare on the part of Turkey, which has a stranglehold on the EU and its member states with its possible "door and gate policy".

Instead, this report continues to fuel the mass migration weapon. Turkey remains an unreliable partner, especially when it comes to migration.

On the basis of these facts, we will vote against this report. Not a cent for a Turkey that blackmails Europe and its states with mass migration.

Instead, we finally demand the expansion of the external borders and the possibility for member states to protect their borders, as well as a consistent no-way policy on the part of Europe.

The fact that this report again shows the opposite and continues to give Turkey the opportunity to appropriate billions of European taxpayers' money through this blackmail cannot be in the interests of European citizens. Nor can it be acceptable that Turkey should continue to be regarded in this report as a potential candidate for accession.



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Harald Vilimsky, Head of Austrian Delegation - Freiheitliche Partei Österreich

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# INITIATIVE REPORT ON THE APPLICATION OF EU REQUIREMENTS FOR THE EXCHANGE OF TAX INFORMATION

Ivan DAVID, Czech Delegation



I recommend abstaining in the final vote. The draft report describes some of the problems faced by the tax administrations of the EU Member States in recovering information from the authorities of other Member States, in the administration of the taxes listed in the DAC1 to DAC automatic data exchange rules 6.

The report also lists some scandals that were discovered during their implementation in the form of the so-called "legal form of tax evasion". E.g. concessions granted by the Luxembourg tax administration when its prime minister, Jean-Claude Juncker, was prime minister, which allowed multinational corporations to use Luxembourg box companies as "flow cleaners".

The report focuses exclusively on the EU area, as if other countries did not exist at all. The authors somewhat ignore the fact that non-EU countries are used for the biggest tax evasions. And it is far from just the classic tax havens that are well known - the type of island destination in the Caribbean. Different levels of taxation on different types of income, assets and commodities in different countries motivate tax evasion - referred to in the report as aggressive tax practices. Given the deregulation of world trade under the GATT and WTO talks, complemented by a set of bilateral double taxation treaties that effectively

prevent States Parties from taking action against tax evasion, this problem is currently unsolvable.

The EU itself or its Member States are not able to achieve a real, not-for-good improvement in tax enforcement without withdrawing from the GATT, WTO and bilateral double taxation treaties, along the lines of the OECD.

Political proposals to abolish the right of veto in the field of taxation are a cry in the dark, because the European Council decides unanimously to amend the EU Treaty and the functioning of the EU. Without the agreement of all the prime ministers of the Member States, the EP can shout many times what it wants in this area, and it is about as effective as when drunks in a pub talk about it.



Ivan David, Head of Czech Delegation -  
Svoboda a přímá demokracie

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# EU-US-RELATIONS: BACK TO REALITY

Laura HUHTASAARI, Finnish Delegation

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When the US, the UK and Australia announced the AUKUS agreement, many in the EU were shocked.

Why, indeed, did the EU have no idea about the whole agreement?

When the United States withdrew from Afghanistan, it became clear that everyone was on their own. Europe can no longer rely on US defence.

President Biden is doing what Trump was expected or feared to do.

Biden's interest in Europe is declining and interests in Asia are growing.

The world is changing and so are the interests of the countries.

US-EU relations will not be improved by saying that NATO is “brain-dead”, as President Macron did.

In 1960, EU countries accounted for about 33% of the world economy, while in 2050 it is projected to be only 9%.

The EU must remember that the best security guarantee is a well-run economy and strong national armies.

The EU is a sub-optimal federal region and therefore a common EU army should not be established.

Instead it is wise to cooperate with each other and to maintain good diplomatic relations with the United States as well.

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Laura Huhtasaari, MEP Finnish Delegation  
- Perussuomalaiset



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# EUROPE'S GREEN DEAL WILL LEAVE US OUT IN THE COLD



Jaak MADISON, Estonian Delegation

Electricity prices are climbing to record highs in many European countries and it will only get worse as winter is approaching! Soon Europe will be starving for energy, which will weaken us considerably.

Electricity usage will increase exponentially in the coming years as Europe will have more electric cars, electric heating and electric industry. Renewables like wind and solar are not our saving grace as they are inefficient, expensive without subsidizing and often, depending on the location, nonreliable energy sources. In addition, they are not as green as many would like us to believe. That is why we are seeing energy prices soar across Europe, and Brussels saying that we need more of this to fix the problem is the reason why we are energy hungry in the first place. It will also not save the climate because when wind and solar energy fails us (and it will) we would still have to counterproductively turn to coal and gas.

Poorer citizens will be most affected and will find it difficult to light, heat or cool their homes. Middle income earners will also be affected as driving to work or enjoying a vacation once a year will become more expensive. Even now we have more than 50 million people across Europe who live in energy poverty and the European Union is only in the initial phases of transitioning our economies.

There is a saying in Estonia: "don't spit in an old well when the new one isn't ready yet". The same applies to Europe: climate hysteries in Brussels will cripple our energy sector and make us dependent on Russian gas. A nation that does not have its energy needs met or is dependent on others in that regard cannot prosper.

What we should do is accept nuclear energy as an efficient clean energy source that could feed energy-hungry Europe. French electricity is cheaper than in Germany and it is also a lot cleaner. This is made possible by nuclear energy. Europe should be the global leader in the development of nuclear energy and not China.

Until we have reasonable solutions and technology, Europe cannot be allowed to commit energy suicide!



A nation that does not have its energy needs met or is dependent on others in that regard cannot prosper.



Jaak Madison, MEP Estonian Delegation -  
Eesti Konservatiivne Rahvaerakond

# NO TO TURKEY IN THE EU!

## **CLICK HERE TO SIGN OUR PETITION**



## **No to Turkey in the EU! - Stop negotiating**

Turkey is still officially a candidate country to join the European Union.

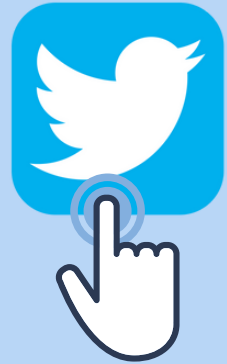
It was an enormous mistake by the EU to accept that candidacy. First of all, Turkey is not a European country. It is also not a democracy: the Erdogan regime is persecuting minorities and violating the principle of freedom of speech. Moreover, as there are no more internal borders within the EU, the accession of Turkey would lead to a huge and uncontrollable migration flow towards Europe.

Making things even worse: Turkey is posing a threat to the security and sovereignty of EU Member States such as Greece and Cyprus. Erdogan is also supporting Islamist terrorist groups in Syria, Iraq, Nagorno-Karabach, Libya, etc.

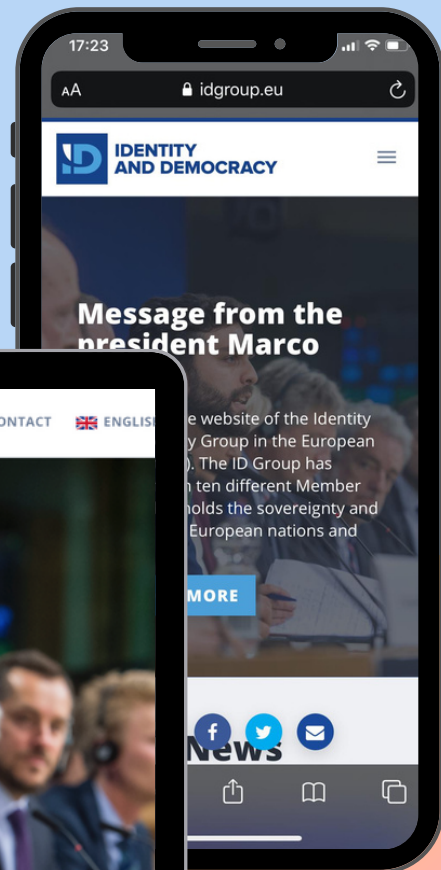
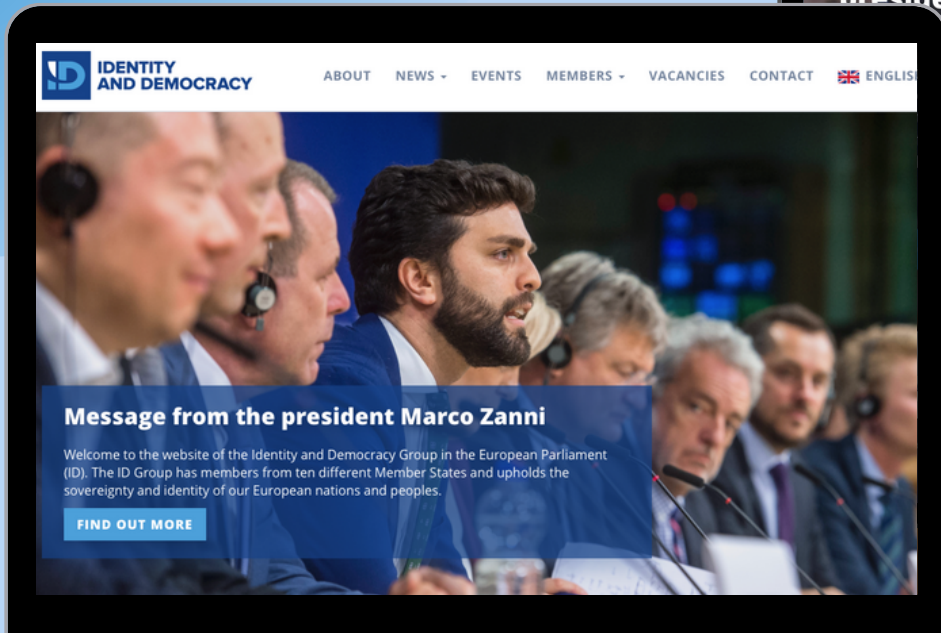
The unacceptable provocations by the Erdogan regime should not be rewarded by continuing endless and pointless accession negotiations with Turkey. Therefore the Identity and Democracy Group (ID) in the European Parliament wants these negotiations to be put to an end. The 'pre-accession' money flow to Turkey should also be stopped.

**Support the common sense position of the ID Group and sign the petition [here](#)!**

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# Defending the identity of peoples and the sovereignty of nations!

The Identity and Democracy group, founded in June 2019, has 70 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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