

PLENARY BOOKLET

Identity and Democracy



MARCH 8 - 11

PLENARY SESSION

2021

THE EU MUST DEFEND ITS CHRISTIAN VALUES



MARCO ZANNI, President ID Group

While our continent is struggling to imagine its future, a light of hope is shining.

The visit of Pope Francis to Iraq goes in the right direction, towards protecting the rights of Christian minorities in the Middle East.

We were among the first ones in Brussels to embrace this cause, when our political group decided to nominate Najeeb Michael Moussa, Archbishop of Mosul, for the Sakharov Prize.

The Pope's journey shall be both a message of closeness to the millions of Christians who are still victim of persecution around the world and an appeal to Europe, so that it can once again embrace and value its Christian roots.

Just a few days ago, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where the rights of Christians are trampled on a daily basis, Italy mourned the loss of Ambassador Luca Attanasio, killed while he was bringing aid to a forgotten territory.

Thousands of Christian missionaries and religious helpers all over the world are committed to bringing hope and comfort to the downtrodden and the ones in need.

These people expect a strong signal from Europe, the cradle of Christianity, which all too often wants to ignore, forget or even cancel its identity.

Instead we must proudly defend it as a bulwark of civilisation and a beacon of hope.



Europe,
the cradle of
Christianity, which
all too often wants
to ignore, forget or
even cancel its
identity, we must
proudly defend!



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

WHAT YOU WILL **NOT** FIND IN THE PLENARY

Last week, the Members of the Budget committee have been invited to vote on a building project submitted by the European Commission. No plenary vote is need for this procedure.

House of Europe, Stockholm:

The space (2 001 m2) in the building is rented jointly between Parliament and Commission for an annual lease of **EUR 1 343 207**.

The Members of the Budget committee voted on the request for the short-term extension of the lease contract (2021-2024) because the project to secure new facilities in Stockholm could not be finalised as planned, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the general difficulties presented by the Stockholm real estate market.

This extension of the contract represents a **19% increase** compared to the previous contract.



THREAT TO MEDIA FREEDOM? BRUSSELS' STRANGE BIAS

Nicolas BAY, 1st Vice-President ID Group

“

Media freedom would once again be under threat in Central Europe.

But, while there may be reprehensible abuses, these are mainly political attacks.

Warsaw, for example, simply wants to tax media advertising revenue in order to finance health and culture.

Intolerable for the EU!

Prompted to support the media caste, Brussels is less eager to protect citizens' freedom of expression.

The Commission was not moved by the scandalous attack on democratic pluralism by Angela Merkel, who tried to put her first opposition, the 'Alternative für Deutschland' party, under surveillance.

Where is the Commission when it comes to defending the right of Europeans to express themselves without having to fear censorship on social networks?

Private monopoly companies, often marked on the left, can silence certain opinions.

No one in Brussels to worry about that!

Worse, television in France has set up a variable system of remuneration for its editors: those who talk more about Europe or diversity get bonuses, not the others.

Here, once again, Brussels is letting it happen. Why this two-weight, two-measures?

Basically, the question is mainly ideological: Brussels defends media that share its ideology.

”

Where is the Commission when it comes to defending the rights of Europeans to express themselves without fearing censorship?



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

WE MUST STOP THE EU FROM TURNING INTO A FISCAL UNION

Jörg MEUTHEN, 2nd Vice-President ID Group



The Parliament is going to vote on the “Annual Growth Strategy” in the context of the European Semester this plenary week.

We strictly oppose this report, which welcomes not only the illegal debt-funded Next Generation EU programme, but also the activation of the general escape clause under the Growth and Stability Pact. It demands both ongoing fiscal stimulus by the ECB and the establishment of a common deposit insurance scheme at EU level.

In short, this report welcomes the transformation of the European Union into a transfer union.

All of this is misguided and favours the misallocation of Europe's scarce economic resources. The consequence will be further economic decline.

What we need instead is the very opposite: stop the move towards a fiscal union and reactivate and reinforce the Stability and Growth Pact to rapidly reduce debt levels across member states,

introduce rules for an orderly withdrawal of member states from the euro area, and a clear political rejection of debt-financing EU programmes through the issuance of common EU debt, which is illegal under the EU Treaties.



The Parliament is going to vote on the 'Annual Growth Strategy', which welcomes the transformation of the European Union into a transfer union, which expropriates northern European Economies for the benefit of highly indebted uncompetitive countries.



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

THE EUROPEAN CARBON BORDER ADJUSTMENT MECHANISM AND THE CURRENT CHALLENGES FOR EU COMPETITIVENESS



Marco CAMPOMENOSI, Italian Delegation

The European Union has set a goal of achieving a socially just transition to climate neutrality by 2050, as well as reducing emissions with 60% by 2030.

In this line, given the absence of a global carbon price and a multilateral solution, the Commission is aiming to propose an efficient and market-based EU carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM).

This instrument - little known so far - should be formulated as a valuable instrument to protect the EU competitiveness and to ensure a level playing field for European companies that are currently facing a double challenge: the great competition from third countries whose environmental standards are lower and the latest ambitious European policies in the climate field.

As a member of Lega actively present in the International Trade Committee, I am committed to work on ensuring the protection against unfair competition and to counterbalance the higher production costs that the EU Green Deal will evoke to our companies.

The latter Deal seems to set unattainable objectives, opening the possibility to further arbitrary and unjustifiable discriminations.

Let us not forget that environmental affairs are a shared competence with Member States and that our companies need a stable and predictable policy and legislative framework to avoid and reduce additional administrative and bureaucratic obstacles, especially for SMEs.

The Covid-19 pandemic has further shown that we cannot depend on third countries' economies and non-EU resources.



The Covid-19 pandemic has further shown that we cannot depend on third countries' economies and non-EU resources.



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

THE WESTERN BALKANS, BRUSSELS' HIDDEN AGENDA

Jérôme RIVIERE, French Delegation



The European Union tirelessly pursues its enlargement process behind the backs of the peoples. Indeed, negotiations for the accession of North Macedonia and Albania began one year ago. It is the continuation of an unbroken logic for many years, after Serbia and Montenegro, Albania and North Macedonia and now, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo have the status of "potential candidates".

However, most of these countries concentrate on corruption, organised crime, the massive passage of illegal migrants and, for Bosnia and Herzegovina in particular, Islamist terrorism. The main route for migrants to enter the European Union is the Balkan route. It is the weak link in our security and our protection against massive and irregular immigration.

The European Commission, for its part, has not been embarrassed by any scruples, unblocking last October an envelope of 9 billion euros to finance a plan of massive investments in the Western Balkans, under the name of the "Enlargement Package".

While countries of the Western Balkans were much less impacted by Covid-19 than many European Member States such as France, Italy or Spain, they received a trifle of 3.3 billion euros from the European Union. Even more serious is Brussels' deliberate desire to promote visa liberalisation for nationals of member countries of the Western Balkans.

Today, Serbia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina already benefit from a visa liberalization system. With the problems that we know: to take the most emblematic, the Albanians today constitute one of the main contingents of asylum seekers in our country.

In the name of what? What persecutions? Equally serious is the very advanced visa liberalization project for Kosovars.

The European Union is now embarked on a frantic race that only the reaction of the peoples of Europe can stop.



Jérôme Rivière, Head of French delegation -
Rassemblement National

EU'S FREEDOM OF THE PRESS OR PRESSURE ON FREEDOM?

Tom VANDENDRIESSCHE, Flemish Delegation

One of the most effective tools of the EU in spreading their own rigid ideology has always been appealing to larger, transcendent ideals.

and is the latest clear ploy of furthering the EU-agenda.

Decrying an alleged lack of freedom of the press in Poland, Hungary and Slovenia is again, more of the same.

In the age of unabridged tech censorship of patriotic and conservative outlets, ever expanding hate speech laws and downright censoring politicians who do not bring forth the globalist EU-message, the EU instead chooses to focus on patriotic European nations.

Decrying an alleged lack of freedom of the press while actively limiting freedom of speech is downright cynical!

Those nations have chosen to protect their identities, to protect their own ideals and not to bend the knee to overreaching EU commands.

Those nations should not be threatened by the EU, especially when the EU chooses its own, narrow interpretation of those values.

Decrying a so-called lack of freedom of the press while actively limiting freedom of speech is downright cynical,



Tom Vandendriessche, MEP Flemish Delegation - Vlaams Belang

SYRIA MUST BE A WARNING FOR EUROPE



Harald VILIMSKY, Austrian Delegation

It has been ten years since the conflict in Syria posed a new challenge, not only to the region but also to Europe.

In addition to the fact that this proxy conflict is continuing in part, the conflict also revealed a particularly ugly face: that of Islamism.

The Islamists conquered large parts of Syria and ultimately brought the conflict to Europe. Paris, Nice, Berlin and Vienna became the new theatres of war.

Many of these murderers came with the masses of migrants in 2015.

In addition to Angela Merkel, the EU Commission is also responsible for leaving the borders wide open instead of securing them.

Turkey, which has been hiring Islamist groups like those in northern Syria as mercenaries for years, is still a candidate country.

The fate of thousands of Christians, who were slaughtered by ISIS, seems to have been forgotten by Brussels and Europe.

So what can we do? We must not allow so-called returnees who have actively fought in this conflict to return to Europe.

We must finally secure our borders and establish a "No Way" - policy.

We must end the accession status with Turkey.

We must try to protect minorities, such as Christians.

Syria must be a warning for Europe!



The fate of thousands of Christians, who were slaughtered by ISIS, seems to have been forgotten by Brussels and Europe.



Harald Vilimsky, Head of Austrian Delegation - Freiheitliche Partei Österreich

ESTABLISHMENT OF A RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE FACILITY

Ivan DAVID, Czech Delegation

“

I am against this proposal, which was to be a compromise between the Council's proposal and the European Parliament's proposal.

I cannot stand in favor of such a proposal.

”

I do not agree with the European Commission's intention to borrow 370 billion from banks, investment and pension funds without any personal responsibility, but with the right of disposal, with the debts being repaid by the Member States without at least deciding what is useful to them, but loans they must spend on dubious goals such as the Green Deal, which is not even an agreement but a dictate and "digitalisation", without any useful project in advance.

I do not agree with the European Commission's intention to borrow 370 billion from banks, investment and pension funds without any personal responsibility.

It is absolutely immoral to talk about "aid" and condition it with "structural reforms", such as foreclosures on the property of indebted states, compulsory privatisation of public services and interference with the social systems of states and adherence to undefined conditions of the "rule of law".

Debts for useless projects thus lead to the actual robbery of the affected states.

It is not about reviving and promoting resilience, but numbing and undermining the viability of states.



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

CARBON TARIFFS À LA EU: AGAINST EUROPEAN INDUSTRY

Laura HUHTASAARI, Finnish Delegation



As a shadow rapporteur of the INI report I had high hopes for this file.

Unfortunately, my fears were realized.

If the CBAM (Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism) was introduced as suggested, it would be against the interests of the European industry for many reasons.

Firstly, it would replace the Emission Trading System and put an end to the free allocation of emission rights.

The duty would be imposed on all products and the Member States would be not allowed to keep any collection costs.

In addition to that, the collected duties would be partly used outside the EU to support poor countries.

The European industry would get nothing to develop new technologies.

The steel industry in the EU has been very concerned about this mechanism because it jeopardises the level playing field and might lead to the opposite of the expected results as initially intended.

I sincerely wish that in the near future the Commission will submit a more realistic legislative proposal.

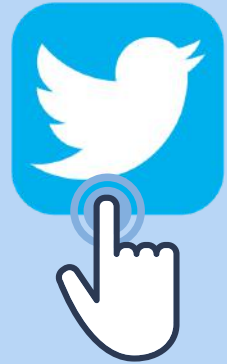


If the CBAM (Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism) was introduced as suggested, it would be against the interests of the European industry for many reasons.

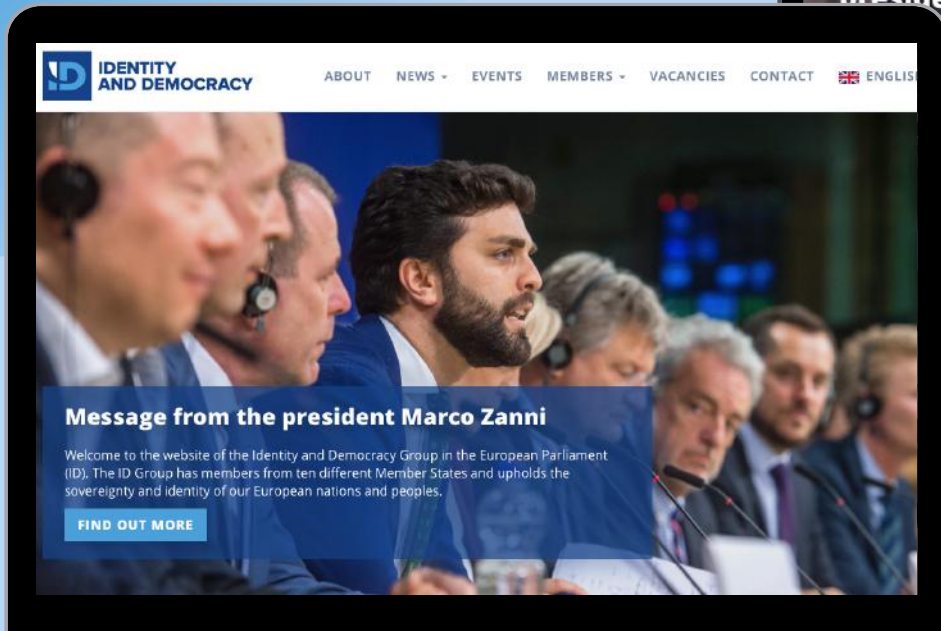
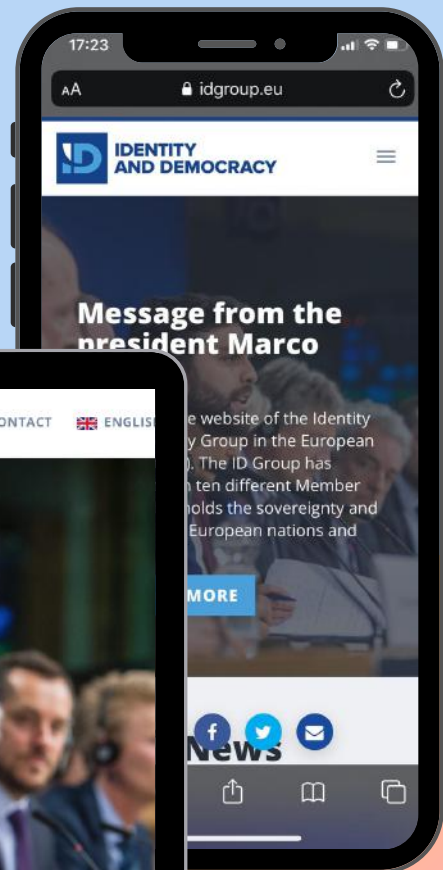


Laura Huhtasaari, MEP Finnish Delegation
- Perussuomalaiset

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Visit our website
www.idgroup.eu and sign
up to our Newsletter!



Follow us!

Defending the Identity of peoples and the Sovereignty of nations!

The Identity and Democracy group, founded in June 2019, has 75 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

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



f @IDGROUPEP