

34th issue

IDENTITY AND DEMOCRACY GROUP



Plenary Booklet



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We need to protect our farmers

Agriculture is a critical sector that plays a crucial role in the EU ensuring food security, generating income, and providing employment for millions of people. Despite its significance, agriculture has often been undervalued.

Nowadays in Europe, this sector is under the microscope because of its emission and has to respect some constraints that extra-EU competitors do not have, with the consequence of an economic disadvantage to our farmers and agricultural industries.

Pragmatism and common sense should be the basis of any strategy, especially where these have such a strong impact on a fundamental sector for all European citizens. This is even more important after the new geopolitical developments, which have made us all realize how much we depend on foreign sources for our supplies.

We should listen more to the needs of farmers and the agricultural sector, in order to make them more prepared for the challenges they will face in the future, and not hinder them with harmful and extremely expensive regulations.



Marco Zanni

"Agriculture is a critical sector that plays a crucial role in the EU ensuring food security, generating income, and providing employment for millions of people. Even more important after the new geopolitical developments..."

President ID Group, Italian delegation - LEGA PER SALVINI PREMIER

The current EU asylum system requires urgent reform

The current EU asylum system has failed to meet its objectives, and an influx of migrants attempting to enter member states through illegal means has put a significant strain on resources and created a burden for all. It is time to take decisive action and implement meaningful reforms.

One of the most important changes we can introduce is requiring asylum seekers to apply for protection outside of the EU. This approach, often referred to as external processing, would necessitate individuals seeking asylum to submit their applications in designated processing centers located outside of the EU's borders.

By implementing this system, we can ensure that asylum seekers do not exploit our current system by illegally crossing our borders. This will lighten the load on member states and allow for more efficient allocation of resources to those who genuinely need protection.

Moreover, external processing will enable us to scrutinize and filter asylum applicants more effectively, ensuring that only those who genuinely require protection are granted asylum. This will help preserve the credibility of our asylum system and prevent it from being misused by those seeking to take advantage of it.

In conclusion, the current EU asylum system requires urgent reform. Requiring asylum seekers to apply for protection outside of the EU will help ensure that resources are efficiently allocated, and the system is not exploited. It is time for us to take firm action and implement this necessary reform.



Gunnar Beck

"One of the most important changes we can introduce is requiring asylum seekers to apply for protection outside of the EU."

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

Fisheries: the European Commission is blinded by ideology and ignorance

As the European elections are getting closer, the Commission's approach to fisheries is becoming more ideological and detrimental to the sector than ever. The Action Plan on fisheries aims to link the Common Fisheries Policy to the environmental legislation of the Union. This change of paradigm will have severe consequences, since the environmental legislation of the Union focuses exclusively on a not so clear and unrealistic idea of environment instead of enhancing pragmatically economical sustainability and social development.

We can bring two examples to explain how harmful the Commission's plan might be. Firstly, the Commission aims at ruling out trawling from the fishing practices allowed in protected marine areas, planning to extend, at the same time, this prohibition to include other parts of our seas. Concisely, phasing out trawling can potentially translate into reducing 38% of the revenues generated from the fisheries sector.

This is unacceptable. Secondly, the Commission would simultaneously increase the taxation on fuels used to propel fishing vessels, with a view to push the sector towards decarbonization. Of course, taxation is not the answer when it comes to the legitimate need of decarbonizing an activity.

These are some reasons why we have to defend our position, and stress that the Commission should not endanger the future of the European fisheries. We should continue fighting against their approach blinded by ideology and ignorance, and we should stand beside stakeholders and all relevant actors within the sector to build a different paradigm.



Marco Campomenosi

"The Commission should not endanger the future of the European fisheries. We should continue fighting against their approach blinded by ideology and ignorance."

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

Frontex: European funding for walls and fences at the EU's external borders is urgently needed!

The final budget for Frontex for the year 2021 was EUR 535 245 042, an increase of 46.87% compared to 2020. The funding comes from the EU budget and contributions of four Schengen associated countries.

As Frontex is responsible for protecting our external borders, it is essential to give a sufficient budget to carry out this task effectively.

The resolution accompanying this discharge is harshly critical of the former executive director of Frontex, F. Leggeri, who is simply accused of having done his job. His ousting in 2022 is a scandal and it illustrates the EU's desire to promote its own migratory submersion.

However, it would seem that times are changing for Frontex, since a large part of the left seems to have "forgotten" its grievances, which were still numerous and virulent until recently, and now supports the discharge of the Agency's accounts, with the exception of the far left.

This is further proof that it was more of a "manhunt" than a defence of the "fundamental rights of migrants" in the face of false allegations of illegal pushbacks and systemic violations of their rights, which led to the resignation of the former director of Frontex...

The current migration situation in Europe is chaotic, with record numbers of arrivals. We have asked the Commission, through our amendments, to finance walls and fences at the external borders, to recruit border guards rather than fundamental rights officers, who are real political commissioners, to condition the payment of aid to third countries to the return of their citizens living illegally in the EU, and to demand the suspension of visa exemptions for countries that do not take them back!



Jean-Paul Garraud

"The current migration situation in Europe is chaotic, with record numbers of arrivals. We have asked the Commission through our amendments, to finance walls and fences at the external borders, to recruit border guards rather than fundamental rights officers."

MEP ID Group, Head of French delegation - RASSEMBLEMENT NATIONAL

No more EU taxes

The report on "own resources" has caused significant concern amongst those who believe in limited government and individual freedom. The report advocates for increased taxation powers for the European Union, which is a dangerous move towards further centralization and control.

The EU should not have the power to tax its citizens directly, as this undermines the sovereignty of its Member States and promotes a culture of dependency on centralized authority. The proposed new own resources, such as the Digital Services Tax and the Financial Transaction Tax, are unfair, even harmful, and will only serve to burden taxpayers and hinder economic growth.

Furthermore, the report fails to address the bloated EU budget and the need for significant reductions in spending. The EU has a history of wasting taxpayer money on projects that are often unnecessary and do not benefit citizens in a meaningful way.

Instead of expanding its power to tax and spend, the EU should focus on reducing its size and scope, allowing for greater autonomy for member states and more efficient use of resources. The EU should prioritize individual freedom and economic growth over bureaucratic control.

In conclusion, this report on own resources is a misguided attempt to expand the power and reach of the EU. The proposals contained in this report should be rejected, and efforts should be made to reduce the size and scope of the EU, promoting greater individual freedom and economic prosperity.



Joachim Kuhs

"The EU should not have the power to tax its citizens directly, as this undermines the sovereignty of its Member States and promotes a culture of dependency on centralized authority."

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

A paradigm shift for asylum!

When the Geneva Convention was originally written, it was intended as a measure for a war-ridden Europe. Following the Second World War, asylum measures were put in place, in a way to humanize the post-war fallout.

Not only was it originally based on affairs before 1951, it also had a clear Eurocentric purpose. Only afterwards, with the Protocol of New York in 1967, was the temporal condition removed, paving the way for our current misguided interpretation.

Nowadays, this once noble agreement has been corrupted into a shining red carpet for the whole continent of Africa. No longer is a European war at the centre, no longer is Europe at the centre and no longer is even war at the centre.

The definition and conditions for asylum have been stretched out so far it lost all of its meaning. Today, we should brace ourselves for climate refugees, economic refugees and even gender refugees.

Thousands of kilometres away, people decide they are in danger, and the only way they can be saved is to travel across dozens of safe countries, to the heart of Europe. The fact that these countries usually have the most generous social security is merely a coincidence.

That is why, in order to save asylum, we have to change the paradigm. A right to asylum does not mean a right of residence. Safety should trump preference. Asylum should be organized in the region of origin. The responsibility of these origin countries is overwhelming.

They should organize asylum centres and help coordinate returns, or bear the financial consequences.



Tom Vandendriessche

"A right to asylum does not mean a right of residence. Safety should trump preference. Safety should be organized in the region of origin."

MEP ID Group, Flemish delegation - VLAAMS BELANG

Little expectation of Brussels' migration policy

Among other things, the EU migration pact provides for rapid asylum procedures at the external borders. According to the pact, migrants are to be identified and registered throughout the country. Within a few weeks, it is to be determined whether they will receive a normal asylum procedure or - if they have little chance of obtaining protection status - be deported again. During this clarification, they should technically be considered as not having entered the country, which should facilitate any subsequent deportation. In principle, the idea would be viable, even if there are some unresolved issues.

Now, however, Germany's Interior Minister Nancy Faeser has spoken out on the topic. The German government has agreed to support such procedures at the external borders, Faeser said. At the same time, however, she insisted that all those who receive protection status should also be distributed among all EU states. Moreover, if the number of deportations continues to be as low as it has been so far, then those who cannot be deported will probably be distributed.

There is nothing to be said against initially introducing such fast-track procedures to see how they prove themselves. But linking them to a distribution across the entire EU is neither necessary nor sensible. At least if you want to reduce migration by abusing the right of asylum altogether. But this can be expected just as little from a German government as from Brussels. Faeser's supposed concession is a farce.

In addition, the EU seems to continue to disregard the fundamental problem - the smuggling mafia and its left-wing NGOs continue to bring thousands and thousands of illegal migrants to European shores, and Brussels continues to refuse to pursue a consistent "no-way" policy.

Only secure borders and a strict and clear policy against the traffickers can put an end to this.

Harald Vilimsky

"The EU seems to continue to disregard the fundamental problem - the smuggling mafia and its left-wing NGOs continue to bring thousands and thousands of illegal migrants to European shores."



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

European farmers under pressure because of the green transition, while EU leaders continue to use private jets

This week a debate will be held on the topic of farmers' role as enablers of the green transition and a resilient agricultural sector, with statements by both the Council and the Commission. The EU's Green Deal in general can be considered as an example of central planning in economics and the „Farm to fork strategy“ part of it, which concentrates on agriculture, furthers these tendencies with giving ever-increasing control and centralization to the EU technocrats.

In contrast to the high demands on European farmers, the bureaucrats and EU leaders themselves enjoy a life of comfort. For example, the Commission head Ursula Von der Leyen has used a private jet in 45 out of 83 trips taken since she took Office until last year October. The President of the Council, Charles Michel has in the same time used private jets on 72 out of 90 trips and according to Le Monde, uses them also for shorter trips to Paris and Strasbourg.

While the farmers, who actually provide the food for the EU, get blamed as one of the main actors causing climate change, the EU technocrats themselves do not seem to care as much about their carbon footprint.

This is a glimpse into the possible future of Europe, where the effects of the green transition are being felt mostly by the average citizen and entrepreneurs through increased food prices, suffocating regulation and a overall decline in the living standard. More gratitude should be shown to the European farmers, instead of scapegoating them for climate change.



Jaak Madison

"While the farmers, who actually provide the food for the EU, get blamed as one of the main actors causing climate change, the EU technocrats themselves do not seem to care as much about their carbon footprint."

MEP ID Group, Estonian delegation - EESTI KONSERVATIIVNE RAHVAERAKOND

ID initiatives for the Plenary Session

1 amendment to the **2022 Commission Report on Kosovo;**

2 amendments to the **Report on the School's scheme for fruit, vegetables, milk and dairy products;**

2 amendments to the **2021 discharge for the European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators;**

7 amendments to the **2021 discharge for the Commission;**

2 amendments to the **2021 discharge for the European Union Agency for Asylum;**

3 amendments to the **2021 discharge for the European External Action Service;**

6 amendments to the **2021 discharge for the European Border and Coast Guard Agency;**

10 amendments to the **2021 discharge for the European Parliament;**

1 amendment to the **Resolution on a strong and sustainable EU algae sector;**

a motion for a **Resolution (with ECR) on a roadmap on a Social Europe: two years after Porto.**

WHAT YOU WILL NOT SEE IN THE PLENARY

In the past weeks, the BUDGET committee approved the following building projects requested by the European External Action Service (EEAS). No plenary vote is needed for these procedures.

New lease for extending the stay of the EU Office in West Bank and Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem

After analysis of the real estate market, the EEAS has presented the request for extending the stay of the EU office in its current premises in French Hill, East Jerusalem. The cost for the EEAS of this new 15-year long-term lease contract, i.e., up to 2038, would be approximately **EUR 21.500.000**.

The leased premises are located in a detached building with five floors and a net surface area of 2.421 m². The total net surface, including terraces, balconies and backcourt is of 3.533 m². Moreover, there are two parking levels with a total surface of 1.112 m². Premises include an entrance lobby, secured access with double interlocking doors, entrance and reception areas, office space, with a combination of single and shared offices, meeting rooms, archives, kitchenettes, corridors, washroom areas, co-location spaces for European Investment Bank and EU Special Representative.

New offices in Brazil and in Democratic Republic of the Congo

The EEAS seeks the approval to sign a 20 years lease contract for a new office building for the Delegation to Brazil in Brasilia. The suggested office is a stand-alone “Lotus Prime building” constructed on a plot of 2.000 m² with a total office surface of 2.380 m² and 2.380 m² of parking and technical rooms. The new premises would replace the current owned main office building and rented annex buildings. The total net cost for the EEAS would be **EUR 44.678.331** over a 20-year period, i.e. up to 2043.

Moreover, the EEAS seeks approval to also buy offices on the 5th, 6th and 7th floors of the Park Towers Building in Kinshasa-Gombe, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), at a price of **EUR 13.857.159**. The EEAS seeks approval to finance this acquisition with a loan. As in DRC land remains property of the State, the purchase will be made by holding a concession of 25 years. These new premises would replace the currently rented premises and the total net cost for the EEAS would be **EUR 26.543.696** over a 20-year period, i.e. up to 2042. The total available surface is 2.928 m² and the usable surface is 2.570 m², of which 2.375 m² for the EU Delegation and 194 m² for the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO).

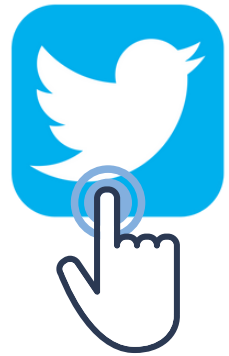
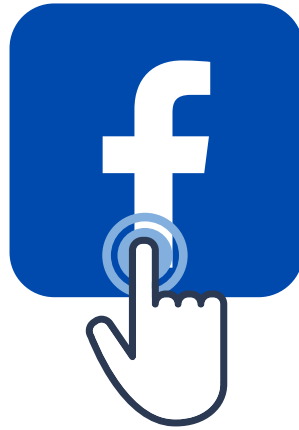
The ID Group deplores the lack of transparency concerning the EU building policy and considers all these projects as an outrageous waste of taxpayers' money. Furthermore, while the Qatargate investigation is still ongoing, the BUDGET committee decided to approve all these highly questionable projects, first and foremost the major economic investment in the Democratic Republic of Congo, one of the most corrupt countries in the world.

However, the most disturbing aspect is that the new offices in Kinshasa will probably be bought from a group of Indian businessmen who may have links with the former head of State Joseph Kabila, already known in the past for allegations of corruption.

It is imperative therefore to pay the utmost attention to this kind of operation as the ID Group has always done in the past and will certainly continue along this path: it is a question of transparency and fairness towards European citizens who are already suffering from the consequences of the ongoing energy crisis.

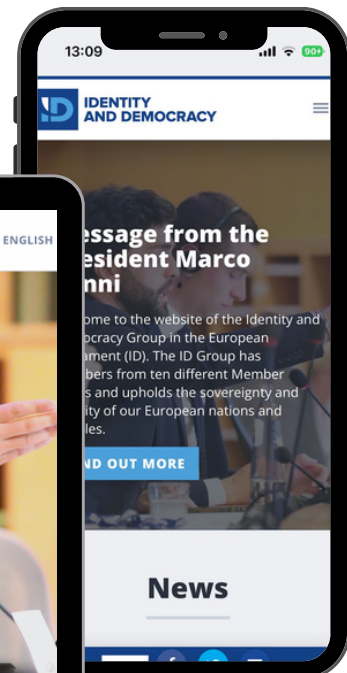
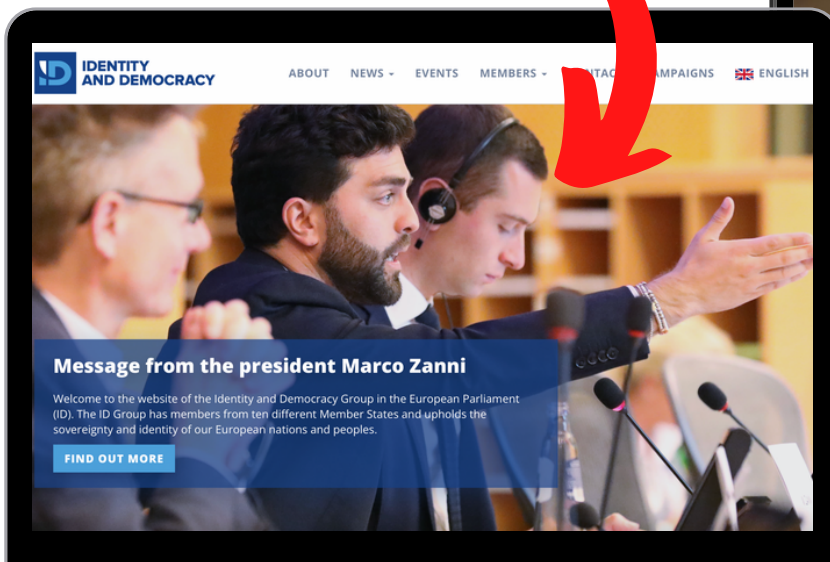
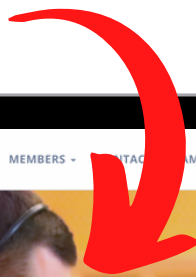


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Defending the identity of peoples and the sovereignty of nations!

The Identity and Democracy Group, founded in June 2019, has 62 members in the European Parliament, coming from 8 countries: Italy, France, Germany, Austria, Flanders (Belgium), Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia.



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