



IDENTITY  
AND DEMOCRACY

# PLENARY BOOKLET

12 – 15 JUNE 2023

# NO to transnational lists!

The aim of the EP's majority, through the reform of the European electoral law, should be to bring the European dimension closer to the citizens, starting from the European elections: it is not clear how the introduction of a European constituency and transnational lists would contribute to this purpose. An Italian, French or German citizen cannot be represented by a candidate from another Member State, who is not familiar with the territory and its needs.

The proposal also includes the establishment of a new European Electoral Authority, resulting in another waste of taxpayers' money at a time when resources should be spent on other urgent priorities.

This is another inexplicable proposal by the majority groups in this Parliament: they continue to make the same mistake,

being distant from the real world and unable to understand the real needs and expectations of citizens, that are certainly not interested in transnational lists or being represented by unknown candidates.



## Marco Zanni

**"An Italian, French or German citizen cannot be represented by a candidate from another Member State, who is not familiar with his territory and its needs."**

*President ID Group, Italian delegation - LEGA PER SALVINI PREMIER*

# It is time to protect European citizens against uncontrolled immigration

Barbarity struck again a few days ago in Annecy, France, with a knife attack on young children by a Syrian migrant asylum seeker. When children are attacked, innocence is attacked, and the whole of France is murdered.

On the very day this heinous attack was committed, the interior ministers of the European Union's member states were meeting in Luxembourg to discuss the pact on asylum and migration. This Commission-led project symbolizes the EU's refusal to implement a firm migration policy, despite public demand for one.

Rather than deploying measures to discourage immigration and give itself the means to reduce migratory flows, the European Union wishes to accompany mass immigration and seeks to force states to share the burden.

In the wake of the Annecy tragedy, our entire migration policy, and a number of European rules, must be called into question.

Asylum rules must be tightened, and the movement of asylum seekers within the Schengen area must be controlled, so that a tragedy like the one in Annecy can never happen again. We must give ourselves the means to act and regain control of a situation that is beyond the government's control.

This debate is urgent. This is why the Identity and Democracy Group has tabled a request for a debate on the protection of citizens in the face of an uncontrolled immigration policy to be added to the agenda of this plenary session. The European Parliament must finally open its eyes to the urgency of the situation.



## Jordan Bardella

**"Asylum rules must be tightened, and the movement of asylum seekers within the Schengen area must be controlled, so that a tragedy like the one in Annecy can never happen again."**

*1st Vice-President ID Group, French delegation - RASSEMBLEMENT NATIONAL*

# Make Europe the place to invest: Unleash the Member States!

In the EU, we are witnessing a forceful push for deindustrialization under the pretext of "decarbonization". Just last week the news surfaced that Ursula von der Leyen wants to make heat pumps the only source of heating European homes from as early as 2029. This ludicrous policy even surpasses the outlandish ambitions of the German Green government. Under the leadership of Ursula von der Leyen, the EU has taken a Soviet-style approach, centrally planning from top to bottom the private lives of citizens.

Already the EU's power grab of the regulation of the supply of energy and warmth to homes badly affects citizens. The result in Germany is rising prices, blackouts, and shortages of energy, which we shall soon witness in other Member States. The state of Western Europe now worryingly resembles the daily life in Communist countries when people stood in line just to buy food for their families.

Surely MEPs will continue debating in lacklustre manner how regulation needs to be improved and red tape needs to be cut and innovation and investment need to be fostered. All of this is a distraction. We need to go to the roots of the crisis, which is the Utopian ideological project driving it: the Green Agenda for "net-zero", which is code for moving away from a market-based economy and towards a socialist system in all but name. MEPs owe a duty to their electorates and have a duty to face up and openly debate the harmful ideas behind deindustrialisation. For the sake of Europe's future as a place where it is still worth living we need to fight these policies tooth and nail.



## Gunnar Beck

**"Under the leadership of Ursula von der Leyen, the EU has taken a Soviet-style approach, centrally planning from top to bottom the private lives of citizens."**

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



# Water crisis in Europe: we are committed to stay at the forefront of these new challenges

Europe has been facing many challenges when it comes to water availability and shortage. Among these water scarcity, unequal water distribution, droughts and water pollution are certainly elements of strong concern.

Many Member States, and on a smaller scale regions such as several areas of Italy, have been experiencing periods of water scarcity, particularly during dry seasons, that were further exacerbated by factors like population growth, increased water demand and climate change.

Droughts put a strain on all our productive sectors, from agriculture to energy production. As such, they should be addressed in a structural way, considering them no longer strictly as temporary or extraordinary events. We need a new strategy, one envisaging both infrastructural solutions as well as increased awareness on the use of resources. Our party is committed to stay at the forefront of these new challenges.

Water pollution is also of significant concern as it arises from a vast array of sources as inadequate wastewater treatment or accidental spills. In this regard, the newly established EU Mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters" represents an opportunity for EU regional and local realities to contribute to policy design aiming at preserving water.

Such an intervention is of utmost importance for those areas where Blue Economy is the core business of the local economy.

Thus, the Mission supports regional engagement and cooperation through area-based "lighthouses" in major sea and river basins, which will function as sites to pilot, demonstrate, develop and deploy the Mission activities across the EU. Genoa - my hometown - is a frontrunner municipality on this project, and I am personally engaged in promoting it.

## Marco Campomenosi

**"Droughts put a strain on all our productive sectors, from agriculture to energy production. As such, they should be addressed in a structural way."**



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

# New ethics body: another diversion!

On Thursday 8th June, the European Commission announced the creation of a new body to set ethical standards for all the European institutions. The aim of the new body is to be in place before the 2024 European elections. The many scandals that have affected the European Union over the years justify this measure. However, what credibility can be given to this when you see the people at the head of certain institutions?

Need we remind you of the Pfizergate scandal that harmed the Commission and in particular its President Ursula von der Leyen? To date, she has still not communicated the content of her exchanges with the CEO of Pfizer. This total lack of transparency is a scandal. We are talking about contracts worth billions of euros. Věra Jourová, the European Commissioner for Transparency, who had claimed that Mrs von der Leyen's text messages had unintentionally disappeared, has taken the lead on this ethics body project. How ironic is that.

The same people, who are now pushing this project, opposed our request for an immediate committee of enquiry within the European Parliament following Qatargate. Today everyone seems to have moved on and nothing has been done to ensure that this never happens again.

This ethics body, like the others, risks being nothing more than a diversionary tactic, neither effective nor independent. The fundamental problem is structural. We need to change an entire system in which non-EU countries, lobbies and NGOs influence the European Union's governing bodies. There is still much work to be done!



## Jean-Paul Garraud

**"We need to change an entire system in which non-EU countries, lobbies and NGOs influence the European Union's governing bodies. There is still much work to be done!"**

*MEP ID Group, Head of French delegation - RASSEMBLEMENT NATIONAL*

# Exploiting Women: The EU's Progressive Agenda on Surrogacy

Recently the Commission has proposed a regulation on the recognition of parenthood between Member States. While seemingly reasonable at first sight, it includes the creation of a European Certificate of Parenthood that would lead to the automatic recognition of 'parenthood'. The goal is to undermine traditional views on filiation to facilitate the Commission's progressive agenda.

The Commission has long been striving for the dissolution of the biological necessity that one woman and one man are required to create life. In the Commission's rainbow view of family this cannot be. Out of a misguided pursuit of factual equality, it wants to enable homosexual partnerships as well as transmen and women to become "parents". Alas, this is impossible without making surrogacy a common and commercial practice. Surrogacy, however, has traditionally been the topic of family law, which is the exclusive competence of the Member States.

Circumventing its legal limitations, the Commission abuses its competence in the area of private international law to grab powers over family law and surrogacy.

Women are the collateral damage of this malicious move. Commercial surrogacy, disguised as a means of hope, robs women of their autonomy and exposes them to exploitation. It commodifies the very essence of motherhood, reducing it to a transaction.

Let us resist this agenda, let us preserve the dignity of women and let us protect the competences of Member States. Let us resist progressive EU centralists!



## Joachim Kuhs

**"Surrogacy has traditionally been the topic of family law, which is the exclusive competence of the Member States."**

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

# Hydrocephalus

The composition of the European Parliament and more specifically the total number of seats and the number of seats per Member State is again under discussion and on the agenda of this week's plenary session. The decision is deemed urgent as any further delays could jeopardise the orderly preparation of the European elections in the Member States.

Our position is clear and hasn't changed: no transnational lists and no adding of new seats. A redistribution of the existing seats can take place as long as it reflects the just representation of the citizens in the different member states. While many national parliaments and governments aim at cutting costs, it is out of the question to add new seats again. 705 seats is (more than) enough.

After Great Britain's departure from the EU, the number of parliamentary seats was reduced - temporarily, it seems - from 751 to 705. Normally that number should have fallen to 678 anyway, but Parliament quickly recovered and redistributed 27 of Britain's 73 seats. Now it is proposed to add another 11 seats 'to reflect demographic developments in the Member States'. The report on the issue also foresees the possibility of reserving 28 seats for MEPs elected on the transnational lists in a Union-wide constituency. And with the possible arrival of new member states in the future, it seems as if the European Parliament will soon be 'filled' again.



## Gerolf Annemans

**"It is out of the question to add new seats to the European Parliament again. 705 seats is (more than) enough."**

*MEP ID Group, Head of Flemish delegation - VLAAMS BELANG*



# EU electoral lists are next step towards abolishing the nation states

Once again, the EU centralists want to transfer more competences to Brussels and once again they have it in for electoral law, calling for a reform of European electoral law again this week in Strasbourg.

According to the EU Parliament, the plans to introduce common rules for national electoral systems in EU elections should be implemented as early as the next election. The impetus for the planned reform of the EU electoral law came from Brexit, which left 46 seats in the EU Parliament vacant. According to the reform plan, these were to be allocated to a single constituency via transnational lists. However, it is questionable whether the allocation of seats via a direct European electoral list is covered by primary law, since the Treaty on European Union provides for an allocation of seats by country.

Instead of distributing the mandates aliquot among the member states or saving them outright, the EU wants to

expand further at the expense of the sovereignty of the nation states.

The new EU electoral law is a next step in the planned establishment of the EU unitary state. The member states are forced to vote for any candidates from other member states that they do not even know or understand. This is completely absurd and highly questionable in terms of democratic policy. The principle according to which each member state determines and sends its representatives to the EU Parliament is to be broken in this way and effective representation of the country prevented.

Instead of an EU electoral reform, we demand a reduction of seats in the EU Parliament and at least a halving of the size of the EU Commission and the EU Parliament and call on the governments of the member states to take a stand against these unconstitutional developments.

## Harald Vilimsky

**"Instead of an EU electoral reform, we demand a reduction of seats in the EU Parliament..."**



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

# Security and freedom in the case of the AI Act

The Artificial Intelligence (AI) Act is a new proposed EU regulation by the Commission, which is being voted on this Plenary. Receiving numerous amendments from all of the political groups, one of the more controversial parts of it is its article 5.

The article 5 paragraph 1 sets out to prohibit some of the artificial intelligence practices within the EU, with its point d prohibiting specifically “real-time” remote biometric identification systems in publicly accessible spaces for the purpose of law enforcement. For example, this might mean AI-based facial recognition systems with cameras in public areas such as parks and streets. At the same time, the point d proceeds to list several exemptions from this ban, with a scope so large that it effectively nullifies the ban itself.

Of course, it is clear that these kinds of crimes listed in article 5 need to be detected and stopped as efficiently and fast as possible.

However, in the case of AI real-time identification systems being allowed, it would come at a cost of the loss of a right to privacy and the almost constant surveillance of all of the citizens. For example, to detect one potential victim of crime in a public space, all of the surrounding persons would have to be scanned and identified too.

Furthermore, there is no guarantee that these exemptions from the AI ban will not be expanded in the future or that the data gathered will not be used by any future governments with worse intentions in mind. The crime might get solved faster, but along the way we risk losing our privacy and dignity.

As such, the discussion of AI being used in law enforcement should proceed with caution and be based on thorough analysis. The balance between security and freedom is hard to pinpoint in the case of the AI Act.

## Jaak Madison

**"The discussion of AI being used in law enforcement should proceed with caution and be based on thorough analysis."**



*MEP ID Group, Estonian delegation - EESTI KONSERVATIIVNE RAHVAERAKOND*

# ID initiatives for the Plenary Session

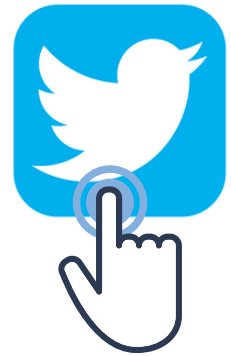
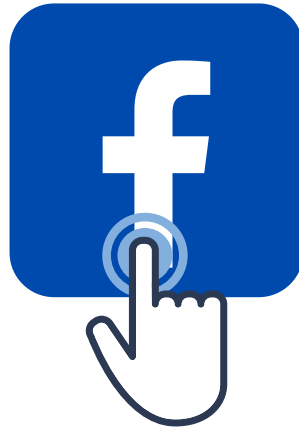
5 amendments to the **Harmonised rules on Artificial Intelligence**;

4 amendments to the **Quality traineeships in the EU**;

1 amendment to the **Competition Policy**;

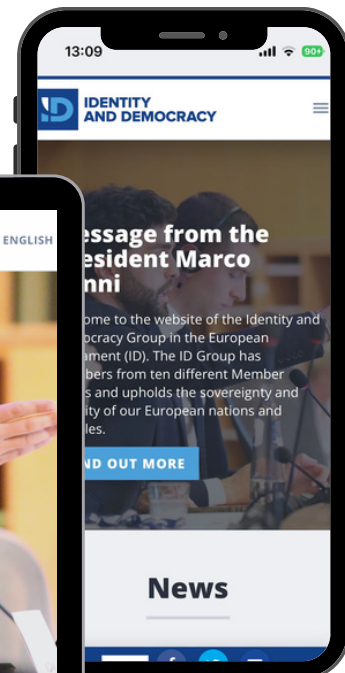
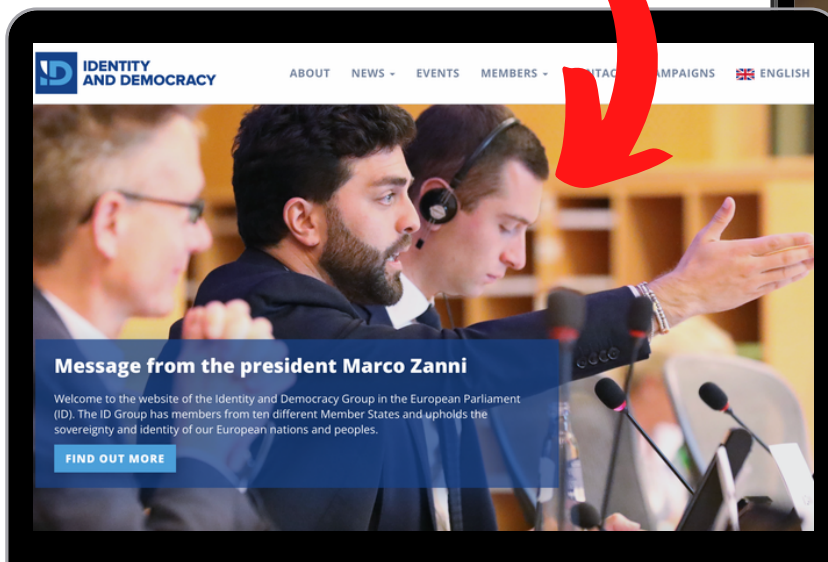
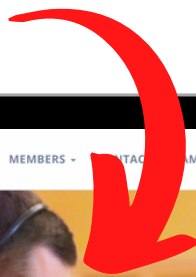
6 amendments to the **Investigation of the use of Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware**.

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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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