

PLENARY BOOKLET

Identity and Democracy



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PLENARY SESSION

2022

BRUSSELS' OPTIMISM IS SHORT-SIGHTED: WE NEED IMMEDIATE AND EFFECTIVE ACTIONS

Marco ZANNI, President ID Group



During the last plenary in Strasbourg, I heard European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen flaunt a certain optimism about the coming winter and the energy availability that citizens and businesses on the Continent will be able to count on.

Contrary to the optimistic forecasts of the Eurobureaucrats, however, I can see an entirely different situation which is not reassuring at all.

One above all: the continuing Russian-Ukrainian conflict is also dividing even more Member States, undecided on which course to take to curb gas prices.

And as costs continue and will continue to rise further in the coming months, European citizens will have to suffer the consequences of the empasse of a Commission too long engaged in ideological battles over the Green Deal and the rule of law, and now unable to cope with an emergency.

In the background, is the specter of economic recession about which analysts have already made firm predictions. We once again call on Brussels for immediate and effective initiatives that will lift families and businesses out of a crisis that unfortunately already has all the makings of a dramatic one.



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

COMMISSION WORK PROGRAMME 2023: WE NEED TO DEFEND EUROPEAN CITIZENS AGAINST THE RUTHLESS AMBITION OF THE COMMISSION

Gunnar BECK, 2nd Vice-President ID Group



2023 will be the last full year before the European elections.

As we have seen in Spain, Portugal, France, Germany, Sweden and Italy, eurosceptic parties are on the rise. Patriots and conservatives are strengthening their positions in parliaments and governments. With the Czech and Swedish Council presidencies, two Member States who openly rejected more European federalization following the Conference on the Future of Europe, are at the helm of the EU.

The counter-offensive of the Commission will be ruthlessly ambitious. Against the backdrop of the war in Ukraine and the highest inflation since the inception of the euro, the Commission will go on an unprecedented spending spree. Von der Leyen will increase pressure to ditch democratic safeguards such as unanimity, accelerate EU enlargement with the Western Balkans, and revamp the Stability and Growth Pact to consolidate the Transfer Union.

Schengen will be enlarged and national borders will continue to fade. New EU taxes will be pushed through to fund the EU's inflated budget and NGEU, and the rule of law mechanism will be extended and strengthened. Regardless of the unprecedented energy crisis, the EU Green Steal will go full-steam ahead.

Eurosceptics, patriots and conservatives are the citizens' last line of defence against the EU's disastrous policies.

We will need to stand strong and united to protect what is dear to us: our Europe, our identity and our democracy.



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

FUELEU MARITIME: ID MANAGED TO KEEP IN LINE THE SO-CALLED GREEN IDEOLOGY: THE BATTLE FOR OUR MARITIME SECTOR CONTINUES




Marco CAMPOMENOSI, Italian Delegation

Fueleu Maritime is a piece of legislation that aims to set up binding requirements for the maritime sector, in order to reach the environmental goals stated by the Green Deal. More precisely, the maritime sector will have to reduce the GHG intensity of its ships' emissions according to a strict timetable that goes up to minus 85% in 2050. Moreover, each containership and passengers' ship above 5000 gross tonnage will have to be equipped to connect to the electric grid while harbouring at berth in any port of the TEN-T core network.

You might wonder, why is this dossier important to us? The reason is that imposing excessive burdens on the maritime sector will result in an escalation of maritime services' costs, both for citizens and enterprises. As shadow rapporteur, I worked together with our colleagues to block the attempts made by the leftist groups to worsen the text and we partially succeed in obtaining some significant exemptions that will contribute to preserving the competitiveness of our enterprises on the market.

For all the above-mentioned reasons, some MEPs from other groups tabled amendments in the upcoming Plenary that go far beyond the goals proposed by the TRAN Committee's text in terms of environmental ambitions.

Thus, we will vote against these ideological and anachronistic positions. We call on the majority of the Chamber to do the same to safeguard the agreed proposal, which is balanced and concrete as it currently is.



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

THE COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION IS OBSESSED WITH FREE MOVEMENT!

Jean-Paul GARRAUD, French Delegation



After condemning Hungary in 2021 for legislation criminalising the aiding of irregular immigrants who had entered the country, and allowing the refusal of asylum to a migrant arriving from a state in which he or she was not at risk of persecution, this Court has recently decided to defend zealously the free movement of people.


In its judgment of 26 April 2022, the Court decided to provide a stricter legal framework for Member States to extend internal border controls.

On a strict reading of Article 25 of Regulation 562/2006, amended in 2016, better known as the “Schengen Borders Code”, the Court ruled against the temporary reintroduction by a Member State of border control at its internal borders. The duration of the reintroduction shall not exceed six months, unless there is a new serious threat, distinct from the previous one, affecting its public order or internal security.

Furthermore, the Court states that a person cannot be obliged, under threat of punishment, to present a passport or identity card, when entering from another Member State, where the reintroduction of border control is contrary to the Schengen Borders Code.

In this decision, the CJEU demonstrates its total disconnection from the challenges faced by Member States and the demands of the people.

Is it any wonder that in a judgment of 1 August the conditions for controls and detention of pro-migrant NGO ships by the port authorities of Member States are tightened?



The CJEU demonstrates its total disconnection from the challenges faced by Member States and the demands of the people.

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

STOP FUNDING CORRUPTION IN MALTA

Nicolaus FEST, German Delegation



The assassination of journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia in 2017 sent shockwaves through Europe and put Malta in the spotlight. During the investigations into this atrocity, we have seen that there are significant deficiencies in the rule of law, democracy and fundamental rights alongside widespread corruption.

Yet despite mounting evidence of serious deficiencies in Malta, the EU continues to turn a blind eye whilst it focusses its main attention onto relentlessly persecuting Hungary.


Is it perhaps because, as the Chairman of the Permanent Commission against Corruption in Malta said recently, that “corruption is an anthropological constant in Malta”?

Whilst it is abundantly clear to anyone with half a brain that Malta is inherently corrupt, which perhaps explains the inaction at EU level, they still continue to receive substantial EU funding.

As a number of senior political officials and organisations have said before, it's evident that Malta has an extremely serious corruption problem.

Until there are significant and concrete improvements in Malta to eradicate corruption and uphold the rule of law,

we must stop lining the pockets of crooked judges and sleazy politicians with taxpayers' money.



It's evident that Malta has an extremely serious corruption problem.



Nicolaus Fest, Head of German delegation - Alternative für Deutschland

SCHENGEN: NO ENLARGEMENT!

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Gerolf ANNEMANS, Flemish Delegation

Is it necessary, wise, or even useful to enlarge the Schengen area to include Romania and Bulgaria? The Schengen treaty implies that any third country national, once entering one of these two countries, can cross the borders of the other Member States without any further checks. Yet Bulgaria shares a border with Turkey and controls one of the main routes for illegal migrants entering the EU. Romania also is a hotspot on the Balkan migrant route.

Two key requisites for the proper functioning of an area without internal border control is tight control of the EU's external borders and swift return procedures for illegal migrants. Yet there is no sign at all that the enlargement of the Schengen area will lead to a reinforcement of the European Coast and Border Guard Agency.

On the contrary, the Commission refuses to fund the construction of physical border barriers as requested by no less than 12 Member States and fired Frontex's executive director... for protecting the Union's external borders! The presence of at least 4 to 5 million illegal migrants in the EU proves that the swift return procedures belong to the realm of fiction.

This European Union is reduced to the role of political branch of extremist NGOs that have turned mass migration into a profitable business model.

Any further enlargement of the Schengen area is contrary to the interests of the other Member States.

The EU must contribute to funding physical barriers at our external borders and the legal frameworks and resources must be strengthened to enable Frontex to effectively help the Member States in the area to protect the Union's external borders.

At all times, Member States must retain full sovereignty over their border protection.

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Gerolf Annemans, Head of Flemish delegation - Vlaams Belang

ZERO WAGES FOR BRUSSELS!

Harald VILIMSKY, Austrian Delegation

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Once again, the European Union budget is being voted on this week, and it seems that despite inflation and the crisis, there is still no intention to cut costs and set a good example.

Instead, Europe's citizens are suffering from the highest inflation rates in decades.

Across the EU, the ten percent mark has already been exceeded, and there is no end in sight to the price tsunami. One of the main factors is the energy price, because energy is in short supply. It is also tight because the EU has long seen itself as a war party in the Ukraine war.

Citizens are being told from the top down that they should heat less and take fewer showers. Peace, prosperity, stability: the EU is increasingly losing sight of its core tasks. Instead of peace, the EU is now focusing on war.

Instead of prosperity, it is focusing on sanctions. Instead of stability, money is being printed. In the midst of this multi-crisis, Brussels still wants to shamelessly treat itself to a hefty salary increase. EU civil servants are to get 6.9 percent more, as an internal paper of the EU Commission's budget director now shows.

According to the paper, the head of the Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, would receive 2015 euros more per month, and an EU commissioner 1643 euros more.

And, yes: the salaries of MEPs are also supposed to increase. Quite apart from the fact that the Parliament wants to maintain its expensive travelling circus between the two locations of Brussels and Strasbourg.

In addition, vast sums of money are spent on agencies whose justification for existence is apparently their sole existence.

All this is absurd. What we need now is a clear sign of solidarity with the citizens of Europe. And that can only mean: a zero pay round for all politicians and senior EU officials and significant cuts in the EU institutions and all their agencies.

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Harald Vilimsky, Head of Austrian Delegation - Freiheitliche Partei Österreich

SCHENGEN WAS A MISTAKE, SCHENGEN ENLARGEMENT IS A BIGGER MISTAKE

Laura HUHTASAARI, Finnish Delegation

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This EU project includes a strange ideology that if goods and capital are free to move, then also people should be allowed to move freely. As everybody knows, this has nothing to do with facts. There are 195 countries in the world and most of them have passport controls. However, they do free trade deals and other similar arrangements but it does not mean that anybody can just walk in. Good examples are the US, China and many other countries.

Schengen has been created in order to achieve a bigger goal: The United States of Europe, an old dream to dominate Europe. It follows the same ideology as the EU anthem, EU flag and all other EU symbolics: to abolish sovereign national states.

In today's world, smooth travelling is possible even with passport controls, there is a lot of technology to help us. Free movement of people also means free movement of terrorists, criminals and other suspicious persons.

Romania and Bulgaria are very fragile countries and enlarging Schengen would be a major risk. We do not need more volatility in Europe. Romania and Bulgaria should not be members of Schengen.

Romania and Bulgaria are very fragile countries and enlarging Schengen would be a major risk.



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Laura Huhtasaari, MEP Finnish Delegation
- Perussuomalaiset

AFFORDABLE PLENTIFUL ENERGY WILL KEEP THE BILLS DOWN

Jaak MADISON, Estonian Delegation



For our citizens to weather the ongoing storm, which will only grow in magnitude, it is necessary to bring energy prices down. Today's society cannot function without plentiful affordable energy that will keep civilization's wheels turning.

Energy is an input to all categories starting from food and ending with research and when this first domino falls the rest will follow. The cost of living is rising sharply and instead of mindlessly offering subsidies to our people and companies for them to depend on the mercy of the benevolent state, let us tackle the underlying problem. The elephant in the room is the green deal that is slowly suffocating us to death.

It is comfortable to put all the blame on the Russian war in Ukraine as it signals that the green deal has nothing to do with raising energy prices. Furthermore, it says we just have to accept it as it is not in our power to end the Russian war of aggression nor can we start appeasing the tyrant in Moscow.

Green Deal proponents hope that people will get used to new energy costs, as the green energy cannot ensure prices that we have been enjoying for decades. When the war is over, this excuse, for withstanding energy prices in solidarity with Ukrainians, will no longer be valid.

Their hope is that by that time people have forgotten better days and are ever more depended on the State for aid. Alternatively, bureaucrats in Brussels will find a new crisis to put a blame on as the green deal can never be the problem, only a solution to be carried out with planned economy typical of communism.

Keeping the bills down for our people is not achievable by endless handouts but by rejecting the radical green deal. It is time to start mining our own resources again and building nuclear power plants to keep prospering. Without prosperity and economic growth, it is also difficult to advance science. Like it is with The Large Hadron Collider, which is the world's largest and most powerful particle accelerator that could be shut off to reduce electricity consumption. We must stop the green deal before it is too late!



Jaak Madison, MEP Estonian Delegation -
Eesti Konservatiivne Rahvaerakond

ID initiatives for the Plenary Session

A motion for a resolution on the **Accession of Romania and Bulgaria to the Schengen area;**

A motion for a resolution on the **Rule of Law in Malta, five years after the assassination of Daphne Caruana Galizia;**

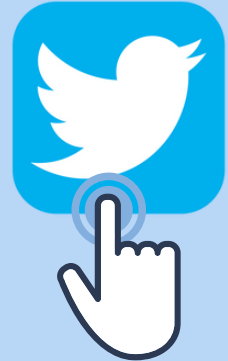
3 Amendments to the **2020 discharge for the European Border and Coast Guard Agency;**

2 Amendments to the **2022 UN Climate Change Conference in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt (COP27);**

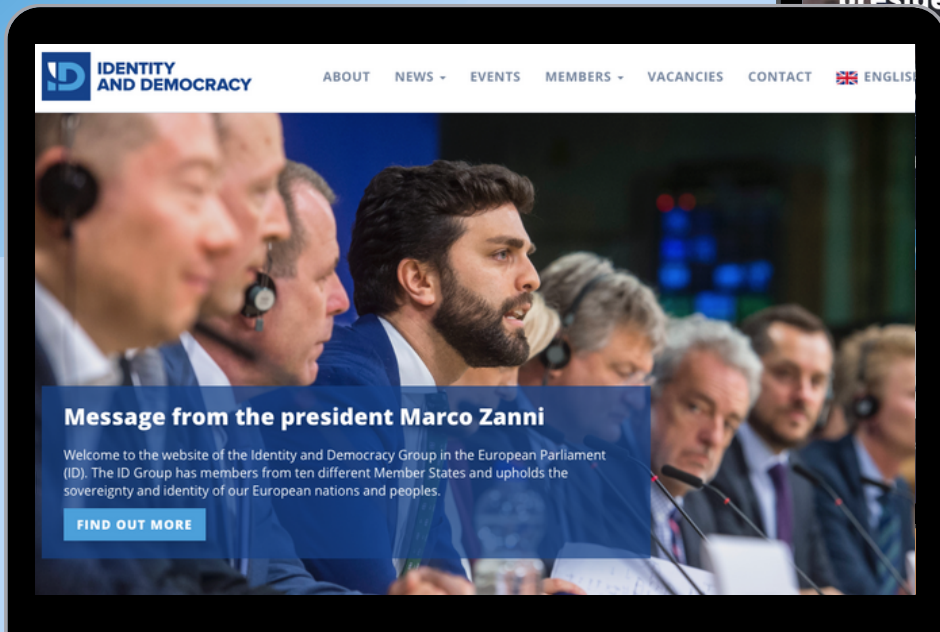
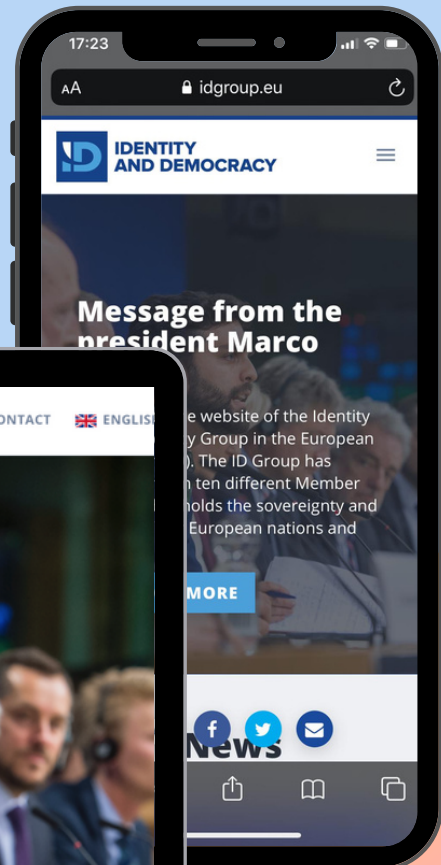
9 Amendments to the **General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2023;**

30 Amendments to **budget lines for the EU general budget 2023.**

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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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