



IDENTITY
AND DEMOCRACY

PLENARY BOOKLET

5 – 8 FEBRUARY 2024

The green crusade clashes with reality: the farmers' revolt explained

Farmers' protests in recent weeks across Europe are not just symbolic, because they are nailing the Eurobureaucrats to their responsibilities.

The effects of the misguided and ideological Green Deal policies, strongly advocated by the Commission led by Von der Leyen and Timmermans, are now obvious.

In the name of unreasonable environmentalism entire sectors, from agriculture to livestock, are suffering and risking their collapse. And this does not surprise us, since from the beginning of the legislature we had warned about the effects of an ideology that never wanted to take reality into account.

The storming of the headquarters of the European institutions in Brussels on 1 February forced the European leadership to partially backtrack on some of the measures it used to consider "untouchable."

But the fences and barbed wire used to curb the protests and protect the buildings are more than a metaphor. They are yet another testimony to how distant the EU is from the real needs of its citizens, now intent only on protecting its status quo.

Fortunately, the political face-off is near, and the outcomes will be evident with the results of the upcoming European elections.



Marco Zanni

"In the name of unreasonable environmentalism entire sectors, from agriculture to livestock, are suffering and risking their collapse."

President ID Group, Italian delegation - LEGA PER SALVINI PREMIER

The Green Deal and farmers' protests

The farmers' protests have reached Parliament, with Brussels experiencing significant disruptions. EP officials were unable to access their offices, and the air around the self-proclaimed heart of European democracy—where Greek is seldom heard—was tinged with the scent of smoke and fire. Despite police warnings about the potential danger of engaging with the protestors, several members of the ID group chose to listen to their concerns. It became evident that the farmers are neither dangerous nor unreasonable.

Their message for us was straightforward: EU policies are rendering farming unsustainable. The Green Deal, in particular, is transforming traditional agricultural practices for the worse. The imposition of nitrogen usage restrictions will be reducing crop yields dramatically, while misguided subsidies lead to the repurposing of arable land away from agriculture.

The concerns raised by the farmers merit attention. The EU has historically had a strong grip on agricultural policy, yet recent interventions in farmers' business models constitute a threat to the stability of our food supply and the future of European agriculture.

In response, our message to the farmers is unequivocal: The EU must reconsider its approach to agricultural regulation. We need an immediate cessation of Green Deal policies. Furthermore, a significant task post-elections for the European Parliament will be to revise or reverse these measures. Achieving a right-wing majority in June 2024 is essential for this endeavor.



Gunnar Beck

“Their message for us was straightforward: EU policies are rendering farming unsustainable.”

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

Struggling farmers navigating through EU policy: the ultimate failure of the Von der Leyen Commission

The delusional and extremist “green rules” imposed by Brussels on agriculture are causing enormous damages and it is time someone finally notices. Farmers are unable to rely on the assistance of the European Union. They find themselves overwhelmed by a series of repetitive measures that disadvantage the competitiveness of an entire continent and ultimately European consumers.

The decisions announced following the European Summit are merely a distraction from the tensions that continue to mount. As President Von der Leyen aptly stated during the emergency meeting with the farmers' lobby organization, these measures offer only temporary solutions.

Regrettably, these decisions reflect a policy that prioritizes international urgency over the urgent demands of its farmers.

This is reflected in the technical reduction of 1.1 billion euros in the CAP budget, which is already inadequate and poses a threat to the vitality of European agriculture and its principal actors. Today, it is imperative that we support our farmers with tangible measures.

Only after weeks of protests, the recent concession of a partial derogation for fallow land is not enough to restore power to farmers and rural communities. The imposing of conditions that have been detrimental to agriculture is occurring once more. The requirement to have 7% crop intermediaries in order to be eligible for European funds is yet another blow to our agriculture.

Words are no longer sufficient, Brussels must act and it is imperative that Von der Leyen's Commission as well as her supporting parliamentary majority acknowledge the inconsistent and dangerous nature of their policies.

Marco Campomenosi

“The delusional and extremist 'green rules' imposed by Brussels on agriculture are causing enormous damages and it is time someone finally notices. Farmers are unable to rely on the assistance of the European Union.”



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

Christians killed in Nigeria amid general indifference

Between 23 and 25 December 2023, around twenty Christian villages were attacked in central Nigeria. More than 200 people were killed and more than 300 injured. The images circulating on social networks showed the horror and violence of these attacks, with bodies strewn across the ground, buildings burnt and houses looted. For several years, a large part of the population of Nigeria has lived in terror of attacks by Islamist groups and criminal gangs. Massacres, kidnappings, rapes and tortures are the daily lot of the local Christians.

Nigeria holds the terrible record for the highest number of Christian kidnappings in the world: 4 726 of the 5 259 Christians kidnapped in 2022 were Nigerians, according to the NGO Open Doors. Priests, who travel a lot to carry out their mission, are particularly targeted by kidnappings. In 17 years, 53 priests have been kidnapped, 16 killed and 12 attacked in Nigeria, according to the Nigerian Bishops' Conference in April 2023.

In total, in 20 years, more than 60,000 Christians have been killed and 5 million displaced.

On 18 May 2022, I raised the issue of the massacres in Nigeria with the European Parliament, calling for a debate on the subject and the creation of a position of coordinator to combat Christianophobia. All this was refused. The European Union prefers to deal with pseudo-Islamophobia on European soil. If we do not attack the evil at its roots, it will continue to spread, and soon it will be too late to stop it. Today Nigeria, tomorrow Europe.



Jean-Paul Garraud

“Nigeria holds the terrible record for the highest number of Christian kidnappings in the world: 4 726 of the 5 259 Christians kidnapped in 2022 were Nigerians, according to the NGO Open Doors.”

MEP ID Group, Head of French delegation - RASSEMBLEMENT NATIONAL

Double standards: EU ignores persecuted Christians!

According to Open Doors, over 360 million Christians suffer from discrimination or persecution. In sub-Saharan Africa, especially in Nigeria, deadly violence is alarmingly rampant. In communist states, Christians are suppressed and harassed with psychological and technical finesse.

But what does the EU think about this blatant persecution of Christians? When it comes to Christians, they do little or nothing. After more than a year of vacancy, the EU has finally appointed a special envoy for freedom of religion, the Flemish Frans van Daele. However, his efforts seem to be limited.

In contrast to the EU, Hungary supports ancient Christian communities in the Middle East that have existed since apostolic times. To date, "Hungary Helps" has enabled over 500,000 people to remain in or return to their ancestral homeland.

Christians are being murdered for their faith not only in Nigeria, but all over the world. Their property is being burnt, women raped and children abducted, defiled and sold. The EU and other international organisations are trying to appease the problem of Islamism and are misleading people by claiming that these are primarily ethnic conflicts.

Due to their rampant self-hatred of Western civilisation and its historical achievements, large sections of the EU establishment apparently see Christianity as a "white perpetrator religion". They ignore the fact that the vast majority of persecuted Christians are non-white!



Joachim Kuhs

"Due to their rampant self-hatred of Western civilisation and its historical achievements, large parts of the EU establishment apparently see Christianity as a 'white perpetrator religion'. They ignore the fact that the vast majority of persecuted Christians are non-white!"

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

Save Our Farmers!

Rural Europe is being destroyed. 'Less, less, less' is the signal to the agricultural sector. So-called green policy has degenerated into a real expropriation operation of our European farming industry. Farmers must watch powerlessly as their life's work is being destroyed.

Aside from green policy, our agricultural sector is also deemed problematic in terms of animal welfare and the environment. However, nowhere in the world is more attention for these topics than in Europe. Anyone who wants to make us dependent on cheap imports therefore signs for animal abuse and pollution.

Finally, there is also a strategic importance. If we become dependent on foreign countries in terms of food imports, we are putting our food security at risk. This import dependence will degrade the EU to an international puppet and its food supply subject to the will of international markets.

However, a different policy is possible. The Green Deal must be scrapped or at least renegotiated. The adverse repercussions of the European Green Deal and its subsequent strategies have negatively impacted the future prospects of our European agricultural sector. We need to ensure a future for our farmers through legal certainty and by ensuring a fair price for a good product.

We do this not only for the farmers, but for all Europeans. Everyone has the right to food security, an affordable shopping cart and healthy and nutritious food.



Tom Vandendriessche

“We need to ensure a future for our farmers through legal certainty and by ensuring a fair price for a good product.”

MEP ID Group, Flemish delegation - VLAAMS BELANG

EU is restricting freedom of expression

Largely unnoticed by the general public, Brussels has set about tightening the thumbscrews on European citizens' sovereignty of discourse in recent years. The focus is on tightening control over the internet. Virtually none of the major digital companies have emerged in the EU. But when it comes to regulating them, Brussels is at the forefront.

In the best Eurocentric tradition, these measures do not come across openly, but are hidden in a jungle of regulations that are always sold as progress by the Commission under Ursula von der Leyen. Of course, they also touch on points that are sometimes sensible and relevant, but they also repeatedly contain "Trojan horses". As in all areas, it is also evident here that the competences of the Union are being overstretched in order to give the centre more and more power at the expense of the nation states.

The completely vague concepts of "hate speech" and "disinformation" open the door to abuse. This can be seen, for example, in the Digital Service Act, which has now come into force.

Anything is conceivable, from "overblocking" (services remove too much content just to make sure they are not prosecuted) to targeted manipulation in a certain direction. Especially interesting: the moderation of content is also to be carried out with the help of "trusted whistleblowers" and can be outsourced to them by services.

This is a real boon for NGOs and activists whose raison d'être oscillates somewhere between "fighting the right", anti-racism and queer propaganda. The fact that the official "fact-checkers", who already deal with actual and alleged "disinformation", are far too often clearly biased does not make the problem any smaller.

One thing is certain: with such measures, the EU is taking a dangerous step towards controlling the sovereignty of discourse on the internet and thus restricting freedom of expression.

Harald Vilimsky

"One thing is certain, the EU is talking a dangerous step towards controlling the sovereignty of discourse on the internet and thus restricting freedom of expression."



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

The marginalization of farmers and rural communities

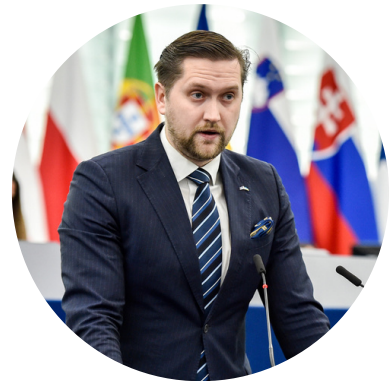
The agricultural landscape is under threat, mirroring historical trends of centralization and control. Much like the policies during Lenin's rule that disrupted the food supply chain in Soviet Russia, we now see a modern-day assault on our farmers. Just as historical centralization disrupted lives, today's proposals may impact individual liberties by establishing top-down control structure.

Small producers, which are the heart and soul of our agricultural tradition, are at risk of disappearing because of policies that prioritize big corporations and global agendas. The Covid lockdowns have conveniently paved the way for global corporations to seize control, further marginalizing small businesses.

In the face of destructive liberal policy makers threatening our traditional values, we declare that we need our farmers. We must hear them, support them, and ensure they thrive.

Farmers, like the Canadian truckers, are freelance workers, independent and potentially hazardous to the system because they can act autonomously and oppose the powers that be. We resist a future where farmers are replaced by workers tending to farmland owned by global corporations, lacking autonomy and easily replaceable for even the slightest policy defiance.

Our farmers, representing multiple generations and passing down their wisdom to their children, are those who could have been managing their family farms for centuries. We stand with them, defending autonomy against destructive liberal policies that threaten the agricultural core, for the prosperity of our future.



Jaak Madison

“In the face of destructive liberal policy makers threatening our traditional values, we declare that we need our farmers. We must hear them, support them, and ensure they thrive.”

MEP ID Group, Estonian delegation - EESTI KONSERVATIIVNE RAHVAERAKOND

ID initiatives for the Plenary Session

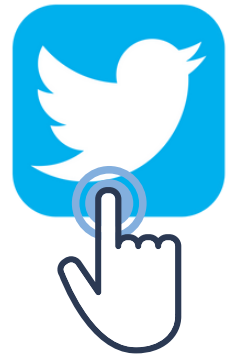
5 amendments to the report on **Execution of driving disqualifications with a Union-wide effect;**

8 amendments to the resolution on **EU priorities for the 68th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women;**

3 amendments to the implementation report on the **EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025;**

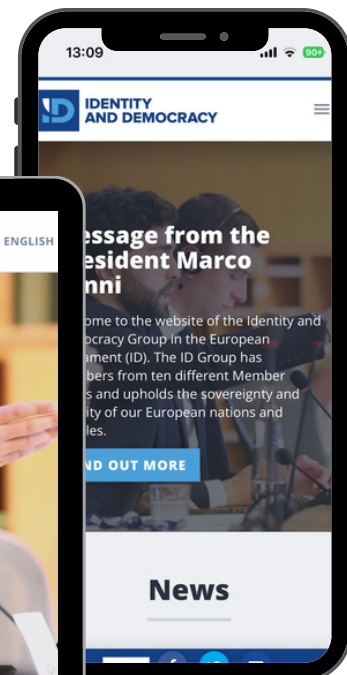
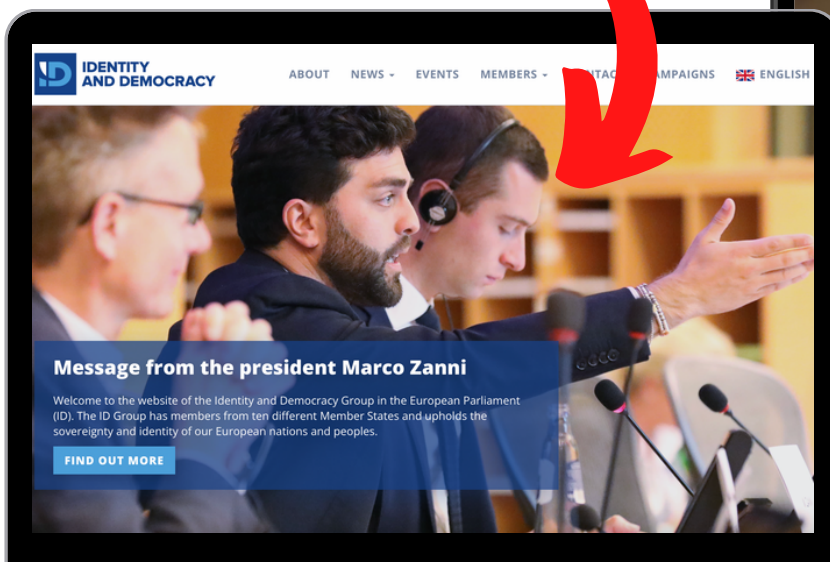
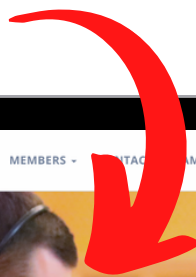
A motion for a resolution on the **recent attacks on Christmas Eve in Plateau State in Nigeria.**

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Defending the identity of peoples and the sovereignty of nations!

The Identity and Democracy Group, founded in June 2019, has 59 members in the European Parliament, coming from 8 countries: Italy, France, Germany, Austria, Flanders (Belgium), Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia.



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