PLENARY BOOKLET
Identity and Democracy

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Last year, in her State of the Union address, the President of the European Commission presented to the Parliament her vision of a "resilient" Europe that would emerge stronger from the pandemic by investing in jobs and towards a green and digital transition.

A year after those announcements we find ourselves having to deal with a disastrous management of the vaccination campaign, with an economic system that is still struggling to return to its pre-pandemic levels, and with an EU that is unable to be a credible interlocutor in the geopolitical context.

The recent crisis in Afghanistan is in fact only one of the episodes in which the inadequacy of the centralized management of Brussels has been demonstrated: the decision of Member States to provide aid to Afghan refugees in their region, limiting as much as possible the irregular flows towards our countries, counters the criterion of reception without ifs and buts so much advocated in the European Palaces.

Moreover, in the economic sphere, the U-turn on the Stability Pact becomes the umpteenth proof of the failure of a project that continues to deny itself.

Wrong premises lead to wrong actions. And as long as the interest of European bureaucracies is put before that of nation States, the results will be disappointing.
The rule of law is again on the menu of the plenary!

This time Warsaw is being criticised for a law that prohibits foreign actors from owning more than 50% of a Polish media outlet, in order to limit foreign interference.

It is strange that this is causing so much concern; in France, companies from outside the European Economic Area cannot hold, directly or indirectly, more than 20% of the share capital or voting rights in radio or TV media. Germany also has similar rules.

What is the European Parliament waiting for to demand a debate?

The reality is that this is yet another form of political pressure.

What really worries Brussels is the question put to the Polish Constitutional Court about the primacy of EU law over national law.

Is EU law superior to the right of peoples to live according to their specific cultures?

Brussels will use any excuse to enforce its ideology.

Every time the European left brandishes the concept of the rule of law, a euphemism for the government of judges, it does so to attack democratically elected governments that do not bow to its progressive whims.
This plenary week, Ursula von der Leyen is going to give her annual speech on the “State of the Union”.

There is no doubt: the Commission’s President will describe the EU’s current state and the policy of the EU institutions as ‘perfect’.

But in fact, a constantly growing number of citizens all over Europe are unsatisfied.

With its ideological insanities, such as the “Green Deal”, excessive expenditures, plans for EU taxes, which are against the treaties and would burden the taxpayers massively, promotion of mass migration and striving for more and more power, Mrs von der Leyen’s Commission is attacking the great European project every single day.

It is dividing the peoples and nations of Europe.

This is not the union of Konrad Adenauer and Charles de Gaulle. The EU must finally start to be self-critical and has to react on all the alarm calls, such as the Brexit.

Otherwise the unique and historic achievement of a united Europe will fail.

Only a Union which respects the sovereignty of the nations and the identity of people, can be a long-lasting success.

A centralist eurocracy, as planned by Mrs von der Leyen, will never be able to guarantee peace and prosperity.
LEBANON IS AT THE ONSET OF A SERIOUS COLLAPSE

Marco CAMPOMENOSI, Italian Delegation

It is an understatement to say that the situation in Lebanon is utmost dramatic.

The coronavirus pandemic took hold in 2020, followed by the devastating August 2020 Port of Beirut explosion.

As a result, most of the country’s population is struggling to survive amid soaring inflation and the more than 90% loss in value of their currency, coupled with fuel and medicine shortages, severe power cuts and lack of clean water.

However, the crisis in Lebanon is not new, it is decades old but has worsened in the last two years due to sectarian politics and its political paralysis, which has sunk its economy.

Lebanon is at the onset of a serious collapse.

We, as members of Lega, cannot allow the repeated foreign interference by many regional and international powers, which are only undermining all attempts to political stabilization.

Let us also keep in mind the sanctions announced by the European Council President Charles Michel against Lebanon, which often have social and humanitarian consequences on the citizens and barely make a difference politically.

Lebanon is a cornerstone in the Euro-Mediterranean policy of several Member States, and its destabilisation could create serious risks for the security and safety of the Union.

Will the EU conduct serious talks aiming for serious fixes?
20 years after the attacks of 11 September 2001, which marked the advent of international Islamic terrorism, the Taliban took over power in Afghanistan.

To the Americans, they had this very meaningful formula: "You have the watches, we have the time".

For Europe, but also for the West, this is a triple lesson.

A geopolitical lesson first, which marks the end of a misplaced interventionism in the name of good and the will to spread the Western model as the best.

This interference on the principle of human rights always leads to disasters, as we have since seen in Libya, Syria and Iraq.

A lesson in sovereignty: Europe is unable to conduct a foreign policy because of its dependence on the United States and its lack of legitimacy: it must leave this role to the Nations, which are the only ones capable of making the voice of the people heard in the world.

Finally, a lesson in realism: will Europe be able to close the door to the mass migrations that threaten to arrive on the soil of the Old Continent because of this crisis?

The past does not plead in favor of the European Union, but we will fight for the protection of the European peoples within the institutions.
NO NEW MASS MIGRATION WAVE

Tom VANDENDRIESSCHE, Flemish Delegation

The chaotic withdrawal out of Afghanistan is a humiliation.

It’s allegorical for the West's profound lack of vision with regard to foreign policy and the migration issue.

For twenty years the West has invested tons of resources into Afghanistan.

Soldiers were deployed, capital was invested, infrastructure was built and ideology was implemented.

The West’s effort stemmed from the naïve, liberal belief that Afghanistan could be constructed like any other Western nation.

So Afghanistan’s highly complicated and multi-layered conflict was to be solved with simple solutions that could be explained to the public.

After twenty years the disappointment could not be bigger.

Afghanistan's Western backed politicians filled their pockets and fled the country, its Western trained military collapsed in a matter of weeks and the last ideological signs of our ideologized war in Afghanistan are currently being removed.

The only conclusion that can be drawn from this humiliation is that Afghans are fundamentally opposed to our Western values.

Gullibly importing Afghan immigrants is a testimony to the same recklessness that kept us in Afghanistan for twenty years.

We need an unequivocal strategy to keep our borders closed for a new mass migration wave of men hostile to our society.
IPA III LEADS TO TURKISH EU-MEMBERSHIP

Harald VILIMSKY, Austrian Delegation

The concluded negotiations on the new Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA III) is another step towards Turkish EU membership.

The pre-accession assistance provides funds for both EU candidate countries, such as Turkey, and potential candidates. One thing is certain with the approval of this instrument: Brussels wants to pave the way to Europe for the Turks, with or without Erdogan, with European money. Around 14.6 billion euros in pre-accession aid is to go to all EU candidate countries.

Moreover, while Erdogan and Turkey are criticised for their domestic and foreign policy actions with empty phrases, the EU repeatedly succeeds in giving in to Turkey. Although it points to respect for fundamental rights and human rights, it does not abandon the actual plan to bring Turkey into the EU as quickly as possible.

If the EU has its way, Turkey, the most populous Muslim country, with all its social, political and geostrategic problems, especially in the Middle East, should soon become a member of the EU. Instead of billions of euros in pre-accession aid to Turkey, these funds would be better spent, for example, on combating the consequences of the Corona crisis.

However, it continues to take on debt and thus breaks its own rules.

At the same time, it affords itself the luxury of financing pre-accession aid to Turkey worth billions, which now only benefits Turkish President Erdogan.

As the FPÖ, we continue to demand an immediate accession stop and the associated cessation of payments to Turkey.

In this respect, too, we are the only Austrian party that will continue to follow this path consistently and have therefore tabled an amendment rejecting this negotiated instrument.
A lot has been said about the environment lately.

The European countries are responsible for 10% of the global emissions and still car drivers and normal families get punished.

Von der Leyen’s "green deal" is a very bad deal for many.

Driving a car or turning on the heating will be more expensive and a normal family suffers.

It is a completely ideological plan without any connection to reality, weakening the European industry.

China has promised to become carbon neutral by 2060 but most likely China will be able to adapt its plans and again the EU will be on the losing side.

The "green deal" is also very harmful to our forest and steel industry, their chances to be competitive will plunge.

All in all, Von der Leyen’s deals seem to be very bad: More power and industry to China, more migrants to Europe.
International news has been dominated, for the last weeks, by the recent crisis in Afghanistan that broke out following the haphazard and chaotic withdrawal from the country, orchestrated by the Biden administration which left little room for European input. The Taliban, who had been systematically taking over the country, finally moved into Kabul in August, forcing the US’ (and by implications the EU's) hand.

The big outcry regarding the withdrawal was not so much about the fact that the US withdrew from Afghanistan (this had long been in the planning), but rather about the manner in which this withdrawal took place, leaving behind military grade technology for the Taliban leaders and forcing Europeans and Americans to be evacuated under extremely challenging circumstances.

During this week’s plenary, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell, will address the European Parliament on the situation in Afghanistan. Political groups also have the opportunity to table their own motions for resolution on the crisis.

In this regard, the ID Group’s resolution points out the impact the crisis in Afghanistan will have on peace and security in Europe, since Europe may face another migration crisis like the one experienced in 2015.

We also warn against the threat of terrorist cells using the crisis to travel to Europe, disguised as so-called refugees. To prevent this from happening, the ID Group insists on a policy of regional placement - meaning that refugees should be accommodated in their own region. This would prevent them from making the dangerous journey to Europe, and it would also allow them to return home when it is safe to help rebuild their country.

Additionally we warn against using the Afghanistan crisis to push through further EU integration, an array of reforms relating to foreign and defence policy, as well as the controversial Migration Pact, which seeks to force Member States to accept migrants on their territory.
Turkey is still officially a candidate country to join the European Union.

It was an enormous mistake by the EU to accept that candidacy. First of all, Turkey is not a European country. It is also not a democracy: the Erdogan regime is persecuting minorities and violating the principle of freedom of speech. Moreover, as there are no more internal borders within the EU, the accession of Turkey would lead to a huge and uncontrollable migration flow towards Europe.

Making things even worse: Turkey is posing a threat to the security and sovereignty of EU Member States such as Greece and Cyprus. Erdogan is also supporting Islamist terrorist groups in Syria, Iraq, Nagorno-Karabach, Libya, etc.

The unacceptable provocations by the Erdogan regime should not be rewarded by continuing endless and pointless accession negotiations with Turkey. Therefore the Identity and Democracy Group (ID) in the European Parliament wants these negotiations to be put to an end. The ‘pre-accession’ money flow to Turkey should also be stopped.

Support the common sense position of the ID Group and sign the petition here!
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 71 members in the European Parliament, coming from 10 countries: Italy, France, Germany, Austria, Flanders (Belgium), Czech Republic, Finland, Denmark, Estonia, the Netherlands.

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