



PLENARY BOOKLET

Identity and Democracy



JANUARY 18 - 21

PLENARY SESSION

2021

The EU must not return to austerity



MARCO ZANNI, President ID Group

Portugal's presidency of the Council of the EU will have to manage an extremely complex situation.

The EU continues to show weakness on several fronts, as confirmed by the entire vaccine situation, for which adequate responses are still lacking.

We hope that the six months of the Portuguese presidency will finally lead to a serious reflection on the bad choices made so far.

The suspension of European rules on governance, banking, and state aid, dictated by the emergency, has highlighted what we have been arguing for years, namely the inadequacy of European instruments to deal with crises and provide solutions.

We need a change of course or it will be impossible to guarantee a recovery to citizens and companies that have to deal with the consequences of the pandemic.

Today in Europe there are businesses, families, millions of people in difficulty.

To persevere in mistakes and set unrealistic goals as priority such as the green economy and digitalisation,

could have dangerous effects on the continent.

2021 will also be an election year in Portugal, on January 24th: we hope for an excellent result for our ally André Ventura and his party Chega, which will bring to their country our shared ideas of respect for the people's will.



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

What you will **NOT** find in the next Plenary

While the Parliament's administration continues to telework at nearly 100%, the European Commission (which is also functioning in telework mode) spends millions on new buildings and conference centres.

Last week, the Members of the Budget committee have been invited to vote on two building projects submitted by the European Commission.

No plenary vote is needed for these procedures.

□ **Copernicus building:** with a gross surface area above ground level of 13 660 m², the building is located on rue de la Loi 51, 1000 Brussels.

'Copernicus' forms part of the renewal of the Commission's building stock through the replacement of old buildings by new buildings that are said to be more environmentally friendly and economical.

The total non-indexed cost of the fitted-out building over the 20-year usufruct contract is **EUR 76 575 887**.

□ **New conference centre:** with a global area of 33 642 m², the new conference centre will be constructed in rue de la Loi 91-105, 1000 Brussels.

It will include 29 adaptable meeting and conference rooms, an office area, a cafeteria, a childcare facility, a buffet room, a car and bicycle park.

The building's maximum capacity will be 3 100 people giving the possibility of holding in-house a substantial number of conferences that currently take place outside Commission buildings.

The total project cost is of **EUR 256.6 million**.

New influx of migrants at our borders



Nicolas BAY, 1st Vice-President ID Group

This week, the Parliament is organizing yet another debate on the issue of migrants crowding the EU's external border.

In order to try to find a solution and put an end to these massive and unmanageable flows?

Of course not! As usual, it will only be about tearful speeches and calls to open our borders more and more.

However, on January 8, the Frontex agency published a press release stating that "women now represent less than one migrant in 10".

The proportion of so-called "children" - and we know that many of them are actually adults - is of the same order.

This means that more than 8 out of 10 migrants are adult men.

They are not seeking asylum, they are economic migrants attracted by an el Dorado that does not exist.

The pressure generated by the European migration policy is absolutely unbearable: we must expel all illegal immigrants and close our external borders.

Only total firmness will dissuade those who would like to try their luck and will finally allow us to control our migration policy.



The pressure generated by the European migration policy is absolutely unbearable!



Nicolas Bay, 1st Vice-President ID Group, MEP
French delegation - Rassemblement National

The EU centralists have caused the European vaccination disaster

Jörg MEUTHEN, 2nd Vice-President ID Group



This week we will hold another plenary session under the ongoing pandemic's state of emergency.

This failure is yet another proof of the inefficiency of the EU bureaucracy in Brussels and for the dire need to bring power back to the national level.



An end of this fundamental social and economic crisis is still not in sight, because the EU commission failed disastrously in obtaining vaccines.

While the United Kingdom, the USA and especially Israel make impressive progress in immunising their people, the EU member states suffer an alarming shortage of vaccination doses.

Germany is the home of the first approved vaccine, but does not benefit from it at all, after Ursula von der Leyen sidelined the national ministers of health and seized the procurement for Brussels.

Together with her commission, she is willingly endangering the health and existence of millions of Europeans, just because of their centralist power games.

While the UK, USA and Israel are immunising their people, EU Member States suffer an alarming shortage of vaccination doses.



Jörg Meuthen, 2nd Vice-President ID Group, German Delegation - Alternative für Deutschland

The failure of the EU Single Market

“ Marco CAMPOMENOSI, Italian Delegation

The urgency of unleashing the full potential of the services sector and the accomplishment of the single market are the issues covered by an own-initiative report on the agenda of this week's plenary.

Although these mechanisms provide our companies access into a broad market, the report refers to the presumed loopholes in the application of EU legislation by Member States.

Once again, Member States are accused of creating unjustified barriers preventing the free movement of services.

In our view, it is instead the undue EU law-making that has triggered significant obstacles when it comes to the full implementation of legislation unsuitable for the peculiarities of certain production sectors.

The interpretation of the Services Directive has created legal uncertainty with regard to its scope and deterred investments in the tourism sector, particularly for marine property concessions.

It is likewise regrettable that the Commission does not react to unfair competition, both offline and online, affecting sectors regulated by the Professional Qualification Directive, notably for touristic guides now severely affected by the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We positively welcome the Commission's willingness to update the Service Directive (123/2006), facilitating its interpretation in order to implement it properly.



EU law-making has triggered significant obstacles when it comes to full implementation of legislation!



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

Security and Defence: essential attributes for sovereign states

Jérôme RIVIERE, French Delegation



It is not possible to address the issue of security and defence without admitting that they are an essential attribute of the States' sovereignty.

There are three political acts to be carried out.

First, the defence of France must be French. It is the only way to give Defence legitimacy and credibility.

Second, France must leave the integrated command of NATO, because only the nation can organize defence effectively.

Third, we must have the courage to go against federalist policies and dare to talk about national sovereignty.



Jérôme Rivière, Head of French delegation -
Rassemblement National

Crackdown on the democratic opposition in Hong Kong



Gerolf ANNEMANS, Flemish Delegation

This week the European Parliament is debating the human rights situation and the Chinese government's crackdown on the democratic opposition in Hong Kong. An under-reported situation here in the West.

At about the same time, the People's Republic of China confirms extradition treaties with European countries like Belgium and Cyprus.

This raises legitimate concerns among human rights observers in Hong Kong.

Political motivations are often at the base of the extradition requests by the Chinese (one-party controlled) judicial system.

Our ID Group submitted a proposal for a resolution on the situation, which also included an explicit call not to conclude or ratify extradition treaties with China anymore, or at least not to implement them.

Furthermore we reiterate our concern about the adoption of the Chinese National Security Law of 30 June 2020, as this unilateral decision violates the one-country-two-systems principle and undermines Hong Kong's autonomous rights.

The Sino-British Joint Declaration on Hong Kong must be respected at all times and China should avoid any act that could undermine Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy in line with Hong Kong's Basic Law and China's international commitments.



Gerolf Annemans, Head of Flemish Delegation - Vlaams Belang

A clear 'NO' to an EU army!

Harald VILIMSKY, Austrian Delegation



With the annual reports on the Common Foreign and Security Policy and on the Common Defence Policy of the EU, the road towards an EU army is once open again and national competences are undermined.

The principle of unanimity in the Council is to be abolished and replaced by qualified majority voting.

This would be disastrous, especially for smaller Member States like Austria.

In addition to the establishment of an EU command structure, the EU plans the extension of the Battlegroups to third countries.

In addition, the EU wants more geopolitical importance, for example by taking over UN missions.

The left-wing ideological touch of a quota for CSDP missions is also included.

All these demands for an offensive union are in contrast to the establishment of a defence union in which the member states cooperate together.

The FPÖ opposes these proposals and will vote against them.

If we want to build a common European defence structure, this must be done on an equal footing with all states.

The EU must also respect those states whose neutrality is enshrined in the Constitution, as it is the case in Austria.

We do not want and do not need an EU army that sees itself as a geopolitical force.

We also do not want Austrian soldiers to risk their lives in countries far away from their homes.



Harald Vilimsky, Head of Austrian Delegation - Freiheitliche Partei Österreich

EU elite: Hypocritical about immigration and gender issues!



Laura HUHTASAARI, Finnish Delegation

This week the EP will discuss many important subjects, such as gender equality and the refugee crisis.

It is interesting to see how some political groups are prepared at the same time to support political Islam by letting literally anybody in to Europe and talk about "gender equality".

This is controversial, because in many cultures gender equality is something unknown and a woman is almost innately in a worse position than a man.

As long as several Member States have pull factors and the Mediterranean countries are not capable of securing their borders, not much can be done.

The EU elite in Brussels wants to abuse the "EU migrant crisis" to create legally binding structures to "share the burden" and to force Member States to take migrants in.

I do not quite understand why they talk about "burdens", isn't the mainstream media telling us all the time that we desperately need these well-educated people and we get some cultural enrichment too?



EU elite wants to abuse the EU migrant crisis to create legally binding structures to 'share the burden'.



Laura Huhtasaari, Head of Finnish Delegation - Perussuomalaiset

Reform of the EU list of tax havens

Ivan DAVID, Czech Delegation



I was interested in this document, number 001/2021, which is due to be voted on 20 January.

It is just another proof of the inability of the European Commission, the European Council and the European Parliament to force taxes on some companies.

Of course, we know very well that, despite strong criticism on the existence of tax havens, tax evasion will never be prevented, because the real rulers of the European Union are multinational corporations that pay taxes in tax havens or do not pay them at all.

The regret that the Cayman Islands have been dropped from the list only underscores the tragic pretense of the European Union's efforts to address this crucial issue.

In a globalized world, parasitic corporations rule, becoming rich, while the majority of society becomes poor and decomposed.

In a normally organized society, which has the prospect of further development, no one can do business who does not benefit the whole of society at least by paying taxes.

We cannot expect a sincere EU effort to force businesses to pay taxes in the future either.

It would be right for businesses to pay taxes where they do business.

However, this would run counter to the principles on which the EU is actually built.

Creating lists is useless when the ability to solve a problem is lacking.

The whole resolution is just a hypocritical attempt to pretend to make progress in solving the problem.



Ivan David, Head of Czech Delegation -
Svoboda a přímá demokracie

The right to disconnect

Peter KOFOD, Danish Delegation



The "right to disconnect report" is yet another EU-attack on national labor market models and yet another attack on European sovereign states.

The report from the European Parliament urges the European Commission to propose an EU Directive, meaning that workers must be allowed to switch off digital devices without facing consequences.

This might be vital to protect workers' health, but putting forward a directive will interfere in the national labor market models.

It may weaken and destroy the several national labor market agreement models who function very well, and it may jeopardise the flexibility for both the employer and the employee which are secured in labor market agreement models in several Member States.

The problem should only be addressed by the Member States and the social partners.

This is yet another step towards a social union and a step towards a "United States of Europe".

A federalist Superstate which should be rejected at any time.

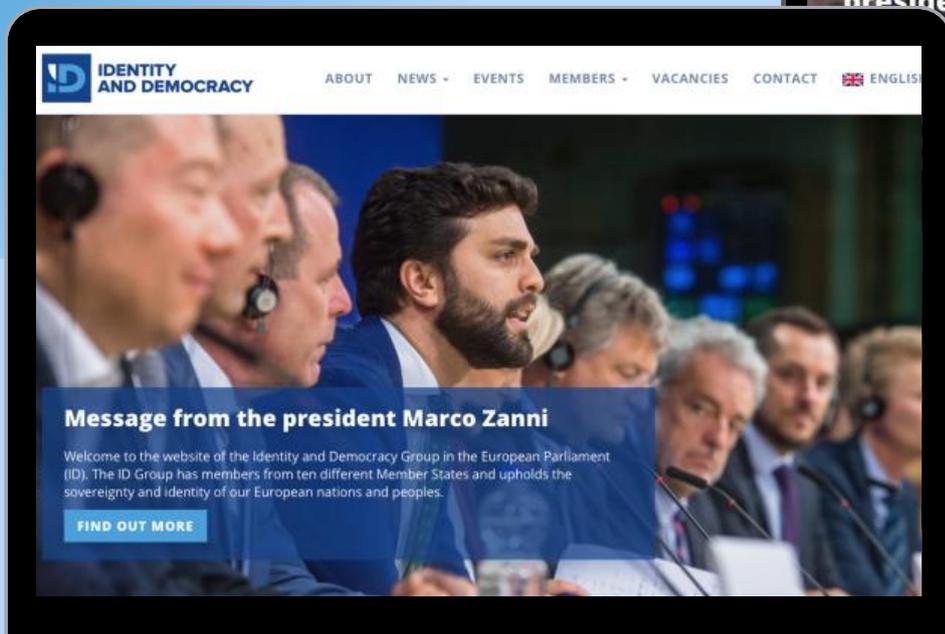
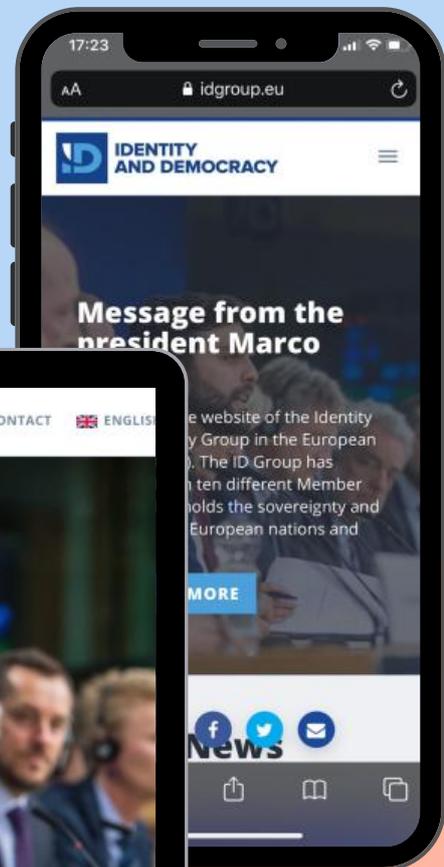


Peter Kofod, MEP Danish Delegation -
Dansk Folkeparti

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Defending the Identity of peoples and the Sovereignty of nations!

The Identity and Democracy group, founded in June 2019, has 75 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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AND DEMOCRACY**

IDENTITY AND DEMOCRACY GROUP

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