

STATUTES OF THE IDENTITY AND DEMOCRACY (ID) GROUP IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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CHAPTER I - CONSTITUTION AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE GROUP

Article 1: Constitution of the Group

- 1) The Parliamentary Group was established on 12 June 2019. It shall be called the **Identity and Democracy (ID) Group**.
- 2) This declaration of constitution, as well as the political declaration pursuant to Rule 33(5) of the European Parliament's Rules of Procedure, was deposited with the President of the European Parliament on 13 June 2019.

Article 2: Name and Members of the Group

- 1) The Group is called:

IT - Identità e Democrazia ID
EN - Identity and Democracy ID
DE - Identität und Demokratie ID
FR - Identité et Démocratie ID
NL - Identiteit en Democratie ID
CZ - Identita a Demokracie ID
EE - Identiteet ja Demokraatia ID
DK - Identitet og Demokrati ID
FI - Identiteetti ja Demokratia ID

- 2) The founding Members of the ID Group are:

Adinolfi Matteo
Anderson Christine Margarete
Androuët Mathilde
Annemans Gerolf
Baldassarre Simona
Bardella Jordan
Basso Alessandra
Bay Nicolas
Beck Gunnar
Beigneux Aurelia
Berg Lars Patrick
Bilde Dominique
Bizzotto Mara
Blaško Hynek
Bonfrisco Anna
Borchia Paolo
Bruna Annika
Buchheit Markus
Campomenosi Marco
Caroppo Andrea

Casanova Massimo
Ceccardi Susanna
Ciocca Angelo
Collard Gilbert
Conte Rosanna
David Ivan
Da Re Gianantonio
De Man Filip
Donato Francesca
Dreosto Marco
Fest Nicolaus
Gancia Gianna
Garraud Jean-Paul
Grant Valentino
Griset Catherine
Haider Roman
Hakkarainen Teuvo
Huhtasaari Laura
Jalkh Jean-François
Jamet France
Joron Virginie
Juvin Hervé
Kofod Peter
Krah Maximilian
Kuhs Joachim
Lancini Danilo Oscar
Laporte Hélène
Lebreton Gilles
Lechanteux Julie
Limmer Sylvia
Lizzi Elena
Madison Jaak
Mariani Thierry
Mayer Georg
Mélin Joëlle
Meuthen Jörg
Olivier Philippe
Panza Alessandro
Pirbakas Maxette
Regimenti Luisa
Reil Guido
Rinaldi Antonio Maria
Rivière Jérôme
Rougé André
Sardone Silvia
Tardino Annalisa
Tovaglieri Isabella
Vandendriessche Tom
Vilimsky Harald
Vuolo Lucia

Zambelli Stefania
Zanni Marco
Zimniok Bernhard

Article 3: Political Declaration

The Members of the ID Group base their political project on the upholding of freedom, sovereignty, subsidiarity and the identity of the European peoples and nations. They acknowledge the Greek-Roman and Christian heritage as the pillars of European civilisation.

They advocate voluntary cooperation between sovereign European nations, and therefore reject any further evolution toward a European superstate. The Members of the ID Group acknowledge that the nation state is the highest possible level in which democracy can fully function. They oppose any new transfer of power from the nations to the EU.

Inspired by the idea of a Europe of cooperation, the new alliance and its Members are conscious of the need to deeply reform the existing EU in a way to strengthen the principles of subsidiarity and democracy, to introduce direct democracy, as well as to implement more transparency and accountability in the decision-making process.

The ID Group aims to safeguard the identity of the citizens and nations in Europe. The right to control, regulate and limit immigration is a fundamental principle shared by the Members of the Group. So is their willingness to fight for a safer Europe with well-protected external borders and a stronger cooperation to tackle terrorism and islamisation. The Members unequivocally oppose the possible accession of Turkey.

The Members of the Group are strongly committed to the defence of the rule of law and individual freedom, with a particular emphasis on the protection of freedom of speech. They reject any past or present affiliation, connection or sympathy to any authoritarian or totalitarian project. They are not interested to revive disputes related to the past, but are instead fully focussed on the present and the future of Europe.

Priorities of the Group for the 2019-2024 term

- Member States have the right to take back parts of the sovereignty they lost to the EU. No new competences should be transferred to the EU. The Group will oppose any extension of policy areas where the Member States' veto right would no longer apply.
- A better protection of the EU's external borders is needed. Every nation has the right to protect, control and supervise its own borders. The EU should focus more on the effective returning of illegal and criminal immigrants to their countries of origin.
- European civilisation, its Christian heritage and national identities should be protected and embraced. The negotiations on the accession of Turkey, which is not a European country, must be put to an end.

- The Group is opposed to any attempt to impose a eurozone budget and direct EU taxes.

Article 4: Membership of the Group

The Group shall consist of those Members of the European Parliament who have signed the Political Declaration of the ID Group.

Article 5: Admission of New Members

- 1) Any application by a Member of the European Parliament to become a new Member of the ID Group has to be approved by a simple majority of Members of the Group and by a simple majority of the National Delegations, following a proposal by the Bureau of the Group. Any new Member shall sign the Political Declaration of the ID Group.
- 2) If the applicant is elected in a Member State that is already represented by one or more Delegation(s) in the Group, the Bureau shall seek the Delegation's approval of the applicant(s) beforehand.
- 3) Each new Member shall sign two copies of the declaration of constitution of the ID Group. The Group Secretariat shall deposit one copy with the Secretary-General of the European Parliament; the other shall be retained by the Group Secretariat.

Article 6: End of Membership

- 1) Membership of the Group shall end on the termination of a Member's mandate as a Member of the European Parliament, upon resignation from the Group or following a decision taken by an absolute majority of Group Members and of the National Delegations.
- 2) If a Member is considered to have violated the Group's political platform, the Presidency, or at least one-third of the Members of the Group, may request the temporary suspension of the Member at the next Bureau Meeting.
- 3) The Group Meeting shall decide upon the exclusion of a Member of the Group by secret ballot. A proposal for exclusion from the Group has to be submitted to all Members of the Group in writing at least three days before the vote. The Group shall hear the opinion of the Members of the same nationality as the Member in question. A Member may only be excluded from the Group by an absolute majority of Group Members and National Delegations.
- 4) Each National Delegation can establish its own internal rules and can at any time suspend or exclude a Member of its Delegation.

- 5) During the transitional period between the declaration of election results for a new Parliament and its formal constitution at the start of the first sitting of the Plenary following the elections, departing Group Members shall be entitled to participate fully in Group Meetings but without the right to vote. Re-elected and incoming Members of the Group who have completed the formalities provided for in these Statutes shall be entitled to participate fully in Group Meetings with the right to vote.

CHAPTER II - BODIES OF THE GROUP

Article 7: Group Bodies, Membership and Competencies

The Bodies of the ID Group are:

- 1) the Presidency (article 9);
- 2) the Bureau (article 11); and
- 3) the Group Meeting (article 13).

Article 8: General Provisions

- 1) All Plenary meetings of the Group, the Bureau, the Presidency, standing working groups and other working groups shall not be held in public and shall be confidential.
- 2) Minutes of all meetings of the Bodies of the Group shall include a record of attendance, the names of speakers and the decisions taken. A copy of the minutes of each meeting shall be retained by the Group Secretariat. They shall be circulated to all Members of the relevant Body of the Group. The minutes of the Bureau and of the Presidency shall be signed by the Chair.
- 3) At the invitation of the Presidency, representatives of European governments, ministers, members of national parliaments, and officials with special responsibilities who are members of parties with representatives within the ID Group, may attend meetings and speak but not vote.
- 4) The Group President (Chair of the Group Meeting) may also invite experts to deliver opinions on specific issues raised at meetings. In exceptional circumstances, persons not belonging to the Group, may, at the invitation of the Group President, participate in the meetings as observers.

The Group Presidency

Article 9: Composition of the Group Presidency

- 1) The Presidency shall consist of:
 - (a) the Group President;
 - (b) the Group Treasurer; and
 - (c) the Chief Whip (as non-voting member).
- 2) The Group Meeting shall elect the President pursuant to article 20 of these Statutes.
- 3) The term of office of the Group Presidency shall be the same as the effective term of office of the President of the European Parliament. If this term ends

before the end of the legislature, new elections shall be held at least one month before the end of term of office of the President of the European Parliament.

Article 10: Responsibilities of the Group Presidency

The Presidency shall be responsible for:

- 1) the daily business of the ID Group;
- 2) convening and presiding over Group Meetings, and leading the Group in Plenary part-sessions;
- 3) all matters involving the representation of, and all communication on behalf of, the Group within, or with other groups or bodies within, the European Parliament, including the representation of the Group in the European Parliament's bodies;
- 4) the external representation and external communications on behalf of the Group, including press releases;
- 5) taking decisions concerning the composition of the Secretariat and the working methods of the Secretariat as proposed by the Secretary-General;
- 6) informing the Group on strategic and political decisions which it has taken at its meetings;
- 7) taking decisions in urgent cases (any such decision shall be submitted for approval by the competent body, i.e. that body which, according to these Statutes, would normally take such a decision);
- 8) preparing Bureau and Group decisions on financial issues; and
- 9) preparing the Bureau's deliberations on the Group's Financial Regulations (revisions and amendments).

The Bureau

Article 11: Composition of the Group Bureau

- 1) The Bureau of the Group shall consist of:
 - (a) the Members of the Presidency;
 - (b) the Vice-Presidents;
 - (c) the Heads of National Delegations, or another Member that can be nominated by them at the beginning of the term;
 - (d) the President, Vice-Presidents, Quaestors of the European Parliament belonging to the Group;

- 2) The following shall be non-voting members of the Bureau:
 - (a) the President and the Secretary-General of the European Party (if any) and Foundation (if any), that are linked to the ID Group, if they are Members of the European Parliament;
 - (b) Members of the Group by invitation of the Chair.
- 3) The Bureau of the Group shall meet at least once during each part-session in Strasbourg.
- 4) One quarter of the Members of the Bureau or one quarter of National Delegations represented at the Bureau of the Group may request to convene an extraordinary Bureau meeting, which shall be organised within one week of the request.

Article 12: Responsibilities of the Group Bureau

- 1) The Bureau of the Group shall:
 - (a) prepare the strategic and political decisions of the Group;
 - (b) prepare and discuss the legislative work with due regard and respect for the most contentious and/or relevant issues for the Group from the various national perspectives represented within the Group;
 - (c) propose, at the request of the Presidency, any revisions and amendments to the Group's Statutes and Financial Regulations;
 - (d) approve the draft annual budget and financial statement and the establishment plan for the composition of the Secretariat;
 - (e) approve any additional detailed procedures required to implement the provisions of the Statutes of the Group;
 - (f) appoint the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretaries-General;

The Group Meeting

Article 13: Group Meeting

- 1) Members of the Group shall meet on convocation of the Presidency at least once in each week in which the Parliament meets in part-session, as well as at least once during the Group Week prior to the Plenary Week.
- 2) At the request of the Bureau or of at least one third of the Group's Members representing at least one third of the Group's National Delegations, the Presidency shall convene an extraordinary Group Meeting. The notice calling for an extraordinary meeting shall include details of the business to be transacted. The extraordinary meeting shall not consider any other business.

- 3) A quorum for any Group Meeting shall consist of at least one quarter of Group Members, representing at least one quarter of the Member States represented within the Group.
- 4) Decisions shall be taken by simple majority unless indicated otherwise. The decisions shall be valid whatever the number of voters, provided that the Chair has not been asked by a Member before the vote begins to establish the quorum. In the absence of a quorum the vote shall be indicative and not official Group policy.
- 5) The Presidency may establish internal rules regarding the attendance of parliamentary assistants and trainees at Group Meetings and study days.
- 6) The Group may set up a number of standing working groups and such ad hoc working groups as may be required to assist in the coordination of its work within the European Parliament.

Article 14: Tasks

The Group Meeting shall:

- 1) decide on the application(s) of (a) new Member(s) of the Group;
- 2) elect the President, the Vice-Presidents, and the Treasurer;
- 3) adopt and amend the Political Declaration of the Group;
- 4) approve the Group's annual budget and a brief statement of expenditure;
- 5) adopt and amend the Statutes and any additional internal rules of procedure of the Group;
- 6) nominate those Members of the Group who shall serve as office holders of the Parliament, of its Committees, Sub-Committees, Joint Parliamentary Committees, Assemblies and Delegations, and Members and Substitute Members of its Committees, Sub-Committees, Joint Parliamentary Committees, Assemblies and Delegations;
- 7) decide by a motion of no confidence to end the term of office of the President or of one or more of its Vice-Presidents;
- 8) approve the text of motions and or amendments tabled in Plenary on behalf of the Group.

Article 15: President and Vice-Presidents

- 1) The President shall lead all activities of the Group, shall represent the Group subject to the provisions of these Statutes, and is mandated to take legal action on behalf of the group.
- 2) The President shall be responsible for coordinating press statements on behalf of the Group and for communications with third parties. If the President is unable to do so, the most senior Vice-President available shall discharge this function.
- 3) The Group Meeting shall elect up to four Vice-Presidents on the recommendation of the Bureau.

Article 16: Chief Whip

- 1) The Bureau of the Group shall appoint a Chief Whip. Assistant whips may also be appointed by agreement between the Chief Whip and the Group President.
- 2) The Chief Whip shall be responsible for maintaining group discipline and, together with the Secretary-General, for the allocation of speaking time.
- 3) Should a National Delegation wish to depart from the Group line, its Head of Delegation or nominee should inform the Chief Whip accordingly and in time.

CHAPTER III - ELECTIONS

Article 17: Term of Office

- 1) The term of office of the President and the Vice-Presidents shall be two years and six months from the start and the mid-term of each parliamentary term. Incumbents are eligible for re-election.
- 2) At the start of a new parliamentary term, the election of the President and the Vice-Presidents shall take place as soon as reasonably possible after the new Members have been elected. The mid-term elections shall be held at least one month before the end of the term of office of the President of the European Parliament.

Article 18: Nominations

- 1) A deadline for nominations shall be set by the Bureau, which shall be no less than one week before the election.
- 2) All nominations require the nominee's prior consent and shall be communicated in writing to the Secretary-General who shall be responsible for notifying the Members of the Group following the deadline. Members shall not sign more than one nomination for each elected post. A nomination needs to be accompanied by at least three supporting signatures of Heads of National Delegations, as well as five supporting signatures of other Members of the Group.
- 3) In the event of a casual vacancy for any position or an insufficient number of nominations:
 - (a) the period of nomination/notice may be shortened at the discretion of the Group Presidency;
 - (b) the Group Meeting, on a proposal by the Bureau, may take immediate steps to fill a vacancy for a temporary period, pending an election process in accordance with normal nomination procedures.

Article 19: Voting Procedure

- 1) Each vacancy for a Group office shall be filled by means of a separate secret ballot, held in chronological order for the offices of:
 - (a) the President;
 - (b) the Vice-Presidents; and
 - (c) the Treasurer.

The ballot shall be conducted by the Chief Whip and overseen by two scrutineers appointed from the Group membership. In the event that the Chief Whip is a candidate, the Group shall appoint an alternative Returning Officer.

- 2) Voting in elections shall be in person. Voting by proxy or by postal ballot shall not be allowed under any circumstances.
- 3) Where the number of nominations corresponds to the number of seats to be filled, the election shall take place by acclamation.

Article 20: Election of the President

The election of the President shall be overseen by the oldest Member of the Group who shall chair the session until the President has been elected. No business shall be transacted while the oldest Member is in the Chair, with the exception of the election of the President.

Article 21: Election of the Vice-Presidents

There shall be a separate ballot for the election of each Vice-President. Each Group Member has one vote for each ballot.

Article 22: Election of the Treasurer

The procedure for the election of the Treasurer shall be the same as for the election of the Vice-Presidents.

Article 23: Nomination of the Group's Candidates to Parliamentary Offices

Any Member who wishes to stand for the offices of President, Vice-President or Quaestor of the European Parliament may on the recommendation of the Bureau do so subject to the consent of a Group Meeting. Nominations shall be made in accordance with procedures set out in these Statutes.

Article 24: Motions of No Confidence

A motion of no confidence to end the term of office of the President or one or more Vice-Presidents may be tabled by one third of the Members of the Group, which shall include Members from at least one third of the Group's National Delegations. The motion shall be placed on the agenda of the next Group Meeting, subject to at least seven days' notice. A simple majority of valid votes cast shall be required for the motion to pass. The vote shall be secret. If the motion is adopted, a casual vacancy shall exist and the provisions of article 18(3) of these Statutes shall apply. If defeated, no further motion of no confidence in that person on the same grounds may be tabled for a period of six months.

CHAPTER IV - INTERNAL ORGANISATION AND PROCEDURES

Article 25: Decision Taking

Except where otherwise provided for in these Statutes, a simple majority of votes cast shall be required for decisions to be taken by any of the Bodies of the Group.

Article 26: Coordinators and Committee Working Groups

- 1) The Members of the Group belonging to the same parliamentary Committee shall form a Committee Working Group coordinated by a Coordinator elected from among these Members. The Working Group may elect a Deputy Coordinator.
- 2) The Coordinator is responsible for the coordination of the work of the Group's Members in the respective Committee.
- 3) The tasks and procedures of Committee Working Groups shall be laid down by internal rules.

Article 27: Working Groups

- 1) Committee Working Groups may be grouped together to form Working Groups. Each Member of the relevant Committee Working Group is a Member of the Working Group. Each Member of the Group can participate in every Working Group meeting and has an advisory vote.
- 2) The tasks and procedures of Working Groups shall be laid down by internal rules.
- 3) The Working Groups shall be chaired by one of the Coordinators whose Committees form part of the Working Group;
- 4) The Working Group may suggest to the Chief Whip and the Secretary-General a list of Members who may speak in the Plenary on behalf of the Group.
- 5) The agenda for each Working Group meeting shall be made available to all Members of the Group. Minutes of Working Group meetings shall be taken for each meeting and made available to the Members of the Presidency.

Article 28: Parliamentary Initiatives

Members shall inform the Presidency and the responsible Coordinator in advance on legislative initiatives in accordance with article 5 of the Members' Statute.

Article 29: Voting Discipline and Freedom of Conscience during Votes in Plenary and Committees

- 1) When voting, Members shall respect the political declaration of the ID Group as well as the indications by the Chief Whip in terms of article 16 of these Statutes.
- 2) Members have the right to vote according to their conscience, national party program and political convictions in accordance with these Statutes.
- 3) The Chief Whip shall ensure the highest political coherence possible between the National Delegations during votes.
- 4) Members should inform the Chief Whip by email if they cannot participate in a vote in Plenary.
- 5) Members should inform the responsible Coordinator by email if they cannot participate in a vote in Committee, and organise a Substitute Member for that purpose.

CHAPTER V - GROUP SECRETARIAT

Article 30: The Group Staff

The staff of the Group Secretariat shall fulfil a supranational function and is subject to the Regulation laying down the Staff Regulations of Officials and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Community.

Article 31: Tasks of the Group Secretariat

- 1) The Secretariat shall assist the Group.
- 2) The Secretariat is deemed to consist of all Group staff members. Group staff members shall conscientiously and to the best of their ability perform all duties assigned to them. They shall exclusively serve the Group's interests and in the performance of these duties shall neither seek nor accept instructions from any person or organisational body outside the Group.

Article 32: Secretary-General and Deputy Secretaries-General of the Group

- 1) The Bureau shall appoint the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretaries-General. The Members of the Group shall ratify these decisions during a Group Meeting.
- 2) The Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretaries-General shall head and coordinate the Secretariat. They shall also prepare the deliberations of the Bureau and Presidency relating to the Secretariat itself.
- 3) At the beginning of the legislative term, the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretaries-General shall agree on a distribution of tasks, which shall be laid down in an organigram and which shall subsequently be approved by the Bureau of the Group and announced at the Group Meeting following the decision.

CHAPTER VI - BUDGET

Article 33: Group Budget and Financial Statement

- 1) A draft annual budget and a financial statement shall be presented to the Group at a meeting as close as possible to the end of each calendar year.
- 2) The President and the Treasurer shall at all times have full access to all documents relating to the financial affairs of the Group. With the exception of those funds reserved for National Delegations, Heads of Delegation shall at all times have full access to all documents relating to the rest of the financial affairs of the Group.

Article 34: Group's Financial Regulations

Financial procedures shall be governed by the Group's Financial Regulations in accordance with the Parliament's rules and recognised best practices. Accounts shall be prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and shall follow the principles of sound financial management and prior authorisation.

CHAPTER VII - FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 35: Seat of the Group

The official seat of the Group is: Rue Wiertz 60, B-1047 Bruxelles.

Article 36: Official Languages of the Group

Any official language of a National Delegation is also an official language of the Group. A National Delegation may at any time decide not to use its official language.

Article 37: Authoritative Version of these Statutes

The English version of these Statutes is the original version. The Statutes may be translated into other languages, provided that the English text shall in any event prevail.

Article 38: Modifications of the Statutes

Amendments to these Statutes may be submitted to the Bureau by any Delegation of the Group. The Bureau may propose those amendments to the Group Meeting following the procedure laid down in article 12 of these Statutes. An amendment shall be deemed to be adopted if it is approved by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast. The decision to amend shall be valid if at least half the Group Members and National Delegations have participated in the vote.

Article 39: Entry into Force

This version of the Statutes enters into force on 2 July 2019.