

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.

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 the Bureau.

If a Member is considered to have violated the Group's political platform or to have harmed his Delegation's or the Group's cohesion or reputation, the President, the Member's Delegation leader or at least one-third of the Members of the Bureau, may request the exclusion of the Member at the next Bureau Meeting. Such a decision requires an absolute majority of delegations. The Member concerned may be heard by the Bureau upon request.

In the case of a decision to exclude a Member, the Members of the Group are notified on the next working day at the latest. If at least one third of the Members of the Group, coming from at least one third of the delegations, want to overrule the Bureau's decision to exclude a Member, they have to submit a request for a vote on this issue in the Group meeting. This request needs to be signed by all the Members mentioned above, and filed to the Group President and the Secretary-General within a period of two working days after the notification was sent out.

The request must be put to the votes at the next Group meeting. The President can decide to organize an extraordinary Group meeting to this effect.

The vote shall take place by secret ballot. The Group shall hear the opinion of the Members of the same nationality as the Member in question, and the opinion of one of the Members who requested the vote.

In order to be adopted, the request must be voted by an absolute majority of the Members.

2) If a Member is considered to have violated the Group's political platform or to have harmed his Delegation's or the Group's cohesion or reputation, the President, the Member's Delegation leader 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) Each National Delegation can establish its own internal rules and can at any time suspend or exclude a Member of its Delegation.

4) 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 President;
2. the Presidency;
3. the Bureau and;
4. the Group Meeting.

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.
- 3) At the invitation of the President, 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 President

Article 9: Election and term of the President

- 1) The Group Meeting shall elect the President pursuant to article 20 of these Statutes.
- 2) The term of office of the President shall be two years and six months as provided by Article 17 of these statutes.

Article 10: Responsibilities of the President

The President shall be responsible for:

- 1) the daily business of the ID Group;
- 2) convening and presiding over Group Meetings and Bureau 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 Conference of the Presidents;
- 4) the external representation and external communications on behalf of the Group, including press releases;
- 5) acting as the Authority entitled to conclude contracts of employment (AECE), and, as such, exercising the powers conferred on the AECE under the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union (CEOS), unless otherwise provided in these statutes ;

The Presidency

Article 11: Composition of the Presidency

- 1) The Presidency of the Group shall consist of:
 - a. the President;
 - b. the Vice-Presidents;
 - c. the Treasurer;
 - d. the Chief Whip as non-voting member.
- 2) The Presidency shall meet ahead of the meeting of the Bureau of the Group referred to in Article 11(3).
- 3) At the request of one of its Members, or on his own initiative, the President shall convene an extraordinary Presidency meeting, which shall be organised within one week from the request.
- 4) The Presidency shall deliberate by simple majority. In case of draw, President's vote shall count twice.

Article 12: Responsibilities of the Presidency

The Presidency shall be responsible for:

- 1) taking decisions concerning the composition of the Secretariat and the working methods of the Secretariat on proposal of the Secretary-General;
- 2) taking decisions in urgent cases (any such decision shall be notified to the competent body, i.e. that body which, according to these Statutes, would normally take such a decision);

- 3) preparing Bureau and Group decisions on financial issues; and
- 4) preparing the Bureau's deliberations on the Group's Financial Regulations (revisions and amendments).

The Bureau

Article 13: Composition of the Group Bureau

- 1) The Bureau of the Group shall consist of:
 - (a) the Members of the Presidency;
 - (b) the Heads of National Delegations, or another Member that can be nominated by them;
 - (c) the President, Vice-Presidents, Quaestors of the European Parliament belonging to the Group;
- 2) The following may 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) At the request of the Presidency, of one quarter of the Members of the Bureau or of one quarter of National Delegations represented in the Bureau of the Group, or on his own initiative, the President shall convene an extraordinary Bureau meeting, which shall be organised within one week from the request.

Article 14: 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 15: Group Meeting

- 1) Members of the Group shall meet on convocation of the President at least once in each week in which the Parliament meets in part-session, as well as at least once during the 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 President 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 President 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 16: 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) adopt and amend the Statutes and any additional internal rules of procedure of the Group;

- 5) 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;
- 6) decide by a motion of no-confidence, tabled at least seven days before the meeting, by absolute majority, to end the term of office of the President or of one or more of its Vice-Presidents;
- 7) approve the text of motions and or amendments tabled in Plenary on behalf of the Group.

Article 17: Vice-Presidents

- 1) The Group Meeting shall elect up to four Vice-Presidents and their order of precedence on the recommendation of the Bureau.
- 2) If the President is unable to perform any of his tasks, one of the Vice-Presidents available, in the order of precedence, shall discharge this function.

Article 18: Chief Whip

- 1) The Bureau of the Group shall appoint a Chief Whip. Deputy 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 19: 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

Article 20: 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 21: 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, in order of precedence; and
 - (c) the Treasurer.

The ballot shall be conducted by the oldest Member of the Group present and overseen by two scrutineers appointed from the Group membership. In the event that the oldest Member 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 22: Election of the President

The election of the President shall be overseen by the oldest Member of the Group present 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 23: 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 24: 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 25: 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 the Group Meeting.

Article 26: 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. An absolute 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 27: 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 28: Coordinators

- 1) The Bureau shall appoint a Coordinator in each parliamentary Committee (and sub-Committee) among the Members of the Group belonging to that same Committee.
- 2) The Coordinator is responsible for the coordination of the work of the Group's Members in the respective Committee.

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 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 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, assisted by the Deputy Secretaries-General, shall head and coordinate the Secretariat. He shall also prepare the deliberations of the Bureau and Presidency relating to the Secretariat itself.
- 3) At the beginning of the parliamentary term, the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretaries-General shall agree on the 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.

Article 33: Disciplinary Committee

- 1) Decisions on disciplinary matters, including decisions on administrative investigations, concerning temporary staff referred to in Article 2(c) of the CEOS shall be taken by the Disciplinary Committee of the Group.
- 2) The Disciplinary Committee (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) shall consist of the President, the Treasurer, and the Secretary-General of the Group.
- 3) Members of the Committee may ask to be excused from duty for legitimate reasons and shall withdraw if a conflict of interest exists.

- 4) Members of the Committee who, in accordance with paragraph 3, are prevented from acting shall be replaced as follows:
 - i) The President, by a Vice-President in order of precedence;
 - ii) The Treasurer, by a member of the Bureau in order of seniority by age;
 - iii) The Secretary-General, by a Deputy Secretary-General in order of seniority by age.
- 5) The Committee will be chaired by the President of the Group or by the person replacing him in accordance with paragraph 4.
- 6) Decisions shall be taken by majority of the members of the Committee.

CHAPTER VI - BUDGET

Article 34: 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 and their Members, 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 35: 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 36: Seat of the Group

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

Article 37: 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 38: 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 39: 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 pursuant to article 12 of these Statutes. An amendment shall be deemed to be adopted if it is approved by a two-third 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 40: Entry into Force

This version of the Statutes enters into force on XXX.