

# EPFMA BULLETIN



European Parliament Former Members Association

[www.formermembers.eu](http://www.formermembers.eu)

## Health Matters



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On the occasion of the International Day of Democracy on 15 September, the EP hosted a conference focusing on the repercussions of the crisis on democracy and fundamental freedoms.

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## CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS:

The Editorial Board would like to thank all those members who took the time to contribute to this issue of the FMA Bulletin. We would like to draw your attention to the fact that the decision to include an article lies with the FMA Editorial Board and, in principle, contributions from members who are not up-to-date with the payment of the membership fee will not be included. Due to the long time lag between the call for contribution and the publication, some articles may be outdated.

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# Message from the PRESIDENT

In Europe and across the world, a vital emphasis placed on health matters is taking over politics at all levels of governance. While national governments are seeking to reinforce their resilience against the coronavirus, growing pressure over EU institutions shaped the need for a new active inter-institutional collaborative approach interweaving socio-economic policies with health issues. Overall, the fast adaptation phase experienced during the confinement in most EU countries has shown mixed and heterogeneous results and highlighted how the coronavirus outbreak challenged Member States in a variety of different ways. Today, the European Union and its Member States have also the responsibility to stand up for the most affected populations and for seeking to promote fairness and justice for all layers of society. The EU Presidency of Germany, under the motto "Together for Europe's recovery", will be pivotal to laying the groundwork towards achieving economic prosperity through proactive cooperation on the Old Continent again. It has been a busy time for the Former Members Association, which now can count on a brand new website to communicate with FMA members and all its partners and European citizens, with a modern and more user-friendly interface than our previous one. We are now fully equipped to pursue our outreach activities in the digital era and will continue to inspire young Europeans to support the EU. Within the framework of our "EP to Campus" programme, a number of webinars were held during the

lockdown. FMA Members Hans Olaf Henkel and Taris Hadjigeorgiou contributed to this edition with a report on their experiences. In July, Eva Lichtenberger participated in a stimulating webinar on EU transportation infrastructures with the Sapienza University of Rome and stated, "The big challenge right now is how to bring the concept in line with the European Green Deal and make it climate-compatible". The FMA Secretariat will continue to organise such events throughout autumn and scheduled three webinars already for October and November run by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the University of Colorado Boulder within the framework of our programme. As you know, our September events had to be reorganised. Our Association in co-operation with the European Political Foundations and the European University Institute structured a webinar on "Together for the future of Europe" followed by our General Assembly. For the first time, our members could connect remotely, "we became younger!". The webinar launched a new long-term co-operation between the FMA, European Political Foundations and the European University Institute aimed at examining the short and long-term implications of the COVID crisis for the European project, encouraging an open and public debate on the key challenges. Last, but not least, I will lead a delegation of FMA members meeting on line with MPs, government officials and actors of civil society of North Macedonia on 5-6 October 2020. Then from 25 to 27 October, another

one led by myself will go on a visit in Berlin pursuing the same objective. The Annual Dinner 2020 will take place on 9 December in the House of European History followed by the Annual Seminar on 10 December at the European Parliament in Brussels. According to the EP President's Decision of 26 August 2020 on measures in relation with COVID-19 and community masks, events in the European Parliament premises remain cancelled until further notice. The decision shall lapse on 25 September 2020 unless renewed, amended or repealed by the President. The Secretariat will keep you duly informed about the evolution of the situation and the organisation of our December events. The focus of our September issue will elaborate this time on the topic of health matters in Europe and will engage in a fruitful discussion around how to rethink about pandemics at political level in the aftermath of the coronavirus outbreak and in the context of the freshly started German Presidency of the Council of the EU.

Enjoy this edition of our Bulletin.

Best wishes,

Hans-Gert Pötering  
FMA President



# EP AT WORK

## KEY FACTS

**MEPs approved the “quick fix” to the capital requirement regulation (CRR) to temporarily ensure favourable conditions for banks. (June Session - P9\_TA-PROV(2020)0157).**

This will support credit flows to companies and households and absorb losses, mitigating the economic consequences of the COVID-19 lock-down.

**Parliament approved measures to save the EU’s tourism and travel sector and make it future-proof after COVID-19 crisis. (June Session - P9\_TA(2020)0169).**

The resolution on transport and tourism in 2020 and beyond identifies areas where actions taken so far remain insufficient to support a sector that employs 22.6 million people (11.2% of the total EU employment) and that contributed 9.5% to EU GDP in 2019.

**The European Parliament sets out the principles of the EU’s future public health**

**strategy post-COVID-19. (July Session - P9\_TA-PROV(2020)0205).**

MEPs underline the need to draw the right lessons from the COVID-19 crisis and engage in far stronger cooperation in the area of health to create a European Health Union.

**EU must prioritise the fight against youth unemployment, homelessness and poverty. (July Session - P9\_TA-PROV(2020)0194).**

MEPs want social inclusion and people’s wellbeing at the heart of EU economic policies, with equal priority given to social, environmental and economic objectives.

**MEPs adopted a temporary derogation from certain rules for clinical trials. (July Session - P9\_TA-PROV(2020)0203).**

This will allow COVID-19 vaccines and treatments to be developed more quickly.

*Other main dossiers discussed in the plenary sessions were:*

### June 2020

- Austria, Italy, Portugal, Spain receive €279m after **natural disasters in 2019**. (18.06.20)
- Parliament sets up **three special committees and a committee of inquiry, and a permanent subcommittee**. (19.06.20)
- Parliament condemns all forms of **racism, hate and violence** and calls for action. (19.06.20)
- MEPs called for urgent action to safeguard health, safety and fair working conditions of **cross-border and seasonal workers** in the context of COVID-19. (19.06.20)
- MEPs called for **free movement** across borders to be swiftly and fully re-established. (19.06.20)
- MEPs increased the crisis support that EU states should soon be able to pay to farmers and agri-

food SMEs from the **EU rural development fund**. (19.06.20)

### July 2020

- Parliament approved the nomination of François-Louis Michaud for the post of Executive Director of the **European Banking Authority**. (08.07.20)
- MEPs approved **€585 million to support Syrian refugees** in neighbouring countries. (08.07.20)
- MEPs outline their strategy for **energy storage**, which is set to play a crucial role in reaching the goals of the Paris Agreement on climate change. (08.07.20)
- Parliament called on the Japanese authorities to enforce international rules on **child protection** and to introduce changes to their legal system to allow for shared custody. (08.07.20)

- Parliament backs **revised rules to improve drivers’ working conditions** and stop distortion of competition in road transport. (09.07.20)
- **MEPs set out new measures to stop money laundering**. Interconnected registers of beneficial owners, a preventive blacklisting policy and effective sanctions are among the tools proposed. (10.07.20)
- **Energy**: EU funding for priority projects should reflect 2050 climate objectives. (10.07.20)

*For more information, please visit : <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/plenary>*

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## POLITICS IS THE “ART OF THE MOMENTUM”

### MFF and The Next Generation EU

The MFF negotiations on the 2018 proposal were in trouble long before the COVID-19 pandemic started. After rejecting the “Finnish nego-box”, the “Charles Michel nego-box” of February, was on the table for less than an hour.

Politics is the “art of the Momentum”. The new proposal, in the middle of a one of a kind confinement, to address the deadlock, is a proof of this, as it has a good chance to get through the legislative cycle in due time. It is also a proof of the EU institution’s excellence at all levels. Let’s applaud those who worked on the excel sheets and amendments in the shortest time ever, often from home office.

The common understanding, that the asymmetric impact of the pandemic should be solved together, interrupted the endless, selfish discussions on the second decimal after the comma, and the dilemma of loans versus grants solved, we should come out of the deadlock. What are the balancing acts that made a timely agreement on Next

Generation EU possible?

- The immediate need for help, with frontloading and generating own resources to sustain the MFF came with extending the duration for repayment for future budgets. This requires a moral commitment to invest only in projects in line with the expectations of the Greta Thunberg generation (climate, environment and the SDGs).

- To allocate a large sum of the Recovery and Resilience Facility to the South, is in a way replacing the lost cohesion funds due to the fifth Enlargement (between 2004-2007), and rebalances the South-East- North triangle, with the Franco-German Axis at the middle, and contributes to the stability of the common currency
- Clear vision on Greening of the Economy and Digitalization while maintaining the high social and environmental standards is a good compass for the markets and society. Via the targeted own resources provides the level of playing field for internal and international partners.

- The Recovery Fund gives even more power, thus responsibility to the Member States and to the European Commission. The Recovery Fund is out of the national budget debates at large and neither the European Parliament consent procedure on the MFF, nor the European Semester are strong enough tools to provide democratic oversight.

- The democratic control, should be rebalanced by sticking to the “Rule of Law” principle during implementation, to make sure that even in case of growing populism the EU multilateralism and carefully designed operation (direct implementation by the EC laid down in the Treaties is safeguarded. The

European Parliament together with the European Commission and the progressive European Governments should stand for it.

- From a procedural standpoint, the proposal for next generation EU could come in the form of new MFF proposal. However, it would necessitate restarting the legislative procedure which would require at least two years. It would be more elegant, but would mean great difficulties even without the COVID 19 crisis.

**“The common understanding, that the asymmetric impact of the pandemic should be solved together, interrupted the endless, selfish discussions on the second decimal after the comma.”**

The Proposal was published at the end of May, when the “Conference on Europe” was supposed to start. Symbolically, the proposal could be seen as the informal first step which paves the way to the two-year process, and allows a thorough discussion beyond the unanimity on how to make better use of the existing Treaty or opt for reopening to equip the EU for the upcoming decades. The EUCO ability to listen to the EP broad coalition to get out of the deadlock is the next milestone to achieve.

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*EU leaders met in Brussels to discuss the recovery plan to respond to the COVID-19 crisis and a new long-term EU budget.*  
©European Union

## THE INEFFICIENCY OF THE EU

It is difficult to argue that its management of the coronavirus crisis has helped improve the European Union's public image. Recently, countless pieces of criticism have been read or published concerning the EU's initial inaction and subsequent ineffectiveness in dealing with a virus that almost nobody knew existed at Christmas, although it now feels so familiar as to be a family member. There have been an increasing number of meetings at the highest level, including at the European Council – most recently by teleconferencing – and Parliament. Operational conclusions have been few and far between, and in some cases postponed until a later date. It is painfully evident that decision-making cannot be swift, even if it should be. But the difficulty is not a result of technical or legal complexity, nor of any Thatcher-like aggressiveness on the part of one of our leaders. These factors undoubtedly affect the necessarily complex EU decision-making process, but the European project has long suffered a number of shortcomings which, naturally, make EU enthusiasts despair and alienate the dilettantes and observers who do not want to commit themselves either way,

however much the project ultimately affects them. The EU – formerly the European Communities – was born as a reaction to the nationalisms that had blighted the continent with wars and death throughout history. In 1945, some Alsatians had changed country up to three times without moving from their villages and the same could be said of certain Tyroleans and Poles. This was the founding cause of the EU.

**“The COVID-19 crisis has unleashed a wave of curious pro-Europeanism. This a pro-Europeanism that wants – nay demands – forceful action from an EU that has been systematically deprived of legal powers and budgetary resources.”**

Many of us were taken aback by the historic dual speech by Kohl and Mitterrand in the Strasbourg plenary when Mitterrand thundered: ‘Le nationalisme, c’est la guerre!’ For those born after World War II that appeared to be consigned to the past. It was simply unthinkable. And yet, shortly after, Yugoslavia fell apart with all the atrocities that we Europeans in the EU saw a stone’s throw from our borders, although some issues were solved for us by Uncle Sam.

I am bringing this up because the COVID-19 crisis has unleashed a wave of curious pro-Europeanism. This a pro-Europeanism that

wants – nay demands – forceful action from an EU that has been systematically deprived of legal powers and budgetary resources. In his day, Blair complained of a lack of integration in European research and in the European university system at a time when his government counted among those who which did the most to hinder European progress in these fields. It would be edifying to see what stance Europe’s governments would take if it was suggested that public health should become an EU competence. It would probably be convenient and more efficient to do this, but would any government be willing to give up this power and transfer it to the EU? Would that not be considered an attack on national sovereignty, however ineffective the current situation may be? And the same view predominates across all levels of government. Would our regional governments accept this or would it be an encroachment upon their powers? Meanwhile, Delors’ great appeal for the EU to be given the means to match its ambitions is being postponed for ever longer.



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## POLICE CONTROL ON THE WRONG BORDER

Closing borders to the neighbours has been a familiar reflex of National Governments in the Corona crisis. Some shut downs of borders could be justified by hotspots of infections with the virus. In many cases it was a merely placebo measure with no positive effect but with a lot of negative implications.

**“The message of closed borders implies that the danger comes from outside. But the Corona virus had not a national passport!”**

Families have been separated, cross border daily business blocked and old prejudices rejuvenated. The message of closed borders implies that the danger comes from outside. But the Corona virus had not a national passport! The EU and its Member States have to learn a lesson from this pandemic challenge. We need more decentralisation of decision making and mutual cross border



Bridge Pfimlin over the Rhine between France and Germany near Strasbourg. ©European Union

crisis management. Authorities in the regions know better about the actual situation than remote national capitals.

Local police would not control the wrong border which happened in my region Saarland.

Nearby the famous village of Schengen is a roundabout on the German side : one street leads to France, the other to Luxemburg. German Federal Police, coming from far away, controlled the wrong border. The french border was still under surveillance, but the police controlled everybody coming or

going to Schengen in Luxemburg. This is double ironic. With all the frustrations in the last months there was nevertheless the one or other laughter about funny situations. As for example the famous photo of a German in a border village who was used to get his baguette every Sunday morning from a neighbouring french bakery. He took his fishing-rod and line, threw it over the border barricade and got his baguette on the hook from the lady of the bakery. Where there is a will there is a way. Not only to get a baguette but as well for the recovery in the EU. Let's do it !



View of the old border post between France and Italy in Menton ville, France. ©European Union

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## EU'S MIGRATION POLICY

The growing number of refugees calls for a new approach regarding the EU's migration policy.

According to a UNHCR report, 79.5 million people worldwide are currently seeking refuge. This represents more than one percent of the world's population. Ten years ago it was only half as many.

As the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, said, 'displacement is no longer a short-term and temporary phenomenon'. The European Union will have to adapt to this new situation — albeit not so much within the Member States as in its dealings with third countries. There is no cause for alarm in the EU: this increase in the number of refugees bypasses Europe to a large extent. Most do not even cross a border, seeking refuge within their own country instead. These internally displaced people now number 45.7 million. They are fleeing conflicts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in the Sahel region, in Yemen or Syria in growing numbers. Thus, for example, at the beginning of 2019 there were some

80 000 internally displaced persons in Burkina Faso, whereas today, as a result of attacks by jihadist militias or the government's armed forces, that number has increased more than tenfold to almost 850 000.

**“According to a UNHCR report, 79.5 million people worldwide are currently seeking refuge. This represents more than one percent of the world's population.”**

A total of 29.6 million people worldwide have fled abroad, with 3.6 million having left Venezuela for other countries in South America in recent times alone. The largest numbers of international refugees come from just five countries: 6.6 million from Syria, 2.7 million from Afghanistan, 2.2 million from South Sudan and 1.1 million from Myanmar. While they may cross borders, they mostly do not go far. 85% of refugees do not come to Europe but remain in poor countries, 80% even staying in regions or

countries affected by malnutrition. Less than 10% seek refuge in Europe. The greatest number of refugees live in Turkey (3.6 million), Colombia (1.8 million) and Pakistan and Uganda (1.4 million each), followed by Germany with the largest number of refugees in Europe (1.15 million). However, these figures are misleading if looked at in terms of population size. In Germany, only 1 person in 72 is a refugee, while in Turkey that number is 1 in 23, in Jordan it is 1 in 15 and in Lebanon 1 in 7. The COVID-19 pandemic, which has triggered a global economic crisis, is an exacerbating factor. Most refugees and displaced persons live in regions with extremely limited resources.

In the words of David Miliband, President of the International Rescue Committee (IRC), 'these numbers should serve as a wake-up call to the international community'. 'Now, more than ever before, we need a European approach that puts people, rather than borders, at the heart of its migration policies'. We can only hope that the German Presidency will succeed in launching an EU pact on migration and asylum which meets this ambition and is able to counter the escalating conflict in Libya and the disastrous conditions on the Greek islands, at least in part. With the good will of all the parties involved, it should be possible to agree on an approach that will help those outside of the EU and provide a form of burden sharing within the EU which is acceptable to all.

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Fedasil, Federal Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers © European Union 2017 - Source : EP



## JOSÉ VIDAL-BENEYTO, AN EXEMPLARY PRO-EUROPEAN

10 years ago a Spanish intellectual and politician passed away, a man worthy of a seat in the European Parliament; something which, however, he never obtained because of his innate resistance to the discipline of any political party. That said, his ideology and activism were always geared towards the Left. His commitment to the European project was evident in the way he performed his role as Director-General for Education and Culture of the Council of Europe (1985 to 1991) and as Adviser for Culture and Communication of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) from 1991 to 1993; as Senior Special Adviser at UNESCO (1993 to 1999) he bridged cultures both sides of the Mediterranean. However, in his own area of expertise and drawing on his own initiative - and even from his own pocket - he promoted knowledge and the dissemination of Europe's cultural dimension by creating the Collège des Hautes Études Européennes Miguel Servet, in tribute to the Spanish scientist and theologian of the 16th century, who was persecuted by the Catholic church and executed by the Calvinists.



*José Vidal-Beneyto and Rafael Alberti at the European Parliament ©Roderic*

The written work of Vidal is monumental in the sociological, cultural and political fields. For Spanish democrats, the memory of José (Pepín) Vidal-Beneyto will be unforgettable when we look back at events - although long ago still worthy of being recalled - such as the holding in Munich (1962) of the IV Congress of the European Movement International, which led to the meeting of the Spanish internal opposition and exile groups, which in turn peacefully yet authentically paved the way towards democracy in our country and towards membership of what was then the European Communities. That meeting, which Franco's dictatorship branded 'Contubernio' (conspiracy) to justify the repression of those who attended, was to a large extent organised by Vidal-Beneyto who, under the pseudonym 'Mr Zabala', crossed borders clandestinely and reached out to us, that is to say the participants on both sides.

Once democracy was reinstated in Spain in 1976, Vidal-Beneyto challenged vehemently what he referred to as the 'removal of historical memory', meaning the continuation - in the social pyramid - of 'the pro-Franco social class and their questionable fervent conversion to the new principles'. A devout pro-European, Vidal-Beneyto always demanded a 'political, social and ecological Europe'.

The half-measures - no transnational parliamentary lists, inability of the EP to elect the President of the Commission, frequent unanimity in the Council, 'governance', etc. - in the European institutionalisation

process were severely criticised by the late Vidal-Beneyto, to the extent that in 2005 he fought - together with a fraction of the French Socialist Party - against France's ratification of the Constitution for Europe, an effort which led to that country's 'No' vote - as was also the case with the Netherlands -, and ... a fresh start, a happy situation - albeit only partially - since then came the Lisbon Treaty. The disagreements, of a purely tactical nature, between Vidal and the author of this piece, did not cloud our friendship: he wanted more, we Spaniards who voted 'Yes' were content with the constitutional step forward.

This disagreement reminded me of the one I had with Altiero Spinelli when I took up my seat in the EP (1986), when I refused to join his campaign against the Single European Act because of, what he termed, federal shyness.

Spinelli and Vidal-Beneyto, defenders of 'maximalism', disagreed with the 'possibilism' for which others among us settled.

But without their demands, our steps would probably have ended up as little more than yet further good intentions.

We have Altiero Spinelli, 'the Lion of Ventotene', and José Vidal-Beneyto, 'the Lion of Carcaixent', to thank for their vilified maximalism.

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## HAPPY 85TH BIRTHDAY JOSÉ MARÍA

It is a pleasure for me to celebrate the 85th birthday of José María Gil Robles by penning this short essay. Our most recent communication was just a few weeks ago. Nightly on our television news here in Ireland, as throughout Europe, we watched the profoundly distressing images of the suffering of so many in Italy and in Spain and elsewhere on our continent. It was saddening to see places and peoples so near and dear to our hearts struggling to cope with the Covid 19 pandemic. I thought of Jose Maria and his family, of his venerable age and potential vulnerability. I wondered should I contact him or in the circumstances would that be an imprudent act. I sent a short message and received a quick and heartening response 'fortunately we are all keeping well'. Fortunate, indeed, my dear friend, that with you, together with colleagues in the former members association, we can mark this milestone in your long and distinguished life. I do not say career because José María is not and never has been a careerist.

In recent decades our paths have overlapped. We both were elected to the European Parliament in 1989. We both had the privilege to serve as its President. We both presided the Former Members Association, the European Movement International, and the Jean Monnet Foundation for Europe. In each case as José María stepped down I followed, not always immediately, but in time. In truth since we left parliament at the same time in 2004 I got to know and personally appreciate José María even more than when we were serving together as MEPs.

A long life is like a play that extends over several acts. Politics and public service were part of the personal and cultural DNA inherited from his father. The young José María spent his childhood and the key formative years of his youth living in Estoril where his parents lived in exile. He was not yet ten years old when the Second World War ended in Europe and was aged seventeen when he returned to study law in Spain. Estoril at that time was a kind of cultural and linguistic melting pot teeming

with families fleeing from occupied Europe. Here the young Jose Maria already acquired knowledge of Portuguese, French, English and Italian, a fortuitous gift that was to serve him well in later years. He is a distinguished jurist who acted as legal adviser to the Cortes, as a practising lawyer over several decades through his membership of multiple Spanish Bar Associations and as an author of numerous publications especially on parliamentary and public law. In parallel he dedicated years of service to the Christian Democratic movement in Spain. All of these elements in his life culminated in and were crowned by his election to the European Parliament in his mid fifties and the eminent service he rendered there and more widely to the European cause ever since. But this quiet spoken man of placid demeanour and personal depth is best described not only by what he has done but also more accurately by what he is. I found a quotation from Abraham Lincoln that summarise José María for me:

'Character is like a tree and reputation like its shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing'. José María Gil Robles is a man of character whom I am pleased to call my friend. Happy 85th birthday José María.

**Pat Cox**

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José María Gil-Robles and Pat Cox ©Communautés Européennes 2003

## HOUSE OF DEMOCRACY

There is a well known English saying that, "Old Soldiers never Die, They Simply Fade Away". As an "old" MEP I had and have no intention of fading away.

**"Democracy is important at all levels from the very local village or town, to regions to states to supra-national bodies like the EU."**

This old MEP went back to my regional roots in 2005 and was elected to the local Hampshire County Council and subsequently became its Leader. Hampshire is a prosperous region of approximately 1.5 million people in southern England. The County Town of Winchester is dominated by a statue of King Alfred the Great- the only English King to get the epithet "Great" and seen by some as the founder of England having defeated the Danes at the Battle of Edington



Roy Perry ©European Union

in 878 C.E.. Has England been at war with parts of Europe ever since? I fear so.

Hampshire has long been and remains a member of the Assembly of European Regions and indeed for a while I was its Vice President. The AER has members from across Europe from Turkey to Norway, Belarus to UK, so not just from EU member states.

Democracy is important at all levels from the very local village or town, to regions to states to supra-national bodies like the EU. At the heart of democracy is the concept of the free individual.

As well as parliaments and councils democracies are based on concepts like freedom of association, free speech and the rule of law. All currently at some risk in parts of the world including in Europe. For much of the latter part of the 20th C it seemed democracy was the inevitable outcome for the whole world especially after the collapse of the Iron Curtain. But is it? Is democracy so secure, when even in the USA a President can order troops to fire tear gas to clear peaceful demonstrators from outside the White House.

For this reason and because I am not keen on just fading away I have been pleased to lend my support to a new Brussels based NGO- the House of Democracy- Human Centred Development. This is cross Party and is Chaired by a Turkish Medical Doctor former Vice President of Istanbul Region. Founders include a German former Secretary General of the AER and a young Swiss who is President of the AER European Youth Network. Unfortunately because of Covid19



our launch organised for March 16th in Brussels has been postponed but ideas and articles are being published on the website for instance on Covid19 and Democracy. If you want to help defend democracy and agree with President Obama in his inaugural speech when he quoted another well known saying- "All that is necessary for evil to succeed is for good men and women to do nothing" look us up at [www.houseofdemocracy.com](http://www.houseofdemocracy.com).

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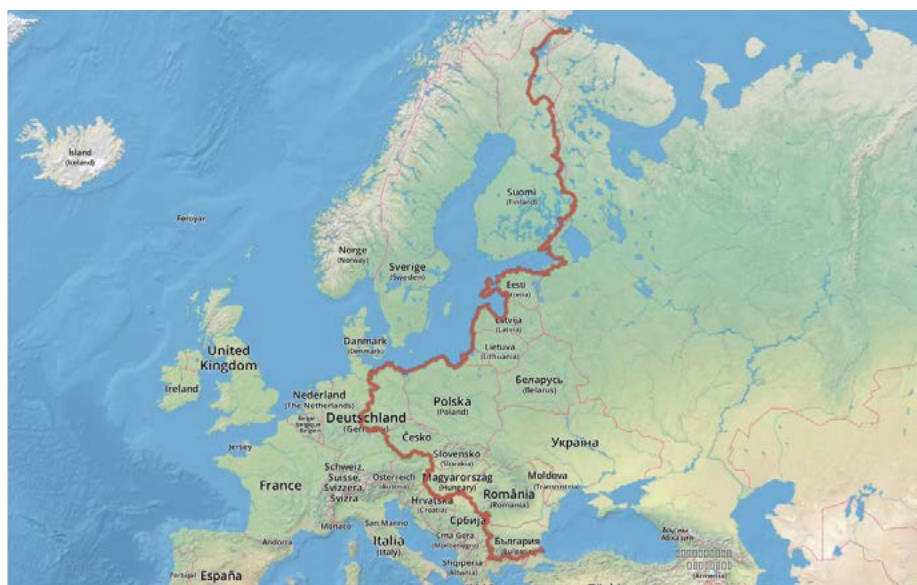


## THE FOURTH VOLUME OF THE IRON CURTAIN TRAIL

### The Iron Curtain Trail

This year we remember the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Iron Curtain in Europe. Already 2015 the European Parliament called in the Commission and the member states to “implement the “Iron Curtain Trail” initiative ... in order to promote European identity”.

The route runs along the Western border of the former Warsaw-Pact states through 20 countries, 15 of which are member states of the EU. After the Norwegian-Russian and the Finnish-Russian border it passes the coast lines of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Kaliningrad, Poland and the former GDR. The path then follows the former inner-German border strip until the state-triangle between Saxony, Bavaria and the Czech Republic. Over the Slovakian capital Bratislava it passes the Danube river. After the Austrian-Hungarian border, the trail continues through Slovenia and Croatia and between Romania and Serbia the course of the Danube. After having crossed Bulgaria, North Macedonia and Greece it ends finally at the

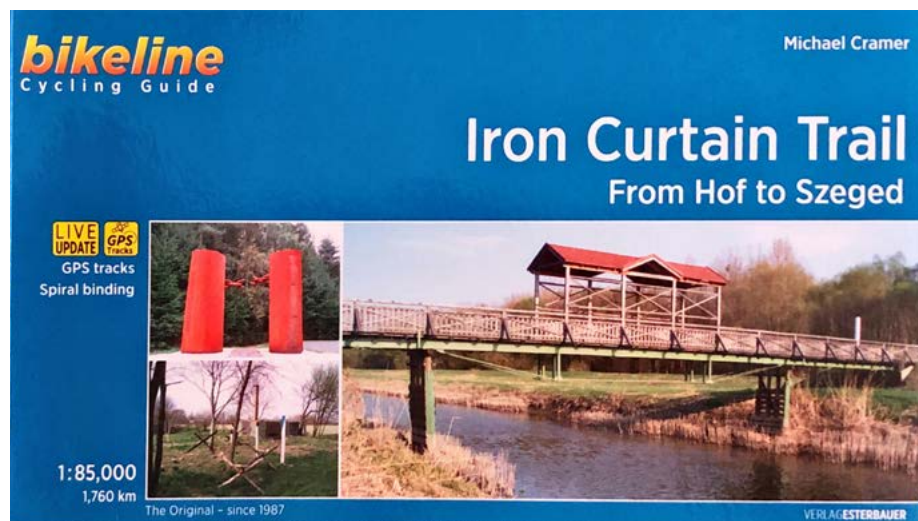


The iron curtain trail ©EuroVelo

Bulgarian Black Sea coast at the Northern tip of Turkey. It belongs as EV 13 to the EuroVelo concept of the EU and Marianne Birthler, Vaclav Havel and Lech Wałęsa are serving as patrons. On the former deathstrip you can explore European history, politics, culture and nature.

**“The route runs along the Western border of the former Warsaw-Pact states through 20 countries, 15 of which are member states of the EU.”**

I wrote the five-volume bicycle guide in English and German. Under the slogan “Unbuilding Walls” in 2018 it has been part on the Biennale in Venice. In 2019 the Iron Curtain Trail [www.ironcurtaintrail.eu](http://www.ironcurtaintrail.eu) has been presented by Hans-Gert Pöttering in the European House of History and was certified by the Council of Europe to a “Cultural Route”.



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# FOCUS

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## Health Matters



## PANDEMICS

The human race is once again gearing up to combat the effects of a global pandemic that is killing thousands and causing multiple side effects, both economic and social. The historical memory of days long past provides detailed accounts of the diseases that ravaged medieval Europe. More recent pandemics such as the incorrectly named Spanish flu in the early 20th century or other more recent, but no less deadly, outbreaks of illnesses such as cholera or Ebola remain in living memory. We have amassed a wealth of experience and applied various therapies and vaccines to address these illnesses. There has, however, been a profound change, namely globalisation. This phenomenon, which some have wished to circumscribe to economics alone, has now expanded to encompass everything that humankind is able to develop, manufacture or consume. Culture, just like the economy and migration flows, is no longer subject to any borders.

And the same applies for diseases and pandemics. It is within this fully globalised framework that we are

currently addressing challenges such as AIDS or COVID-19. Characterised by very differing forms of contagion, these two illnesses have become humankind's biggest health challenge in the 21st century. This threat manifests itself at various levels, but I would like to boil it down into three areas.

**“When health becomes a collective right, something enjoyed by society in its entirety, it loses a part of its private nature and enters the collective domain.”**

The first is science. The fight against the AIDS pandemic, which I was able to experience on the front line, showed us that teamwork between researchers, scientists and clinicians is fundamental to progress. Sharing information in real time has become essential. This is also the case with COVID-19. In a few short months, a prodigious amount of knowledge has been created. The economic value of this effort, paid for with both private and public capital, should guarantee that this knowledge is freely used far and wide throughout society. Our experience of the high cost-related barriers to access to AIDS treatment means we should remain vigilant. Nobody can or should be excluded by economic or social factors from scientific progress.

The second area is education, this is restrictive in the best sense of the term. It concerns an individual's personal responsibility for his or her own body and towards other

people. When an individual adopts an attitude that harms the collective health of society, democratic authorities are legitimately entitled to take suitable sanctions against them. Under the most elementary principle of precaution, underpinned by science, proportionate rules and limits need to be set. When health becomes a collective right, something enjoyed by society in its entirety, it loses a part of its private nature and enters the collective domain. The third field concerns Europe and the EU institutions. This pandemic, and any possible subsequent upsurges of it, will not be halted without a decisive social policy at European level. New agreements and priorities are urgently needed. Major policies from a powerful European authority are essential. The right to health, as enshrined by the WHO, is the most fundamental and basic right, and one that must be universal. It is a well-known fact that diseases are aggravated by social inequalities and poverty. It is more necessary than ever that we agree on the beneficial role of well thought-out and intelligently targeted public spending. The obsession with deficits and debt needs to be abandoned, especially in times of pandemic, in the name of global well-being if people are to have confidence in their institutions.

**Caterina Mieras Barceló MD**

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*The Parliament is committed to helping EU countries deal with the coronavirus and address the social impact of the outbreak.*  
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# THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IS NOT OVER...

... and we have to stay alert!

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in an unprecedented public health emergency for Europe and worldwide with over 8 million cases reported globally by mid-June 2020, including almost half a million deaths. This is not only a human tragedy, but has also had a huge socio-economic impact on our societies.

On 31 December 2019, a cluster of pneumonia cases, including several severe cases, of unknown aetiology was reported in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. Ten days later, China CDC reported a novel coronavirus as the causative agent of this outbreak, coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), that had previously not been identified in humans<sup>1,2</sup>. Outbreaks of novel virus infections among people are always of public health concern, as there is little knowledge about the characteristics of the virus, how it spreads between people, potential risk groups, how severe the resulting infections are, or how to treat them.

1.- News X. Experts claim that a new coronavirus is identified in Wuhan 2020 [14 January 2020]. Available from: [http://www.xinhuanet.com/2020-01/09/c\\_1125438971.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/2020-01/09/c_1125438971.htm)

2.- The novel coronavirus was named severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) on 12 February 2020, while the disease associated with it is referred to as COVID-19:

[https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance/naming-the-coronavirus-disease-\(covid-2019\)-and-the-virus-that-causes-it](https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance/naming-the-coronavirus-disease-(covid-2019)-and-the-virus-that-causes-it)

Our Epidemic Intelligence team at the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, ECDC, picked up the very first signals on 31 December 2019 and since then ECDC has been monitoring the situation closely, raising its internal preparedness in the Emergency Operation Centre in January 2020 to the highest level. Currently around 100 experts at ECDC are directly contributing to the work on COVID-19, through close monitoring of developments both in the EU and globally, and updating maps and tables on our website daily. We are regularly updating our risk assessments, guidance and technical documents, and giving guidance via video- or teleconferences, webinars, trainings and exchange of technical documents to the Member States, thus effectively supporting the EU/EEA countries and the EU Institutions. Throughout the pandemic, ECDC has been working closely with colleagues in the European Commission and has participated in exchanges of views with other EU institutions such as the Council and the European Parliament, as well as with WHO and other CDCs, in particular from China, the US and Africa. We have also been participating in the Health Security Committee meetings, in EPSCO meetings and in Integrated Political Crisis Response, IPCR, meetings. For citizens in Europe, we are continuously producing information materials and we are active on social media.

Knowns and unknowns about the SARS-CoV-2 virus:

While animals are believed to be the original source, the virus now spreads through human-to-human



EP building converted to Covid-19 Testing centre ©Michel Christen Photographe

transmission. The virus is mainly transmitted via small respiratory droplets through sneezing, coughing, or when people interact with each other for some time in close proximity.

**“COVID-19 has already spread all over the world. If controlled in one place it can re-emerge from somewhere else, so we will be dealing with this virus in one way or another for the foreseeable future.”**

Current evidence suggests that the infectious period can begin one to three days before symptoms appear, but people are likely most infectious during the symptomatic period, even if symptoms are mild and very non-specific. The virus has also been detected in people who are infected but who never develop symptoms, but there is still inconclusive evidence if these individuals are a major driver of the epidemic.

While the majority of cases of

COVID-19 have a mild course of illness, the analysis of data from the European Surveillance System, TESSy, shows that the risk of hospitalisation increases rapidly with age and that the risk of death increases from the age of 50 years. The majority of hospitalisations and deaths are among the oldest age groups<sup>3</sup>.

**“It is also crucial that the population is constantly reminded of the importance of every single person’s behaviour: keep distance, adhere to thorough hand hygiene, use face masks if distance cannot be kept and stay at home when symptomatic.”**

Elderly people above 70 years of age and those with underlying health conditions (e.g. hypertension, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, chronic respiratory disease and cancer) are considered to be more at risk of developing severe symptoms. What can we expect for the autumn and in the future?

COVID-19 has already spread all over the world. If controlled in one place it can re-emerge from somewhere

3.- European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). Methodology for estimating point prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 infection by pooled RT-PCR testing Stockholm: ECDC; 2020 [9 June 2020]. Available from: <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/Methodology-estimating-point-prevalence%20-SARS-CoV-2-infection-pooled-RT-PCR-testing.pdf>.



Sanitary measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 virus ©European Union 2020 - Source : EP

else, so we will be dealing with this virus in one way or another for the foreseeable future. It is still too early to draw conclusions on possible seasonality of the disease.

The potential availability of vaccines or effective therapies can modify the picture substantially.

Given the many uncertainties and unknowns on the evolution of COVID-19 pandemic, but also building on the lessons learned so far, we need to be prepared for a potential second wave later this year. Such preparedness should include wide testing and contact tracing capacities, ensuring timely surveillance systems to detect any upsurge of cases immediately and hospital preparedness, including stockpiling of essential equipment and medicines. After-action reviews could guide such planning<sup>4</sup> and ECDC is ready to support Member States with this.<sup>5</sup>

4.- ECDC Technical report - Conducting in-action and after-action reviews of the public health response to COVID-19: <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/conducting-action-and-after-action-reviews-public-health-response-covid-19>

5.- ECDC Rapid Risk Assessment - Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the EU/EEA and the UK – tenth update: <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/rapid-risk-assessment->

It is also crucial that the population is constantly reminded of the importance of every single person’s behaviour: keep distance, adhere to thorough hand hygiene, use face masks if distance cannot be kept and stay at home when symptomatic. The pandemic is not over and this is not the time to drop our guard. We will need to adjust to a ‘new normal’. Together, our actions give us the power to control the spread of the virus.

**Andrea Ammon**  
ECDC Director  
@ECDC\_EU

Visit ECDC’s dedicated website on the COVID-19 pandemic for the agency’s guidance documents and publications, as well as the latest data on the epidemiological situation in Europe and globally: [www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/covid-19-pandemic](https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/covid-19-pandemic)

[coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-pandemic-tenth-update](https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-pandemic-tenth-update)

## EUROPEAN CITIZEN'S HEALTH

**“Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.” (WHO, 1948)**

More than 70 years later, this is still the most acceptable definition of health.

In the European Union, the provision of healthcare is the responsibility of each Member State. The EU does, however, have certain responsibilities when it comes to matters relating to safeguarding public health and dealing with cross-border threats. This responsibility became much more evident in the context of the worst pandemic that the world has experienced in the last 120 years. Faced with an acellular being of 200 nanometres, a destroyer of healthcare systems, we were as ready and as prepared to fight it as we could be. We were ready to protect our most vulnerable regions and cities.

It is unfortunate that it took one of the most devastating pandemics for European policy makers to truly understand the value of health and what danger it can pose to our societies. This led to a proposal being put forward for the EU's new health

programme, EU4Health, with a budget that had been increased from EUR 500 million to EUR 9.4 billion. It goes without saying that this is an important step, which has taken on the basis of the lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic. However, this programme should not solely rely on the provision of healthcare and the resilience of healthcare systems. It should address root causes so as to ensure physical, mental and social wellbeing. This programme should address the socio-economic and environmental determinants of health and aim to reduce inequalities in the provision of healthcare among citizens, cities, regions and the Member States. This is an incredible opportunity to tackle issues relating to health in all EU policies and to make sure that they are centred around health. What is more, this is the perfect opportunity to start up a European health union – something that we should have been prioritising for a long time. We owe it to our citizens.

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### EU4Health Programme

EU4Health will make a significant contribution to the post-COVID-19 recovery by making the EU population healthier, strengthening the resilience of health systems and promoting innovation in the health sector. This new programme will also fill the gaps revealed by the COVID-19 crisis and ensure that EU's health systems are resilient enough to face new and future health threats.

The EU4Health programme has three general objectives:

1. protecting people in the EU from serious cross-border health threats and improving crisis management capacity;
2. making medicines, medical devices and other crisis relevant products, available and affordable and supporting innovation;
3. strengthen health systems and the health care workforce, including by investing in public health, for instance through health promotion and disease prevention programmes and improving access to healthcare.

More information in: [https://ec.europa.eu/health/funding/eu4health\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/health/funding/eu4health_en)





## WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic caught us unprepared and opened our eyes to our vulnerability as individuals, as well as to the fragility of all systems in society. We realised that the quality of life we enjoy in the European Union is not a given and above all is not constant.

**“To save lives, timely recognition of the health crisis and action by the EU institutions and governments in the Member States is crucial. Delays in action and political populism dangerously undermine public health in a pandemic.”**

For the first time in history, the EU institutions and the Member State Governments decided to completely shut down public life and implemented a lockdown. Closed borders, airports, cultural and sporting events, schools, universities — all public life ground to a halt. We were quarantined in our own homes. What can we learn from the

pandemic? We need to improve the preparedness of health systems. We need staff capacity, stocks of protective equipment, primarily for healthcare professionals, capacity in isolated wards in hospitals and associated medical equipment such as respirators.

In the European institutions we need to improve the way we communicate with EU citizens, even when there is no pandemic. Citizens must be made aware of how they are protected in the event of a health crisis, and be aware of the importance of our community and of solidarity among Member States.

To save lives, timely recognition of the health crisis and action by the EU institutions and governments in the Member States is crucial. Delays in action and political populism dangerously undermine public health in a pandemic.

We need to provide psychological preparation for the pandemic for all those who are in the first line of defence: primarily health workers and the staff of all public services for the basic supply of food, energy and telecommunications.

The time of the pandemic has made us take a leap into digital society: telework, Zoom and WebEx remote

meetings, telemedicine, distance learning, distance communication with friends. Elderly people need continuous education in the use of digital technologies, because these skills are not self-evident for them as they are for the younger generations of digital natives.

The COVID-19 pandemic also caused an initial shock to our food supply, which further heightened people's anxiety during quarantine. We need to increase self-sufficiency in food in the EU, which I have written about in my book entitled 'Start Up Europe'. Reduced consumption as a result of the health crisis is leading to an increase in unemployment, and at the same time reducing pollution in the environment. This leads to key questions about how to spend less, or how to tackle unemployment and have good quality of life while changing our habits.

We need to address the vulnerability of small and medium-sized enterprises to possible disruptions resulting from the pandemic through an appropriate tax policy and by encouraging reinvention.

At the end of the pandemic and the transition to a 'new normal', it is essential we communicate with citizens on how to adapt our living habits to this time marked by the health threat of a new wave of COVID-19. On a personal level, however, we need more reflection about what is important and what is less important.

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Remote participation during the Extraordinary Plenary session of 16 and 17 April 2020.  
©European Union 2020 - Source : EP

# HOW THE COVID CRISIS CAN ENERGISE RADICAL INNOVATION

Emergency initiatives to address the COVID 19 crisis are demonstrating the value of public procurement in accelerating and deploying innovation. Legislation is often cited as a barrier to innovation. However, legal constraints do not appear to have inhibited COVID 19 responses. Indeed, EU rule makers have explicitly encouraged the use of existing legal tools and broadcast their flexibility.

**“The EU has invested significant funds to encourage innovative procurement programmes and integrate them into Horizon Europe.”**

Energising the potential of innovation procurement will be essential to address the challenging goals that EU public authorities will face as the global economy recovers. Solutions must be developed and deployed more quickly. More innovative suppliers should be encouraged, with new partnerships developed between companies, universities and research institutes. COVID 19 responses are catalysts for radical change across all organisations

delivering public services. The barriers to innovative procurements are primarily behavioural and organisational. Innovation requires strong leadership to overcome the fear of change and to openly recognise the deficiencies of current systems. Innovative organisations develop thoroughly analysed, outcomes-based requirements embracing social, environmental and economic criteria. Common factors are evident from countries, regions and cities embracing innovative procurement – high level political advocacy; deployment of a wide range of policy tools; integration of procurement into overall innovation policy; consistent public funding. Innovative procurement also raises innovative capabilities around the customers’ community and across national economies. Innovative public sector customers expand their role to become market makers. They set technology challenges, broker partnerships, fund demonstrator projects and mentor innovative enterprises to scale up their delivery of products and services. Procurement contests are natural “co-creation projects”, and citizens can be invited to submit ideas for unmet needs. Commissioners collaborate – locally, nationally and internationally – to resolve shared problems.

The EU is a world leading region in the deployment of innovative procurement tools. Parliament has been backing this approach throughout. I was Rapporteur for the Parliament’s first report, adopted in 2009. In its legislative work on the 2014 reform of Public Procurement,

Parliament strongly supported new measures to encourage innovation. The EU has invested significant funds to encourage innovative procurement programmes and integrate them into Horizon Europe.

The Digital DG has been the leading promoter of innovative procurement within the Commission. They have an extensive database showing how innovations, jointly developed with public customers, have delivered significant improvements in public services. They support a knowledge hub to share best practice. Their research also shows that innovative procurement delivers great returns on public investment. It is extremely effective in developing innovative SMEs into sustainable enterprises. However, a Commission benchmarking study on the use of innovative procurement shows weak awareness and adoption across Member States. Finland is the only country awarded a high ranking, driven by strong national direction and procurement integrated into innovation policy. The report also highlights that regions and cities are taking the lead in pioneering innovative approaches.

The Commission’s recovery plans should be doing more to promote effective and efficient public investment through innovative procurement. This is major unexploited opportunity to enhance the EU’s competitiveness, resilience and sustainability.

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## COVID-19 : TREATMENTS AND DIAGNOSTICS

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 global pandemic, laboratories and industry in the EU have responded rapidly in the area of COVID-19 diagnostics.

### **“The EU has been funding research on COVID-19 diagnostics.”**

As of June 2020, about 200, 20 and 220 tests carry the CE-mark for each type of diagnostic, roughly double the numbers in April 2020.

Tests available either help to detect the virus directly, such as tests based on reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) to detect the viral genetic material, and on detection of virus antigens; or help study the exposure of the population to the virus, by detecting antibodies produced by the body in response to the infection.

Tests continue to be developed to improve these diagnostics' performance, and to make them faster and more portable, as the scale of testing in the EU continues to expand. RT-PCR tests are those recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and are at the core of Member States' testing strategies. On 14 April the EC adopted a Communication on COVID-19 in vitro diagnostic tests and their performance to support the Member States.

The EU has been funding research on COVID-19 diagnostics, including EUR 6.4 million for three projects under Horizon 2020 since January 2020 and EUR 28 million for five projects through the Innovative Medicines

Initiative. One Horizon 2020 project has already resulted in a rapid diagnostic test on the EU market. The European Commission is also supporting the study of Covid-19 Convalescent Plasma as a possible therapy. Plasma collected from patients that have recovered from an infectious disease, called convalescent plasma, is rich in the antibodies that fight the virus. Preliminary reports suggest that Covid-19 convalescent plasma (CCP) is a promising treatment and has been shown to be safe for recipients. Several clinical studies on CCP transfusion, including randomised trials, are ongoing in the EU and elsewhere. SANTE is supporting these efforts with guidance<sup>1</sup>, developed in collaboration with ECDC and the national competent authorities. To increase impact, DIGIT developed an online platform<sup>2</sup> where blood establishments across the EU can share their donation and outcome data, adding to the evidence base. The European Blood Alliance<sup>3</sup> coordinates blood establishments and will analyse these invaluable data, supported by a Horizon2020 project called SUPPORT-E. Through these efforts, the Commission, blood authorities, blood services, professionals and EU citizens are working together to explore CCP as a treatment for Covid-19.

In order to find a treatment, there are different routes to follow. The fastest is to test an approved medicine for capacity to treat the COVID-19

1. [https://ec.europa.eu/health/blood\\_tissues\\_organs/covid-19\\_en#fragment1](https://ec.europa.eu/health/blood_tissues_organs/covid-19_en#fragment1)

2. [https://ec.europa.eu/health/blood\\_tissues\\_organs/covid-19\\_en#fragment0](https://ec.europa.eu/health/blood_tissues_organs/covid-19_en#fragment0)

3. <https://europeanbloodalliance.eu/activities/convalescent-plasma-cpp/>

disease. An alternative is to develop a completely new treatment such as a monoclonal antibody that inactivates the SARS-CoV 2 virus. However, this process under normal conditions requires several years to develop. The European Commission has actively engaged in close cooperation with the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the Member States to facilitate an accelerated pathway to make COVID-19 therapies available to European citizens.

The EMA is in constant talks with developers: 115 therapeutics and 33 vaccines have been identified for interaction. The EMA provides rapid scientific advice free of charge on promising COVID-19 medicines<sup>4</sup>. This has helped the European Commission to authorise the first COVID-19 treatment<sup>5</sup>.

However, the development and distribution of an effective and safe vaccine against COVID-19 represents a lasting solution to the pandemic. It represents a cornerstone of the European Commission's coronavirus response through the EU Vaccine Strategy<sup>6</sup>.

**Andrzej Jan Rys**  
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4. <https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/human-regulatory/overview/public-health-threats/coronavirus-disease-covid-19>

5. Finalisation of the marketing authorisation is pending at time of the article draft

6. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response/public-health/coronavirus-vaccines-strategy\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response/public-health/coronavirus-vaccines-strategy_en)



## MENTAL HEALTH AND COVID-19

Over the last few months, governments have taken unprecedented measures to slow and interrupt transmission of COVID-19. These measures have been buying us time and reducing pressure on our health systems, but at a significant social and economic cost. Physical distancing and isolation measures, the closure of schools and workplaces, have been a challenge because they affect what we love to do, where we want to be, and who we want to be with. Moreover, the necessary public health countermeasures put in place to prevent and control infection – including quarantine and lock-downs – have had unintended consequences on the mental health and well-being of the population, which are likely to increase further in the wake of massive job losses and foregone income.

**“The disruptive effects of COVID-19 provide us all with an opportunity. An opportunity to check on each other, to call and video-chat, to be mindful and sensitive to the unique mental health and well-being of those we care for.”**

It is absolutely natural for each of us to feel stress, anxiety, fear and loneliness during this time. At WHO, we consider the consequences of COVID-19 on our mental health and psychological well-being to be very important. The issue facing each and

every one of us is how we manage and react to stressful situations unfolding so rapidly in our lives and communities. Here we can draw on the remarkable powers of strength, resilience and cooperation that we as humans fortunately possess. Each of us is part of a community. It is our human nature to care for one another, as we, in turn, seek the social and emotional support of others. The disruptive effects of COVID-19 provide us all with an opportunity. An opportunity to check on each other, to call and video-chat, to be mindful and sensitive to the unique mental health and well-being of those we care for. Our anxiety and fears should be acknowledged and not be ignored, but better understood and addressed by individuals, communities, and governments.

It is essential that we address the public mental health challenges over the coming weeks and months in Europe and beyond:

- By distributing timely, understandable and reliable information from the youngest to the older members of our society;
- By providing psychosocial support to front-line workers and bereaved families;
- By continuing care and treatment of people with cognitive, mental and psychosocial disabilities; and
- By protecting human rights, especially of those whose rights are often overlooked or violated, including migrants and refugees, prisoners, residents in other closed settings such as mental hospitals or social care institutions and people with disabilities.

WHO and its partners have prepared



@Adobe stock

a set of COVID-specific materials to inform and guide countries and the public in relation to these levels of mental health and psychosocial support, including briefings and accompanying infographics on social stigma as well as needs for the general population, health workers, those in long-term care and others.

### Dr Dan Chisholm

Programme Manager for Mental Health

Division of NCDs and Promotion of Health through the Life-course  
WHO Regional Office for Europe

#### Useful links:

- <https://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/noncommunicable-diseases/mental-health/data-and-resources/mental-health-and-covid-19>
- <https://www.who.int/teams/mental-health-and-substance-use/covid-19>
- <https://www.mhe-sme.org/what-we-do/covid-19-and-mental-health/>

## EU HEALTH POLICY IN THE WAKE OF COVID-19

In accordance with Article 168 of the Lisbon Treaty, EU action in the area of public health merely complements national policies. The Member States have always jealously guarded their responsibilities in organising and running their national health services. It falls to the EU to take measures that bring about national and supranational externalities, such as prevention and health promotion. This division of responsibility has yielded acceptable results in promoting blood donation, fighting HIV, curbing smoking, improving international health regulations, propelling forward life sciences research and, to a lesser extent, combating cancer and supporting third countries. However, although charged with addressing 'major health scourges', the EU played a far from exemplary role in the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **“Europe has for decades been shedding industrial autonomy”**

The pandemic caught the Union off guard: the ECDC, floundering under budget constraints and a derisory bureaucratic model, soon found itself eclipsed as a source of general information and scientific monitoring by a prestigious US university; joint procurement efforts to purchase personal protective equipment (PPE) and ventilators failed miserably on account of regulatory delays, giving way to an 'every man for himself' approach which initially meant abandoning Italy to its fate; brazen national egoism was seen in the hoarding and misappropriation

of equipment.

Through its repeated failure to define its permanent interests, both as a continent and as a Union, Europe has for decades been shedding industrial autonomy, at the risk of becoming fully dependent on third countries for products that have since proven their strategic importance, such as ventilators, PPE, reagents and even medical raw materials. This caused cartels of unscrupulous speculators and intermediaries to spring up. Member States therefore drew on their scientific supremacy and corresponding network, their adaptability and, above all, the universal nature of their social and healthcare systems. The first peak was brought under control by enforcing primitive social distancing rules, properly treating acute cases and containing the rising death toll, despite the high proportion of elderly people in our population.

On the vaccine front, the EU cannot compete with the negotiating and financial clout of the United States. By late July 2020, this American powerhouse had already secured around one billion doses (enough to cover its population three times over) from three different laboratories. By the same date, the EU had secured just 400 million doses (80 % of its population) from just one laboratory, while the United Kingdom alone ordered 190 million doses (2.8 times its population) from three separate manufacturers. The implications of these public policies for cross-border solidarity are clear: while some order just enough to cover their needs, others presumably intend to trade and dominate. We can only hope that the first scientifically backed

manufacturer is European, despite the hype from China and Russia. Moreover, free from mass electoral pressure, the anticipated European vaccine can be expected to be safer, more effective, longer-lasting and more internationally cooperative in its distribution.

### **What lessons can the EU draw from the pandemic?**

It should recognise that universal problems require a global response. That the EU needs to step up its epidemiological monitoring and action, coordinate the defence of borders on health grounds, manage and release full and reliable information and knowledge, based on improved research and innovation. It should accept that the positive and negative effects of externalities among Member States should take precedence over national egoism and short-term gains. That the Union needs to take action to reshore the manufacturing of strategic materials such as PPE, medical raw materials and medical equipment. It needs to recognise that the best collective defence that Europe has against pandemics resides in the universal or near-universal nature of its social and healthcare systems and that, in view of the effect of certain social and economic factors in the onset or spread of disease, the Union should invest in programmes that strengthen internal cohesion among and within EU Member States.

**António Correia de Campos**

S&D, Portugal (2009-2014)

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## WE ALL LIVE ON THE SAME PLANET

Interview with Kurt Schaefer, a retired German priest

### How has the coronavirus pandemic affected you?

The only change to my day-to-day life is that now I take the necessary precautions; for example, I wear a mask where they are recommended or mandatory, and observe social-distancing rules.

### What does lockdown life look like for you?

I'm a keen cyclist and deliberately avoid travelling by car, train, boat or plane as far as possible. I'm going without my much-loved swimming sessions at the local pool.

### Are you surprised by the pandemic?

No! I've always been strongly opposed to things like factory farming, for example, as this has always posed a threat to mankind. Just think of bird flu.

### Will the coronavirus change the way we live?

It most certainly will, and I'm thinking in particular about working from home, home-schooling, social distancing, artificial intelligence, online learning, networking and life choices, and in the areas of data science and environmental awareness. More and more people will come to appreciate – as indeed they must – that looking out for others is in everyone's interests and essential if we are to weather crises.

### Every crisis presents an opportunity. To do what exactly?

To take a hard look at ourselves and our actions. To find ourselves. To reassess our priorities, as regards both people and things. To find ways of staying true to ourselves. That

means not simply parroting what other people say, not simply doing things which other people do, not doing things for show. That means not pretending to be something we are not, but finding the courage to stand by our actions and words. To keep bettering ourselves.

To resist the beguiling voices trying to tempt us down what is obviously the wrong path – in the political, economic and environmental spheres as well!

To be responsible and switch to new greener sources of energy, such as wind and solar energy, but without becoming a technophobe.

I truly believe, as film director Naomi Kawase says, that life is a series of moments. Let's make the most of this precious moment!

### It is time to strike out on new paths. Which ones?

I have cycled to conferences in other parts of Germany and even as far away as Strasbourg! And what an unforgettable and enriching experience it was to ride along as the landscape, weather, people and views changed all around me!

My ideal is a world of peace. Is this a Utopia? It's certainly a dream, as Martin Luther King would say. But, then, as Confucius said, roads were made for journeys, not destinations. This is true in the material world and in the realm of faith. I will never reach the kingdom of God. But I will never stop trying!

### Is your faith your strength?

Every day, I meditate and reflect. Every morning I retreat from the world for a while. I read a good book and listen to my grandchildren.

### Do you have a strong sense of justice?

Yes! We need to reassess what's reasonable and what's excessive. In some ways, I'm a moralist. We know we need to make the world a better place. We will only ever overcome problems of any kind, if we stick together and pool our (physical and spiritual) strength. We must be disciplined, considerate, prudent and cooperative, not forgetting that one person's freedom ends where another's begins. We have the ability to make something good come out of virtually any situation. But whether we are always willing to do so is another matter, and here I'm sceptical.

### What do you think about English words such as 'lockdown' and 'shutdown' that have made their way into the German language with the pandemic?

It was inevitable that this would happen, just as some abbreviations have become common parlance. We just have to make sure that they don't become meaningless buzzwords!

### Do you have a wish?

That we learn the art of restraint. That our lifestyles become simpler, more modest and more honest. That we learn to value and live in harmony with nature, rather than plundering and misusing its resources.

### What are you doing to make that wish a reality?

However sceptical we may be about people's willingness at times, we mustn't forget how important it is to laugh together!

### Brigitte Langenhagen

EPP-ED, Germany (1990-2004)  
brigitte-langenhagen-cux@t-online.de



# FMA ACTIVITIES



European Parliament Former Members Association  
Association des anciens députés au Parlement européen



# FORMER MEMBERS' NETWORK

## U.S.FMC :50 YEARS OF SERVICE

### Addressing Future Challenges

The Association of Former Members of Congress, FMC, was founded June 18, 1970 to create a social network of former Members of the U.S. House and Senate. Over the past 50 years we have grown to more than 700 members who volunteered over 7500 hours of service in 2019 alone. Today, FMC works to strengthen Congress in the conduct of its Constitutional responsibilities by promoting a collaborative approach to policymaking. We engage over 200 current Members of Congress and senior Congressional staff on a range of policy issues, and in international legislative exchanges through our Congressional Study Groups. These Congressional Study Groups provide opportunity for current Members of Congress and senior staff from both political parties to travel together internationally for purposes of education and fostering international cooperation.

In recent years, we have expanded our work to promote civic education, civil discourse, and the importance of public service to deepen the understanding of our democratic system. This work has involved both former and current Members

of Congress, reaching over 40 universities and nearly 10,000 students over past year through our Congress to Campus Program. While it is important to reflect on prior success, many challenges lie ahead. The Covid-19 pandemic is a global public health crisis that is having profound implications for economic, social, and political stability in countries around the world. This set of challenges emerged at a time of diverging consensus on a host of issues and escalating tension in the transatlantic relationship. Over the past 75 years, leaders in the countries of Europe and the United States have been able to work through policy differences in constructive ways to find consensus on emerging and, often contentious, issues to promote stability and prosperity in the world. These leaders created the architecture for peace through difficult, yet thoughtful, compromise and cooperation following the calamity of two world wars. In recent years, erosion in transatlantic relations has reached a dangerous point, and now requires urgent attention. International problems in security, economic relations, technology standards, environmental policy, public

health, and reform of international institutions are unlikely to be solved without robust transatlantic cooperation. FMC certainly recognizes the political complexities afflicting current transatlantic relations, but we cannot allow these difficulties to deter good faith efforts toward achieving consensus. Addressing these challenges is a major and enduring priority for FMC in the years ahead. As former Members of Congress with considerable collective experience we believe a healthy, robust transatlantic partnership with the EU to be a vital American interest.

FMC is fully committed to working with stakeholders on both sides of the Atlantic to forge a renewed transatlantic relationship to meet the challenges of the 21st century. We hope to work closely with EP-FMA to coordinate educational programming focused on relevant issues on both sides of the Atlantic for Members of the European Parliament and Members of Congress, as well as staff. Broader educational efforts should go beyond the halls of government to include Europeans and Americans of different backgrounds to emphasize the importance of strong transatlantic ties. The people of Europe and the United States have a shared history that we cannot forget; we must build a shared destiny for a peaceful and prosperous future.

### Charles Boustany

President of the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress  
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# EP TO CAMPUS PROGRAMME

## A PROPOSAL FOR PEACE IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

The Cyprus problem has become a long-standing issue.

It clearly seems that efforts to resolve it spanning over decades have tired the EU and the world community. Nonetheless, achieving a solution is essential.

For this to be realised, forty-six years after the division of the island by Turkish intervention, a number of factors need to occur.

Firstly, Turkey itself must decide that Greek and Turkish Cypriots can manage their own state as they wish, within the framework of a federation.

In order for this to happen, Turkey must accept a termination of its rights as a guarantor power and simultaneously withdraw its army. As should Greece along with the United Kingdom.

Lastly, both Greek and Turkish Cypriots must decide to take on the risk a solution encompasses.

Such a major undertaking demands of its leaders to take on the weight of this responsibility.

It was with great pleasure that I had

the opportunity to participate in an online discussion regarding the Cyprus issue with Turkish students of the University of Izmir.

The students raised many important questions and issues. A most productive, fruitful discussion ensued under the guidance of Alexander Buengin, their teacher and facilitator.

I am under the impression that a solution to the Cyprus problem will prove to be a most hopeful and optimistic message to the region. If Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, Christians and Muslims (though it must be stated that religion has never been an issue between the two communities) build a common state within the realms of a federation, this in itself will be a shining example, a beacon of hope for the eastern Mediterranean and wider region.

The biggest obstacle is the required sense of security which is a prerequisite for all Cypriots in the case of a solution.

It is with this in mind that I have proposed the idea of establishing a

new United Nations seat in Cyprus.

To use the words of Jean Monnet, "Nothing is possible without men, nothing is lasting without institutions".

Such an institution of the United Nations in Cyprus will support and assist the necessity of achieving a sense of security.

This was the reason that the founders of the European Union established such global institutions with the aim of sustaining and giving longevity to the agreements.

To name but a few: the European Parliament in Brussels and Strasbourg, the European Court of Human Rights, the European Court of Justice, the United Nations in Geneva. If one were to look at the world map in search of such an organisation, from beyond northern Europe to the Balkans, Asia Minor, Eastern Mediterranean, the Middle East and the whole of Southern Africa, they would not encounter anything that even slightly resembles it. It is clear to see just by observing the whole region; the situation in Syria, Libya, Palestine, Israel, and currently, the worrying conflict brewing between Greece and Turkey. As has been made clear such an institution of the United Nations will not only assist and safeguard the success of a possible solution in Cyprus, but the establishment of peace in the wider region.



*Takis Hadjigeorgiou during the webinar*

**Takis Hadjigeorgiou**  
GUE/NGL, Cyprus (2009-2019)  
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## PRESENTATION AT THE IZMIR UNIVERSITY TURKEY

I presented the subject of Turkish – EU relations from my personal experiences as a business person, a lobbyist, an economist and a politician. I also made clear that those were my personal views and I didn't claim to be in the possession of the absolute truth. I grouped the presentation by posing these five questions at the beginning and answering them one by one:

1. What is the state of Europe in the world today?
2. Which economic policies will be successful in the long run?
3. What economic impact may the Corona Crisis have?
4. Which role can Turkey play in the EU?
5. How do I judge the current policies in the EU and Turkey?

Some of the key points I made included:

- Globalization is one of the best things, ever happening to mankind:
  - It not only moves goods, services, capital available around the world,
  - It also gets the best ideas around the world: human rights, press freedom, democracy.
- The economic impact of the corona crisis is the biggest in my life after the Second World War. It is big, it is global.
- In light of the many "Marshall Plans" and Re-Construction Initiatives one must not forget: Corona did not destroy manufacturing plants, did not bomb buildings and - so far – did not kill 60 Million people.
- Also during this crisis we must learn from the lessons I learned in the past: "The less politicians and economists prescribe plans, packages and centralized initiatives, the faster there



*Hans-Olaf Henkel during the webinar*

will be a recovery."

- I made clear that I don't see this happening today. Hence I predicted many years of negative economic and social impact.

- I also stated that while we will have to change the globalized supply chains, we must not allow to challenge globalization itself! If we do, we risk ruining the world altogether.

- A market driven economy of the size and the potential of Turkey would be an ideal member of the European Union! It will as much contribute to the prosperity of the EU as other countries of similar size have.

There must be very compelling reasons for Turkey not joining the EU.

- Both the EU and Turkey embraced policies which make a membership of Turkey in the EU impossible for a long time.

- Both, the EU and Turkey decided to move apart from each other. It is difficult for me to judge who moved faster or who reacted to the actions of the other. The fact remains: Like

continental shelves does the EU move away from Turkey, and Turkey moves away from the EU.

However, every crisis also provides elements for new options. The departure of Britain from the EU and the non-membership of Turkey in the EU opens the gate for another partnership at the EU's borders: one between Britain, Turkey and possibly others for another common market in partnership or in competition to the EU.

However, I strongly believe before that, Turkey must find its way back from its current path of increasing religious influence and suppression and corruption towards Democracy, Human Rights, Freedom of Press, an Independent Judicial System.

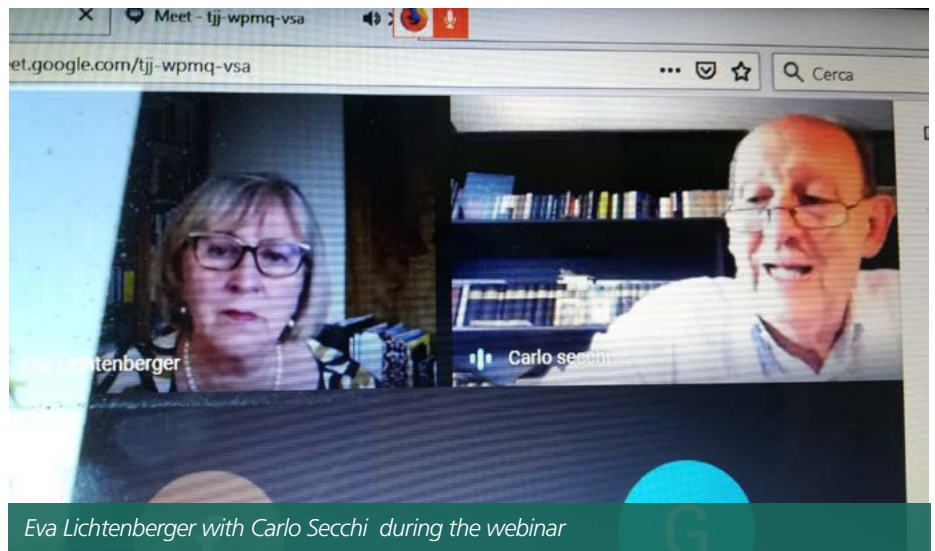
After my 20-minute presentation, Professor Bürgin lead a lively and fruitful question and answer session for about one hour.

**Hans-Olaf Henkel**  
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## TRANS-EUROPEAN TRANSPORT NETWORK

### Evolution of European Regulation and current Legal Issues.

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, this part of the EU to Campus programme was held in an online format. The debate on the TEN-T Network at the Sapienza University in Rome was organised by Dr Giovanni Marchiafava (Sapienza University, Jean Monnet Module) and, together with Professor Carlo Secchi, EU Coordinator for the Atlantic Corridor and Vice-President of the Italian Institute for International Political Studies, we discussed the development of the trans-European corridors from the idea of an internal European market up to the current debate on evaluating the project. This is not simply a technocratic exercise as transport policy also always has economic and environmental policy implications and a high financial impact. Since the economic crisis of 2008, progress with trans-European routes seems to have slowed down a bit due to the budgetary situation in the Member States, which has lowered the co-financing capacity. During the debate we also touched on other important legal dossiers that have an impact on transport, such as driving and rest times for drivers, the European Rail Traffic Management System and the hurdles for its implementation, and the White Paper on Transport in Europe. We spoke about the distortion of competition between road and rail caused by different pricing systems and the new 'Euro-charging' proposal for motorway tolls, which is currently stuck in the Council and should be decided on



soon. Finally, we also discussed the major challenge right now for transport infrastructure – the European Green Deal. Considering the fact that one quarter of climate-relevant emissions come from transport (of which 75 % from road traffic), the Commission's plan to make Europe climate-neutral by 2050 requires enormous efforts to reorganise our transport systems so as to reduce emissions. At present, only a small proportion of heavy goods transport is carried out by rail, which would be a more eco-compatible mode compared to road transport. The concept of trans-European corridors must be revisited and adapted to the requirements of the European Green Deal, and multimodality must be a central topic of the revision. Using electric energy on our roads will require around one million charging stations along Europe's main highways, as is also stated in a Commission paper. There is also still a lot to do as regards research in the field of engines and drives to make these environmentally

compatible, and Europe-wide cooperation will play an important role in these efforts. It was an interesting experience to hold this debate online. The COVID-19 crisis has reinforced the trend towards online teaching, and greater use will probably be made of this method in the future, especially at universities. This was also perhaps the start of new formats for Former Members.

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*Thanks to Candriam for supporting our EP to Campus Programme*

# COOPERATION WITH THE EUI

## THE EUROPEAN GENERATION

Each time I take part in a meeting with students at the headquarters of the EU Archives, in Villa Salviati, Florence, I derive great satisfaction from discovering – on the basis of the questions asked and remarks made by the young people – how deeply rooted the European dimension is in them.

They are not interested in the political dimension, or the institutional dimension, but that very important aspect that concerns the feeling they share with other young people in Europe; that shared feeling is called: European Culture. These days, 'European Culture' means the sharing of values and principles with all the young people in other Member States, also because it has become normal to go from one country to another, without any barriers.

Neither is language an impediment, because music, films and some TV programmes are watched in the original language, have had a unifying effect on the Generation 'Z' of millennials, and English, French or Spanish are therefore now part of their cultural heritage.

My generation is a long way from theirs, and so I try as much as I can to avoid singing the praises of the European Union in a tedious way; I invite them to speak out if they do not agree with some of my statements, declaring myself open to dialogue and, in some cases, to more in-depth explanations than those reported by the mass media. Often I find they are willing to understand the European institutional architecture, which, objectively speaking, is different from that of individual states; but when I

stress that the European institutions are 'under construction' and that the current configuration is not definitive, I open up to them a scenario they can explore, giving free rein to their imaginations, in considering the best kind of structure for a supranational state.

Furthermore, they accept the supranationality of the state because I maintain and explain that there is a 'European nation', made up of the sum of all nations that form Europe, owing to the cultural commonalities that have crossed the continent since the Roman era and the fall of the Empire.

The fall of the Roman Empire, after a period of re-adjustment, was followed by the Empire of Charlemagne and later by the Holy Roman Empire, which dissolved with the fall of the Austro-Hungarian Empire – therefore, from the coronation of Charlemagne in the year 800, to the start of the 20th century.

After the fall of the Roman Empire in 476 A.D., around the year 500, St. Benedict created over 100 convents throughout Europe, taking Christian culture with him; this was because the Benedictine convents, followed by the Cluniac and Cistercian ones – both of Benedictine origin – of which there were over 2000 around the year 1100, also had schools, and therefore spread learning and culture.

One aspect the young people still find difficult to understand is politics – the dialectics and dynamics of which are extremely 'Byzantine' and convoluted for their typically straightforward mindset, in which diversity of thought is never a means

to an end, but real, meaning that the debate is sincere and loyal, and never fake.

In the many years I have been attending meetings with students from Florence and Tuscany, I have always found them to be interested and, at the end of each meeting, I have noticed that the initial natural distance between us was no longer there, as the young people always come to me wanting to carry on talking and to ask for explanations on specific aspects which have not been fully clarified in the debate. Even the teachers accompanying the young people are pleased with the hours we spend together and always confirm to me that the experience lived up to all their expectations. Some have even asked me whether I would be willing to give lectures in their respective schools.

I should like also to mention the young people who work in the Archives: they are receptive, competent, open, available and willing to guide any MEPs who are about to give a lecture about the specific features of the students he or she is about to meet; most of them have completed a doctorate at the European University Institute and, in any case, are competent and admirable in their dealings with people.

Special thanks to the Director of the Archives and his assistants for having organised these seminars, and thanks also to the FMA for involving me and allowing me to have such a wonderfully gratifying experience.

**Vitaliano Gemelli**  
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## THE 2020 EUI STATE OF THE UNION CONFERENCE



This year, the special circumstances created by the COVID-19 lockdown meant that the State of the Union Conference – usually a three-day event in Florence – went virtual, for the first time in its ten-year history, with a pared-down one-day programme comprising three sessions, which still enabled the participation of many high-profile delegates.

On Friday 8 May, the European University Institute (EUI) hosted a special edition of the conference, at which speakers discussed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on health and social policy, the global economic outlook and international cooperation.

Almost 70 years to the day after the Schuman Declaration, the European leaders in attendance stressed the importance of ‘solidarity’ in enabling the European Union to tackle the crisis and the many challenges that will emerge in the months ahead as it seeks to implement a common recovery plan.

After his opening address, EUI President Renaud Dehousse gave the floor to the Mayor of Florence, Dario Nardella, and the Governor of Tuscany, Enrico Rossi.

President of the European Council Charles Michel underlined the importance of directing efforts at ensuring individual and collective well-being, and proposed implementing a ‘De Gasperi Plan’ to rebuild a Europe that is strong, cohesive and rooted in the principles

of former Italian Prime Minister Alcide De Gasperi, one of the founding fathers of the EU. Reiterating the need for a reconstruction plan, Luigi Di Maio, the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, set out the strategic lines it must follow for a European recovery based on solidarity and cooperation among states that stand united before the health and social crisis.

The participants in the debate of the first session on health and social policy, chaired by Professor Ellen Immergut from EUI, were Andrea Ammon, Director of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, Dorit Nitzan, Regional Emergency Director for the World Health Organization, and Professor Xuejie Yu from Wuhan University. In the second session on economic policy, the President of the European Central Bank (ECB), Christine Lagarde, called for common action and practical steps, and – undeterred by the judgment from the German Constitutional Court – declared that the ECB remained committed to its mandate, and to pursuing peace and stability in the spirit of the Schuman Declaration. In an interview with Financial Times journalist Roula Khalaf, the European Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Paolo Gentiloni, highlighted the importance of implementing a common fiscal policy – not only a common monetary policy – and of setting up a recovery fund and virtuous system of vigorous

public investment to attract private investors. The debate that followed, moderated by Professor George Papaconstantinou, a former Greek Finance Minister, examined the economic impact of COVID-19 from various perspectives, with panellists Chief Economist at the OECD Laurence Boone, former Eurogroup President Jeroen Dijsselbloem and Professor Ricardo Reis from London School of Economics.

In the final session, which addressed global cooperation, the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, Kristalina Georgieva, pointed out that this crisis could be an opportunity to build a better world, to study new environmentally friendly economic models with fiscal stimuli that bring societal benefits and consider climate change and recent poverty rises. The subsequent debate was moderated by the Director of the International Affairs Institute with contributions from Mari E. Pangestu, Managing Director at the World Bank, Jeffrey Sachs from Columbia University and Alexander Stubb, the former Finnish Prime Minister and new Director of the EUI School of Transnational Governance. Closing remarks were made by Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, who championed the principle of solidarity.

**Monica Baldi**  
EPP-ED, Italy (1994-1999)  
[baldi.monica@email.it](mailto:baldi.monica@email.it)

# LATEST NEWS

## ACTIVITIES



### 5-6 October 2020

#### STUDY VISIT TO NORTH MACEDONIA

Members will meet with Parliament, government and civil society's representatives and universities students online.

### 25-27 October 2020

#### VISIT TO GERMANY

An FMA delegation will visit Germany, Member State holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

### 9 December 2020

#### POLITICAL CONFERENCE-DEBATE

From 5.00 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. in the Auditorium of the House of European History, Brussels.

### 9 December 2020

#### FMA ANNUAL COCKTAIL AND DINNER

From 6.30 p.m. in the House of European History, Brussels.

### 10 December 2020

#### FMA ANNUAL SEMINAR

From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. European Parliament, Brussels. It will be followed by the Get-Together lunch, at 1p.m. in the Members' Restaurant, European Parliament, Brussels.

*Because of the uncertainty about any arrangements due to the Covid-19 pandemic, you are kindly advised not to buy flight tickets or make any other financial commitments until you receive the confirmation of the Secretariat that the FMA events will go ahead.*

## NEW MEMBERS



**Klaus BUCHNER**  
(Germany, 2014-2020, Greens/EFA)



**Lucy NETHSINGHA**  
(United Kingdom, 2019-2020, RENEW EUROPE)



**Caroline VOADEN**  
(United Kingdom, 2019-2020, RENEW EUROPE)

# FMA ELECTIONS

## RESULTS OF THE VOTES

Please find below the detailed results of the votes which took place at the Annual General Assembly of the Association on 10 September 2020:

### 1) The election for five members of the FMA Management Committee

We would like to inform you that Former President of the European Parliament Hans-Gert PÖTTERING was re-elected as President of the European Parliament Former Members' Association (FMA).

The following members were elected in the order below and will now serve on the Management Committee for a period of two years until the Annual General Assembly meeting of 2022:

1. Monica BALDI
2. Hans-Gert PÖTTERING
3. Jean-Pierre AUDY
4. Edward McMILLAN-SCOTT
5. Brigitte LANGENHAGEN

### 2) The vote on the Annual Report and Accounts:

|   | FOR | AGAINST | ABSTAIN |
|---|-----|---------|---------|
| To approve the Annual Report and Accounts | 187 | 1       | 4       |

Thank you to all those who took part in these elections.



*The internal auditors, Doris Pack and Gordon Adam with President Hans-Gert Pöttering during the AGA meeting*



*The scrutineers, Nathalie Griesbeck and Mario Mauro with the FMA Secretary General Elisabetta Fonck opening the ballot box after the AGA*



## NEW MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



Hans-Gert  
PÖTTERING



Jan-Willem BERTENS



Jean-Pierre AUDY



Teresa  
RIERA MADURELL



Monica BALDI



Lord Richard BALFE



Brigitte  
LANGENHAGEN



Miguel Angel  
MARTÍNEZ MARTÍNEZ



Zofija  
MAZEJ KUKOVIČ



Edward  
McMILLAN-SCOTT

## NEW FMA BUREAU

President: Hans-Gert PÖTTERING

Vice-President: Jan-Willem BERTENS

Treasurer: Jean-Pierre AUDY

Secretary: Teresa RIERA MADURELL

## LIST OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

- FMA Bulletin Editorial Board: **Mr Audy, Ms Baldi, Ms Langenhagen, Mr McMillan-Scott and Ms Riera Madurell.**
- EP to Campus: **Lord Balfe and Ms Mazej Kukovič.**
- Relations with Budgets Committee, DG Finance: **Mr Audy.**
- Dinner Debate: **Ms Baldi and Mr Bertens.**
- Delegates to the Bureau of the European Association of Former Members: **Ms Langenhagen (FP-AP Vice-President) and Mr Martínez Martínez.** If necessary, **Ms Langenhagen** will be substituted by **Lord Balfe** and **Martínez Martínez** will be substituted by **Mr Bertens.**
- Delegates to the Annual General Assembly, seminars and colloquies of the FP-AP: **Ms Langenhagen, Mr Martínez Martínez and Mr Bertens.** Besides the FMA delegates or their substitutes and in agreement with

the FP-AP, other FMA Committee Members may participate in the annual seminars or colloquies at their own expense

- Relations with Former Members Associations outside Europe: **Lord Balfe and Mr Martínez Martínez.**
- Relations with Think Tanks, Policy Institutes, Foundations: **Ms Baldi, Ms Langenhagen, and Ms Riera Madurell.**
- Archives: **Mr Baldi**
- FMA Communication: **Ms Baldi and Ms Mazej Kukovič.**
- Working Group on Democracy Support and Election Observation: **Mr Bertens, Ms Langenhagen (Chair), Mr Martínez Martínez, Mr McMillan-Scott and Ms De Keyser (FMA member with advisory role).**
- Relations with the House of European History: **Mr Martínez Martínez**
- Relations with the European University Institute (EUI): **Ms Baldi**

## IN MEMORIAM

### JOHN HUME, PEACE CAMPAIGNER

John Hume campaigned tirelessly and courageously for peace in his native Northern Ireland and worldwide. The fact that he was awarded three prestigious peace prizes – the Nobel Peace Prize, the International Gandhi Peace Prize and the Martin Luther King Award – is a testament to his achievements. He succeeded in transforming Bloody Sunday – which occurred in his hometown of Derry, Northern Ireland in 1972 – into the Good Friday Agreement, putting an end to one of the longest, bloodiest terrorist conflicts in Europe. We can only hope that this momentous achievement can survive the madness of Brexit.

In the European Parliament, I shared John's commitment to Europe and

to peace. I was honoured to be his friend, and it was an honour to know that such a great man voted for me when I stood for President of the European Parliament. John reminded me of the great Spanish poet Antonio Machado – both had been teachers. John was a man of few words. He was all about action. And perseverance. His opinions and advice were closely heeded not only in the Socialist Group and the European Socialist Party, but also throughout Parliament. In the US Congress, he was known as the 101st Senator. We worked on the European political and budgetary aspects of the Good Friday Agreement, and he tried to help us out as well.

In 2000, he came to me with a triple-layered suggestion involving solidarity, citizenship and, above all, sportsmanship. The Olympics began in Greece on the basis of a sacred truce, during which fighting was prohibited. That was not in vain. John asked me if I could bring Real



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Madrid and Barcelona to Derry to play against his local team, Derry City. We achieved that in 2001. My assistant Vicente de Mingo took care of Real, who sent a team led by Emilio Butragueño. Joan Colom MEP liaised with Barcelona. The gesture went down very well, particularly with the young people of a city that has been through so much. John Hume brought lifelong enemies together in his campaign for peace. May he rest in well-deserved peace.

**Enrique Barón Crespo**

PES, Spain (1986-2009)  
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John Hume acclaimed for the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1998 © Communautés Européennes

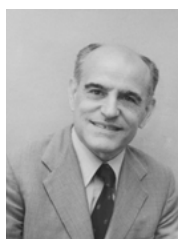
## IN MEMORIAM



† 20 July 2020  
Lone DYBKJÆR  
ELDR (1994-2004)

She served as a Danish Member of the European Parliament from 1994 to 2004. During her time in Parliament, she was member of the Group of the European Liberal, Democrat and Reform Party.

On national level, she represented the Det Radikale Venstre.



† 25 July 2020  
Angelo CAROSSINO  
COM (1979-1989)

He served as an Italian Member of the European Parliament from 1979 to 1989. During his time in Parliament, he was member of the Communist and Allies Group.

On national level, he represented the Partito comunista italiano.



† 27 July 2020  
Magda KÓSÁNÉ KOVÁCS  
S&D (2004-2009)

She served as a Hungarian Member of the European Parliament from 2004 to 2009. During her time in Parliament, she was Vice-chair and Treasurer of the Group of the Party of European Socialists.

On national level, she represented the Magyar Szocialista Pár.



† 1 August 2020  
Kartika Tamara LIOTARD  
GUE/NGL (2004-2014)

She served as a Dutch Member of the European Parliament from 2004 to 2014. During her time in Parliament, she was Vice-chair of the Confederal Group of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left.

On national level, she represented the Socialistische Partij and Onafhankelijk lid.



## IN MEMORIAM



† 2 August 2020  
Marie-Hélène DESCAMPS  
EPP-ED (2002-2009)

She served as a French Member of the European Parliament from 2002 to 2009. During her time in Parliament, she was member of the Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats

On national level, she represented Union pour un Mouvement Populaire.



† 9 August 2020  
Brendan HALLIGAN  
SOC (1983-1984)

He served as an Irish Member of the European Parliament from 1983 to 1984. During his time in Parliament, he was member of the Socialist Group.

On national level, he represented the Labour Party.



† 28 August 2020  
Antoinette SPAAK  
NA (1979-1984) & ELDR (1994-1999)

She served as a Belgian Member of the European Parliament from 1979 to 1984 and from 1994 to 1999.

During her time in Parliament, she was member of the Non-attached and Member of the Group of the European Liberal, Democrat and Reform Party.

On national level, he represented the Front démocratique des francophones.



† 10 September 2020  
Leendert van der WAAL  
NA & EN (1984-1997)

He served as a Dutch Member of the European Parliament from 1984 to 1997. During his time in Parliament, he was member of the Non-attached and Europe of Nations.

On national level, he represented the Staatkundig Gereformeerde Partij - Gereformeerd Politiek Verbond - Reformatorisch Politieke Federatie.