

# EPFMA BULLETIN



European Parliament Former Members Association

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

## Towards European Democracy: 40 years of European Parliament direct elections

10 juin 1979:  
Election  
du Parlement Européen.



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8th of January 2019.

Cover: Belgian European Parliament 1979 election campaign poster.  
"10 June 1979: European Parliament Elections"  
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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 Due to the long time lag between the call for contribution and the publication, some articles may be outdated. The FMA Bulletin is published by the European Parliament Former Members Association (FMA) with the assistance of the European Parliament. However, the views expressed in articles represent the views of contributing FMA members or guest writers and do not necessarily represent the views of either the European Parliament nor the FMA. Similarly, any advertisement does not imply an official endorsement by the FMA or Parliament.

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# Message from the PRESIDENT

Dear member,

This is the first Bulletin in the New Year 2019. A special edition dedicated to the key steps towards European democracy: 40 years of European direct elections - to all small and big battles I fought together with other colleagues. This time not with weapons but with words and not against each other but for a united Europe. Back then, I was the youngest member of my group and excited to be a part of the parliament. I associated the elections with an historic event: a struggle for freedom, peace and social justice for a united Europe. In this edition, we will look back on the last 40 years, everything that the European Parliament achieved since the first direct elections, but we will also look forward to the challenges of the future.

As of our Association, I hope that we will be able to welcome many new faces among us former members after the European elections. The secretariat already put a great deal of work into the recruitment campaign that started in October 2018 and they continue to make sure that our efforts will be successful. However, I would like to ask you as FMA members to support us in this matter. In case you are aware that your former colleagues are not going to put their candidacy forward anymore, I would be very thankful if you could provide them with some information about our activities. The

secretariat will be happy to hand you leaflets and other material if needed.

Furthermore, we are looking forward to our visits and collaborations this year. In June, the FMA will visit one of the newest Member States and the current holder of the EU presidency, Romania. The priorities set by Romania for its presidency are: common European values, Europe as a strong global actor, a safer Europe and a Europe of convergence. Later this year, the FMA will offer a study trip to Georgia. This country is an important partner for the EU and both parties unequivocally strive for political cooperation and economic integration. We expect fruitful and engaging discussions from these visits.

Finally, in 2019 we are continuing our cooperation with universities in order to bring your experience and knowledge to young people in Europe and around the globe. The EP to Campus programme will start the year with prestigious collaborations in Mangalore (India), Florence (Italy) and Rabat (Morocco). I sincerely thank all candidates who are showing their full support by proposing their participation, as well as the lecturers who are the backbone of EP to Campus.

I would like to finish by reminding you of our events in April. On 3 and 4 April the FMA will support the history roundtable meeting on '40 years of European Parliament

direct elections', hosted by the European Parliamentary Research Service. This will be followed by the Memorial Service and our Dinner Debate with, as keynote speaker, European University Institute President Renaud Dehousse. And on 4 April I hope to see many familiar faces at our Annual General Assembly, and to witness a fruitful and detailed exchange on the Association's activities, on the eve of the European elections.

For all of you who did not have the opportunity to participate in our Annual Seminar in November 2018 I would like to stress an important initiative by the European Parliament. "This time I'm voting" ([www.thisimeimvoting.eu](http://www.thisimeimvoting.eu)) is a wonderful website emphasising the importance to participate in this year's elections. Every citizen can initiate an own campaign that is targeted towards their needs and interests. Please feel free to visit the website, use their material and spread the word. It will be more important than ever to have as many people as possible participating in the 2019 elections.

Hans-Gert Pöttering  
FMA President



# EP AT WORK

## KEY FACTS

### European Parliament approves more transparency and efficiency in its internal rules (January Session-T8\_TA(2019)0046)

The key changes relate to Members' standards of conduct, parliamentary questions to the Council of Ministers and the European Commission.

### EU cross-border payments outside Eurozone: MEPs scrap excessive fees (February Session - P8\_TA-PROV(2019)0124)

Parliament adopted new rules to end discrimination against payment service users in the EU outside the Eurozone.

### Civil protection: Parliament strengthens EU disaster response capability (February Session-P8\_TA(2019)0070)

The aim of the new legislation is to help member states to respond faster and more effectively to natural and man-made disasters, by sharing civil protection assets more efficiently.

### Combatting terrorism: Parliament sets out proposals for a new EU strategy (December Session-P8\_TA(2018)0512)

In a non-legislative resolution, Parliament suggests reinforcing the role of the EU agencies such as Europol and the European Agency for the operational management of large-scale IT Systems.

### European Parliament marks EU accession prospects for Serbia and Kosovo (November Session-P8\_TA(2018)0478)

The European Parliament adopted two resolutions evaluating the latest efforts by Serbia and Kosovo to get closer to the EU and a possible membership.

### Western Balkans: European Parliament takes stock of 2018 progress (November session P8\_TA(2018)0481)

MEPs assessed the progress made in Albania, Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on their path towards possible EU accession.

Other main dossiers discussed in the plenary sessions were:

#### December 2018

- MEPs updated rules to protect workers from exposure to carcinogenic and mutagenic substances, including diesel fumes. (11.12.18)
- EU budget 2019 approved: focus on the young, innovation and migration (12.12.18)
- Parliament endorses landmark EU-Japan free trade agreement. (12.12.18)

#### January 2019

- Pesticides: MEPs propose blueprint to improve EU approval procedure. (16.01.19)
- "Invest EU": MEPs support new programme to boost financing for jobs and growth. (16.01.19)
- Parliament votes to reform the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund supporting workers dismissed due to globalisation, technological

or environmental changes. (16.01.19)

- Parliament backed a proposal to lower tariffs in the territory of Western Sahara to the same level as Moroccan tariffs, to benefit local populations. (16.01.19)
- MEPs spell out priorities for the European Central Bank and on banking union. (16.01.19)
- MEPs endorsed the position of the Civil Liberties Committee to triple the funds allocated in the long-term EU budget for the Rights and Values Programme, up to 1.834 billion euros. (17.1.19)

#### February 2019

- President Tajani paid tribute to those who lost their lives in December's Strasbourg attacks. (11.02.19)
- Parliament endorsed plans to counter water scarcity by facilitating

the reuse of treated wastewater for agricultural irrigation. (12.02.19)

- Parliament endorsed a new EU-Morocco fisheries partnership to include Western Sahara. (12.02.19)
- Parliament adopted simplified 2021-2027 common rules for investing in all EU regions and opposed suspension of EU regional funding dependent on national economic targets. (13.02.19)
- Parliament gives green light to EU-Singapore trade and investment protection deals. (14.01.19)
- Parliament has agreed to set up an EU-level tool to screen foreign direct investment on grounds of security and public order to protect strategic sectors. (14.02.19)

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

# Letters to the PRESIDENT

## KATOWICE AND COP24 AN EXAMPLE OF 'CHANGING TOGETHER'

Dear Mister President,

At first sight, it may seem paradoxical that this historic centre of heavy industry and mining was chosen to host COP 24, which was held from 2 to 14 December.

Having adopted the slogan, 'from black to green', Katowice is resolutely committed to the energy transition. Katowice was once a flourishing industrial centre with more than 50 mines. Today there are only three. Mr Waldemar Bojarun, the Deputy Mayor of Katowice and Marcin Stanczyk explained the measures accompanying the economic restructuring of Katowice: 'Katowice is the first eco-friendly city in Poland, in particular through the use of electric buses and the allocation of subsidies so that poorer families can replace their heating systems. The planting of green spaces has made the capital of Silesia one of Poland's greenest cities, with woodland accounting for more than 40 % of the city's area. Emphasis is also placed on encouraging the use of environ-

mentally-friendly building materials, zero waste and recycling.'

The city has undergone a real metamorphosis. The old Katowice mine has been rehabilitated and is a shining example of the use of brownfield sites for cultural and tourism purposes. Dominated by the 4-metre high headframe, symbol of the mining industry, a cultural centre now occupies the three hectares of the old colliery and is home to Polish Radio Symphony Orchestra, with a concert hall with a capacity of 1800 and world-class acoustics housed in an austere red-brick building inspired by the Nikiszowiec mining district. Since 2011, the basement has also housed the Silesian Museum and a Polish art gallery. The latter includes important works by artists such as Jan Matejko, Tadeusz Kantor or Stanislas Wyspianski. A section is reserved for naïve art by miners. The works depict their daily lives - the mine, but also family life centred around the values of God, work and family. They show miners on festive days, proudly wearing their ceremonial costume decorated with mining industry. The conclusions of the Katowice agreement on reducing gas emissions to limit global warming

to 2°C or even 1.5°C and the commitment of the 196 participants of COP 24, may appear to be an unsatisfactory result, especially as the implementation of all the provisions of the Paris Agreement is not binding.

**"Having adopted the slogan, 'from black to green', Katowice is resolutely committed to the energy transition."**

However, in Katowice, where smog kills about 33 000 people every year, where the mines are closing, the municipality has plans for the future. It dreams of clean energy and is investing in the energy transition, while mining jobs are disappearing, 20 000 people work in businesses. The Familoks district in Nikiszowiec - a 15 ha development founded in 1908 by the owners of the mine for miners and their families, allowing them to lead a perfectly self-sufficient life between the mine, the church and the school — is being gentrified and is becoming a tourist destination where visitors can sample some the rich culinary specialties of Silesia at the Smaq restaurant. Eco-mobility, pure air programme, creation of modern jobs, digitisation and access to knowledge, protection of biodiversity, combating desertification, forest development, environmental education, etc. Poland is well on track to meet the 2020 climate targets.

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26th plenary meeting of the CMA (upon completion of COP plenary) © cop24.gov.pl



# SPECIAL EDITION

## Towards European Democracy: 40 years of European Parliament direct elections



**10 giugno.  
Elezioni per il Parlamento Europeo.  
Il tuo voto per la tua Europa.**

Italian poster for the first direct elections to the European Parliament "10 June. European Parliament elections. Your vote counts for your Europe" ©European Communities 1979

## "HOW WAS THE PARLIAMENT IN 1979?"

The opening in Strasbourg in July was exciting 410 new MEPs from nine countries.

Having no hemicycle, we used the chamber of the Council of Europe. We sat, not in national blocks but by political philosophy – so next to "foreigners."

First to speak was the "doyenne d'age" Louise Weiss, aged 86, had been a French suffragette. To listen, we put on head-phones because any of six languages could be used. Looking round, I saw famous names: Berlinguer the Italian Communist who defied Moscow, Willy Brandt the ex-German Chancellor, and several French ex-Prime Ministers. Our first action was to elect a President. Again, a French woman was chosen. Simone Veil, with an Auschwitz number tattooed on her left arm.

In the first evening, the city of Strasbourg threw a welcome party in the Palais du Congres. Knowing nobody I sat at a table next to a young German who seemed to know nobody either. His name was Hans-Gert Pöttering. We became good friends and colleagues for the next forty years.

The question was: "What is the job of an MEP?". In Brussels I listened to the parliament's Agriculture committee. The Commissioner, Finn-Olav Gundelach, explained the Common Agricultural Policy in great detail but it remained mysterious. Then he said "Shall I tell you what your jobs as new MEPs are?"

"Since 1945" Gundelach said "there have been a series of initiatives to bring the European nations together. There has been enthusiasm and idealism. Now, in 1979, following

De Gaulle's attempted veto and empty-chair policy, the momentum of the band-wagon to build a united Europe seems to have gone. The band-wagon is stuck deep in the mud. Your job, as new MEPs, is to push the wagon and get it moving again." Our job was to push towards European unity!

MEPs were mocked for having no power. "You can only reject the whole EU budget or dismiss the whole Commission. You will never dare to do either. On legislation you can only give an advisory opinion to the Council of Ministers who routinely ignore it."

**"Our job was to push towards European unity!"**

In December, we debated the proposed 1980 Budget. Speakers were divided: should we use our power? Was it too early? The Irish Finance Minister closed the debate with "You are a rabble", a disorderly crowd. That insult was decisive. The budget was rejected by a large majority. Mysteriously, the written record, called the "Rainbow" because it was printed in

the languages as spoken, does not contain the offending word. Who deleted it? During the elections, the Council of Ministers approved a Directive about Isoglucose although no opinion had arrived from MEPs. The European Court of Justice ruled that the correct procedure had not been followed and struck it out.

MEPs discovered we had leverage over legislation. If the Council needed our Opinion, they must negotiate with us.

MEPs had to meet in three cities. Luxembourg built a spectacular hemicycle. We voted to boycott it, and were sued in the Court. We lost but were given a provisional dispensation that we need not meet there, although some parliament staff must remain.

And so we pushed the wagon uphill. After forty years, it has moved a long distance, but there is still far to climb.

**Bill Newton-Dunn**

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Willy Brandt, former German Chancellor, inserts his vote in the ballot box in Strasbourg 1979 ©European Parliament



## ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

On the special occasion of the celebration of the 40 years of the EP directly elected, I would like to pay homage to Simone Veil, our first President. Woman, Jew, survivor of the Holocaust and a devoted European. I had the honour to work with her in the EP and have the privilege of her friendship. She embodied the dignity of Europe. Normally, we tend to celebrate our anniversaries with criticism and self-deprecation. Perhaps because our ambition is so strong. It is a good pedagogy to make a balance of the evolution of the European construction and its Parliament in this period. In 1978 there were 9 Member States and 198 MEPs in the EP, now 28 Member States pending of the Brexit and on the other side with waiting list and 751 MEPs. What is more important, the role of the EP in the institutional framework has increased dramatically. 40 years ago, it was a consultative body and a talk shop of the European

Community. Its first decision after the election of 1979 was to reject the Budget. After the falling of the Berlin Wall and of the cold war, the EP could for the first time participate actively in the negotiation of the Treaty of Maastricht. Shaping the future Union. It fought for a short list of decisive priorities: to add the common citizenship to the single currency, to get a shared legislative power with the Council (co-decision), and to participate in the election of the President of a Commission elected for its term.

**“The role of the EP in the institutional framework has increased dramatically. 40 years ago, it was a consultative body and a talk shop of the European Community.”**

Working with a rhythm of a new Treaty every 4 years and two Conventions, the Treaty of Lisbon saved the content of the failed Constitution and made binding the Charter of Fundamental Rights. Now, there is the pending task of integrating the fiscal Compact in the EU framework.

The European Parliament that has walked in 40 years the way that took centuries in our Member States. And above all, a system with more democratic and with checks and balances. At the same time, the European civil society is strengthening after the crisis of economy and trust. It must be progress for the common Demos.

It is not the end of the road. On the eve of the European elections of 2019 the battle for or against Europe is open. The resurging nationalisms and the fears exploited with populist solutions are a real threat. The answer will be the will to continue with building and reinforcing Europe. Robert Schuman said after the declaration of the 9th of May 1950 “c’est un saut dans l’inconnu”. Now we know the way and we have made most of it. What we need is courage and conviction to pursue it.

**Enrique Barón Crespo**  
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Opening speech and Election of the new EP President during the plenary session in Strasbourg on the 25th of July 1989. © European Parliament

## GET INVOLVED IN THE 2019 EUROPEAN ELECTIONS!

I am one of the rare survivors of the unelected European Parliament. In 1965, I was one of very few women and the youngest Member. I stood for the first European elections in 1979 but was not elected, despite personally receiving thousands of votes more than those who were.

I was lucky enough to be elected in 1989, and remained a Member of Parliament for 25 years, until 2014. Given that I have personally witnessed European integration since 1950 and have seen its problems, its failures and its successes over the course of nearly 70 years, I am perturbed by the current situation of the EU and fear the results of the Parliamentary elections to be held from 23 to 26 May 2019.

We have very little time to prevent the worst possible situation from becoming a reality: the emergence of a political group of nationalists and populists whose sole aim is to bring about the fall of the EU by blocking all of its decisions.

We need to take action to save the EU, the only guarantee of our peace, our prosperity and our values. We must join forces to save everything we have helped to build over the last 70 years.

Unfortunately, too many of today's young people take for granted

the freedoms we fought for and guaranteed under the customs union and the single market. They have no idea how much they would lose if they left the EU, or if the EU would fall apart.

**“We need to take action to save the EU”**

It is our duty to raise awareness about past achievements and the need to strengthen the EU, and to inform others about the disastrous implications of a weak and undermined Europe on a global stage. Our duty is also to maintain fair trade relations with developing countries, tackle issues such as climate change and migration, and prevent the outbreak of armed conflicts.

I recognise the fact that the EU is – often mistakenly – blamed for the poverty levels that should no longer exist in any of its Member States. I am convinced that a better distribution of wealth is one of the ways in which the EU must regain citizens' trust in its national and European model of democracy, based on the social market economy. However, we will not achieve greater social justice through a policy of national isolation, which would only

undermine our ability to safeguard prosperity.

I know that all of this is difficult to explain, to inform objectively, to be heard and to be understood.

At a time when so few media outlets are committed to truthful reporting, it is easy for people to knowingly spread misinformation and lies.

In the face of the difficulties and many obstacles ahead, we must not give in or give up, we must not retire, no matter how old we are.

I am calling on my former colleagues, whatever their political affiliation, to stand up and get involved in the electoral campaign to prevent the election of Eurosceptic – or even anti-European – candidates to the European Parliament in May 2019. Our generation has a role to play in ensuring a better future, even for those EU citizens who are being led astray by the enemies of the EU.

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# thistimeimvoting.eu



This is an interactive website emphasising the importance to participate in this year's elections. Every citizen can initiate an individualized campaign that is targeted towards his or her needs and interests. Involvement is possible on different levels: one can either sign up and receive free information about the elections or get involved by joining the online and offline communities.



## EDUCATION AND TRAINING, YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER ONE ROOF

The student exchange programme ERASMUS can look back on more than 30 years of success. It is very well known and very popular all over the world, not just in the EU. Over the years, other programmes in the area of formal and informal education have been introduced as well. It began as a European exchange programme for students. Today, the programme provides opportunities for students, school pupils, young people, teachers and academics to go on exchanges, and offers considerable further scope for cross-border projects intended to promote mutual understanding both in Europe and around the world. The EU's successful educational programme, ERASMUS+, shows just how important school education (Comenius Programme), vocational training (Leonardo da Vinci Programme), adult education (Grundtvig Programme) and youth work are. Each branch of the programme has its own budget.

Tried-and-tested parts of previous educational programmes have been retained: in addition to student exchanges, these include school partnerships, which also enable individual pupils to go on exchanges, internships as part of vocational training, opportunities within adult education, and the European Voluntary Service, to name but a few. Improvements have been made: students are now able to spend up to 12 months abroad per study cycle (BA, MA and PhD), including for traineeships during the course of their degrees and for up to a year after graduating. New measures were introduced:

for a whole one-year or two-year Master's degree abroad, students could take out an EU-underwritten loan of EUR 12 000 or EUR 18 000 at low interest rates and subject to easy repayment conditions. This meant that, on top of the modest Erasmus grant, an additional source of income was available for young people who wanted to study abroad but could otherwise not have afforded to do so. Unfortunately, uptake of the loan scheme was very poor, so it was discontinued. But I remember that some Member States were opposed to the whole idea, and decided not to open up this window of opportunity, which meant that no one knew about it...

**“ERASMUS+ offers some 4 million people opportunities for exchanges and collaboration.”**

Following the example of e-twinning – an IT platform for teachers to collaborate under the Comenius programme – EPAL was set up as part of the Grundtvig programme. The European Voluntary Service, through which young people can spend up to a year participating in projects in a Council of Europe member country, used to be part of the Erasmus programme, but it has now been revamped as the European Solidarity Corps, which has its own budget. At long last, the importance of education has been taken into account in the current programming period 2014-2020, with funding being increased by 40% to

EUR 14 774 billion. It will not be possible to meet the targets of the Europe 2020 strategy for growth and jobs without increased investment in formal and informal education.

**“At long last, the importance of education has been taken into account in the current programming period.”**

As called for by Parliament, the Commission has proposed doubling the budget for the next programming period 2021-2027, to a total of EUR 30 billion, of which EUR 25 billion would be earmarked for education.

The importance of education, learning languages and intercultural skills is all too clear at a time when many young people in the EU are jobless. Erasmus+ is no substitute for Member State action to improve the situation and resolve problems locally, but it can be easier for young people to find work in another country if they speak another language and have well-developed intercultural skills.

ERASMUS+ offers some 4 million people opportunities for exchanges and collaboration. Students, apprentices, teachers, professors, trainers, young people and youth workers can take advantage of the options available. This is the only way to carry the European idea forward and counter blinkered nationalism.

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## THE EP AND THE DEFENCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Democracy, fundamental rights and the rule of law have seemed until very recently as goals achieved. However, the recent attacks by governments against independent judiciary and freedom of the media in some Member States must be addressed. This is why the European Parliament has called on the Commission and Member States to evoke article 7 of the EU Treaty against Hungary. If something good has come out of these challenges, it is that a debate on the EU's purpose and values is livelier than for a long time.

As nationalistic and also repressive voices get louder in Europe again, former Members of the European Parliament have great insights on what needs to be defended; that the EU was not established only as a peace project but human rights in the broad sense are at the core of its values.

This autumn the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has been celebrated in many

events. One cannot underestimate its importance, as the basic instrument to many regional conventions, notably the European Convention of Human Rights. Alongside this, a more recent global commitment, which I want to mention is the 2015 UN Agenda 2030, the 17 interlinked Sustainable Development Goals. They represent the human rights based approach in its many dimensions. These Goals are universal and also the EU has begun implementing them internally and externally. As the main theme of Agenda 2030 is “leave no one behind”, it is the perfect roadmap to the realization of human rights for all.

**“The EU was not established only as a peace project but human rights in the broad sense are at the core of its values.”**

The EU does have several precious instruments for defending human rights outside the EU. A democratic society is prerequisite for guaranteeing rights of all people, and EU Election Observation Missions, alongside multilateral parliamentary assemblies is a very useful tool for this.

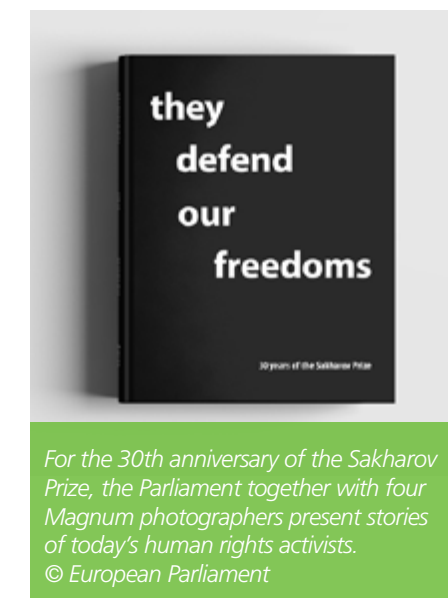
My recent experience of leading the election observation mission to Armenia were a proof of the new democratic orientation of our close Caucasian neighbour country. These elections were held practically without electoral irregularities and malpractices. The Parliament's role was crucial in establishing the European Instrument

for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), which has been an important tool to support human rights in non-EU countries. Many of the challenges to freedom of speech, religion and belief as well as minority rights culminate in the treatment of human rights defenders, who act as voices of the violated.

As civil society space is shrinking worldwide, many defenders face serious persecution. The EIDHR has supported defenders in situations where they are most at risk. Recognizing the importance of human rights defenders, the European Parliament has celebrated this year the 30th anniversary of the Sakharov Prize to individuals and groups of people who have dedicated their lives to the defence of human rights and freedom of thought.

The former winners of this well recognized award form the Sakharov Network. The EP constantly observes them and whenever needed provides support to them. One of the latest urgent human rights resolutions of the EP called for the release from imprisonment of Nasrin Soutoudeh. This Iranian lawyer has defended women who protested against the obligatory wearing of veil, and is the 2012 Sakharov Prize winner. The European Parliament has a crucial role to play and needs to uphold its role as the beacon of defending human rights across the globe in the coming years more than ever.

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## SUBSIDIARITY

Subsidiarity is one of the key principles underpinning the European unification process. The preambles to the Charter of Fundamental Rights and the Treaty on European Union contain references to it. Without the principle that the EU deals only with matters which, if addressed at national level, would not produce an outcome satisfactory to all Member States, our Union of citizens and countries could not exist. This holds true irrespective of the degree of federalisation in individual EU countries. The Lisbon Treaty goes beyond the theoretical: it interprets subsidiarity as an admonition to conduct European politics as close to the citizens as possible, and explicitly lists it in Article 5, alongside conferral and proportionality, as one of the EU's guiding principles - so simple, so logical and so prudent. However, while the principle of conferral does not appear to require any further elucidation or

implementing provisions, the Treaty regards an additional protocol on subsidiarity - and one on proportionality - as essential. In that protocol, the Treaty seeks to make subsidiarity politically manageable and legally enforceable at both EU and Member State level by laying down sophisticated procedural steps and defining precisely the parties to the procedures.

**“Subsidiarity is a constant companion which serves as a compass and a reminder, and an early warning system to help ward off the erosion of national and state identity.”**

The EU institutions - Parliament, the Council and the Commission, as well as the Court of Justice, the Central Bank and the Investment Bank - must

provide in advance a detailed statement demonstrating that a legislative proposal is consistent with the principle of subsidiarity. The governments and parliaments of the Member States must not only justify their objections and calls, but must also comply with certain (strict) deadlines and quotas.

Using this procedure, over the past 10 years they have successfully enforced compliance with the subsidiarity principle in three cases. However, a draft EU law can only be rejected on grounds of non-compliance with the subsidiarity principle if a decision to that effect is taken by a majority in the European Parliament or by a 55% majority in the Council.

What subsidiarity means in specific individual cases is thus left to the political discretion of the Council or Parliament. This does not in any way deprive the principle of its teeth. There is little scope for judicial review of substantive breaches of the subsidiarity principle, but much more when it comes to instances of non-compliance with the individual stages in the procedure - consideration, assessment and decision-making. By stipulating that compliance with the subsidiarity principle must be checked at every stage in a legislative procedure in the light of the EU's powers, the Treaty sets a series of thresholds which offer an opportunity to take stock. In the context of the EU law-making process, subsidiarity is a constant companion which serves as a compass and a reminder, and an early warning system to help ward off the erosion of national and state identity.



Signature of the Lisbon Treaty with, from left to right: Hans-Gert Pötering, President of the EP (2007-2009), José Manuel Barroso, President of the EC (2004-2014) and José Sócrates Carvalho Pinto de Sousa, Portuguese Prime Minister (2005-2011). © European Parliament 2007

**“Member States must not only justify their objections and calls, but must also comply with certain (strict) deadlines and quotas.”**

Subsidiarity is at the centre of EU policies – yet at the same time it is not. It is not intended to open the door to the judicialisation of politics, or to the politicisation of the law. And that's as it should be. The Treaty goes to great lengths to rule out, or at least make much more difficult, misuse of the subsidiarity principle, in order to prevent EU law from being drafted out of purely nationalist motives or even with the aim of renationalising EU policies. The number and significance of the problems which can no longer be effectively and satisfactorily resolved at national level - and thus of interventions which affect the scope for action and the preservation of identities at national, regional and local level - are increasing. This in turn increases the likelihood both



The Principle of Subsidiarity was first introduced in a legal framework in the 1992 Maastricht treaty. © European Parliament 1992

that the principle of subsidiarity will be perverted in order to renationalise EU politics and that the big and strong will succumb to the temptation to do what they can, leaving the small and weak alone with what they cannot do. In the EU, subsidiarity must be seen as being closely bound up with the principles of solidarity and good faith - three

precepts whose interaction is the lifeblood of a democratically legitimate, proactive and citizen-oriented Union.

**Klaus Hänsch**  
Former President of the European Parliament  
PES, Germany (1979-2009)

### TREATY ON EUROPEAN UNION ARTICLE 5

**1.** The limits of Union competences are governed by the principle of conferral. The use of Union competences is governed by the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.

**2.** Under the principle of conferral, the Union shall act only within the limits of the competences conferred upon it by the Member States in

the Treaties to attain the objectives set out therein. Competences not conferred upon the Union in the Treaties remain with the Member States.

**3.** Under the principle of subsidiarity, in areas which do not fall within its exclusive competence, the Union shall act only if and in so far as the objectives of the proposed action cannot

be sufficiently achieved by the Member States, either at central level or at regional and local level, but can rather, by reason of the scale or effects of the proposed action, be better achieved at Union level. The institutions of the Union shall apply the principle of subsidiarity as laid down in the Protocol on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.

National parliaments ensure compliance with the principle of subsidiarity in accordance with the procedure set out in that Protocol.

**4.** Under the principle of proportionality, the content and form of Union action shall not exceed what is necessary to achieve the objectives of the Treaties.



## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT / NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS

The direct election of its Parliament truly makes the European Union a constitutional democracy. The fact that citizens cast their votes, and do it without a go-between, alters the innermost workings of the EU. Direct election confers fresh legitimacy on Parliament and broadens its powers. This creates a wide sphere of influence and democratic accountability encompassing the entire institutional framework. The connection with the Commission is closer: witness the electoral contest among the Spitzenkandidaten, the hearings of Commissioners, and the Commission's collective responsibility. Parliamentary scrutiny, however also extends to the European Council, the Council of the Union, and even the European Central Bank. And yet all this is not enough. It is no longer accurate to talk of a democratic deficit within the EU, given that there is – stretching from Brussels all the way down to the tiniest municipality – a densely packed network of elected assemblies. But a void is perceived to exist between the European assembly and national assemblies. What is missing is a connecting link, first and foremost to the national parliaments. Because of problems in mapping out the division of powers between the EU and the Member States, 'free zones' have grown up within European governance, beyond the range of parliamentary oversight, whether exercised at European or national level. The Treaty of Lisbon has, of course, fully incorporated the national parliaments into the EU system, with various information

and decision-taking procedures, the most important – and symbolic – of all being the Treaty revision procedure (Article 48 TEU). Furthermore, the practice of holding meetings between specialised European Parliament and national parliamentary committees has proved to be highly effective.

**“The direct election of its Parliament truly makes the European Union a constitutional democracy.”**

Yet none of this is considered sufficient in the eyes of the public. It is as if, paradoxically, there was a feeling of 'nostalgia' in the EU for the parliament of the old days, formed by national delegations, in which Community positions, desiderata, and even its 'air' would be communicated instantly – from the supranational assembly to the home parliament – because the representatives at the two levels were one and the same. In short, the feeling is that – just as the governments do in the European Council and the Council of the Union – the European Parliament and the national parliaments ought to talk to each other directly and look each other in the face. Not in rare or exceptional cases, but regularly. One remedy is already to hand, namely the interparliamentary conferences comprising specialised committee delegations from all of the EU parliaments. It has been employed for some time for institutional policy (COSAC) and introduced more recently for economic policy (ICSECG) and

foreign and defence policy (ICCFSP/ CSDP). But this is an arrangement that is poorly understood and not very well used on account of hostility from two opposite sides. The hostility in the European Parliament stems from the fear of losing influence on decisions affecting the EU as a whole; and national parliaments have expressed hostility because they fear that they might have to share their capacity to direct and oversee domestic policies. These are objections which need to be surmounted for the overall good of the EU. If interparliamentary cooperation conferences could, for example, be modelled on, and held as regularly as, meetings of Union Council 'configurations', the 'right to a Parliament' for Europeans would be fully realised, since the 'grey areas' would be gradually eliminated, along with the perception of uncontrolled political powers that they engender. As well as providing the logical counterpart to a single electorate, the end effect would be to bring about connection and communication between European elected assemblies, which would be united by a principle of institutional subsidiarity that is the exact opposite of extraneousness and separation. What is needed, in a word, is to finish what was started in Lisbon.

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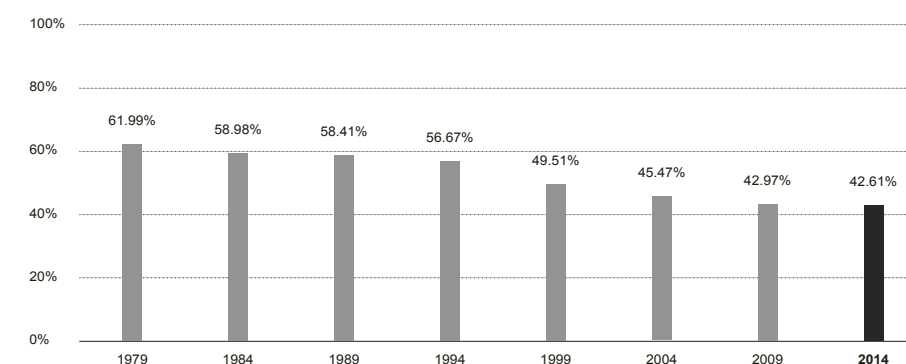
## ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES OF THE EP

The predictable post war, American-led, global order and its institutions are undergoing a period of disruption whose ultimate outcome remains to be seen. The proposed withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement, the unilateral abandonment of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action - the Iran deal, tensions with NATO allies and creeping trade protectionism speak to the disruptive power of the United States, Trump-inspired, America First policy. Today witnesses the ascendancy of authoritarian models of government in many parts of the world. From Brexit to exponents of illiberal democracy to rising nationalist sentiment it is apparent that the European Union is not immune from these wider tendencies. The legacy of the past difficult decade has revealed both the resilience and the vulnerability of the European Union. Politics across the Union today is more contested and more fragmented. This is the context in which the next European Parliament elections will take place. Institutionally and politically the European Parliament is an indispensable player in the life and politics of the European Union

today. This has happened during the lifetime of a single generation. A directly elected parliament operating at a supranational level, validated by conferred treaty powers and representing all the peoples of the European Union is a truly impressive and unique phenomenon. It represents a civilisational and not just a political change. It has no precedent in human affairs with nothing quite like it existing anywhere else in the world. In its early decades the parliament had to assert its democratic mandate as it laid claim to more extensive powers. It now acts as a co-legislator with the Council, as a budgetary authority with influence over all Union expenditure but not revenue, exercises oversight of the European Commission and all high political authorities at Union level, has the right of assent over international agreements and is buttressed by increasingly substantial inter-institutional agreements with the Commission. This is not the talking shop of early critiques of its predecessor institution the European Parliamentary Assembly. It is one of the democratic pillars of the

European Union's system of dual legitimacy, namely the legitimacy of its states, as represented by the Council and its peoples through its citizens' right to vote for a directly elected parliament. This rise in influence and power has not been mirrored in popular legitimacy as witnessed by voter turnout at consecutive elections. From the first direct election across nine member states in 1979 to the eighth direct elections across twenty-eight member states in 2014 the turnout only ever has declined, from a high of 61.8% to a low of 42.6%. Arresting and reversing this trend is a challenge. Putting Europe into European elections has proved elusive, even accounting for the lead candidate experiment of 2014. Voter mobilisation has focused in the past more on topics and personalities driven by local or national preferences than cross-frontier and pan-European issues. Even where European policy issues come into play during national European election campaigns these can be highly differentiated from one state to another in terms of preferences and interests. This time with so much at stake and so much that is contested let us hope it will be different. Europeans have to stop taking the European Union for granted. Now more than ever, promoting and defending pluralist democracy matters. Now more than ever, Europe needs her Europeans.

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Turnout European Parliament elections, results by year. © European Parliament



## APPRAISAL & FUTURE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

It took 30 years for the European Parliament to be able to live up to its name. When it was elected by universal suffrage for the first time in 1979, Parliament could only make decisions in part of one area: the budget. With successive treaties, a constant battle with the Member States' governments and at the cost of a watertight alliance with the Commission, Parliament's powers were extended to legislation in almost all areas of the EU (codecision). Today, Parliament also elects the president of the Commission, i.e. the EU executive. Through all of this, Parliament has been a permanent and powerful driving force behind EU integration and the reduction of the infamous 'democratic deficit' in Europe. Was this what Parliament was hoping to achieve or did it exhaust its fighting spirit? Since the Treaty

of Lisbon entered into force in 2009, Parliament has taken pride in being a flawless legislative machine: surprisingly, 80% of legislation is adopted after just one reading, and prolonged procedural delays resulting from internal divisions within a majority coalition occur so rarely you could count them on one hand. However, the fight to have a truly parliamentary system is not over yet. We will focus on three points: 1 – The budgetary procedure is still a scandalous example of a miscarriage of democracy. Voted on by Parliament, the annual budget is confined by a multiannual framework that only the European Council can set. As for revenue, not only does Parliament have no power in the matter, it is not open for public debate, even in the Council. The budget is the little-known Achilles heel of the EU's every move.

**“Parliament has been a permanent and powerful driving force behind EU integration and the reduction of the infamous ‘democratic deficit’ in Europe.”**

2 – Having failed to implement a uniform voting method, the Member States have the freedom to decide how their MEPs are elected. In some Member States, such as France, MEPs are elected by the kind of proportional representation which means they are not elected by the people but are rather officials chosen by party leaders. In these countries, the legitimacy of our parliamentary institution is at stake.

3 – Finally, Parliament's legitimacy will always be questionable until it is based on the principle of 'one citizen, one voice'. A legacy of the European Community's first ad hoc principles, from a time when the parliamentary assembly was only a forum for debates, the over-representation of 'small' countries is starting to damage the whole EU decision-making process in the more populous Member States. The ruling of the Karlsruhe Federal Constitutional Court on the Treaty of Lisbon should be taken seriously for the sake of the EU's future.

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## A CITIZEN FOCUSED SINGLE MARKET

**“The next Parliament must sustain its leadership**

The Single Market gives the EU a huge competitive advantage. No other global economic grouping has the political drive, institutional structure and legal base to maintain and enforce barrier free markets. The Single Market is a powerhouse for a dynamic and growing economy. In the evolution of the Single Market, the European Parliament has already demonstrated strong and visionary leadership. From 1979. The first cohort of directly elected MEPs were powerful advocates, paving the way for the Delors Commission to launch the landmark Single European Act in 1987. In the following decades, Parliament has continually pressed Member States to adopt and enforce single market measures. It played a key role in opening the Services Market in 2006. Post the 2008 financial crash, it was the catalyst for the Single Market Act of 2010, which re-energised political support at a time when some governments were flirting with protectionist

measures. Alongside its economic advantages, Parliament has always realised that the Single Market must deliver real benefits for citizens. It has supported measures to secure better, safer, and greener products. It has enhanced consumers rights when they purchase or use products and services. It has encouraged fair competition and informed choice through standards and labelling. It has successfully championed raft of measures - from lowering car prices in the 1970s to abolishing roaming charges in the 2000s. Consumers clearly value these measures, but they do not generally recognise that the EU has delivered them. Often, their governments claim all the credit. Europe's businesses have clearly seized the opportunities offered by the single market. However, their employees do not always feel that the Single Market has worked for them, even though it has sustained quality jobs and advanced living standards. Opinion polls suggest that citizens understand the logic of a single market, and want to keep enjoying its benefits. Yet the Single Market has such a low political

profile that those opportunities are "taken for granted". Its scale and ambition, and the political challenges that have been overcome to deliver it, are scarcely recognised by voters. This disconnection in public perception of the EU and the value it adds to their lives must be tackled. While the European Council grasps the importance of a thriving Single Market, Member State politicians rarely acknowledge or promote its benefits. Building popular support needs sustained advocacy at all levels of political activity. The next European Parliament should step up its outreach to national and regional parliaments. It should build strong partnerships between Parliament's Legislative Committees and their national equivalents. It should reach out to Single Market partners outside the EU. Norway and Switzerland are already engaged. The UK will - hopefully - be there as well. The next Commission must give the Single Market a central place at the heart of policy making. Parliament should call for a Vice President for the Single Market, co-ordinating policy development, rulemaking, advocacy and enforcement across all its aspects. But in parallel, Parliament should advocate a Vice President for Consumers. This role would send a powerful signal to citizens by promoting the human face of the Single Market in a prominent way.

**Malcolm Harbour**  
CBE, MEP for the West Midlands  
1999-2014  
Chairman IMCO 2009-2014



Meeting on 'Single European Act' at the European Parliament in Strasbourg in May 1987 © European community 1987



## 40 YEARS OF EP – DIRECT ELECTIONS

The elections for the European Parliament in 2019 will be very different in scope from previous EP-elections and will have a considerable effect in Europe, both at the international and national levels. At stake is nothing less than the drive to obtain a more perfect Union in Europe. The alternative is clear: a large gain by various nationalist and populist groupings might undo multiple positive effects of the European Union over the last 60 years. The elections should therefore result in a much larger turnout than at previous electoral occasions. Three major changes account for this new situation: 1. The populist political challenges, 2. The radically changed geo-political situation of Europe and 3. Its impact on national politics and policies.

Ad 1. The new anti-European challenge is evident. In a growing number of European countries nationalist and populist parties, mainly on the right side of the political spectrum, are a growing phenomenon. As a common denominator, they are pleading for a serious reduction of the role of the European Union and in extreme cases are even pleading for new national departures from the EU. They may have very few priorities in common, but all concentrate heavily on national identities opposed to the Islam, they plead for closed borders and reduction of all forms of migration and asylum. They constitute a serious attack on the existing value system in Europe with its emphasis on democratic pluralism, human rights and the rule of law. Moreover, the governance by some illiberal democracies within the EU

has already undermined its cultural cohesion and common human values, essential components of the European Union.

Ad 2. The geo-political situation of Europe has changed radically over the past number of years. The election by the American President Trump, with his emphasis on America First, has seriously affected the reliability of the Transatlantic relationship which has existed during the last 70 years under American leadership. Above all the multilateral world order is under serious threat. In Chancellor Merkel's terms: Europe stands alone. Europe is surrounded by authoritarian leaders (Russia, Turkey, Syria) and on its southern flank by unstable regimes, such as Libya. The desire for leaving the EU may have substantially diminished as a result of the catastrophic Brexit policy of the UK; nevertheless the fact remains that the EU of the 27 will lose an important member state with considerable military capacity. Ad 3. During the past decades an European Parliament, with increased budgetary and legislative powers, has had a positive impact on the process of European integration. New elections may result in a substantial loss of power by center right and center left political groups which in the past have been strong pillars of European support. In any case the new parliament and existing national parliaments should make an effort to increase their mutual cooperation. In the past national parliaments have above all exercised their influence in a negative way, through the delivery of red or yellow cards as an effort to limit the powers of the European Parliament. Ways must be

found to create a more constructive relationship.

**“The new parliament and existing national parliaments should make an effort to increase their mutual cooperation”**

A major achievement of the democratization of the European Parliament has been the Spitzenkandidaten process in electing the president of the European Commission. In retrospect it is remarkable that in 2014 the European Council gave in to the request of the European Parliament to reverse the nomination process laid down in the Treaty of Lisbon. Within the European Council enthusiasm for this process was never very strong and opposition against the process is mounting. The outcome of the European elections may even weaken this process, as a result of a potential significant loss by its major political parties (EPP and S&D). The ALDE, as third political force in the EP, has so far declined to nominate a single candidate for the election of the Commission President. It is not unlikely that a coalition with various parties is necessary to acquire a new majority for the Commission presidency. The European Parliament has certainly weakened this process by refusing to establish transnational lists for the next elections.

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## EUI HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE IN FLORENCE

The high-level conference, ‘40 years of European Parliament direct elections’, was organised by the EUI and supported by the FMA as well as the European Parliamentary Research Service. Over the course of two days (22-23 November 2018) several keynote speeches, presentations and roundtables were organised at the European University Institute in Florence. Distinguished speakers such as former EP Presidents Enrique Barón Crespo, Pat Cox, and Klaus Hänsch and several FMA members participated in the conference. The event was perceived as a great success with lively discussions, inspiring speeches and interesting exchanges between the participants. All three former EP Presidents highlight the achievements that the European Parliament has made in the last 40 years regarding its institutional framework, legislation and the process of European integration. Furthermore, the speakers addressed populist and anti-European tendencies that are especially worrisome in regards of the upcoming European elections.

“The resurging nationalism and the fears exploited by populists are a real threat. The answer will be to continue building and reinforcing Europe.” says President Barón Crespo. He paid homage to Simone Veil who embodied the dignity of Europe, and concludes: “The European Parliament achieved in 40 years what a Member State would achieve in more than a century. And above all, its a system with more democracy and with checks and balances in place. At the same time, the European civil society is stronger after the economic crisis and loss in trust.” President Cox stresses in his speech: “A directly elected parliament, operating at a supranational level, validated by conferred treaty powers and representing the peoples of the European Union is a truly impressive and unique phenomenon” and continues: “Through policy innovation we need to rediscover the democratic energy of popular politics without populist excess.” President Hänsch emphasises the paradoxes of democracy in today's

Europe: “While the Parliament's competences increase step by step, the electoral turnouts decrease step by step.” He adds: “In history there are times to go ahead to find something new, and there are times to preserve what has been achieved. For Europe the time to go ahead will return. Actually, let us join our hearts and our brains to keep the Union of Europeans together.”

**“Through policy innovation we need to rediscover the democratic energy of popular politics without populist excess.”**

However, the speakers also define the current challenges facing the European Parliament today, as noted in the speeches by Monica Frassoni, co-chair of the European Green Party, Alain Lamassoure and Laura Ferrara, members of the European Parliament, Íñigo Méndez de Vigo, Member of the Spanish Parliament, Monica Baldi and Laurent Brinkhorst. The European elections will take place in a difficult context with internal tensions in the European Union and concerns on the international scene such as the migration challenge, social difficulties, the increase of poverty, the loss of national identity and populism. I think the ideas behind the recent summits of the European Union are accurate: “Focus on what unites us and not on what divides us”.

**Monica Baldi**  
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President of the European University Institute Renaud Dehousse and former EP and FMA President Enrique Barón Crespo ©European University Institute, 2018



# FMA ACTIVITIES



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



# EP TO CAMPUS PROGRAMME

## THE UKRAINIAN CHALLENGE TO EUROPE

The Schuman declaration, rightly celebrated as the crucial act launching the present Europe, came in the wake of the 'Marshall Plan', the 'Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe', the Atlantic Alliance and the several European integration initiatives that resulted from; they all reflected a transatlantic vision having the objective of containing the USSR while bringing Germany into a United Europe – under federalist principles and under a transatlantic defence mechanism coexisting with peace and prosperity. The European defence and economic integration construction accomplished in the fifties was meant simultaneously to contain the Soviet Union expansion as well as to show an alternative path to the communist world. Its implicit promise was that the doors of these constructions would remain open whenever the countries remaining on the other side of the iron curtain would decide to join.

The history of the European Union includes countless association agreements. However none has a history comparable with the one it established with Ukraine, not

necessarily because of its letter, but rather because of its last minute signature postponement caused a revolution and ultimately an invasion that is unfortunately ongoing. Ten thousand lost lives, millions of displaced people, a large chunk of the territory occupied, heavy destruction and economic loss after five years of war did not change the will of the Ukrainian people and its democratically elected institutions to stick to the European choice, and this is by far the most remarkable national sacrifice ever done in the name of the European integration. As a European, and more fundamentally as a human being, I would like to express my deepest solidarity with the Ukrainian people and to share with you some thoughts on the challenges we are facing as well as how to best achieve our common objectives of a free, democratic, independent and stable Ukraine within our common human institutional framework – objectives for which Ukraine paid such an heavy price.

For doing so, we shall look at the association agreement and its implementation taking into

consideration its most important conditions. Whereas the EU-Ukraine association agreement is certainly lengthier and more complex than others – this one was in the pipeline for a long time, Ukraine being a vast country and the political issues at stake being more important than elsewhere – I do not think that it is fundamentally different from the European norm.

The agreement states that "the European Union acknowledges the European aspirations of Ukraine and welcomes its European choice", a wording some consider less unequivocal than other former association agreements on the objective of European membership. The EU-Ukraine association agreement fully entered into on the first September 2017. It is a decisive landmark for Ukraine.

In order to understand how best to face the events, one will need to take into consideration the vast administrative armoury supplied by the association agreement. However one cannot take this instrument to be an end on itself, for it is just an instrument, as it was already an instrument used back in 2013 by Ukrainians to express the will to live independently in peace and prosperity.

The 'Europe' created by Monnet and Schuman was meant to combat an imperialist threat. Under new circumstances, this is the same 'Europe' being tested today on the Eastern border of Ukraine.



Paulo Casaca with members of the Ukraine Association

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## VISIT TO THE USA

There can't be many universities anywhere in the world, with their own airport. The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is one such institution. Situated some 220 km south of Chicago, the university is one of the largest public colleges in the USA with nearly 50, 000 students. The sprawling, yet modern campus seems to engulf just about the whole of two small towns, Urbana and Champaign in addition to being home to a very successful EU funded Jean Monnet institute. It was their invitation, to attend the institute's twentieth anniversary conference, on behalf of former MEPs, that saw me land, late one cold November evening at their own, modest but convenient airport! After a long trip via Dallas, some 1500 km to the south – I have never understood why it is cheaper to take two flights and fly over your eventual destination hours before you reach there – I was met at the airport by Sebnem Ozkan, the centre's associate director and one of my excellent hosts.

It was a real pleasure to talk with Dr Neil Vander Most, Professor Kostas Kourtikakis and their engaging and well informed students. Questions covered a whole range of issues including the history of the EU, but not surprisingly, invariably came back to Brexit and why the British people voted to leave a successful union of 28 countries.

As part of their anniversary celebrations, the EU's ambassador the United States, his excellency David O'Sullivan delivered a thought-provoking speech on 'the State of the European Union'. In the ensuing roundtable there were plenty of



Robert Evans with the students of University of Illinois

questions about the evolving state of EU-US relations. As the conference coincided with the inconclusive American mid-term elections, there were plenty of opportunities for comparisons and thoughts about the forthcoming European Parliament elections in 2019. These and other issues were also discussed when I was a studio guest for an interview with the local radio station, Illinois Public Media.

My keynote speech on Saturday morning included my own personal thoughts on Brexit and how the then prime minister David Cameron badly mis-judged, both the mood of the country and his own popularity. After eight years of austerity, the lack-lustre 'remain campaign' gave the British people a rare chance to object to the EU and register a complaint anything else they fancied or didn't fancy.

There were obvious comparisons with Americans' objections to President Trump but also warnings for other EU countries who fail to face head-on, the concerns of the voters. From the unrest in France to

the rise of fringe or 'populist parties', the EU can be the catalyst for negative voting.

After a hectic four days, I left Illinois for London to be present at the commemorations for the end of the first world war. Twenty million people died in the 'war to end all wars' which only preceded another brutal conflict just twenty years later. An awful testament to what happens when Europe is not united. Fortunately today's liberal politicians and keen voters have more sense than our forefathers ... I hope.

My sincere thanks to Professor Carla Santos and all at the University of Illinois for an excellent and stimulating few days and to the Former Members Association for their organisation.

**Robert Evans**

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## REVISIT TO GÖTTINGEN UNIVERSITY

In November I was fortunate and pleased to be invited to revisit Goettingen University as part of the Parliament to Campus Programme. Goettingen is a pleasant town with scarcely a house in the old centre without a plaque to commemorate the residence there of some luminary of European culture.

My encounters with students took place under the auspices Erasmus Mundus Programme as part of the MA Euroculture project. Postgraduate students in this particular project have a choice of complimenting their courses at Goettingen with additional courses in Holland, Spain, Poland, Czech Republic, France, Italy and Sweden. Although the actual organising of such a project takes a great deal of time and effort, such courses are vital to giving reality to the reality of an integrating Europe. And not only Europe, this year's course included students from Singapore, Canada and Brazil. It is exactly 50 years since I graduated from London University with a BA (Hons) in German with French. My course allowed its students to do



Michael Hindley with the students

one term at a foreign university, which I did at the Free University of West Berlin. But in my days it was rare indeed for other than foreign language students to study "abroad". It is heartening to see contemporary students having the chance to study a range of subjects out of their native country. And not only postgraduates, in my home area I often come across youngsters who have benefited from other EU exchange schemes to study more immediately practical subjects, particularly in the leisure/hospitality fields. Studying in Europe is no longer

for the academically minded only. The atmosphere was friendly, welcoming and relaxed throughout ending with a convivial pizza evening.

Though appreciating the opportunity to study on an Erasmus scheme, Goettingen's students, as everywhere else in modern Europe, express varying shades of anxiety about their chances of work, careers commensurate with the abilities and qualifications. The major challenge facing today's politicians. We have fostered the dream, the aspiration of "a career open to talent" throughout our continent; we have yet to create the reality, and unless we do, the dream will prove to have been an illusion with a corresponding backlash.



Informal meeting with the students

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## VISIT TO MENDEL UNIVERSITY

In my presentation at Mendel University in Brno, Czech Republic, this year, I took on the challenge of addressing two topics preoccupying our minds – migration and Brexit. Global migration as the humanitarian crisis of our age was the main focus of my speech. It is a global reality. No country can address it on its own. The multidimensional nature of migration is of relevance to the sustainable development of countries of origin, transit and destination. Seeking global solutions and sharing responsibility are essential. My immediate point of reference was the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants unanimously adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2016. Its spirit and vision are embedded in the first international and non-legally binding framework for migration: the Global Compact (GC) for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. The GC was the focus of my remarks. They covered migration in all its dimensions, such as trafficking in human beings, border management, and migrant integration, return and readmission. I shed light on the 10

principles and 23 concrete objectives outlined in the GC, serving only as points of reference for UN member states when applying their national migration policies.

I made reference to the adoption of the text, underlining that proceeding with such a framework would require a consensus or a vote with at least a two-thirds majority during the intergovernmental conference in Marrakech, Morocco, on 10 and 11 December 2018. The next step would be for the UN General Assembly to be asked to formally endorse the GC in the form of a resolution.

In my remarks, I was able to elaborate on some facts and outline the concerns of a number of EU Member States that had been critical of the GC.

Facts:

- The EU and all its Member States have engaged in the discussions on the GC from the very beginning;
- the framework, by and large, reflects EU objectives;
- it builds on the EU's existing work with third countries and international organisations.

Concerns: Possible implications for national sovereign rights; irregular migration; 'human right to migrate', etc.

When addressing these concerns, I underlined that the GC was not an international agreement and had no legal effect on national legal systems. It fully respected national sovereignty as one of the principles on which the framework was based. The GC did not create any new legal categories; it only emphasised that 'migrants are entitled to the same universal human rights and fundamental freedoms as

any human being'.

The international group of students and I concluded that the GC was an attempt to create a 'shared understanding that migration flows are likely to increase'. These migration flows needed to be regularised. To make that happen, recognition of state interdependence and international cooperation was as vital and crucial as national sovereignty and the national sovereign rights of Member States to determine their migration policies. I was also able to introduce the subject of populism, an issue that tends to fall within the scope of migration debates. A 'how-populist-are-you' quiz highlighted the students' mainstream outlook. On that positive note, I brought my remarks on migration to a close. The final countdown to Brexit and the two-document package endorsed by the EU-27 occupied our attention in the second part of the lecture cycle. The students agreed that not only was the UK strongly integrated economically with the EU, but it also enjoyed a 'European society with a tradition of a European balance of individual freedom and social welfare'. That vision should bolster the ambition of the EU and the UK to maintain a close and rule-based relationship, and to properly manage any uncertainty the future may hold.

**Mariela Baeva**

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## THREE LESSONS IN IZMIR, FOR A BETTER EUROPE

I gave three lessons at the Economics University in Izmir, Turkey, this December. This is a private university with 10,000 students. They are being educated in Political Science in English, and posed a lot of good questions which showed their knowledge of the EU.

They are taught by a Jean Monnet professor from Germany, Dr. Alexander Rainer Buegin. He taught the students there brilliantly for years, and has written valuable scientific articles on the legacy of the Juncker EU Commission.

During my visit, I was able to share insider knowledge with the students based on my 29 years in the European Parliament, including 17 years as a member of the Conference of Presidents there. I had three different presentations on the European institutions and their challenges.

I urged the students to continue their specialization in European affairs and become interns or assistants in European institutions so that they would be prepared when Turkey and the EU may one day revive real accession negotiations.

That looks rather unlikely right now for various reasons. However, I believe that Turkey's place is inside the EU or at least in a close relationship with it. I myself was critical of the EU when I was in the European Parliament, but I have always sought to make my criticisms constructive. I have now written my memoirs describing my time at the European Parliament, giving examples of various democratic victories, small and large and the struggles my colleagues and I went through to achieve them.



Jens-Peter Bonde with Prof. Dr. Alexander Buegin, Jean Monnet Chair at Izmir University of Economics during the lecture

My last book was written in cooperation with Professor Uffe Østergård, whose student I was. Ever since I met him has been fighting for his federalist vision of Europe. In recent years, however he has realised the real difficulties regarding this vision. I on the other hand, was opposed to Danish membership of the EU when we applied to join it in 1972 and originally wanted Denmark to leave it, but have realised over time that this is not likely to happen. That is why I have taken part in founding a new constructive movement for democratic reform in the EU after our famous "no" to the Maastricht treaty. That is how it came about that Professor Østergård and I have written a book together that puts forward ten proposals for constructive democratic changes in the EU. We have titled this book "What's next Europe?"

Uffe Østergård and I are also planning a professional campaign to help raise voter turnout in these elections in May. Our target group is those who do not vote at present.

We are using the endorsement of popular personalities such as our leading football players to try to reach young voters. We are not approaching any politicians! We are aware that they are ranked at the bottom of popularity polls these days. We want realistic change and wish for a voter turnout that is comparable to national elections. The truth is that today the European Parliament has a bigger influence on our laws and public policies than our National Parliaments. We hope that EU voters will come to realise this and understand why these elections are important.

If you would like to help our Danish effort in this, or to organise similar initiatives in your own country, please contact me at jp@bonde.dk. We have many experts involved and all of them work voluntarily.

**Jens-Peter Bonde**

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## LESSONS LEARNT AT THE MAASTRICHT UNIVERSITY

The program document determined the narrative of the conference:

„As humanity becomes increasingly data dependable, it is necessary to make sure that the data it stands on reflect the values inherent to a fair, ethical, and economically sound society. ... Data in itself is devoid of any value; it's the way in which data is selected and used that can dictate how machine learning and other systems that feed on data, operate in economic, moral, or ethical terms. The question then arises: how can the systems and devices that use data in the data economy obtain economically, morally and ethically robust data?“

The conference started with the presentation of prof. Andres Guadamuz from Sussex University, who challenged the participants to differentiate artificial intelligence and man-made art and music. The audience had difficulties to see the differences between the two and it was a practical and efficient way to showcase the challenge of future IPR regulation.

The trust session highlighted the risks and benefits of using data for commerce and health sectors, not only for primary beneficiaries but also for the ecosystem around them. The morality and ethics panel had a wide scope, including the impact of data economy on the human rights in the future. A keynote was given by professor Anselm Kamperman Sanders on the „The intersection of intellectual property and data in the United Nations' World Economic and Social Survey 2018“. It was a very inspiring account on how to deal with Risks and Benefits. Economic value of data has a huge



Maastricht University

potential value for all sectors. This is an opportunity we should be taking advantage of, but that should be regulated. Especially for data intensive sectors, regulation is a prerequisite to reduce uncertainties. It was a pleasure to be in the final panel with four talented students (Gaia Lisi; Eisa Rahimi; Virginia Debernardi; Bert Brookfield-Hird), with Prof Guadamuz and prof Ana Ramalho to discuss the issues from different perspectives. We agreed that Data is a new sector where regulation must happen fast, to enable European enterprises and citizens to harness the benefits. However, legislation alone will not solve it. Due to human biases, datasets and data-analysis carried out by humans will resemble these biases. This is always an issue, but AI technologies amplify any bias and if they are not corrected in due time, it will have severe implications on the technology. Thus, certain issues have to be addressed at the expert level. We also discussed the global race. As a law-maker, I highlighted that while the EU might be lagging behind China, and the US on R&D spending, the EU is a strong exporter of legislation. The EU has been at

the forefront of addressing legal issues, and has not been afraid to set standards high for companies. For example, the GDPR is an exemplar for other countries and regions in the world, while companies also praise it, notwithstanding the complexity of adopting it.

Bert concluded "The possible uses for data are constantly expanding and seemingly endless. However, great care must be taken to avoid the potentially huge benefits from being outweighed by the consequences. We must try to avoid this. Interdisciplinary events such as the value-less data symposium are key to ensure this and also so that we understand the issues before we legislate on them."

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Thanks to Candriam for supporting our EP to Campus Programme

## FMA ANNUAL SEMINAR

### ERASMUS+ MOBILITY? I WILL SURVIVE, HOPEFULLY!

Speakers at the Annual Seminar organized by EP FMA addressed interesting and current topics which have a significant influence on everyone's life.

Contemporaneity proves once again that expectations and reality are two concepts which sometimes contradict one another. For decades, people have fought to reach a better social environment. Lately, the focus has fallen on the issue of the Erasmus+ Mobility. An incredible opportunity which allows students to travel, to experience another academic environment and to develop social skills within a multicultural setting. As one of the speakers mentioned during the seminar, the EU is one of the most prominent markets for students. More precisely, 9 million students had benefited from this mobility programme ever since it was established in 1987. The dynamics of travelling have changed dramatically over time. The four freedoms guaranteed by the European Union are the perfect framework to ensure the student exchange within the European borders.

From personal experience and from many reviews from former Erasmus students, the overall impression is a satisfying one. There are many advantages, and there is no need to mention them once again. Nevertheless, it is essential to talk about the actions which have been already completed. But I would like to comment three shortcomings of an Erasmus experience. A major drawback to be addressed is the bureaucracy. Every student has to deal with the bureaucratic chain in order to receive the grant. The



ERASMUS 30th Anniversary celebration © European Parliament

entire process depends heavily on the people you meet in this chain, and their ability to answer the requests with professionalism. This might not be perceived by the readers as an impossible task to solve, and it is not. But society evolved in a very particular manner where confrontation is not that easy to overcome. And students have the tendency to be reluctant and to abandon their way from getting an Erasmus grant when they face barriers.

One of the most problematic issues that must be addressed is the fact that in some regions where people speak a dialect<sup>1</sup>, professors do not use the national language, needless to say that they do not use either English as a working language for students enrolled in an English programme. The pressure of having the classes in a foreign and unknown language can lead to anxiety, to panic, or even to depression. These are serious conditions that can happen to anyone and they are difficult to be determined. The last disadvantage mentioned in this article is the differences that can

1. Cataluña, Spain.

occur between the two faculties. Although there are rare cases where students have to choose from a totally different curriculum, there are situations where coordinators do not respect their duties and students end up treated inadequately. Besides the stress of the major change of the living environment, they also have to go through unfriendly attitudes of professors from the receiving faculty. This drawback is a follow up of the first argument included in this paper. And the list can continue. In the end, all it takes is a lot of courage, patience and an adventurous and open spirit eager to face both an unbelievable experience and a tough time. And then, the balance will lean to the better side of the story and everyone will be willing to do an Erasmus!

**Georgiana Cretu**  
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## BEAT THE POPULISTS AT THEIR OWN GAME

... that's what the institutions will have to do over the next few decades. But how can an evolving political undertaking become, in the minds of citizens, more attractive than the populist parties who promise voters rainbows and unicorns? Many ideas were put forward during the debate, but here is a preview of what an argument in favour of European integration might look like.

*Give the EU a clear direction once again*

Since the end of the Cold War, we young people seem to have lost the ability to dream. Governments come and go without making any tangible changes. The EU should be able to propose an exciting long-term vision – one that is clear and innovative: a real European project, not an apology for a project that amounts to no more than lowest-common-denominator policies or the sum of national interests. In that connection, a Manifesto for a 21st-century Europe – drafted by all the pro-European political families – could be used as a powerful weapon against the 'populist' groups during the election campaign, provided that it takes account of all the new ideas inspiring Europeans.

*Become a global power to control globalisation*

There's no denying it: individual European nation states no longer count for much on the global stage. The only way those nation states can control globalisation, and not be controlled by it, is to join forces in the EU. If it is to have any real power, the EU must have a real budget and a real industrial policy to protect and develop European industrial giants

that can hold their own against strong international competition. EU companies must not be left behind in the race to develop new technologies (artificial intelligence, block chain, robotics, etc.). Industrial policy should help to ease the transition from the old world of the 20th century to the new world of the future. New ways must be found of helping the 'losers of globalisation', and they should no longer be made to feel marginalised. The EU will also have to be in the forefront of the efforts to protect the environment: issues such as these can be tackled most effectively at EU level, and the environment is one of EU citizens' most pressing concerns. It is also the one challenge of the century that we absolutely cannot afford not to meet!

It is the very fact that the EU is still a work in progress that means it can incorporate innovative elements into its policies more easily than the Member States. To do that, however, it will need to educate its citizens and involve them in the work of drawing up the new Manifesto, so that they feel involved and closer to the European institutions. The drafting of the Manifesto will require a great

deal of political will and courage. Critics will say that it is precisely because it cannot summon these up that the EU has been unable to implement innovative policies, in particular as a result of the paralysis caused by electoral timetables. The founding fathers had the courage to devise, and carry out, common policies in defiance of their voters' misgivings. What if that was the European spirit? The courage to look at the long term without being paralysed by the electoral implications? When choosing between two models of civilisation in Europe, politicians calling for greater European integration would do well to build on this idea in order to create a better future for Europe.

**Antoine Granier**  
Student, Master in European  
Studies at Université Catholique  
de Louvain



A moment of the FMA Annual Seminar on 30 November 2018 at the European Parliament

## CO-OPERATION WITH THE EUI

### HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS DISCUSS CURRENT AFFAIRS



Niccolò Rinaldi and high school students attending the meeting at Villa Salviati in Florence

The cooperation with the European University Institute (EUI), and in particular with the Historical Archives of the European Union (HAEU), started in January and February with the annual educational program for students. Our members, with their experience and extensive knowledge, continue to make this collaboration a success.

This year, the Historical Archives have developed a programme for high schools focused on the European Elections 2019: towards and active democracy. The three main themes are European citizenship and school;

climate change, environment, and energy; and the institutional reform of the EU.

Numerous meetings were held in the prestigious Villa Salviati in Florence to discuss these highly topical issues. The students from secondary schools received the topics very well and showed great interest. Monica Baldi, Luciana Castellina, Vitaliano Gemelli, Niccolò Rinaldi, Oreste Rossi, Gisela Kallenbach, Jean-Paul Denanot and Cristiana Muscardini on the other hand who participated for the FMA were impressed by the knowledge and curiosity of the young students.

On March 7th, the EUI together with Villa Finaly hosted an event on women. The FMA members Monica Baldi and Luciana Castellina participated as speakers at the conference held shortly before International Women's Day. The panel discussions addressed what has been achieved in the European institutions regarding women in democracy but also shed light on the future elections and their role in the 2019 campaign.

Later this year, FMA President Hans-Gert Pöttering will attend the ninth edition of the State of the Union gathering. Top leaders and thinkers will be in Florence from 2 to 4 May 2019. The focus will be on 21st Century Democracy in Europe and the debates will reflect the democratic functionality of the EU and the ability to respond to needs of future generations. Some of the main themes are Democratic transitions in Europe, Cybersecurity, Inclusive democracy and migrant engagement in the political process and Trust and the Single Market.



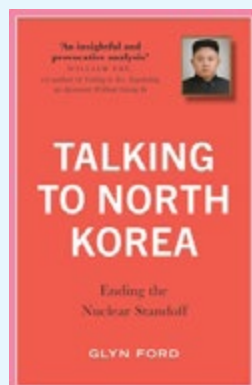
Jean-Paul Denanot

<https://stateoftheunion.eui.eu/>



## BOOK REVIEW

**“Talking to North Korea: Ending the Nuclear Standoff” by Glyn Ford, published by Pluto Press, 2018. £14.99**



This is a serious and well-researched book. Glyn Ford, a former leader of British Labour MEPs, has put his experience from over fifty visits to the DPRK (North Korea) to good use in an update to his 2008 book “North Korea on the Brink: Struggle for Survival”, also published by Pluto Press.

Part I looks at the historical roots of North Korea. Part II looks at Continuity and Change, and Part III, The Diplomatic Stage, attempts to offer a way forward, following in depth investigation of the country's past and present, focussing on how to resolve the crisis on the Peninsular short of war.

In Part I Ford describes North Korea as “a poor, beleaguered country run by an unpleasant regime that has served its people ill”, asserting that the country's leadership believes that while US hostility endures, regime survival necessitates an independent nuclear umbrella and economic growth.

Tracing highs and lows of the long reign of the Kim family from the “third way” Non-Aligned Movement of the seventies to

industrial decline and famine in the eighties (leading to the World Food Programme finding one in six children had brain damage from chronic hunger in 1998), Ford reveals that in 1997 the country was offered food aid of meat potentially affected by mad cow disease.

The first official visit from the European Parliament was in December 1998. MEPs were shocked by the conditions they found. European Commission humanitarian and medical aid followed.

During the long march to a market economy the country chose to learn from the west after the collapse of “socialism” in the Soviet Union. Suspicion of “imperialist” and “bourgeois culture” remained.

In Part II Kim Jong Un was becoming more outgoing after the death of Kim Jong Il, during whose reign the economy was in meltdown. The former began developing both the economy and the nuclear deterrent, reviving his political party and becoming more pro-market. Pyongyang is now “market Leninism”, says Ford, who observes that the market lacks regulation, a barrier to foreign investment. He says consumerism is in North Korea to stay, albeit with a rise in inequality. There has been substantial Chinese investment. Coal remains the main source of energy but there is some turn to renewables. Food production remains a problem and tight controls on daily life remain with movement of people restricted and

access to the internet limited, as is a national transport network. Whilst there is a high rate of literacy and the world's fifth largest army, there is a shortage of medicines and the country is still “closed, isolated and tightly controlled”.

Part III includes a detailed chapter on the nuclear factor. Ford blames US incompetence for the country's rise to the world's ninth nuclear state, with missile technology helped from both the Soviet Union and China.

A forty page section on foreign affairs includes comments on the EU's relations with the country over the last two decades.

In the Conclusion, after Singapore, we see US security guarantees in return for progress towards complete denuclearisation. Ford wryly observes that “Washington is also concerned that the North doesn't become the proliferators' Walmart.” This section looks carefully at Pyongyang/Washington/China relations. Ford believes that another war on the Peninsular is possible but supports the need for a peace process which he acknowledges could take a decade or more to achieve.

This book is readable, informative, thorough and thoughtful.

**Anita Pollack**  
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(1989-1999)  
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## LATEST NEWS

### ACTIVITIES

3 April 2019

#### FMA/EP/ EUI HISTORY ROUNDTABLE ON “40 YEARS OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DIRECT ELECTIONS”

From 2.45 p.m. to 5.15 p.m.  
European Parliament, Brussels.

3 April 2019

#### ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE

Current and former MEPs will commemorate their colleagues who passed away in 2018-2019.  
From 5.45 p.m. to 6.15 p.m.  
European Parliament, Yehudi Menuhin Space, Brussels.

3 April 2019

#### FMA COCKTAIL AND DINNER DEBATE

From 6.30 p.m. in Members' Restaurant, European Parliament, Brussels.  
Guest Speaker: Professor Renaud Dehousse, President of the European University Institute.

4 April 2019

#### FMA GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ANNUAL LUNCH

At 10.00 a.m. followed by the Annual Lunch at 1.00 p.m.

3-4 June 2019

#### VISIT TO ROMANIA

Details of the trip will be emailed to members

## ARCHIVES OF MEMBERS AND FORMER MEMBERS

The Historical Archives of the European Parliament are available to receive and process the papers of former and current members of the European Parliament.

Once deposited, papers will be processed in accordance with the EP Bureau decision of 10 March 2014. This may involve their indexation, digitisation and/or conversion to PDF/A documents as well as making them available to the public, unless they are confidential, in accordance with relevant legal provisions.

If you have already deposited any of your documents or papers, for instance with your local or regional archives or university or any other institution, Parliament's Historical Archives requests that you send us the details of where they are deposited and a brief description of the content of the documents, with a view to informing academics, researchers and members of the public who may wish to consult them.

For an application form for the deposit of papers, please contact the Parliament's Historical Archives (see below) or the FMA secretariat.

Sandrine BONNET  
Historical Archives - Directorate for the Library  
European Parliament  
Tel : +352 4300 23273 / Mail : EPRS-Archives-MEP@ep.europa.eu



## NEW PUBLICATIONS

**'Mein leben als frau in der politik'** (My life as a woman in politics) by Astrid Lulling, self-published, 320 pages, €19.50, in German only. Available through [www.editions-schortgen.lu](http://www.editions-schortgen.lu)

*Astrid Lulling, born to a steel-workers' family in Schiffingen, is a living legend.*

*From 1949 onwards, she experienced, as a young girl working for a trade-union, the foundation of the European Coal and Steel Community. As socialist parliamentarian after 1965 she fought for equality between men and women in the European Parliament and the Chamber.*

*In 1970 she was elected the first female mayor in the local community where she was born in Luxembourg. Astrid Lulling was the figurehead of the Social-democratic Party until 1982, before Pierre Werner was winning her over for the Christian-social Party in 1984. Her party had been dissolved in 1982.*

*She was loved, hated, and experienced ups and downs during her political career. Despite the hostilities, she was one of the most popular politicians until she had to leave the E.P. in 2014, because her party did not put her on the list for the 2014 elections.*

*The Bar at the European Parliament in Brussels is named after her: "Astrid Lulling Lounge". In this book she wrote down her memories...with a twinkle in the eye.*



## NEW MEMBERS



**Stavros ARNAOUTAKIS**  
(Greece 2004-2009, S&D)

Stavros Arnautakis was a Member of the European Parliament from 2004 to 2009. Through his time in the European Parliament he served as a member in the Committee on Regional Development, Committee on Fisheries, Delegation to the EU-Romania Joint Parliamentary Committee and the Delegation for relations with the People's Republic of China.



**Sandrine BELIER**  
(France 2004-2009, Green/EFA)

Sandrine Bélier was a Member of the European Parliament from 2009 to 2014. Through her time in the European Parliament she served as a member in the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety and the Delegation for relations with Japan.

## NEW MEMBERS



**Colm BURKE**  
(Ireland 2007-2009, EPP-ED)

Colm Burke was a Member of the European Parliament from 2007 to 2009. Through his time in the European Parliament he served as a member in the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Delegation for relations with the United States.



**Yves BUTEL**  
(France 1999-2004, EDD)

Yves Butel was a Member of the European Parliament from 1999 to 2004. Through his time in the European Parliament he served as a member in the Delegation for relations with the Maghreb countries and the Arab Maghreb Union, Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy and the Delegation to the EU-Ukraine and the EU-Moldova Parliamentary Cooperation Committees and Delegation for relations with Belarus.



**Mario Walter MAURO**  
(Italy 2009-2013, EPP-ED)

Mario Walter Mauro was a Member of the European Parliament from 1999 to 2013. Through his time in the European Parliament he served as Vice-President of the Parliament and the Parliament's Bureau. He also was a vice-chair of the Members from the European Parliament to the Joint Parliamentary Assembly of the Agreement between the African, Caribbean and Pacific States and the European Union (ACP-EU) and the Committee on Culture, Youth, Education, the Media and Sport and a Member of the Delegation for relations with Australia and New Zealand, Committee on Budgets, Delegation for relations with Canada, Delegation to the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly, Delegation to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Delegation for relations with the United States and the Special committee on the policy challenges and budgetary resources for a sustainable European Union after 2013.



**Andrea MÖLZER**  
(Austria 2009-2014, NA)

Andrea Mölzer was a Member of the European Parliament from 2004 to 2014. Through his time in the European Parliament he served as a member in the Delegation to the EU-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee, Committee on Constitutional Affairs, Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Delegation to the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Cooperation Committee.



## #EURO20



The 1st of January 1999 marks a historic moment in time. On that day, 11 EU countries launched a common currency: the euro. The new currency was introduced together with a shared monetary policy. This day not only marks the end of a long and ambitious journey to ensure stability in Europe but is also the beginning of a success story.

To commemorate this milestone, the European Parliament hosted a ceremony, opened by Antonio Tajani. During his speech, President Tajani, pointed out that 75% of citizens approve of the Euro, the highest popularity rating ever. He underlined that it has made life easier in many ways and provided protection during the financial crisis.

Former EP and FMA Presidents, José-Maria Gil-Robles and Enrique Barón Crespo along with FMA member Christa Randzio Plath were present.

## IN MEMORIAM

† 20 June 2018

**Artur DA CUNHA OLIVEIRA**  
PES (1989-1994)



He served as a Portuguese member of the European Parliament from 1989 to 1994. Mr Da Cunha Oliveira was member of the Group of the Party of European Socialists.

On national level, he represented Partido Socialista.

† 31 December 2018

**Mark KILLILEA**  
EDA (1987-1999)



Mr Killilea served as Irish member of the European Parliament from 1987 to 1999. He was member of the Group of the European Democratic Alliance until 1995 and of the Group Union for Europe until 1999.

On a national level, he represented Finnaí Fáil Party.