

# EPFMA

## Bulletin



78 · March 2022

European Parliament Former Members Association

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# THE CHALLENGES OF DEMOGRAPHY IN THE EU

FMA Reflection Group on  
the Future of the EU



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Observer

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15th Anniversary

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2022 is the European Year of Youth, shining a light on the importance of European youth to build a better future.

Read more:

[https://europa.eu/youth/year-of-youth\\_en](https://europa.eu/youth/year-of-youth_en)

#EuropeanYearOfYouth

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## CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

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 Due to the long time lag between the call for contribution and the publication, some articles may be outdated.

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# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Member,

The first quarter of the year has already brought great sadness. As former President of the European Parliament who has served the Parliament for 35 years, I never expected that this could happen in Europe again. Russia has attacked a brother country. On 28 February 2022, I expressed my support to President Roberta Metsola and my solidarity to the people of Ukraine during a courtesy meeting. The same messages of support and a discussion on the economic and political repercussions were voiced during our virtual visit to France which was organised under the French Presidency of the Council of the EU. A report on this virtual visit will be available in the June edition of this Bulletin.

We are delighted to welcome Roberta Metsola as President of the European Parliament, with which after 20 years the European Parliament once again has a woman at the helm. The entire Former Members Association wishes her all the best and every success in her new role.

The Conference on the Future of Europe is a hub of political discussion at the moment. I am pleased that we were able to submit our proposal via the Conference on the Future of Europe platform. But it goes without saying that the discussions and debates do not stop there. On the contrary, we must continue our hard work to bring our ideas to life. On 21 March 'The future of Europe starts today' high-level conference, organised together with the European University

Institute took place in Florence. We are very much looking forward to elaborating about the content of this successful event in the June edition of this Bulletin.

We have dedicated the event as well as the subsequent publication to President David Maria Sassoli. With his unique character and caring personality, he excelled as a journalist and as a European politician. He was also a strong advocate for the rights of the European Parliament, for the rule of law in the EU, for peace, for social justice and for solidarity. The many testimonies and anecdotes during his Memorial Service on 17 January 2022 in the European Parliament in Strasbourg let us remember him as a genuine, smiling and firm man.

We are halfway through the French Presidency, and 2022 is the Year of Youth. And we should really hand it to our young people, who have stood up for themselves while their school and university lives have been turned upside down. For us as former MEPs, it is important to listen and support the development of the younger generation. The 'EP on Campus' programme has enabled us to make a great contribution, and I would like to thank all the members who actively participate in these university events.

The Focus section in this issue is dedicated to demographics and democracy, with an emphasis on economics, migration and gender.

This issue will also give you the lowdown on the new faces in Parliament's top jobs following the mid-term changes – the vice-presidents, the quaestors and the committee chairs.

So please enjoy this issue, which is packed with pieces from our many contributors. I'll leave you with the words of the new President of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola, at the closing of the event marking the 20th anniversary of the FMA: 'This Association's contributions have been important to the work of the European Parliament in many ways. The experience and expertise of former Members makes for a stronger, more credible Parliament. Parliament's cooperation with the FMA provides motivation for us as current MEPs to work towards a more united Europe.'

All the best and stay healthy,

**Hans-Gert Pöttering**

*FMA President*



# IN MEMORIAM

## DAVID MARIA SASSOLI

“ With great sadness, we learned of the sudden death of David Maria Sassoli, President of the European Parliament. President Sassoli was a great personality and a convinced European. He has made a great contribution to the unity of Europe and has always defended the rights of the European Parliament. President Sassoli believed in freedom, democracy, legal order and peace. He always defended the solidarity between the states and the citizens of the European Union. We will do our utmost to defend his beliefs in the future.

**Hans-Gert Pöttering**  
FMA President



FMA President Pöttering with President David Maria Sassoli  
© European Union 2019 - Source : EP

“ The loss of David Sassoli, an admirable President of the European Parliament, is a major blow for Italy and for Europe.

An esteemed man of the institutions, a convinced European and a skilled journalist, he battled illness with dignity and courage, seeing through his mandate to the end in this terrible pandemic period.

His composure, humanity, loyalty and generosity were gifts recognised by all those who knew him. With tenacity, gentility and the capacity to listen to and respect others, he undertook to defend the founding values of the EU, particularly in Parliament – which he described as ‘the institution with a more direct link to the citizens than any other’ – through his unstinting work and constant dialogue, so as to ‘render democracies stronger and sounder’.

I never forget his ever-optimistic smile and his legendary patience.

Above all, he has bequeathed a wealth of values for those in a position to continue his work in Europe.

**Monica Baldi**  
FMA Vice-President

“ How unfair, sad, and tragic it is that he left us at the peak of his career, without having been able to share the joys of a well-deserved retirement with his family. David Sassoli was an exemplary MEP – a passionate, hard-working man who loved life. He was also extremely able, good-hearted and refined. I am deeply saddened at his passing.

**Jean-Pierre Audy**  
FMA Treasurer

“ I had the pleasure of being David Sassoli’s colleague in Parliament for 5 years. He was an excellent colleague, a wonderful individual and an outstanding politician.

As President, he carried out his duties with skill, intelligence and poise. He worked tirelessly to defend European values, strengthen parliamentary democracy and bring Parliament closer to citizens. We will never forget your smile, David!

**Teresa Riera Madurell**  
FMA Secretary

# IN MEMORIAM

## DAVID MARIA SASSOLI

“

He was David against the Goliath of nationalism, intolerance and lack of solidarity.

**Enrique Barón Crespo**

*Former President of the FMA and the European Parliament*



*Enrique Barón Crespo at the Memorial ceremony for David Maria Sassoli in Strasbourg © European Union 2022 - Source : EP*

“

David Maria Sassoli was a great European, a convinced and tireless fighter for defending the European values of democracy, rule of law and freedom of press, that the European Union is firmly based on. As President of the European Parliament he was highly appreciated - and we will miss him very much indeed.

**Brigitte Langenhagen**

*EPP-ED, Germany (1990 - 2004)*

“

President Sassoli left a very positive image, his conduct being particularly appropriate in view of the times Europe was navigating. A man of consensus, he promoted rapprochement in numerous areas, acting as an admirable intermediary between the institutions of the European Union. He also contributed to strengthening the Union at a historic moment when existing difficulties were exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Most noteworthy, he put the necessary conditions in place to ensure that Parliament would not cease to function, ensuring strict compliance with the sanitary measures in place. He will go down in history as a successful President at a time when Europe was fraught with such difficulties.

**Manuel Porto**

*EPP-ED (1996-1999) & ELDR (1989-1996)*

“

Almost everything one can say about my dear friend David has already been said. I would simply add that, in a Europe seeking to define its horizons, we already miss his smile, generosity, boundless hope and relentless desire to give younger generations a sounder democratic space and a better future.

**Pier Antonio Panzeri**

*S&D, Italy (2004 - 2019)*



*Andrea Manzella pays homage to President Sassoli in Rome's town hall.*

# EP AND FMA AT WORK



We strongly support you, we welcome the unity and determination of member states and express our solidarity to the Ukrainian people.

*Statement by FMA President Hans-Gert Pöttering during his meeting with President of the European Parliament Roberta Metsola  
28 February 2022*



FMA President Pöttering during his meeting with EP President Roberta Metsola on 28 February 2022 © European Union 2022 - Source: EP



We are meeting in extraordinary times. There is war in Europe. Russia has attacked a brother country, the people of Ukraine. It is not only an attack against the Ukrainian nation; it is an attack against the whole of Europe, on our values, of the dignity of the human being, freedom, democracy, legal order and peace. This is an historic moment and the citizens of Ukraine should know that we are here to help them.

*Statement by FMA President Hans-Gert Pöttering  
28 February 2022 - FMA Virtual Visit to France*



FMA President Pöttering participating at the EP extraordinary plenary session on 1 March 2022 where he expressed his support to Ambassador Vsevolod Chentsov © European Union 2022 - Source: EP



Gathering on 1 March 2022 outside the EP building at the Esplanade Simone Veil in support to Ukraine © European Union 2022 - Source: EP



FMA President Pöttering supporting the Ukrainian people together with MEPs on 1 March 2022 at the Esplanade Simone Veil © European Union 2022 - Source: EP



# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AT WORK

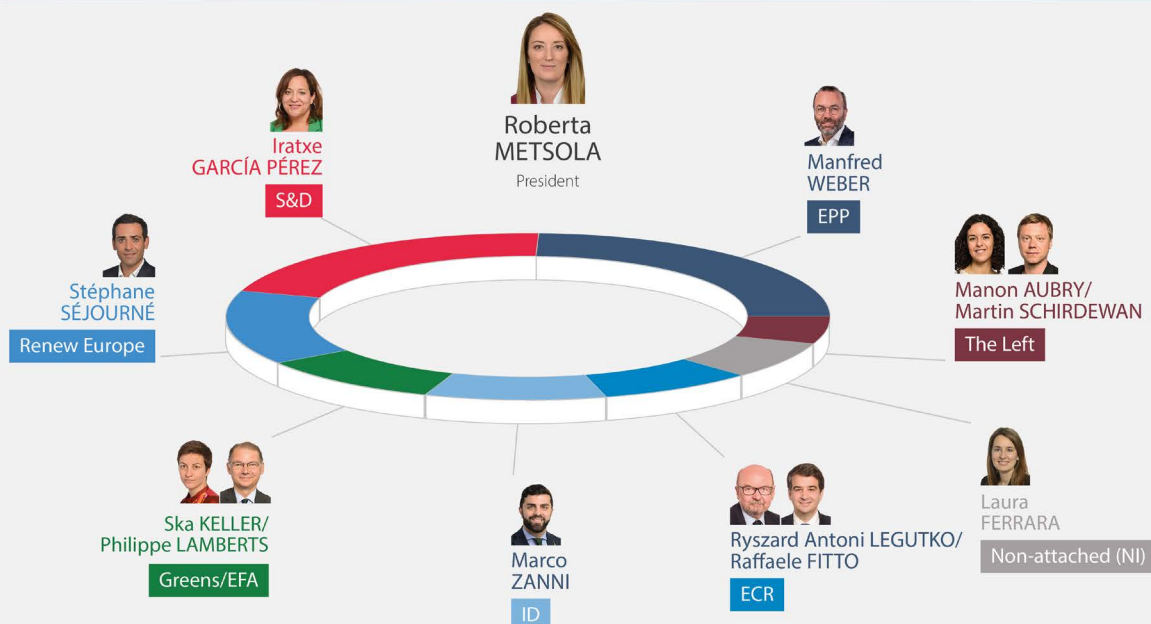


Roberta Metsola © European Union 2022 - Source : EP

## THE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

On 18 January 2022, Roberta Metsola (EPP, MT) won Parliament's presidential election with an absolute majority of 458 votes out of 690 valid votes in the first round. After her election she said: "Europe is about all of us standing up for one another, bringing our people closer together. It is about all of us defending those principles of our founding mothers and fathers that led us from the ashes of war and holocaust to peace, to hope, and to prosperity. 22 years ago, Nicole Fontaine was elected 20 years after Simone Veil. It will not be another two decades until the next woman is standing here."

## EP CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS



The graphic indicates the voting weights of each group as of 15 February 2022

## EP BUREAU

### President



### Vice-Presidents



### Quaestors



## EP CONFERENCE OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### Chair



### Standing Committees and Sub-Committees





# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AT WORK

## Key facts

### European Parliament upgrades the existing mandate of the EU Asylum Support Office (EASO).

(November session - P9\_TA(2021)0448)

The new EU Asylum Agency will have enhanced operational and technical powers to facilitate cooperation among member states and contribute to converging asylum standards and will create a post for a Fundamental Rights Officer, who will be in charge of a newly established complaints mechanism. The Agency will also set up a reserve pool of at least 500 asylum experts to assist countries in need.

### MEPs give their final green light to new rules obliging big multinationals to publicly declare the taxes they pay in each EU country, in order to undermine tax avoidance.

(November session - P9\_TA(2021)0446)

Multinationals and their subsidiaries with annual revenues over €750 million - and which are active in more than one EU country - will now have to publish the amount of tax they pay in each member state. This information will also need to be made publically available on the internet, using a common template and in a machine-readable format.

### EU Parliament gave the green light to the new EU Farm Policy.

(November session - P9\_TA(2021)0456)

MEPs insisted that strengthening biodiversity and adhering to the EU's environmental and climate laws and commitments will be key to the implementation of the reformed Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), taking effect in 2023. MEPs ensured that a minimum of 10% of direct payments will be used to support small and medium-sized farms.

### MEPs put forward proposals to make medicines more available and affordable, boost transparency on prices and promote joint EU

### public procurement.

(November session - P9\_TA(2021)0470)

MEPs highlight the importance of close collaboration at European level combined with making national health systems more sustainable and resilient. Key recommendations include addressing the root causes of medicines shortages, ensuring patients have access to safe, affordable and effective pharmaceutical treatments, increasing transparency on prices and public R&D funding, and strengthening EU manufacturing and supply resilience.

### EU Parliament demands new EU rules to support legal labour migration.

(November session - P9\_TA(2021)0472)

MEPs adopted a legislative initiative report on legal labour migration. In it, they support the creation of an EU talent pool to match non-EU applicants with prospective EU-based employers, to ease workforce shortages in member states and based on the existing EURES portal. Parliament calls for an ambitious admission scheme for low- and medium-skilled third country workers, as well as a framework for recognition of their skills and qualifications.

### European Parliament confirmed the European Year of Youth 2022 to empower young people.

(December session - P9\_TA(2021)0486)

EU Parliament confirmed the decision to organise youth-focused and youth-centric activities and initiatives across all member states in 2022 which will focus on re-establishing a positive outlook for European young people negatively affected by the impact of the COVID-19.

### EU Parliament calls for EU law to tackle the problem of Gender-based cyberviolence.

(December session - P9\_TA(2021)0489)

Parliament asked on Tuesday for a European directive to stamp out gender-based cyberviolence and ensure

convergence at national and EU level. Parliament urges the Commission to criminalise gender-based cyberviolence, and calls for the Council to extend the list of 'EU crimes'.

### EU Parliament condemns the large Russian military build-up near Ukraine.

(December session - P9\_TA(2021)0515)

MEPs demand that the government in Moscow immediately withdraw its forces and stop threatening its neighbouring country. MEPs say any aggression by Moscow must come at a high economic and political price and demand that the EU take credible steps to reduce its dependence on Russian energy imports and show stronger energy solidarity with Ukraine.

### European Parliament adopts three resolutions of human rights breaches in Hong Kong, Kazakhstan and Sudan.

(January session - P9\_TA(2022)0011)

MEPs call for diplomatic and political boycott of the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics. Parliament demands a proper international investigation into the crimes committed against the people of Kazakhstan. Parliament calls on all Sudanese political actors to restart the transition to civilian rule.

### EU Parliament endorses the provisional agreement on increasing the powers of the EU's medicines regulator.

(January session - P9\_TA(2022)0006)

The EU will be better prepared to manage future health crises by tackling shortages of medicines and medical devices more effectively. Two "shortages steering groups", for medicines and medical devices respectively, will be created and the EMA will set up and manage the European Shortages Monitoring Platform to facilitate data collection. The agency will also set up a public webpage with information on shortages.

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

11.11.21

MEPs are calling on the government to **lift the ban on abortion** that puts women's lives at **risk** a year after the **Polish Constitutional Tribunal's ruling**.

MEPs call on the Polish government to ensure that no more women in Poland die because of this restrictive law.

11.11.21

EU Parliament is calling for new EU rules to **curtail vexatious legal actions** intended to intimidate and **silence critical voices**.

MEPs propose a **series of measures** to counteract the threat that Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs) pose to journalists, NGOs and civil society in Europe.

MEPs **worry about the effect** of these lawsuits on EU values, the internal market and the EU justice system.

24.11.21

MEPs call for **diversification, more recycling and domestic sourcing** to boost an autonomous and sustainable EU supply of materials needed to produce key technologies.

MEPs highlight EU's dependence on imports of resources needed for **digital and green transitions**.

14.12.21

EU Parliament has adopted its position on the **international procurement instrument (IPI)**, a tool to help provide EU companies with more opportunities to **tender outside the EU**.

The IPI encourages public procurement markets in countries that protect this sector to be more open.

15.12.21

European Parliament gave its green light to begin negotiations with member states on **rules** setting out what **big online platforms** will be allowed to do and not do in the EU.

The **Digital Markets Act (DMA)** proposal blacklists certain practices used by large platforms acting as "gatekeepers" and enables the Commission to carry out market investigations and sanction non-compliant behaviours.

15.12.21

MEPs demand the EU and its member states propose concrete measures to uphold **women's rights** and reduce **gender inequalities** in the EU.

MEPs reiterated that **equal pay and equal treatment** are an essential precondition for women's equal rights, economic independence and career fulfilment.

MEPs are concerned by the **continuing gender pay gap in the EU** (14.1%) and **pension gap** (29.5%), as well as by the often-precarious nature of the working situation of women.

15.12.21

European Parliament adopted three resolutions on the respective **human rights situations in Russia, Cuba and Serbia**.

Parliament condemns the repeated persecution by **Russian** authorities to shut down the two legal entities of the human rights organisation Memorial.

MEPs denounce the ongoing systematic abuses against protestors in **Cuba**.

**Serbia** must investigate alleged forced labour at the Linglong factory.

20.01.22

MEPs call on EU countries to **respect animal welfare during transport** and to transition to transporting meat and not live animals, after 18 months of fact-finding.

Each year, millions of live animals are transported by road, sea, rail and air within and outside the EU for slaughter, fattening or breeding. Their **wellbeing** during these journeys should be ensured by **special EU rules**.

20.01.22

MEPs agreed a draft set of measures to **tackle illegal content**, to ensure platforms are held accountable for their algorithms, and improve content moderation.

The **Digital Services Act (DSA)** proposal defines clear responsibilities and accountability for providers of intermediary services, and in particular online platforms, such as social media and marketplaces.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/plenary>



# LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT

“

Dear President Pöttering, dear colleagues, it is with regret that I inform you that, as of next January, due to other political commitments, I will no longer be a Quaestor of the European Parliament, and consequently, no longer a Member of the European Parliament Former Members Association Management Committee. Working with you all during the past two-and-a-half years has been a privilege. Your experience and knowledge on European affairs have undoubtedly added insight to all the discussions we have had during Management Committee meetings. I trust that I fully served the Management Committee, especially as regards issues concerning the European Parliament's administration. I would like to thank my colleague, Quaestor Boyer, who always gave his support and assistance as we tried to address various issues. On a personal level, I look forward to the day when I will be an active member of the Former Members Association.

Yours sincerely,

**David Casa MEP**

*Member of the  
European Parliament  
Quaestor, (2019-2022)*

*david.casa@europarl.europa.eu*

*On behalf of the FMA Management Committee, I would like to thank Quaestor David Casa for his kind words and both Quaestors David Casa and Gilles Boyer for their valuable support to the FMA. We wish them all the best for their new responsibilities.*

*We are very pleased to welcome Quaestors Christophe Hansen and Fabienne Keller who are now responsible for former MEPs and will serve on the FMA Board without voting rights.*

**Hans-Gert Pöttering**

*FMA President*



**Christophe HANSEN MEP**



**Fabienne KELLER MEP**



*Press conference by David Casa, FMA President Hans-Gert Pöttering and member of the FMA Reflection Group Elmar Brok on their proposals to the CoFoE © European Union 2022 - Source : EP*





## PEACE BASED ON INTERNATIONAL LAW

Moscow's demands on the West, combined with military deployments and threats, have again made war in Europe an instrument of power politics.

In view of Moscow's ultimatums, putting an end to nations' sovereignty by calling for a return to the old spheres of influence, and the encircling of Ukraine on three sides by what is now a force of some 200 000 soldiers, with heavy weaponry and other materiel, it is hard to see how negotiations can possibly succeed and international law can be complied with at the same time.

Hitler's actions in Russia must not be forgotten. There were even more victims of Nazi criminals in Ukraine and Poland, both of which, like the Baltic states and Moldova, fell victim to the Hitler-Stalin pact. The sacrifices made by the citizens of Belarus, who are now again being haunted by dictators, were also huge. The Russian Ambassador's claim that Ukraine is being packed full of weapons, troops and special

units is completely wrong and, given Russia's deployment and occupation of eastern Ukraine and Crimea, rather odd.

In addition, NATO has kept to all agreements since 1990. There was – and is – no agreement involving NATO and Germany that Poland, the Baltic states and others would not be admitted as members. That I know from discussions with Helmut Kohl, but also with the then Polish Ambassador, Krzysztof Jan Skubiszewski. After the three partitions of Poland by Russia, Prussia and Austria, and the last one in 1939 by Hitler and Stalin, who together carried out the assault on Poland, we Germans could not deny Poland the protection it sought in NATO.

NATO did not permanently deploy troops or weapons in any new NATO territories, including eastern Germany, until Ukraine had been invaded – in contravention of international law and treaties – and Baltic airspace continually violated.

The claim that NATO is encircling Russia is wrong – that is not supported by any of the deployments – but it is also wrong because only 6 % of Russia's borders touch NATO countries.

NATO admission for Ukraine and Georgia was prevented by Germany and France at the Bucharest Summit in 2008. There is no concrete intention to change this. Moscow knows that.

**“The claim that NATO is encircling Russia is wrong – that is not supported by any of the deployments – but it is also wrong because only 6 % of Russia's borders touch NATO countries.”**

In the 21st century, however, given the CSCE Final Act and the Charter of Paris, spheres of influence are no longer allowed, and nor may war be used as a means of exerting pressure. Countries such as Ukraine also have the right to sign trade and economic agreements, etc. with anyone. In a long essay last summer, Putin wrote that, on ethical and historical grounds, countries such as Ukraine and Belarus have no right to statehood. That is wrong. In reality, he wants to return to czarist colonialism.

Putin also needs to play the nationalist card. An economically and socially successful democratic Ukraine is already a threat to his power, since he cannot offer his citizens progress in those areas. For 30 years now, at all elections and in all free referendums, Ukrainians



Extraordinary Plenary session of 1 March 2022 on the situation in Ukraine © European Union 2022 - Source : EP

have opted for a sovereign and democratic Ukraine.

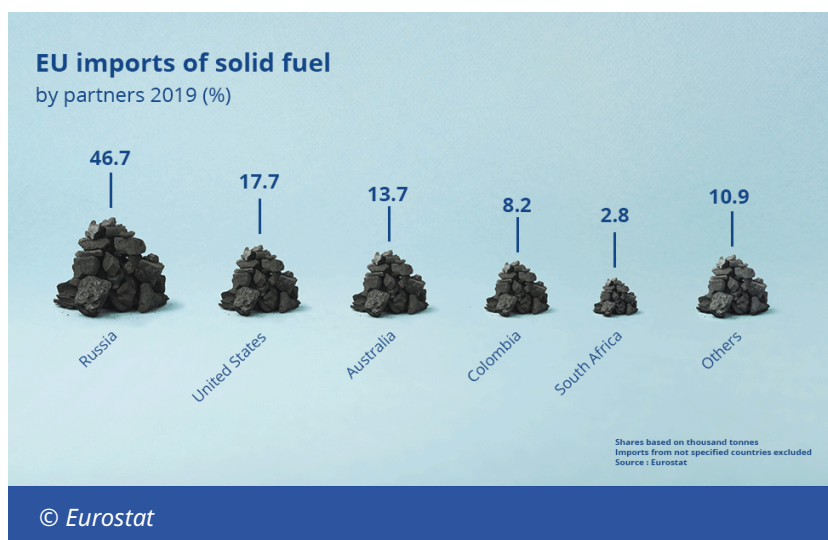
The EU can offer Putin the assistance that, until 2014, was planned to go to Russia, such as the modernisation agreement and a new partnership agreement, if Russia again recognises international law. Russia broke a number of disarmament treaties which, regrettably, Trump then terminated. The Russian nuclear missiles now deployed in Kaliningrad directly threaten seven EU states.

**“For 30 years now, at all elections and in all free referendums, Ukrainians have opted for a sovereign and democratic Ukraine.”**

Biden and NATO are prepared to ensure mutual security through appropriate disarmament treaties. Both sides – not only Ukraine – must finally implement the Minsk agreement. If Putin were to show good will, there would be enough common ground for reasonable



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cooperation. At all events, disarmament negotiations could guarantee security for all.

Russia is almost exclusively economically dependent on the export of fossil fuels – a position that the development of renewable energies is making increasingly parlous. Alternatively, in the long run, Russia will become China's junior partner.

What are the lessons that the EU should learn? We should do even more than we have been doing to help the people in our neighbourhood fulfill their dream of freedom and prosperity. Perhaps, in the longer term, something like membership of a European Economic Area might be offered alongside association and trade agreements.

And Europe's political weakness might finally be overcome through an enhanced foreign and security policy bringing with it a capacity to act with greater military strength that is complementary to NATO.

**“EU Member States' military spending is several times higher than Russia's.”**

EU Member States' military spending is several times higher than Russia's – around EUR 280 billion a year – but the outcome is disastrous because of a lack of coordination and a lack of synergies in military equipment planning, development and production.

**Elmar Brok**

*Advisor to the Munich Security Conference, former MEP  
EPP, Germany (1980-2019)  
bart@elmarbrok.de*

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# THE EU'S TRUE GEOPOLITICAL AMBITION

This is the very first time that the EU has come up with a major, transformational plan to stop the destruction of the planet and build a more inclusive society based on the new digital economy, and on science and technology that work for people. And because being green must go hand-in-hand with justice and inclusion, the Green New Deal is in fact so much more than an environment and energy-transition plan. It's Europe's big opportunity to position itself as a leader in bringing about vital transitions.

The EU will be the first group of countries to be declared climate-neutral. This will have important geopolitical consequences: once again, Europe will be leading from the front, pulling the rest of the world along with it. We have it within our grasp to decouple economic growth from the over-exploitation of resources. So far our progress has been based on us plundering shared resources, without giving a thought to future generations.

President von der Leyen put it very well when she said that we in the EU are at a 'man on the moon' moment. The Green New Deal is a major plan that should make it possible for us to speed up the delivery of Agenda 2030. With its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, that agenda is a global transition framework that received unanimous backing in the UN. It is now subject to severe delays owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The deal is a valuable one in that it can bring our fragmented society back together. First, it is a kind of social contract within and between generations, in that its aim is for future generations to inherit a healthy planet and a more inclusive

society. And second, it is based on multilateralism: cooperation among nations to address issues that can only be solved by acting collectively. For us, this is a defining moment for the future: we are the last generation that can still prevent global catastrophe, and the first to be able to see a world without extreme poverty. Never has an agenda been so crucial and so exciting.

And as if the transition was not difficult enough, the devastation wrought by COVID-19 has made things much more complicated. But it has also made the transition so much more necessary and urgent. There is a direct link between the virus and the decline of biodiversity caused by the impact of humans on the planet. It is therefore essential that we do something to overcome the major obstacles we are facing. The first is urgency. Vice-President Hans Timmermans was very clear when he told the European Parliament: 'This is going to be bloody hard to do. [...] And the sooner we start, the lower the cost.' There's no time to lose.

The pandemic has made things much more difficult, but the EU's response to COVID has been to provide extensive support to get through the hard times. The Next Generation EU fund, for example, has been introduced to help the hardest-hit economies, in addition to the extensive resources already allocated with a view to bringing about the green transition. As much as EUR 1 billion will be deployed as part of the Green Deal, plus EUR 750 000 to kick-start the economy.

**“The EU's true geopolitical ambition should be to set an example in bringing about a green and just transition!”**

The fact that the Green Deal has coincided with the need to boost the economy in the wake of COVID means this is the biggest-ever deployment of financial resources, and this brings with it a whole host of opportunities. It will be a rocky road, that much is clear. The geostrategic conflict in progress on our continent could distract our attention; the huge sums of money involved will make financial management very difficult; we need to make sure the transition is fair, and that no one is left behind; and we can't allow any divisions to form in the EU.

The EU's true geopolitical ambition should be to set an example in bringing about a green and just transition!

## **Cristina Gallach**

*Journalist, Former Spanish Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Ibero-America and the Caribbean*



© European Union 2022 - Source : EP



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# SOCIAL EUROPE NEEDS MORE FACE!

The European project of peace, freedom and prosperity is repeatedly put to the test. Especially in times of crisis and in the face of ever greater global challenges, the strength of our fundamental values must prove itself. The narrowing of the European idea to economic action is unacceptable. The social sector needs a triple-A rating. In view of high unemployment, exclusion and inequality in and between our member states and closely interconnected European economies, political priorities are needed in favor of social justice.

The social model of the social market economy, which puts people at the center, is the regulatory framework for joint action at the European level. The EU sets standards and unites the economic as well as the ecological and social dimensions.

The European social model has different national characteristics. Collective bargaining coverage and the strengthening of co-determination must increase. The fight against social exclusion, impediments to access to the labor market, precarious employment and habituation to increasing poverty must be at the center of political action.

The face of social and just Europe is the European Pillar of Social Rights (ESSR). It was solemnly proclaimed in 2017 at the Gothenburg Social Summit by the Heads of State and Government and confirmed in 2021 at the Social Summit in Porto. Its contribution to stabilizing the European project is a signal of departure to secure social rights and create framework conditions that lead to practical effects of the EU's welfare promise. Step by step, it

should be possible to adopt binding common, cross-border rules on the basis of recommendations, including the expanded indicators within the framework of the Social Scoreboard of the European Semester. For effective future development, it is necessary that the principle of unanimity in the Council be replaced by qualified majority voting.

For the area of European social policy, the following topics are indispensable:

- Future-proof jobs are an essential basis for income and self-fulfillment. Involuntary part-time and insecure employment must be minimized. This applies in particular to young people up to the age of 24, older people over 55, the long-term unemployed and people with disabilities.
- The establishment of start-ups and innovative companies, including those with non-profit objectives, is to be supported. Active employment promotion, especially in digital and green areas, is to be provided by adequately funded EU programs.
- In the EU, the development of common markets is to be intensified. This includes strengthening the technologies of the future. In global competition, our key industries must be protected. This is the only way to preserve competitive jobs.
- The misuse of work contracts and attempts to evade corporate responsibility for work performed by subcontractors must be punished.
- Financial resources must be created to overcome economic crises. For example, short-time work based on the German model has been supported throughout Europe by the SURE program, which has

resulted in loans worth billions of euros in EU member states.

- The low-wage sector must be reduced. Fair wages must be paid. The social partners are responsible for their level or it should be decided by law. The adoption of a legal framework for European minimum wages has to be supported.
- Employees need significantly better social protection. If these standards are binding, a decent level of protection can be guaranteed.
- The Corona pandemic has shown that preventive measures are just as necessary in the healthcare sector as coordinated action by the member states. The conditions for a European health union must be created. Health care must be expanded so that it is of high quality, affordable and timely.
- Europe-wide competence in the area of occupational safety and health must be further developed. Occupational health and safety must also be strengthened in the long term. Bullying in the workplace and discrimination must lead to sanctions and better protection through Europe-wide monitoring bodies.
- The comprehensive participation of the social partners in shaping the future world of work is an absolute must. Co-determination rights for works councils and staff councils, as well as youth and trainee councils, should be expanded in such a way that uniform regulations are also introduced in smaller companies.

**Thomas Mann**  
EPP, Germany (1994 – 2019)  
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# FMA ACTIVITIES

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EPFMA  
PEAAD



# OUR EUROPEAN UNION – TIME TO BE BOLD, TO ACT, AND TO DELIVER

Proposal from the Former Members Association of the European Parliament (FMA) to the Conference on the Future of Europe



The aim of this proposal, which is based on the reports and documents of the meetings of 22 April, 30 June, 12 October and 7 December 2021, and the rich, diverse contributions by individual members of the Former Members Association (FMA) and Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), is to achieve a broad consensus within the FMA and its Reflection Group on the Future of Europe for a contribution to the plenary session of the Conference on the Future of Europe (the 'Conference').

## Introduction

*'J'ai toujours pensé que l'Europe se ferait dans les crises, et qu'elle serait la somme des solutions qu'on apporterait à ces crises.'* (Jean Monnet, *Mémoires*, Paris, Fayard, 1976, p. 488)



At this time of severe crisis, it is more important now than ever before that the European Union (EU), which finds itself being challenged both from within and outside its Member States, reflect on its future. Former MEPs, coming together under the aegis of the FMA, can contribute from a particular point of view, given their expertise, experience and institutional and political memory of the only EU institution that is directly elected by EU citizens.

The Conference is a unique opportunity to reflect on and drive the dialogue surrounding the EU's future in an open and inclusive way.

We believe that the Conference should concentrate on broad questions related to European integration, the ways in which the EU can be more efficient, increase its capacity to act and deliver what citizens expect, and how the rule of law can be better protected, without excluding the possibility of Treaty change. We also hope that some interinstitutional questions, such as the future of the so-called Spitzenkandidaten system, will be settled and that lessons will be learnt from the EU's latest crisis, namely

the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We need to do more. Therefore, as former MEPs, we want to be bold, as this chance for the EU to be more ambitious in the future should not be wasted. With this in mind, we have decided to present five general guidelines that the EU should follow in developing its future politics and policies. Furthermore, we have compiled a list of 10 concrete proposals on the direction in which the EU should develop, or, in other words, the areas in which an initiative needs to be taken.

#### **General guidelines:**

1. Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union states that the EU 'is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. These values are common to the Member States in a society in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men prevail'. In order to ensure credibility both within and outside the EU, the Union's basic values and principles, as defined above, should not be compartmentalised by limiting them

to specific policy areas, but instead mainstreamed as much as possible, through credible and effective enforcement mechanisms, in all actions taken by the EU.

2. In order to deliver on citizens' expectations, there must be political will to grant to the EU the capacity to act, both in terms of rules (to avoid deadlock) and resources. This is key to the Union's success, linking citizens' priorities with the tools and means necessary in various areas of competence, thus closing the unfortunate gap between expectation and delivery, and between ambitious declarations and underwhelming results. Rather than debating about more or less Europe, the guiding principle should be that the EU is given what it needs in order to be able to act in line with citizens' expectations.

3. All of the tools and means that are currently provided for in the Treaties should be used, including the several opportunities that have so far gone unseized<sup>1</sup>, not least the possibility of Treaty change, which should always seek to further strengthen the institutions' accountability and the EU democratic system, in particular as regards the role of Parliament and the capacity to reach a decision within the Council, thus eliminating the possibility for each Member State to exercise a veto.

4. All initiatives taken by the EU should incorporate its broad policy goals, rather than run counter to them. In other words, the EU's

*1. For commentary on untapped Treaty articles, see: European Parliament resolution of 16 February 2017 on improving the functioning of the European Union building on the potential of the Lisbon Treaty (OJ C 252, 18.7.2018): <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX-%3A52017IP0049>*



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policies should reconcile economic interests (i.e. growth and prosperity) with social protection (i.e. welfare and well-being), thus forming a competitive social market economy, while also taking into account high environmental and climate protection standards. Indeed, mitigation of and adaptation to climate change are emerging as a global challenge that requires our societies to be restructured in their entirety to enable the adoption of more sustainable and inclusive models. The political, legal and financial means should be given to the EU to continue leading in this area.

5. EU democracy should be strengthened at all levels (local, regional and national), while respecting the principle of subsidiarity, through the more structured participation of individual citizens and civil society organisations, and a greater focus on the transparency and accessibility of EU decision-making. Such participation is intended to weaken neither the role of the European Parliament and national parliaments nor the electoral process. On the contrary, participative and representative democracy should be interpreted as two mutually reinforcing principles. The role of European political parties should be strengthened, especially during the European Parliament elections.

### Concrete proposals:

1. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has shown us, among other things, the need for more solidarity among the Member States especially in emergency situations. Mechanisms for mutual support and short-term assistance in the area of health should be organised at EU level. In that respect, the solidarity that overtook the so-called

coronationalism of the initial Member State-oriented response, coupled with the shared successes evidenced in fighting the pandemic, should be used as a basis for more permanent solutions. In other words, the most pressing question should be: will the EU be better prepared when the next major disaster or crisis strikes? <sup>2</sup>.

2. In a world where individual Member States cannot compete with global superpowers, which act unilaterally, a genuine foreign- security- and defence policy of the EU should be developed by availing of qualified majority voting (QMV) more frequently in the Council (e.g. for the imposition of sanctions) and by using all flexibility instruments of the treaty including permanent structured cooperation (PESCO) to avoid deadlocks. A common and operational defense capacity has to be developed so that the EU - or its member states - can react in situations of emergency or

*2. See the amendment that was put forward by, among others, Elmar Brok during the Convention on the Future of Europe (2001-2003), in which the addition of 'the combating of public health threat of a significant cross-border nature' was proposed as a shared EU competence: <http://european-convention.europa.eu/docs/Treaty/pdf/12/global12.pdf> (page 11). See, also, the references to public health as a shared competence in the final report of Working Group XI on Social Europe (Brussels, 3 February 2003: <http://european-convention.europa.eu/pdf/reg/en/03/cv00/cv00516-re01.en03.pdf>), such as in 'the current Article 152 [Treaty establishing the European Community (Treaty of Nice, consolidated version)] should be enlarged so as to give the Union more competences in the field of public health and cover matters such as grave cross-border threat, communicable diseases, bioterrorism and WHO Agreements' (page 15).*



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crisis (e.g. Kabul airport). In these circumstances the European pillar of the North Atlantic Alliance (NATO) should be strengthened. This is what citizens expect of the EU. It is only a matter of political will.

A shift towards QMV in the area of foreign affairs would transform the Member States from veto players into honest brokers who should be able to reach consensus on sensitive and critical issues.

3. Based on the experience with NextGenerationEU, the Union should be able to further develop and decide on its own resources, like at any other level of government. In other words, the EU should enjoy fiscal autonomy, i.e. be able to collect money on the financial markets by issuing bonds (borrowing capacity), including outside the Recovery and Resilience Facility, and raise EU-wide taxes linked to its competences<sup>3</sup>. The extending of the instruments created by NextGenerationEU should

*3. 'If we want this revolutionary package to turn into a true "Hamiltonian moment" that Europe badly needs, we have to try and keep the momentum, by finding a way to prolong the borrowing capacity beyond the crisis, and to transfer gradually its resources from national budgets relief to EU policies funding.' (Alain Lamassoure, 10 November 2021).*

be discussed in the context of the mid-term review of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027. A return to national balanced budgets could be accompanied by increased borrowing at EU level to take on national investments. Furthermore, these new steps should be enshrined in the Treaties. Additionally, parliamentary control by the European Parliament should be extended beyond expenditure to cover revenue as well. The overall budget of the EU should reflect its ambitions. One cannot aspire to great policies, less still be bold in action, when hindered by modest means.

4. Digitalisation should be inclusive – leaving nobody behind – and protective of the EU's citizens and the Member States. The EU should take the lead in fighting cybercrime, especially from third countries. Disinformation and the spread of fake news systematically undermine our values and principles, and should, therefore, be considered as a crime against democracy. The EU should help safeguard a safe e-space for all Member States and at all levels of government.

5. There is a need for more European education and information, in particular for the young generations,

especially through the development of multilingual and digitally accessible pedagogic materials, for all citizens on the history of Europe, based, in particular, on transnational perspectives<sup>4</sup>, and on European integration and the EU democratic system.

6. More should be done to protect the rule of law, especially with regard to current Member States. The EU cannot credibly demand high standards and exemplary conduct of candidate countries, let alone point out deficiencies in third countries, if its own Member States do not act in accordance with its basic values and principles. The EU should therefore develop and fully apply in all Member States a number of rule-of-law enforcement instruments.

7. Geopolitical instability, the worldwide competition for natural resources, the EU's dependence on energy imports from third countries and the impact of climate change policies all emphasise the need for a true energy union. Obstacles to internal market integration should be removed, there should be coordination between national policies and the role of energy should be incorporated into the EU's foreign policy, in order to stimulate renewable energy sources within the EU and provide affordable energy and a highly secure energy supply for all its citizens and companies.

8. The Spitzenkandidaten system should be enforced, first and foremost by Parliament itself. The future of the system depends primarily on Parliament's willingness to take a stance vis-à-vis the European Council. In order to strengthen the Spitzenkandidaten system, the introduction of transnational lists – with a limited number of seats as long as it does not create first- and second-class MEPs – is considered. For the nomination and the election of the Commission President the number of the seats of the groups in the Parliament is decisive in which all MEPs count equal. In any case, the closeness of representatives to their constituents and the extent to which citizens identify with MEPs should be strengthened.

9. As the second chamber of the EU legislature, the Council should do more to make its deliberations visible and transparent. This chamber should behave as a single public body, in which all final decisions are taken, with meetings open to all citizens, similar to Parliament.

10. A true European perspective for the Western Balkans countries is needed<sup>5</sup>. This can be done only via a concrete and detailed roadmap, accompanied by a strict timetable. In this way, conditionality would be strengthened on both sides: candidate countries would know what to do and when to do it in order to become a member of the EU, while Member States would be encouraged to comply with the



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4. See, for instance, House of European History: <https://historia-europa.ep.eu/en/mission-vision>.

5. See, for instance, the EP's press release of 25 March 2021: <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210322IPR00528/enlargement-reports-meps-fully-support-western-balkans-european-future>.



enlargement prospects they have agreed upon and to strengthen the EU's integration capacity, especially in its decision-making processes.



Meeting of the FMA Reflection Group on 12 October 2021.

Contribution adopted on 8 December 2021 by the FMA Management Committee composed of:

**Hans-Gert PÖTTERING**, President

**Monica BALDI**, Vice-President

**Jean-Pierre AUDY**, Treasurer

**Teresa RIERA MADURELL**, Honorary Secretary

**Michael HINDLEY**, Member

**Brigitte LANGENHAGEN**, Member

**Miguel Angel MARTÍNEZ MARTÍNEZ**, Member

**Edward McMILLAN-SCOTT**, Member

**Pier Antonio PANZERI**, Member

**Manuel PORTO**, Member

On a proposal adapted on 7 December 2021 by the FMA Reflection Group on the Future of Europe composed of:

**Hans-Gert PÖTTERING**, President of the FMA and former President of the European Parliament (Chair)

**Enrique BARON CRESPO**, former President of the European Parliament and of the FMA (Spain, S&D, 1986-2009)

**Elmar BROK**, former MEP (Germany, EPP, 1980-2019)

**Pat COX**, former President of the European Parliament and of the FMA (Ireland, ALDE, 1989-2004)

**Monica FRASSONI**, former MEP (Italy, Greens, 1999-2009)

**Genowefa GRABOWSKA**, former MEP (Poland, SOC, 2004-2009)

**Zita GURMAI**, former MEP (Hungary, S&D, 2004-2014)

**Alain LAMASSOURE**, former MEP (France, EPP, 1989-1993/1999-2019)

**Richard CORBETT**, former MEP (UK, S&D, 1996-2009/2014-2020) (Observer)

With close cooperation of Professor Steven Van Hecke and Elisabetta Fonck, FMA Secretary General.



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# COOPERATION WITH FP-AP

## EUROPE FACING GLOBAL POWERS AT A HORIZON OF 10 YEARS

### BERLIN DECLARATION

*Adopted unanimously by the associations (\*)<sup>1</sup> representing the members of the European Association of Former Members of Parliament of the Member States of the Council of Europe.*

#### **External Unity - Internal Diversity Protecting and promoting Europe's way of life!**

#### **Europe – in this context the member States of the Council of Europe – must face the new international situation**

1. The international order since 1989 has changed fundamentally. New powers are gaining significantly in influence, and since then others have relatively less importance. How can Europe's voice be brought to the fore in this process of change? How can we maintain our position in the world – besides the US, China, Russia and India with their different systems of values? This is not a theoretical question as we must learn even in democratic organized countries. This means protecting, defending and promoting Europe's values, Europe's interests and, therefore, Europe's way of life.

#### **Defending Europe's way of life.**

2. The resolute protection of the life forms of European citizens must become the decisive objective of politics in and for Europe. In a world that is constantly changing the issues regarding the sense of security of European citizens are of

first priority. It is clear that Europe can exert its influence sufficiently only as an internally united entity - to the outside world, so as not to be degraded to the mere object of the actions of others.

3. Europe's values, as established notably by the Council of Europe and the European Union, remain decisive for us: the liberal, democratic state based on the rule of law, powerful parliaments, the open society, and the respect for human rights with the freedoms of conscience, the practice of religion, expression and the organizational right, the inviolability of human dignity and the free development of personality, preservation of peace, climate and environment protection, the full provision of education and health services for all European citizens, justice and solidarity as well as equal rights based on gender and racial neutrality. Since these values including democracy are under manifold threats and attacks, people and politicians must resist authoritarian temptations and support democracy and its institutions. We, former parliamentarians united in the FP-AP, will be in the forefront to defend human rights and democracy and forge an Appeal for Democracy and Dialogue with like-minded former MPs. Close international cooperation also in the health field must be intensified in the face of new pandemics which pose risks not only to lives and livelihoods, but to democracies, too.

4. The forms of life in Europe are varied and diverse for historical and cultural reasons. That is not a

weakness, it is Europe's strength! Europe will not live up to its role in the world if it becomes the plaything of powers. Power and influence in the international field of forces are not only based on economic and military strength ('hard power'), but not least on cultural strength of free, constitutional democracies ('soft power'). Freedom and democracy in Europe have always been underpinned by education and research. Europeans have to cooperate in particular in emerging fields of science and empower researchers and scientists, as well as encourage cultural activities. Therefore political and historical education is most important. The latter needs awareness raising and dissemination of Europe's historical roots as well as the strengthening of civic education for democracy and human rights.

#### **Pragmatism and Realpolitik.**

5. Europe needs a parallel foreign and security policy: multilateralism and European unity.

6. It is the own interest of Europe to defend multilateralism, as expressed above all in international cooperation within the framework of the UN – especially the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and within the framework of the UN Paris Agreement on climate change (2015)<sup>2</sup>. Multilateral institutions ought to be strengthened against the "law of the strongest".

<sup>1</sup> Only 21 of the 23 associations have a voting right.

<sup>2</sup> The agreement is a legally binding international treaty and entered into force on 4 November 2016.

This requires pragmatic action and a sober realpolitik on the international stage – hence, cooperation with partners according to our interests.

7. We need to strengthen the values- and rules-based international order and its institutions. To achieve this, the EU – wherever possible together with other European countries – must unite beyond trade agreements to political-strategic agreements with like-minded partners from North and Latin America, Africa, Asia and Australia, such as the Strategic Partnership Agreement concluded between the EU and Japan in July 2018. Such a global alliance of values and interests must use its political, economic and cultural strength in the United Nations, as in international organizations, for maintaining and strengthening a values- and rules-based order. Transatlantic cooperation remains an important element of European self-assertion.

#### **European Security Forum / European Security Council.**

8. Europe needs a new format for those European states that want to work together to defend, maintain and promote European forms of life: ideally a European Security Forum / European Security Council. Besides traditional military questions, this organization shall also consider issues of democratic security, human security and cybersecurity. The protection of Europe's borders (e.g. Frontex) is most important. After Brexit and after a temporary stop of the enlargement process everyone can see, that Europe is more than the 27 member states of the EU. And OSCE's structure is too

weak, because decisions are taken by consensus on a politically, but not legally binding basis.

9. This outwardly united Europe is fighting for European values in all multilateral institutions and bringing them into its bilateral relations. UK and France, with their two permanent seats on the UN Security Council, remain anchor powers for Europe's international influence.

10. Europe develops a common policy towards a security architecture of Europe including NATO member Turkey. In the spirit of good neighbourhood we expect Russia to act as a partner rather than as an enemy. From a European partner and member state of the Council of Europe we expect respect for our fundamental values. Important as well is a constructive cooperation with Africa to promote sustainable, human, resilient development and also to reduce population and migratory pressures. In the turmoil of the Middle East we stand firm on a policy that safeguards Israel's right to exist, recognizing the two-state solution with Palestine.

11. Europe, as a power of peace, conflict avoidance and diplomacy, must use its security and defence potential more efficiently. The establishment of a European capacity to defend itself must be compatible with NATO, which remains indispensable. Each state must contribute according to its capabilities. Aid upgrading and better protection of the external borders of the European countries, especially of the south that in the recent years are affected by massive refugee and migration flows are most important; we appreciate the

relevant international agreements.

12. In order to secure the economic basis for Europe's influence in the international field of power, our economy must become more innovative for competition with other economic powers. Free trade agreements with partners committed to humane, sustainable globalization and development are essential for this.

13. In this context, the euro must become a decisive building block for Europe's international influence.

#### **The responsibility of European politics.**

14. Europe's architecture should be changed in this way: the European Security Forum / European Security Council brings together those states that have understood that European values, and therefore the interests of their citizens, can only be safeguarded in the medium and long term, if they are willing to act globally on a common ground. A common domestic policy is not mandatory, but desirable. States that also want to entangle their domestic policy do so as before within the EU and the euro zone.

Motto of a new European policy:

**“External unity – internal diversity: protecting and promoting Europe's way of life!”**

Initial text drafted by the rapporteur  
Roland A. Kohn  
<https://www.fpap-europe.org/>



# COOPERATION WITH THE EUI

## PRESENT FUTURE OF EUROPE

Cooperation with the European University Institute, and especially with the European Union's Historical Archives continues apace and is proving rather successful. The conference, held in the institute's council chamber in Florence on 23 September last year and organised jointly with Women20 on the occasion of the Italian G20 Presidency, met with the approval of the press, civil society, academia and other institutions. The book 'Overcoming the Pandemic', published in December 2021 by FMA and printed by HAEU, has been widely requested. It contains the proceedings of the aforementioned conference together with authoritative speeches and recommendations for governments, underpinned by equity and gender medicine, enshrined in the 'Charta de Florentia'.

In 2022, collaboration with the European University Institute promises to be yet more fruitful with the organisation of the joint event 'Present Future of Europe', with a special poster provided by the EU's Historical Archives that the European Commission had used many years ago to build an image and identity for the European project in communication and awareness-raising campaigns run as part of the 'Europe of the Peoples' programme. The event – coordinated by the Director of the EU's Historical Archives, Dieter Schlenker, FMA Vice-President Monica Baldi and FMA Honorary Secretary Teresa Riera Madurell – is based around the high-level conference 'The Future of Europe Starts Today', scheduled for the first day of spring, 21 March, at the historical Villa Salviati in Florence. The proposal formulated by the FMA

at the 'Conference on the Future of Europe' will be presented, and the work carried out by the esteemed members of the Focus Group will be disseminated to the political and academic world and, most importantly, European citizens. The text is the product of productive cooperation during a series of events and sets out five general guidelines for the future of Europe alongside ten concrete proposals laying down the path the European Union needs to take. The proposal states that the conference should concentrate on general issues relating to European integration such as how best to protect the rule of law; how the EU can become ever-more efficient; how it can increase its capacity to act and achieve what citizens expect. None of this precludes the option of amending the Treaty. The Florence conference, which will also be webstreamed live, will be coordinated by Director Dieter Schlenker and opened, after official greetings from EUI President Renaud Dehousse and the Mayor of Fiesole, Anna Ravoni, by FMA President Hans-Gert Pöttering, followed by introductory reports from Professors Steven van Hecke and Franca Feisel and then closed by Honorary Secretary Riera Madurell.

The debate is expected to include contributions from the Director of the School of Transnational Governance, Alexander Stubb, and the distinguished members of the Focus Group: Enrique Barón Crespo, Elmar Brok, Pat Cox, Monica Frassoni, Zita Gurmai, Genowefa Grabowska, Alain Lamassoure and Richard Corbett, who sits in the group as an observer. Numerous European Policy Foundations, providing much

appreciated support to the event, are also expected to take part, with speeches from: Mikulas Dzurinda, President of the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies; Maria Joao Rodrigues, President of the Foundation for European Progressive Studies; Hilde Vautmans, President of the European Liberal Forum; Susanne Rieger and Dirk Holemans, Co-Presidents of the Green European Foundation.

The same day will see the opening of a special month-long exhibition, accessible online, displaying the most important founding documents outlining the origin and development of the major European political foundations, highlighting their recent contribution to the 'Conference on the Future of Europe'.

The proceedings of the conference and the documents on display will be presented, together with the FMA's proposal to the 'Conference on the Future of Europe' and contributions from personalities, in the book 'Present Future of Europe', which will be published by the FMA and printed by HAEU.

The event, the exhibition, the high-level conference and the book are dedicated to the memory of President David Sassoli: an esteemed servant of the institutions, a skilled journalist and a convinced pro-European. As President Roberta Metsola stated, he leaves us an important legacy of values that we must continue to defend. And it was President Sassoli who, on 9 May 2021 in the Strasbourg parliamentary chamber, inaugurated the 'Conference on the Future of Europe', launching this open consultation process

jointly introduced by Parliament, the Council and the Commission.

The Conference on the Future of Europe, announced as early as 2019 and due to conclude soon, aimed to give voice to Europe's many and varied people via an innovative method based on a dialogue between citizens and public institutions with meetings, conferences and activities also presented on a multilingual digital platform.

Several initiatives were organised in the Member States by civil society and European, national, regional and local authorities, discussing numerous topics discussed and making many recommendations.

A wide variety of events were organised to raise awareness of the exercise of democratic participation, to encourage dialogue and to help promote the active participation of certain sectors of civil society, particularly young people, in the 'Conference on the Future of Europe'.

The conference was an ideal opportunity to reflect on the past, present and future of the European Union and highlighted values and principles through recent proposals aimed at making it ever more responsive to the needs of citizens and at facing new challenges to ensure a Europe that both belongs to us and serves us all.

I personally endorse what Guy Verhofstadt, Co-President of the Conference, said at its outset about the 'need to create true dialogue through a relay race between citizens and politicians', to submit and implement concrete proposals that

represent the voice of some Europe's around 450 million people.

We should equally consider that culture also plays a fundamental role and should therefore be accessible to all European citizens, with suitable, innovative educational programmes able to elicit emotions and instant reactions, in order to be able to give new impetus to our existence, without sidelining our identities, and to achieve great things by means of a genuine cultural renaissance. The European Parliament, the Council and the Commission have

committed to listen to Europeans' voices and to follow up, within their sphere of competences, on the recommendations made. We hope that the conclusions will be successful in providing guidelines on the future of Europe, taking on board the ideas and proposals emerging from this democratic debate while maintaining the right social, cultural, political and geographical balance.

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**European Parliament Former Members Association**  
**Historical Archives of the European Union**

**THE FUTURE OF EUROPE STARTS TODAY**  
Monday 21 March 2022 - Villa Salvati EUI - Firenze

*Europe, our future*

**13:00 / 14:20 - Sala De Gasperi**  
INAUGURATION OF THE EXHIBITION  
"Present Future of Europe"  
and "Vin d'Honneur"

**14:30 / 16:30 PM - Sala del Consiglio**  
HYBRID CONFERENCE

**Inaugural Address**  
**Roberta Metsola**  
President of the European Parliament

**Welcome**  
**Renaud Dehousse**  
President of the European University Institute  
**Dieter Schlenker**  
Director Historical Archives of the European Union  
**Anna Ravoni**  
Mayor of Fiesole

**Opening**  
**Hans-Gert Pöttering**  
President of the European Parliament Former Members Association

**Introduction**  
**Steven van Hecke**  
Professor, KU Leuven Public Governance Institute  
**Franca Feisel**  
Researcher, EUI Department of Law

**Interventions by the Presidents of the European Political Foundations**  
**Mikulas Dzurinda**  
President Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies  
**Maria Joao Rodrigues**  
President Foundation for European Progressive Studies  
**Hilde Vautmans**  
President of the European Liberal Forum  
**Dirk Holemans**  
Copresident of the Green European Foundation

**Debate**  
**Enrique Barón Crespo**  
Former President of the European Parliament and of the FMA  
**Elmar Brok**  
Former MEP  
**Monica Frassoni**  
Former MEP  
**Genowefa Grabowska**  
Former MEP  
**Alain Lamassoure**  
Former MEP  
**Alexander Stubb**  
Director of the School of Transnational Governance

**Conclusions**  
**Teresa Riera Madurell**  
Honorary Secretary of the European Parliament FMA

**Programme of the high-level Conference 'The Future of Europe starts today' on 21 March 2022.**

# EP TO CAMPUS PROGRAMME

## EP TO CAMPUS, FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY

On 7th December the Former Members' Association (FMA) held an event to celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of its "EP to Campus" programme in Brussels. The exigencies of the Covid pandemic meant the event had to be a hybrid one, some guest present in person, others participating online.

Chaired by FMA President, Hans Gert Pöttering, who paid fulsome tribute to the programme's founder, Lord Balfe, the event was given an enthusiastic start by our two guest speakers.

Mariya Gabriel, EC Commissioner for Research, Culture, Education and Youth and Federica Mogherini, former EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security, both endorsed the EP to Campus Programme and spoke with enthusiasm about the need to involve young people in the political affairs and decision making processes of Europe.

Particularly pleasing was Signora Mogherini's offer of closer cooperation with the EP to Campus programme in her new role as Rector of the College of Bruges.

Three guests with experience of hosting EP to Campus guest lectureship then took part on a panel discussion under the title "Challenges of Teaching European Topics". Natalia Cuglesan of Babes Bolyai University, Cluj, Romania; Marc Arwed Rutke of the Euroculture Centre, University of Gottingen, Germany and Vlad Vernygora of the Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia all spoke of their attempts and suggestions for outreach programmes to take understanding of the EU beyond the walls of academia. The suggestion that FMA guest lecturers could act of "Ambassadors" for the EU was appreciated by members present and online.

Subsequent feedback has underlined the feeling that those present had that the event was of value.

The Covid pandemic, which unfortunately is likely to last longer than anyone of us could have foreseen, has presented us all with great challenges, but equally new technology has given us ways of circumventing them.



*Mariya Gabriel at the Celebration of the 15th Anniversary of the EP to Campus Programme.*

**"The Covid pandemic, which unfortunately is likely to last longer than anyone of us could have foreseen, has presented us all with great challenges, but equally new technology has given us ways of circumventing them."**

The EP to Campus programme will continue to expand and also continue to be open to critical evaluation from its participants. For my part, I am both grateful and fortunate to be able to play my part, assisted by Professor Manuel Porto and our excellent staff.

### **Michael Hindley**

Coordinator of the EP to Campus Programme  
PES, United Kingdom (1984 - 1999)  
[mhindley1947@gmail.com](mailto:mhindley1947@gmail.com)



*Federica Mogherini during her Keynote Speech at the 15th Anniversary of the EP to Campus Programme.*



# UPCOMING EVENTS



## ACTIVITIES

28  
APRIL 2022

### Librorum

On 28 April 2022, FMA will organise its seventh edition of the online Librorum book talk. More information will be communicated by email.

1  
JUNE 2022

### Librorum, Annual Memorial Service and Dinner Debate

Current and former MEPs will commemorate their colleagues who passed away in 2021-2022, preceded by Librorum and followed by the Dinner Debate. From 3.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. European Parliament. Brussels.

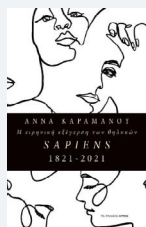
2  
JUNE 2022

### FMA General Assembly

From 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

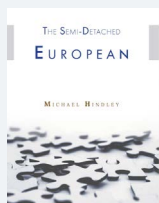
*\* Because of the uncertainty about any arrangements due to the Covid-19 pandemic, you are kindly advised not to buy flight tickets or make any other financial commitments until you have received confirmation of the event format from the Secretariat.*

## FMA MEMBERS' PUBLICATIONS



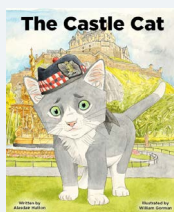
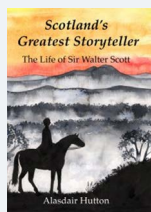
### "THE PEACEFUL UPRISING OF THE FEMALE SAPIENS " BY ANNA KARAMANOU

This book offers a fascinating historical journey starting from the revolution of 1821 against Ottoman Empire and ending with the pandemic and the greek MeToo movement 2021. It provides basic historical, political and gender knowledge about the 200 years of the modern Greek nation-state. It examines the great historical events, the role of the political and military leadership, the triumphs and national calamities, the role and the situation of women, as well as the ideas that shaped modern Greece.



### "THE SEMI-DETACHED EUROPEAN" BY MICHAEL HINDLEY

The European Union has emerged as a world economic power from the ashes of the Second World War Starting with the post-War settlement, the book takes a broad and informed view of Britain's changing relationship with this dynamic development. The successful attempt to revive democracy and establish economic recovery in Western Europe was fuelled by Franco-German reconciliation but Britain remained benevolently aloof.



### "SCOTLAND'S GREATEST STORYTELLER" AND "THE CASTLE CAT" BY ALASDAIR HUTTON

Scotland's Greatest Storyteller is a short biography of Sir Walter Scott written for young people and for people who have not started to read Scott's novels yet. This is the 250th anniversary of Sir Walter Scott's birth. The Castle Cat is a story about a little cat who follows a group of soldiers back to Edinburgh Castle and becomes their mascot. The book is for young children aged about 6 or 7 and has beautiful illustrations. The Castle Cat made his first appearance in Alasdair's first book for children The Tattoo Fox. Alasdair has also published an anecdotal history of the Parachute Regiment battalion in which he served for 22 years, The Tattoo Fox, The Tattoo Fox Makes New Friends, The Greatest Show on Earth, a Treasury of Scottish Nursery Rhymes and Mustard and Pepper.

# FMA AT WORK

## MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



Hans-Gert  
PÖTTERING



Monica BALDI



Jean-Pierre  
AUDY



Teresa RIERA  
MADURELL



Michael  
HINDLEY



Brigitte  
LANGENHAGEN



Miguel  
Ángel MARTÍNEZ  
MARTÍNEZ



Edward  
McMILLAN-  
SCOTT



Pier Antonio  
PANZERI



Manuel PORTO

## FMA BUREAU

President: **Hans-Gert PÖTTERING**

Vice-President: **Monica BALDI**

Treasurer: **Jean-Pierre AUDY**

Secretary: **Teresa RIERA MADURELL**

### LIST OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

#### **FMA Bulletin Editorial Board:**

Ms Langenhagen (Chair), Mr Audy, Ms Baldi, Mr McMillan-Scott and Ms Riera Madurell.

**EP to Campus:** Mr Hindley (Chair) and Mr Porto.

**Relations with Budgets Committee, DG Finance:** Mr Audy.

**Dinner Debate:** Ms Baldi and Mr Panzeri.

**Delegates to the Bureau of the European Association of Former Members:** Ms Langenhagen (FP-AP Vice-President) and Mr Martínez Martínez. If necessary, Ms Langenhagen will be substituted by Mr Audy and Martínez Martínez will be substituted by Ms Riera Madurell.

**Delegates to the Annual General Assembly, seminars and colloquies of the FP-AP:** Ms Langenhagen, Mr Martínez Martínez and Mr Audy (if necessary the substitute will be Ms Riera Madurell). Besides the FMA delegates or their substitutes and in agreement with the European Association, other FMA Committee Members may participate in the annual seminars or colloquies at their own expense.

**Relations with Former Members Associations outside Europe:** Mr Audy and Mr Martínez Martínez.

**Annual seminar and relations with think tanks, policy institutes and foundations:** Ms Riera Madurell (Chair), Ms Baldi, and Ms Langenhagen.

**Archives:** Ms Baldi.

**FMA Communication:** Ms Baldi (Chair), Mr Hindley and Ms Langenhagen.

**Working Group on Democracy Support and Election Observation:** Ms Langenhagen (Chair), Mr Hindley, Mr Martínez Martínez, Mr McMillan-Scott, Mr Panzeri and Ms De Keyser (FMA member with advisory role).

**Relations with the House of European History:** Mr Martínez Martínez.

**Relations with the European University Institute (EUI):** Ms Baldi.

# IN MEMORIAM

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## **Patricija ŠULIN**

☞ 1 November 2021  
*EPP-ED, Slovenia (2014-2019)*

She served as a Slovenian Member of the European Parliament. At the national level, Ms Šulin represented the 'Slovenska demokratska stranka'.



## **György SCHÖPFLIN**

☞ 19 November 2021  
*EPP, Hungary (2004-2019)*

He served as a Hungarian Member of the European Parliament. At the national level, Mr Schöpflin represented the 'Fidesz-Magyar Polgári Szövetség-Kereszténydemokrata Néppárt'.



## **Paul A.A.J.G. LANNOYE**

☞ 4 December 2021  
*Greens/EFA, Belgium (1989 -2004)*

He served as a Belgian Member of the European Parliament. At the national level, Mr A.A.J.G. Lannoye represented the 'Ecolo'.



## **Demetrio VOLCIC**

☞ 5 December 2021  
*PES, Italy (1999-2004)*

He served as an Italian Member of the European Parliament. At the national level, Mr Volcic represented the 'Democratici di Sinistra'.



# IN MEMORIAM



## **Giosuè LIGIOS**

☞ 9 December 2021  
*EPP-ED , Italy (1979-1989)*

He served as an Italian Member of the European Parliament. At the national level, Mr Ligios represented the 'Democrazia cristiana'.



## **Liam KAVANAGH**

☞ 13 December 2021  
*S&D, Ireland (1979-1981)*

He served as an Irish Member of the European Parliament. At the national level, Mr Kavanagh represented the 'Labour Party'.



## **Harald NEUBAUER**

☞ 29 December 2021  
*DR, Germany (1989-1994)*

He served as a German Member of the European Parliament. At the national level, Mr Neubauer represented 'Die Republikaner' and Deutsche Liga'.



## **Atilla Béla Ladislau KELEMEN**

☞ 8 January 2022  
*EPP-ED, Romania (2005-2007)*

He served as a Romanian Member of the European Parliament. At the national level, Mr Kelemen represented the 'Uniunea Democrată Maghiară din România'.

# IN MEMORIAM



## **Freddy THIELEMANS**

☞ 29 January 2022  
*PES, Belgium (1999-2001)*

He served as a Belgian Member of the European Parliament. At the national level, Mr Thielemans represented the Socialist Party.



## **Eduard KUKAN**

☞ 9 February 2022  
*EPP, Slovakia (2009-2019)*

He served as a Slovakian Member of the European Parliament. At the national level, Mr Kukan represented the Independent (Slovakia).



## **Jacques F. POOS**

☞ 19 February 2022  
*PES, Luxembourg (1999-2004)*

He served as a Luxembourg Member of the European Parliament. At the national level, Mr Poos represented the 'Parti ouvrier socialiste luxembourgeois'.



## **Marietta GIANNAKOU**

☞ 27 February 2022  
*EPP, Greece (1989-2014)*

She served as a Greek Member of the European Parliament. At the national level, Ms Giannakou represented the 'Nea Demokratia'.



EPFMA  
PEAAD

# THE CHALLENGES OF DEMOGRAPHY IN THE EU



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# TACKLING DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS: BRAIN DRAIN, BRAIN GAIN AND DEPOPULATION

**By Dubravka Šuica**  
European Commission  
Vice-President  
*Dubravka.SUICA@ec.europa.eu*

Building on the Commission's Report on the Impact of Demographic Change published in June 2020, as European Commission Vice-President for Democracy and Demography I will be bringing forward an initiative on brain drain to look at mitigating the challenges associated with population decline. It is vital that we look into the different drivers, the long-term consequences and potential solutions associated with this phenomenon.

The benefits of the Single Market touch us all in our daily lives. We want to ensure that everyone can enjoy these benefits, wherever they live and work. The aim is to contribute to aggregate growth by raising the economic dynamism of territories affected by brain drain and population decline.

In 2019, 4.1 million of the 11.9 million EU movers of working age were highly qualified – that is 34% were educated at third-level. The share of highly qualified EU-28 movers has increased over time: from one in four in 2008 to one in three EU-28 movers in 2019.

Brain drain can be observed at different levels. Our future Communication will examine in more detail the subnational dynamics of brain drain and the extent of brain circulation. This requires looking at returns to the Member State of origin. We must examine which qualified workers are moving as well as the composition of highly qualified workers moving abroad. We will also examine the long-term dynamics of the movement of highly qualified workers and demographic change, in the context of different territorial characteristics such as peripheral, rural, former industrial regions etc. The Communication will set out a range of actions to be undertaken at the EU, national and regional level to address brain drain, encourage brain circulation and brain gain and mitigate the challenges associated with depopulation. As 2022 is the Year of Youth, we will look specifically at actions that actively engage young people in addressing the challenges of brain drain and depopulation.

**“In 2019, 4.1 million of the 11.9 million EU movers of working age were highly qualified – that is 34% were educated at third-level. The share of highly qualified EU-28 movers has increased over time: from one in four in 2008 to one in three EU-28 movers in 2019.”**

This issue of brain drain, far from being theoretical, is becoming more tangible. The latest (2021) census in Croatia shows a decline in the Croatian



*Dubravka Šuica in the EP in Strasbourg © European Union*



**“As we prepare our societies to manage the demographic trends that are shaping our future, addressing the various kinds of brain drain and depopulation challenges will be key to delivering effective policy-making solutions.”**

population of around 10% since the last census in 2011. It was expected, as annual demographic statistics show a constant trend of population decline over the last ten years, but perhaps not to such an extent. And this is not happening only in Croatia, but also in Bulgaria, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland and Romania.

To guide our reflection, we use the innovative Atlas of Demography that I launched in the European Commission during 2020. It contains the population projections for the EU Member States up to 2050. We were particularly interested to map developments on brain drain. Because youth mobility has a major impact on demographic change. While some regions thrive thanks to the inflow of younger people, others are lagging behind. This ‘brain drain’ effect does not concern only rural areas; indeed urban areas and entire countries are affected too.

Other challenges which we must address include the fact that the so-called baby boomer generation - citizens born in the 1950s and 1960s - is approaching retirement age. This is a generation of high birth-rates – in stark contrast

with today’s declining trends. As these baby boomers withdraw and retire, the labour market will be significantly impacted. The labour market will lose a lot of brains. This raises a number of key questions. I think about the effects of retirement for example. Is early or involuntary retirement a form of brain drain between generations that we need to address?

What is clear is that we are on the cusp of a specific kind of brain drain: an early loss of qualified people, both in cognitive and physical work. Future measures could certainly focus on employees but we need a robust focus on companies too. This will certainly be a challenge in the coming years and decades, so we must prepare our societies now.

The good news is that we are living longer and healthier lives than ever before. So when it comes to the voluntary engagement of older people, how can we increase interest and participation? It is not so much the question how can we motivate people to volunteer but rather when should we motivate people to volunteer. The answer is before they retire and is connected with the concept of retirement preparedness.

One of the citizens’ recommendations emanating from the deliberations in the Conference on the Future of Europe focuses on the theme of connectivity for rural areas, particularly in the areas of transport and internet connectivity. They reason that by enhancing such connectivity, this would not only reduce pollution but would potentially make rural areas more attractive for people to settle in. This provides food for thought as we work to facilitate the exchange of best practices between different areas that are facing similar challenges of population decline. As we prepare our societies to manage the demographic trends that are shaping our future, addressing the various kinds of brain drain and depopulation challenges will be key to delivering effective policy-making solutions.

# MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION

Mobility in various forms is a natural human behaviour dating from the age of Paleolithic hunter-gatherers to more recent phenomena such as international air travel for business and leisure. However these are transitory activities whereas migration is a major factor that influences long term demographic change with whole populations sometimes on the move due to war, famine and poverty. My own ancestors were French Huguenot refugees who fled religious persecution in the 17th century settling in Nottingham where they helped to establish the famous 'Lace Market' bringing wealth to the city.

The Great Atlantic Migration from Europe to North America which began in the 1840s remains the largest mass migration in history with approximately 30 million people leaving their homes for a 'better life', a large proportion of whom were from Ireland and Germany. Meanwhile the forced migration of 12.5 million enslaved Africans to plantations across the Americas denuded the continent of human capital along with aggressive colonial

plundering of natural resources and cultural artefacts.

**“Eurostat reports that of the 447.3 million people living in the EU on 1st January 2020 23 million (5.1%) were non-EU citizens with 2.7 million arriving in the the previous 12 months. In the same year EU Member States granted citizenship to 706,400 people, an increase of 5% compared with 2018.”**

Fast forward to the 21st century where the effects of climate change along with seemingly intractable conflicts in Africa and the Middle East have resulted in an influx of refugees, asylum seekers and people desperate to escape unsustainable

lives. Eurostat reports that of the 447.3 million people living in the EU on 1st January 2020 23 million (5.1%) were non-EU citizens with 2.7 million arriving in the the previous 12 months. In the same year EU Member States granted citizenship to 706,400 people, an increase of 5% compared with 2018. However, we should remember that those without citizenship face an uncertain future with limited access to services, not allowed to work and forced to live on state benefits and charity, often subject to appalling racism. The asylum process can take years meaning that people seeking sanctuary live in a prolonged state of anxiety not knowing if they will be deported back to the countries from which they fled. This is of particular concern in respect of women who are likely to have experienced sexual violence at every stage of their journey. The situation of LGBTIAQ+ is also concerning as many countries remain dangerous for non-binary people.

The European project was born from the ashes of two world wars which saw the murder of 6 million Jews and more than half a million Roma along with thousands of gay men, trade unionists and people with disabilities, as well as mass displacement. Up until 1941 Hitler encouraged Jewish families to emigrate with 340,000 abandoning their homes and businesses in Germany and Austria to escape an increasingly hostile environment. Sadly, a majority of the 100,000 who relocated to other European countries ended up in death camps and many who travelled further afield were refused entry. This included passengers on the



©Unsplash



Saint Louis which had sailed from Hamburg to Florida in the hope of docking in Cuba but was then turned back. Of the 908 passengers 254 are known to have died in the Holocaust.

If European values mean anything it should motivate us to create a culture of welcome for those forced to leave their homes. Instead we see pushback in the English Channel, barbed wire fences in Croatia, Danish revocation of residence for Syrian refugees, the criminalisation of humanitarians and the instrumentalisation of the crisis by populist leaders such as Orban and the Belarusian dictator Lukashenko. There has never been a refugee crisis in Europe but there is a crisis of solidarity.

**“If European values mean anything it should motivate us to create a culture of welcome for those forced to leave their homes. Instead we see pushback in the English Channel, barbed wire fences in Croatia, Danish revocation of residence for Syrian refugees, the criminalisation of humanitarians and the instrumentalisation of the crisis by populist leaders such as Orban and the Belarusian dictator Lukashenko.”**

Pre-pandemic more than 50% of those on the move across the world were women and children. With an ageing population threatening to destabilise the labour market in Europe we need to increase the pool of those willing to roll up their sleeves and join the workforce. During my time as a MEP and subsequently working for City of Sanctuary UK I met many skilled and entrepreneurial migrants and bright intelligent refugee children desperate to be in school in the hope of eventually going to university.

Forward-thinking migration and integration policies would see these migrants, refugees and asylum seekers not as problems or a threat to our European society but as part of the solution to creating a safe, secure, prosperous and more equal society.

**Julie Ward**

*S&D, United Kingdom (2014-2020)*

*julie4nw@gmail.com*



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# THE DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGE FACING THE BALEARIC ISLANDS

**By Antoni Vicens-i-Vicens**

*Director General for External Relations of the Government of the Balearic Islands and member of the Committee of the Regions.*

The Balearic Islands form a highly attractive and dynamic archipelago in the western Mediterranean basin. Over the years, these islands have proven to be a hub for employment and opportunities, becoming one of the world's leading tourist destinations. However, their population has been growing for decades, both in terms of permanent residents and of the floating population.

This means that, being an environmentally, socially, culturally and economically fragile area, like any other archipelago, the islands have also experienced a gradually ageing population and great diversification in their demographics, with a quota of over 220 000 foreigners.

In this context, a detailed analysis of the main aspects of the demographic challenge facing the Balearic Islands shows there to be four main considerations:

Firstly, a significant seasonal floating population consisting of both tourists and temporary workers, meaning that in August (pre-pandemic data) the population is over 75% larger than in January. In August 2019 there were around 878 000 more people on the islands than in January, based on a resident population of less than 1 200 000 people.

**“Being an environmentally, socially, culturally and economically fragile area, like any other archipelago, the islands have also experienced a gradually ageing population and great diversification in their demographics, with a quota of over 220 000 foreigners.”**

Secondly, significant and sustained growth in the population of diverse origins. Between 2000 and 2020, the Balearic Islands saw a population increase of 39%. This is more than double the median for Spain as a whole, which saw an increase of 18%. Furthermore, one in every four citizens of the Balearic Islands was born abroad. It is also worth stressing that according to forecasts from the Eurostat regional yearbook – 2021 edition, the Balearic Islands will be one of only eight regions whose population will grow by over 25%



Ragged coast of Mallorca viewed from Torre del Verger, Spain ©iStock



densities. It is only in this way that this small, fragmented, dispersed and demographically complex territory will find solutions that are specific and differ from the rest of the country, in order to progress in a sustainable manner.

In conclusion, the case of demographic issues on the Balearic Islands is a good example of the need for an area-based EU strategy for island regions. For this reason, and in order to solve a problem affecting island regions in a very European context, it is more necessary than ever to apply Article 174 TFEU and fulfil its true purpose – that of helping the EU's most vulnerable territories achieve cohesion in all areas and on an equal footing with the rest of the continent.

by 2050. It should be noted that half of the European regions in question are islands.

Thirdly, significant population growth in the over-65 age group which, in addition to increasing from 14.6% in 2002 to 16.3% in 2021, is witnessing a phenomenon known as the 'ageing of ageing', whereby the median age of the over-65s is constantly rising.

Fourthly, the archipelagic nature of the Balearic Islands which makes it difficult to manage a territory split into several relatively small and scattered islands. It should be noted that the administrative fragmentation of an archipelago means that greater investment has to be made in each island in order to maintain the right level of equity, while also making it more difficult to generate economies of scale in the provision of public services.

A combination of these elements not only hinders social and territorial cohesion between the archipelago and the rest of the EU, but also has an impact on the sustainability of the territory and can cause overcrowding, which

directly affects citizens' quality of life. From higher house prices, which in turn affect young people's access to housing, and issues such as higher consumer prices, mobility difficulties and the many impacts on education and health, it is clear that the demographic complexity of the islands lies at the root of many of the public management issues of the territory.

It is also worth highlighting that these elements not only constitute a major and very specific demographic challenge, but that they do so in a context that is diametrically opposed to that observed in the rest of Spain. The general dynamic in Spain as a whole is quite the opposite, with serious depopulation in certain areas of the Iberian Peninsula.

In this context, the Government of the Balearic Islands is actively working to strengthen public services with a view to addressing the demographic challenge. However, it is necessary that, both at national and EU level, the issue be addressed from the perspective of the management difficulties arising from high population

The European Commission created an interactive tool, the **Atlas of Demography**.

It includes official statistics and projections from Eurostat and new data produced by the Joint Research Centre.

More information: <https://migration-demography-tools.jrc.ec.europa.eu/atlas-demography/>



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# DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE, THE ECONOMY AND THE CLIMATE CRISIS

**By Nikos Chrysogelos**

*Greens/EFA, Greece  
(2012-2014)  
nikos.chrysogelos@gmail.com*

The pandemic and resulting distancing measures have particularly affected older and more vulnerable people. However, the demographics are affecting not only health strategy and social security and welfare sustainability but also the implementation of the Green Deal.

Preventing an uncontrollable climate crisis requires keeping the average temperature rise below 1.5°C and completely decarbonising the global economy by 2050 at the latest. However, the 'business as usual' scenario will, based on current demographic trends, lead to a large increase in demand for food, energy, water, urban space and rare metals. Without decoupling prosperity and economic growth from the consumption of raw materials and energy, the transition to climate neutrality will be impossible.

However, demographic changes, combined with altering values and lifestyles, together with the emergence of the ecological/climate crisis, are generating contradictory trends. Such trends cannot be ignored when it comes to healthcare, disease management, social services, employment and economic choices.

Many elderly Europeans are buying holiday homes in the south. At the same time, while the number of households in Europe is increasing, they are shrinking in size, with one-third of all households now consisting of only one member and many people over the age of 65 - especially women - living alone.

On the other hand, many young students and workers are favouring different housing options, reflecting increasing mobility and the possibility of working remotely, becoming

working nomads or making other lifestyle choices. They tend to rent smaller furnished accommodation on a temporary basis, staying in hostels when travelling for work, extending their stay for holidays or in order to socialise and frequently working remotely for different employers. These trends are now being taken on board by tourism platforms (with bookings being made through Hostelworld and Hostelling International) and innovative hostels offering co-housing, co-working and socialising options in response to these new socio-economic needs and trends. Examples of these are: Welcommon Hostel in Athens, the Anemos Ananeosis / Wind of Renewal cooperative, Luoghi Comuni Porta Palazzo providing temporary accommodation in Turin and Community Land Trust Bruxelles, a social housing and collective ownership scheme.

**“Short-term solutions to the problems highlighted by the pandemic must also respond to structural problems, such as the decline in the working-age population (20-64) or shortages of the highly skilled professionals required in the technical, social and healthcare sectors, not to mention those needed for the green and digital transition.”**

Demographic developments and the emergence of different values are having a broader impact on

consumption trends and on the economy. Many young people are choosing to travel less by air or private car and more by train and bicycle, in a bid to reduce consumption and make it more sustainable. In addition, they are seeking to apply social and ecological criteria to their purchases, limit their red meat consumption or eliminate it from their diet altogether and reduce their climate footprint. As a result, certain economic activities are emerging more strongly, while others are on the wane.

One of the most acute problems facing us today, that is to say labour shortages, particularly in major economic sectors, is partly down to demographic changes. Restrictive measures have caused a decrease in mobility and migration. Older people are taking early retirement, women are leaving work to care for their children and many young people proving reluctant to (re)enter a labour market offering badly-paid jobs beneath their qualifications. The problems posed by an ageing labour force, high unemployment among the unskilled and the brain drain are all the more acute in the structurally weak economies that are struggling to innovate and adapt. The working-age population of the EU-27 is predicted to shrink by 18% up to 2070. However, the demographic composition and economic structure of each country will play a key role in ensuring a sustainable, green and healthy recovery.

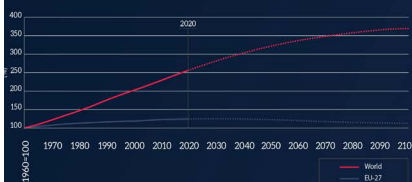
Labour mobility and business dynamism, along with innovative start-ups and social enterprises in the technological, digital and green-energy transition sectors, which have been somewhat restricted by the pandemic, can

nevertheless be a driving force for recovery, depending on the policies pursued. The Recovery and Resilience Facility, coupled with the 2021-2027 MFF, should contribute to more robust healthcare, social and economic policymaking that is responsive to the multiple environmental and demographic crises, without leaving behind large parts of society. Short-term solutions to the problems highlighted by the pandemic must also respond to structural problems, such as the decline in the working-age population (20-64) or shortages of the highly skilled professionals required in the technical, social and healthcare sectors, not to mention those needed for the green and digital transition.

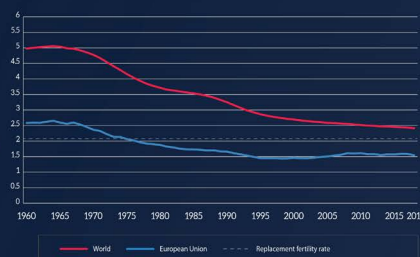
The problem can be partially resolved by adopting a brave and unbiased approach to the targeted education, training and recruitment of migrants. Removing economic obstacles and promoting the ecological and green energy transition also requires an organised approach to education and training for the rapid integration of young people and migrants into the workforce. This must be accompanied by the re-skilling and up-skilling of existing workers - especially older workers - to meet the rapidly changing needs of the economy in terms of knowledge, social values and technology.

## Demographic Outlook for the European Union 2021

EU-27 and the global population (%) (1960=100 %)

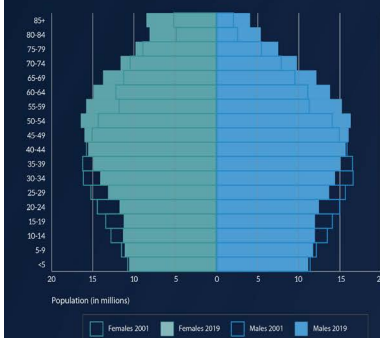


Fertility rate (births per woman)

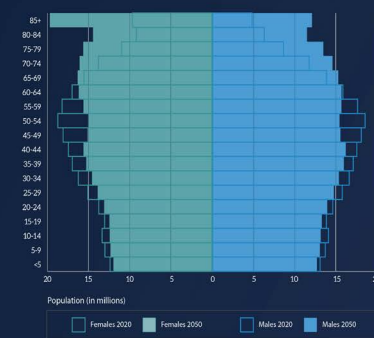


EU-27 population (number of women and men by age group)

for 2001 and 2019



for 2020 and 2050



Data sources: UNDESA, Eurostat, World Bank – World Development Indicators data.

EPRS | European Parliamentary Research Service • More information: <https://tinyurl.com/EPRS-Demography>

# YEAR OF THE YOUTH: A CHANCE TO TALK ABOUT THE DEMOGRAPHY CHALLENGES

President Ursula Von der Leyen initiated the Year of the Youth during the State of the Union Speech in September 2021. Since January 2022, the year of the youth wants to honour the young people, who have sacrificed lots of their freedoms and activities during the pandemic. Far from missing only the parties and the bars, young people missed the social contact that is so necessary when growing into adulthood. In that sense the year of the youth is very welcome. On the official website of the Year of the Youth, Commissioners Mariya Gabriel and Margaritis Shinas encourage us, the young people, to travel again, to meet new people and share our ideas on the future we want for ourselves. In many ways, the Year of the Youth has to go further than that.

In order to have a real outcome of this year, it is necessary to think about it in a longer perspective than the year 2022. Within this year, we should not be preparing the visions for 2022 only but for the next 3, 4 or 5 decades. A look at the demographical changes can help to think about the Year of the Youth as a starter for ambitious policy changes to strengthen the youth for the coming demography challenges. The European population makes only 6.9% of the total world population today and is expected to fall to 4 % by the end of this century. In comparison, in 1960 Europe's population was 13.5% of the global population. Moreover, the Research Center of the European Parliament, the EPRS, has pointed out that in 2006, there were 4 people of working age (15-64) for every person aged 65 or over, while by 2050, the ratio is expected to be only 2 persons for every person aged 65 or over.



Seeing these numbers, multiple questions and challenges, that young people are already confronted with, come to mind. In an economical sense one of the greatest challenges will be to ensure a sufficient retirement prospect for the years to come. Young people entering the labour market today will see the working age force shrink by 18% by 2070, which will make it difficult to ensure an increase and a growing economic prosperity.

From a migration policy point of view demography has a great impact in the debates. The Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung in Germany notes that: "The entire immigration between 1995 and 2050 would constitute more than 180 million in Germany and 90 million in France in order to maintain a constant ratio between the labor population and the retired population". Yet to have a good integration of new coming migrations the systemically racism has to be tackled.

The Year of the Youth offers a great opportunity to discuss demographical challenges among young people, who will directly be affected by them. The young generation, should through the Year of the Youth, get the opportunity to learn more about the demographical evolution and gets involved in finding creative solution and built up solidarity to tackle the challenges together.

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