

For a Prosperous and Secure Europe



**EPP
CONGRESS
HELSINKI
2018**



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Who we are



Welcome to the European People's Party (EPP), the political family of the centre-right. The EPP is committed to a strong Europe based on a federal model that relies on the principle of subsidiarity. Through the promotion of the social market economy, the **EPP aspires to achieve a prosperous Europe.**

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This publication is up-to-date as of December 2018. However, political situations are changing constantly, and the information in this publication is bound to change. Please visit our website at www.epp.eu for current information.



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EPP Annual Review 2018
This publication is produced
by the European People's Party.

Date of issue
December 2018

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Design & Production
www.beyond.brussels

Printing Company
Dereume

Photos
European People's Party, European
Commission, European Parliament,
European Committee of the Regions

Download this publication
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Printed with the financial support
of the European Parliament.

Welcome to the EPP



ANTONIO LÓPEZ-ISTÚRIZ
EPP SECRETARY GENERAL

JOSEPH DAUL
EPP PRESIDENT

“2018 HAS BEEN FOR EPP A YEAR OF POLITICAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND BOLD INITIATIVES. BUT MORE REMAINS TO BE DONE. WITH THE RISE OF POPULISTS IN EUROPE, NOW MORE THAN EVEN, WE MUST EXPLAIN TO OUR CITIZENS THE BENEFITS THE EU HAS BROUGHT THEM AND DELIVER ON THEIR MOST URGENT CONCERNS.”

Welcome to the European People's Party (EPP), the political family of the centre-right. The EPP's roots run deep in the history and civilisation of Europe and have pioneered the European project since its inception.

Tracing its roots back to Europe's Founding Fathers – **Robert SCHUMAN**, **Alcide DE GASPERI**, and **Konrad ADENAUER** – the EPP is committed to a strong Europe based on a federal model that relies on the principle of subsidiarity.

Founded in 1976, the EPP is a party of values based on the Christian view of mankind and the Christian Democratic concept of society. EPP strives for a democratic, transparent and efficient Europe that is close to its citizens. Through the promotion of the social market economy, the EPP aspires to achieve a prosperous Europe with a social consciousness.

The EPP is the largest European-level political party, with 80 parties and partners from 42 countries, 8 EU and 3 non-EU heads of state and government, 14 members of the European Commission and the largest Group in the European Parliament with 219 members, and the heads of the three EU institutions: the European Commission led by President **Jean-Claude JUNCKER**, the European Council led by President **Donald TUSK** and the European Parliament presided by **Antonio TAJANI**.

EPP experienced electoral success this year when **Nicos ANASTASIADES** was re-elected President of Cyprus and **Viktor ORBÁN** started a new term as Prime Minister following a win of FIDESZ in the parliamentary elections. EPP Honorary President **Sauli NIINISTÖ** was re-elected as the President of Finland and EPP Vice-President **Rafał TRZASKOWSKI** was elected Mayor of Warsaw in the first round.

The EPP also welcomed 4 new member parties.

2018 was the year in which the rotating EU presidencies were held by Bulgaria and Austria under the leadership of EPP Prime Minister **Boyko BORISSOV** and EPP Chancellor **Sebastian KURZ**. From 1 January 2018, the Bulgarian Presidency worked to secure the future of European citizens and prepare the continent for tomorrow's challenges. The Bulgarian Presidency put the Western Balkans prominently on the EU agenda. On 1 July, Austria assumed the Presidency of the Council of the EU under the slogan of "A Europe that protects" and delivered on the concerns of European citizens, making significant progress on the 2020 Multiannual Financial Framework negotiations.

Throughout the year, the EPP applauded the work of **Michel BARNIER** in his role as the EU's Chief Brexit Negotiator in his efforts to negotiate the best possible agreement and ensure a successful outcome on the EU's 3 Brexit priorities: EU citizens' rights, the UK's financial obligations and the Irish border. The unity of the 27 EU member states has been key to these negotiations. The EPP family reiterated its full solidarity with EPP Taoiseach **Leo VARADKAR** and Ireland.

Migration remained high on EPP's agenda. While the management of the migration crisis has improved, the EU must continue to secure its external borders and grant assistance to people fleeing wars in countries of origin and transit.

EPP has delivered concrete achievements for citizens in 2018. The efforts of the EPP leadership in the EU institutions have materialised into a stable economy, increased investments and new social policies. For the first time in years, the EU economy grown steadily in all member states with more than 12 million jobs created and with lowest unemployment levels since 2008. President Juncker's European Fund for Strategic Investments has generated 335 billion Euros of investments that benefited 700,000 small and medium enterprises, which represent the backbone of the European economy.

As the world is constantly changing, EPP wants to ensure that no one is left behind. To this extent, major steps have been taken to reinforce a Social Europe that helps and protects all citizens.

The EPP has also worked tirelessly in 2018 on a forward looking EU budget that delivers a prosperous and secure Europe for its people. An EU budget that reflects today's necessities, anticipates tomorrow's challenges, prioritises growth and job creation, protects the vulnerable, strengthens EU defence and security, stabilises the immediate neighbourhood and ensures growth in an inclusive manner and in ways European societies and this planet can sustain.

On 7-8 November, the EPP met in Helsinki for the XXV EPP Congress. Delegates elected **Manfred WEBER** to be the EPP's Spitzenkandidat for the President of the European Commission. Once again the EPP had an open, democratic and transparent process in the election of its Spitzenkandidat. The delegates chose between two candidates representing a new generation of EPP leaders: **Alex STUBB** and Manfred WEBER. With a focus on the collective responsibility for the future of Europe and the approaching elections, delegates debated how to deliver a secure, sustainable, prosperous and fair Europe to citizens across the continent.

The groundwork has been laid by EPP's Spitzenkandidat Manfred WEBER and Campaign Director **Dara MURPHY**, for the 2019 campaign: the chance to uphold accomplishments, to preserve the European project in which EPP's roots run deep and lead the way for a strong and united Europe with EPP at the helm. The EPP campaign will address the concerns of all European citizens where EPP lead candidate Manfred WEBER will travel to the four corners of Europe, north, south, east and west.

Thanks to many visionary EPP leaders, Europe is a better place today but more remains to be done. EPP is preparing for an intense campaign period and busy year ahead, as always, ready to serve the people of Europe.

European Councils EPP Summits



DONALD TUSK
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

“TODAY IN EUROPE, WE ARE WITNESSING A WAVE OF POPULIST RHETORIC WITH A XENOPHOBIC AND AUTHORITARIAN TWIST, BOTH IN OLD AS WELL AS NEW DEMOCRACIES. EUROPEAN DEMOCRATS CANNOT SURRENDER TO FATALISM, THEY CANNOT LET EMOTIONS BE WEAPONS ONLY IN THE HANDS OF POLITICAL CHARLATANS. THEY HAVE TO STAND UP TO THEM.

Today we need leaders who understand that their role is not only having technocratic skill and the ability to stay in power. We need leaders who can use the potential of emotions to defend our fundamental values. Leaders, who not only understand the scale of the threats, but who can also prevent them. People will not fight with full determination for procedures or abstract ideas. They will be ready to get involved in public affairs and sacrifice a lot only if emotions are sparked in them.”

Dortmund, 18 December 2018 - Award of Honoris Causa Doctorate in Political Science by the Technical University of Dortmund and 50th anniversary celebration of Technical University Dortmund

Prior to the meetings of the European Council, the EPP presidents of the European institutions, EPP heads of state and government, deputy prime ministers, opposition leaders, and the EPP Presidency meet for customary Summits which are hosted by EPP President **Joseph DAUL**.



Statutory Summits are limited to the representatives of the Member States of the European Union, while the Enlarged Summits are also open to EPP leaders from non-EU countries. During these informal and confidential meetings, EPP leaders try to seek consensus within the EPP political family in an effort to tackle common problems and develop common positions for the European Council.

During 2018, one Enlarged, one Balkan and five Statutory Summits were held.

Summit Highlights



01

STATUTORY SUMMIT

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

22 MARCH 2018

The first Summit of 2018 started with one minute of silence to pay tribute to the late Dutch Prime Minister **Ruud LUBBERS** and to commemorate the victims of the Brussels attacks of 22 March 2016. EPP leaders welcomed the newly elected PSD President **Riu RIO** to his first EPP Summit, congratulated **Nicos ANASTASIADES** with his re-election as President of Cyprus and Chancellor **Angela MERKEL** on the formation of her fourth government. Prime Minister **Boyko BORISSOV** introduced the priorities of the Bulgarian Presidency of the European Union. The focus of the EPP Summit was on trade tariffs, Brexit and Russia. On the trade dispute with the US, the EPP leaders stood behind the European Commission in working to ensure EU exemption from import tariffs due to be imposed on steel and aluminum. They reiterated their priorities for the Brexit negotiations, the 'safeguard of European citizens' rights', while expressing their full support for Ireland. The EPP Leaders also condemned the attacks in Salisbury and asked Russia to address the UK's questions. Cypriot President **Nicos ANASTASIADES** reported on Turkey's rising tensions towards his country. Therefore, the EPP called for Turkey to immediately halt its aggression against Cyprus. EPP President **Joseph DAUL** presented the adopted EPP position on the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027; he pleaded for the adoption of the MFF before the European elections.





02

WESTERN BALKAN SUMMIT

SOFIA, BULGARIA

16 MAY 2018

Ahead of the first Western Balkan Summit of the last 15 years, the EPP organized its own, with, next to the members of the EPP Statutory Summit, the participation of EPP Leaders from the Western Balkans. As Prime Minister **Boyko BORISSOV** was praised for putting the Western Balkans high on the political agenda, he highlighted the geographic and strategic importance of the Western Balkans for the European Union. As EPP Vice-President **Johannes HAHN** said, "it is about the EU either exporting stability or importing instability." EPP Leaders adopted a Western Balkan declaration. While the enlargement policy has been the most successful tool for bringing stability and peace to Europe and the EU will not be complete until the Western Balkan is part of it, Western Balkan countries must continue reforms, fight corruption, put in place rule of law and independent justice, and improve neighbourly relations in the spirit of reconciliation. CDA Leader **Sybrand BUMA** reminded that the criteria set forward need to be fully respected. Prime Minister **Viktor ORBÁN** pleaded for a stronger EPP engagement in the EU accession of the Western Balkans. DPA President **Lulzim BASHA**, LDK Vice-President **Lutfi HAZIRI**, President of the rotating Presidency of Bosnia-Herzegovina **Bakir IZETBEGOVIĆ** and Serbian President **Aleksandar VUČIĆ** briefed the leaders about the situation in their respective countries. FI President **Silvio BERLUSCONI** informed his colleagues about the outcome of the Italian elections.

03

STATUTORY SUMMIT

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

28 JUNE 2018

EPP President **Joseph DAUL** welcomed **Esther DE LANGE** as newly elected EPP Vice-President, congratulated SDS President **Janez JANŠA** for winning the Slovenian parliamentary elections and called for unity in these difficult times as some forces are trying to destroy the EPP. This Summit meeting was dominated by migration - a European challenge calling for a European answer - and the discussion on the future of the Economic and Monetary Union. European Commission President **Jean-Claude JUNCKER** commented on the agenda of the European Council and referred to the Commission proposals on the table in the field of migration. German Chancellor **Angela MERKEL** referred to what the EU has achieved on migration, regardless of the problems, and pleaded for an EU Africa Trustfund. Norwegian Prime Minister **Erna SOLBERG** reminded that the migration crisis stems from the aftermath of the 2015 events, not from the current influx and she pleaded for solidarity among countries. Brexit Chief Negotiator **Michel BARNIER** gave an update on the Brexit negotiations, while Croatian Prime Minister **Andrej PLENKOVIĆ** reminded the 5th anniversary of Croatia joining the EU. Finally, Austrian Chancellor **Sebastian KURZ** presented the priorities of the Austrian Presidency of the EU under the slogan "An EU that protects".



Summit Highlights



04 STATUTORY SUMMIT SALZBURG, AUSTRIA 19 SEPTEMBER 2018

European Council President **Donald TUSK** introduced the agenda of the informal European Council, topped by Brexit, security and migration and reported on discussions with Southern Mediterranean countries. ND President **Kyriakos MITSOTAKIS** rang the alarm bell about the situation in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Greek islands concerning migration; asylum procedures in Greece take too long. European Parliament President **Antonio TAJANI** stressed the need for a Marshall plan for Africa and clarified the Brexit position of the institution he is chairing. Taoiseach **Leo VARADKAR** thanked for the solidarity with Ireland on Brexit and called for the Irish border not be used by the UK as leverage to pressure the EU; EPP Leaders expressed their unequivocal support to Ireland to avoid the reinstating of a hard border. Brexit Chief Negotiator **Michel BARNIER** explained what aspects of the Chequers proposal from the UK government differ from the EU position. EPP Group Chairman **Manfred WEBER** reported about the last Strasbourg plenary session, including the State of the Union by European Commission President **Jean-Claude JUNCKER** as well as on the Art. 7 procedure against Hungary, supported by a majority of the EPP MEPs. He called at the same time for a Council debate on Hungary. Finally, the newly elected PP President **Pablo CASADO** was welcomed to his first EPP Summit and briefed his colleagues about the Spanish political and economic situation.

05 STATUTORY SUMMIT BRUSSELS, BELGIUM 17 OCTOBER 2018

EPP leaders started the Summit meeting with a minute's silence to mark the one-year anniversary of the murder of the Maltese journalist **Daphne CARUANA GALIZIA**. After this, European Council President **Donald TUSK** introduced the points atop the European Council agenda: Brexit, migration, internal security and strengthening cooperation with external partners. He also pleaded for unity and in favour of respecting EPP values. EP president **Antonio TAJANI** clarified the position of the EP on different points on the European Council agenda. EPP President **Joseph DAUL** informed the leaders that the official nomination process for EPP candidates for President of the European Commission had closed. He gave the floor to the two candidates **Alex STUBB** and **Manfred WEBER**, embodying a young generation of EPP Leaders. Both candidates presented themselves and their program and replied to the questions of colleagues. One of the two was going to be elected the EPP Candidate for President of the European Commission at the Helsinki Congress. The EPP leaders also had an open and frank discussion with Hungarian Prime Minister **Viktor ORBÁN**. EPP President Joseph DAUL referred to the importance of dialogue in the family, keeping the line on EPP values and remarked that the EPP would reconfirm its commitment to the rule of law at the EPP Congress. Thereafter, EPP Campaign director **Dara MURPHY** presented the state of play of the EPP campaign for the 2019 European elections.





06 ENLARGED SUMMIT HELSINKI, FINLAND 7 NOVEMBER 2018

This EPP Enlarged Summit took place in the fringes of the EPP Congress in Helsinki. Finnish Deputy Prime Minister and KOK President **Petteri ORPO** welcomed the EPP leaders to Helsinki, as Kokoomus also celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. EPP President **Joseph DAUL** congratulated **Rafał TRZASKOWSKI** on his election as Mayor of Warsaw in the first round. CSV President **Marc SPAUTZ** and MOD President **Ulf KRISTERSSON** reported on the outcome of the parliamentary elections in Luxembourg and Sweden. Moldovan PAS President **Maia SANDU** and Belarussian BCD President **Vital RYMASHEUSKI** updated the Summit participants about the deteriorating situation in their countries, while Ukrainian President **Petro POROSHENKO** elaborated on the crucial election year ahead for Ukraine. Serbian President **Aleksandar VUČIĆ** spoke about Serbia, as well as the situation in the region of the Western Balkans, while Croatian Prime Minister **Andrej PLENKOVIĆ** concentrated on neighbouring Bosnia and Herzegovina. German Chancellor **Angela MERKEL** thanked leaders from the neighbourhood for their commitment to fight for European values and clarified her decision to no longer run as CDU President. LR President **Laurent WAUQUIEZ** analyzed the key themes EPP member parties need to work on ahead of the elections for the European Parliament.

07 STATUTORY SUMMIT BRUSSELS, BELGIUM 13 DECEMBER 2018

Summit participants started the EPP Summit with a minute of silence for the victims of the Strasbourg attack on 11 December. Austrian Prime Minister **Sebastian KURZ** introduced the agenda of the European Council, dominated by migration, the Multiannual Financial Framework, reforms of the Eurozone Summit and Brexit negotiations. He was praised by his colleagues for a successful rotating Presidency of the Council of the European Union; especially applauded was the progress made in the negotiation boxes for the future budget. Brexit Chief Negotiator **Michel BARNIER** updated his colleagues on the state of play on Brexit. EPP leaders thanked him for his work, defended the backstop, called for clarity from the UK on the future EU-UK relationship and expressed their solidarity with Ireland. European Commission President **Jean-Claude JUNCKER** gave his view on the outstanding topics and presented the work of his Commission on the different files. While Deputy Prime Minister **Kris PEETERS** clarified the challenging political situation in Belgium, KDU-CSL President **Pavel BĚLOBRÁDEK** and PN President **Adrian DELIA** spoke about the problems in their respective countries. EPP Lead Candidate **Manfred WEBER** stressed the feeling of belonging to the EPP family and underlined the importance of defending the EPP successes ahead of the May European elections, like 12 million new jobs, the lowest unemployment rates since 2008 and a significant drop in arrivals at the EU's external borders.



Heads of State and Government



As of December 2018, the EPP has 8 out of 28 EU heads of state and government, who meet at the EPP Summit meetings in preparation for the European Council.

EU LEADERS



Nicos ANASTASIADES
Cyprus, DISY



Boyko BORISSOV
Bulgaria, GERB



Klaus IOHANNIS
Romania



Sebastian KURZ
Austria, ÖVP



Angela MERKEL
Germany, CDU



Viktor ORBÁN
Hungary, FIDESZ



Andrej PLENKOVIĆ
Croatia, HDZ



Leo VARADKAR
Ireland, FG



The EPP has 3 non-EU heads of state and government, who are invited to attend the Enlarged EPP Summit meetings.

NON-EU LEADERS



Šefik DŽAFEROVIĆ
Bosnia-Herzegovina, SDA



Erna SOLBERG
Norway, Høyre



Aleksandar VUČIĆ
Serbia, SNS





Ministerial Meetings



01 ECONOMY AND FINANCE MINISTERS (ECOFIN)

Chaired by **Petteri ORPO*** (KK, Finland) and **Valdis DOMBROVSKIS** (European Commission Vice-President for the Euro and Social Dialogue also in charge of Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union)

The 2018 meetings of the EPP Economy and Finance Ministers focused on further developing the Economic and Monetary Union. The Ministers held various discussions on the best way forward with the Banking Union in order to strengthen the Economic and Monetary Union. They also worked together with the leading EPP Members of the European Parliament on economic and financial topics, on which the European Parliament and the Council share competence.

The Ministers worked in close cooperation with Co-Chair and European Commission Vice-President for the Euro and Social Dialogue, also in charge of Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union **Valdis DOMBROVSKIS** and with European Commission Vice-President for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness **Jyrki KATAINEN**.

* **Luis DE GUINDOS** became ECB Vice-President in Summer 2018 and was replaced by Minister **Petteri ORPO** as a co-chair.



02 EXTRAORDINARY EPP EUROGROUPS

Chaired by **Luis DE GUINDOS** (PP, Spain), **Valdis DOMBROVSKIS** (European Commission Vice-President for the Euro and Social Dialogue also in charge of Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union) and **Joseph DAUL** (EPP President)

In Winter 2018, the EPP Eurozone Ministers held extraordinary EPP Eurozone Ministers dinners to discuss the specific ways forward on the Banking Union and how to reform the Economic and Monetary Union. The meeting played an important role in improving information sharing and in coordinating and consolidating positions. EPP Eurozone Ministers meetings have been organised on an ad-hoc basis ever since spring 2015, when it has been considered an added value to EPP Ministers.

These meetings were carried out in close cooperation with Co-Chair and European Commission Vice-President for the Euro and Social Dialogue **Valdis DOMBROVSKIS** and with European Commission Vice-President for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness **Jyrki KATAINEN**.



03 FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERS

Chaired by **David McALLISTER** (CDU, Germany) and **Simon COVENEY** (FG, Ireland)

The EPP Foreign Affairs Ministers convened on a regular basis in 2018 to discuss current EU foreign policy challenges, first and foremost the ongoing migration and security challenges for Europe and its neighbourhood. Their main work was in preparing for Foreign Affairs Council meetings in Brussels and Luxembourg. In a more informal setting, the EPP Foreign Affairs Ministers met before the GYMNICH meeting end of August in Vienna. The main focus of that meeting in the framework of the Austrian EU Council Presidency was on Western Balkans and the Middle East North Africa region.



Ministerial Meetings

04 AGRICULTURE MINISTERS

Chaired by **Michael CREED** (FG, Ireland)

The focus of 2018 was the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) after 2020, closely linked with the proposal for the next EU budget – the Multi-Annual Financial Framework – for 2021-2027. The EPP ministers have worked on delivering an ambitious, simplified and well-funded CAP that would enable the European farmers to produce quality food in a sustainable way. Ministers also focused on tackling the unfair practices in the supply chain, to ensure protection of the farmers trying to sell their products in the supermarkets.

05 GENERAL AFFAIRS MINISTERS

Chaired by **Dara MURPHY** (FG, Ireland) and **Matti MAASIKAS** (IRL, Estonia)

The EPP General Affairs Ministers Meeting gathers the EPP Foreign and European Affairs Ministers in preparation for the General Affairs Council and the European Council. Over the course of 2018, the EPP Ministers focused their discussions on tough negotiations over Brexit, the refugee and migration crisis, the EU economy, the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), foreign affairs, relations with the US, Russia, the statute of European political parties, and the rule of law in Poland.



06 JUSTICE MINISTERS

Chaired by **Koen GEENS** (CD&V, Belgium)

The main topics on this year's agenda of the EPP Justice Ministers were e-evidence and the European Public Prosecutors Office (EPPO). As justice and the rule of law are foundations of the European project, the EPP regularly organizes meetings of its 11 ministers of justice and the relevant Members of the European Parliament in this area.

07 ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS

Chaired by **Dennis NAUGHTEN** (Ireland)

The most politically sensitive proposal discussed this year was focused on reducing CO2 emissions from cars and vans, where the EPP ministers sought to find a balance between ambitious targets while providing incentives for manufacturers to innovate and enabling a level playing field. The ministers also worked on the circular economy and on the issue of drinking water.



08 ENERGY MINISTERS

Chaired by **Jerzy BUZEK** (PO, Poland) and **Arvils AŠERADENS** (Unity, Latvia)

EPP Energy Ministers worked on advancing the Clean Energy Package negotiations, especially the proposals on the Electricity Market Design and the EU Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER). EPP's priority was also to achieve progress with the Gas Directive, as well as on the Multi-Annual Financial Framework for post-2020.





The European People's Party organises and coordinates from its Brussels Headquarters a series of Ministerial Meetings, which underpin the horizontal activity of the Party with all the main EU institutions including the Council of the EU.

09

INTERIOR MINISTERS

Chaired by **Esteban González PONS** (PP, Spain) and **Kai MYKKÄNEN** (KOK, Finland)

Since 2015, the migration issue has been high on the agenda for the EPP; and this year's meetings of the EPP Ministers of Interior mainly focused on this topic, in order to make sure that the EU's external borders are better protected and the European Asylum System is better prepared for the future.

As well as the Ministers, also the relevant Members of the European Parliament in this area and the Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, **Dimitris AVRAMOPOULOS** participate in these meetings.



10

TRADE MINISTERS

Chaired by **Jyrki KATAINEN** (European Commission Vice-President for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness) and **Marija PEJČINOVIĆ BURIĆ** (HDZ, Croatia)

In May, EPP Trade Ministers gathered in Brussels ahead of the biannual Foreign Affairs Council Trade meeting. The Ministers discussed the EU's trade agreements with Japan and Singapore, ongoing talks with Australia and New Zealand as well as threats to the multilateral trading system, including to the WTO itself, reaffirming the vital need for free and fair, rules-based trade.

They welcomed the overall modernisation of the EU's trade defence instruments to better protect the EU and its Member States against overdependence on non-EU actors.



11

DEFENCE MINISTERS

Chaired by **Ursula VON DER LEYEN** (CDU, Germany)

During the two meetings in 2018, the EPP Defence Ministers focused on advancing the European Defence Union, the Defence Fund and the PESCO mechanism that will give the EU greater capabilities to act in the area of defence.

It is crucial that the EU develops these in order to protect our citizens from external threats.



European Commission

The European Commission under President Jean-Claude Juncker took office on 1 November 2014.



JEAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER

PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

To love Europe, is to love its nations. To love your country is to love Europe. Patriotism is a virtue. Unchecked nationalism is riddled with both poison and deceit. The geopolitical situation makes this Europe's hour: the time for European sovereignty has come. (...) Sharing sovereignty – when and where needed – makes each of our states and nations stronger.



VALDIS DOMBROVSKIS

Vice-President for Euro and Social Dialogue, also in charge of Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union - Latvia

Europe is in good economic times, but rising risks indicate that this will not last forever. EU countries need well-targeted investments and renewed reform efforts to strengthen their growth fundamentals and increase productivity. It is also time to reduce public debt levels and rebuild fiscal buffers. This will give us the room for manoeuvre we'll need when the next downturn comes. Now is also the time to make progress on deepening Europe's Economic and Monetary Union.



JYRKI KATAINEN

Vice-President for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness – Finland

The Circular Economy is a megatrend in the coming years. We have already done a lot for example on plastics recycling, but we must make sure Europe stays the leading power in Circular Economy. For the sake of stability and equality of people, we have to pay attention to our fundamental values and the rule of law.



GUNTHER OETTINGER

Budget and Human Resources - Germany

Our proposal on the next multiannual financial framework is truly about EU added value. We want to invest even more in areas where one Member State cannot act alone or where it is more efficient to act together, be it research, migration, border control or defense. And we continue to finance traditional – but modernised – policies, such as agriculture and cohesion, because we all benefit from the high standard of our agricultural products and regions catching up economically.



DIMITRIS AVRAMOPOULOS

Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship – Greece

Our policies to better manage migration, protect our borders and build a Security Union have delivered. We are developing a fair and balanced asylum and migration policy, better protected external borders, and operational measures to increase the resilience of our societies and security of our citizens. Now we have to move forward and complete the architecture of our strategies both on security and migration.

**ELŻBIETA BIENKOWSKA**

Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs - Poland

We made progress on a number of fronts - we finalised the overhaul of the type approval system for vehicles to finally clean up after the dieselgate, agreed on new rules for regulated professions and began work on a Single Digital Gateway to improve access to online information. Our funding proposals for space, defence and the Single Market after 2020 aim to benefit people and businesses across Europe.

**MIGUEL ARIAS CANETE**

Climate Action and Energy – Spain

The EU has already started the modernization and transformation towards a climate neutral economy. And, we are stepping up our efforts as we have proposed a strategy for Europe to become the first major economy to go climate neutral by 2050. This must be a socially just transition, with no European, no region left behind.

**JOHANNES HAHN**

European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations – Austria

Against the background of the current international context it is as important as ever that the EU exports stability to its neighbourhood in order to avoid importing instability. A stable and prospering neighbourhood is in our very own interest.

**PHIL HOGAN**

Agriculture & Rural Development – Ireland

The Common Agricultural Policy is an economic, environmental and social policy, which contributes to the protection of the rural environment and the fight against climate change. It guarantees food security for all of our citizens. This year we published proposals to simplify and modernise the policy and to ensure that it supports millions of farmers to meet existing and emerging challenges.

**CARLOS MOEDAS**

Research, Science and Innovation – Portugal

Europe is a global scientific powerhouse. To maintain its leadership, it's imperative that Europe invests in Research and Innovation, as it addresses citizen's concerns, modernises the EU economy, creates jobs and enhances EU competitiveness and productivity.

**TIBOR NAVRACSICS**

Education, Culture, Youth and Sport – Hungary

We started laying the foundations of the European Education Area with concrete steps: to build a stronger sense of belonging and foster the promotion of European values in schools, to boost mobility under the current and future Erasmus programmes, to promote the learning of languages, to build European Universities and to teach more about the EU - so that all of us Europeans get to know each other better.

**CHRISTOS STYLIANIDES**

Humanitarian Aid & Crisis Management – Cyprus

The EU is acting to face the new hard reality of climate change by upgrading our European Civil Protection Mechanism and creating rescEU. rescEU is about saving lives across Europe. Solidarity and responsibility are a centrepiece of a "Europe that protects".

**MARIANNE THYSSEN**

Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility – Belgium

The European Pillar of Social Rights is designed to make a positive difference in the everyday life of all Europeans. The Commission has launched legislative proposals to make the Pillar a reality on the ground but several are still under negotiation between the European Parliament and the Member States. We must make swift progress to deliver on a stronger social Europe before the European elections in May 2019.

**MARIYA GABRIEL**

Digital Economy and Society – Bulgaria

Europe's digital leadership is in our hands. In order to succeed, together, our digital future, we must shape an innovative, competitive, inclusive and value-based Digital Europe. This is what differentiates us from others: values, responsibility, clear commitments and strategic vision with citizens always at the centre of our policies.



European Parliament



ANTONIO TAJANI

PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The next twelve months are decisive if we want to reunite our Union. Europe is a cord of many strands – it only works when we are all pulling in the same direction: EU institutions, national governments and national parliaments alike. And we have to show again that this is possible, in a selected number of areas where common solutions are urgent.

With 219 MEPs from 28 Member States, the EPP Group is the most influential political force in the European Parliament.

This parliamentary year was very successful and the EPP Group was particularly active. On 23 June, the **EPP Group marked its 65th anniversary**, having progressively asserted its power and political authority since its foundation as the Christian Democratic Group in 1953.

On 8 November, the EPP Congress elected EPP Group Chairman **Manfred WEBER** as the EPP's candidate for President of the European Commission, ahead of the 2019 European Parliament elections. As a pioneer of the Spitzenkandidat process, the EPP Group is fully engaged as it strengthens democracy, brings EU closer to its citizens thus making it more visible, transparent and accessible.

On security and counterterrorism, the EPP Group continued to put the safety of Europeans first. The improved Schengen Information System (SIS) and European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) will reinforce the control of the EU's external borders and enhance the protection of citizens.

Completing the Digital Single Market is a top priority for the EPP Group. The Regulation on Geo-blocking will ensure that citizens will now benefit from better prices for goods all over Europe. The launching of the DiscoverEU Interrail pilot project enabled 15.000 young Europeans to travel for free throughout Europe during the summer. The EPP Group will continue its fight to broaden the scope of the project to make it a reality for all Europeans turning 18.

Engaging with its national partners across Member States, EPP Group external meetings were convened in 2018 where a series of EPP Group Position Papers on the Euro, Innovation, How the EU Can Help to Heal Cancer and Security were adopted.

Since 2014, the EPP Group has kept its promise to deliver policies that matter to citizens. The EPP Group has been the driving force in implementing security measures to ensure the safety of European citizens. On migration, multiple EPP Group initiatives have been taken to stabilise the crisis. The EPP Group was at the forefront in abolishing roaming charges and shaping the Digital Single Market. From the outset, the EPP Group supported the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI). The results are now clear to see: investment has been boosted, the European economy has

been strengthened and sustainable growth and jobs have been created. Committed to invest in Europe's youth, securing extra funding for the Erasmus+ programme marked a huge triumph for the EPP Group. The EPP Group delivered on a Social Europe to help and protect its citizens. The establishment of a European Pillar of Social Rights aims to promote a sustainable and inclusive Europe, boost the fight against social and regional inequalities and contribute to the creation of a social market economy.

Europe today nonetheless faces a number of immense challenges and threats. Populism is on the rise and democracy, human rights and the rule of law are increasingly marginalised. Therefore, the European elections next May are shaping up to be the most important since direct elections to the Parliament began in 1979.

The 2019 elections will clearly influence the remaining months of this European Parliament's term. The EPP Group will strive to reaffirm itself as the leading political force in the European Parliament working to address the concerns of European citizens. In the forthcoming election campaign, the EPP Group will set forth its political priorities and highlight its achievements, remaining committed to improving the lives of the citizens it serves to represent. The EPP Group will work towards a Europe that delivers.



For more information : eppgroup.eu



Decision-Making Bodies



THE CONGRESS

The Congress is the highest decision-making body of the EPP. It is composed of delegates from EPP member and associate member parties, member associations and parliamentary groups as well as representatives from observer member parties and partners. The EPP Congress meets statutorily once every three years and elects the EPP Presidency. The Congress decides on the main policy documents and electoral programmes, and provides a platform to EPP heads of state and government and party leaders.

WORKING GROUPS

The Political Assembly defines the mandate of the Working Groups, which prepare the Party's policy documents and recommendations. All EPP member and associate member parties, member associations and groups, as well as members of the EPP Group in the European Parliament, are able to participate in the Working Groups.

THE PRESIDENCY

The Presidency decides on the general political guidelines and presides over the Political Assembly. The Presidency is composed of the President, the Secretary General, 10 Vice-Presidents, and the Treasurer. The Presidents of the European Commission, European Council, European Parliament, and the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (if they belong to the EPP), as well as the Chairman of the EPP Group in the European Parliament, are ex officio members of the EPP Presidency.



The EPP has three levels of decision making: the Presidency, Political Assembly and Congress. The EPP heads of state and government and party leaders can also give policy recommendations, while the EPP Working Groups perform the preparatory political work.

THE POLITICAL ASSEMBLY

The Political Assembly defines the positions of the Party between each Congress, decides on membership applications and finalises political guidelines. The Political Assembly also decides on the budget and safeguards the political presence of the EPP between Congress meetings.

The Political Assembly is composed of designated delegates from EPP member and associate member parties, member associations and groups, guests of observer member parties, as well as partners. The number of delegates for each party is linked to the election result in the last European elections so that parties are weighted according to their strength. This allows the taking of decisions by majority. The Political Assembly meets three to five times per year.





EPP CONGRESS **HELSINKI 2018**

On 7-8 November, at the invitation of Kokoomus leader **Petteri ORPO**, the EPP held its XXV Congress in Helsinki. On the second day of the Congress, delegates elected **Manfred WEBER** to be the EPP's Spitzenkandidat for President of the European Commission.





2,000 participants from 42 countries gathered in Helsinki as the EPP prepared for the 2019 European elections. Delegates debated key policy priorities against the backdrop of the two-candidate race to become EPP's Spitzenkandidat.

The Congress featured speeches by the EPP's EU heads of state and government, deputy prime ministers, party and opposition leaders and leaders of the EU institutions. Delegates from the EPP family, including the groups and associations, debated and adopted 4 policy papers and 9 resolutions.

DAY ONE
07 NOVEMBER 2018

Day 1 of the Congress featured addresses by the EPP's EU Opposition Leaders, Party Leaders and the Chairpersons of EPP's groups and member associations as well as a debate between **Alex STUBB** and **Manfred WEBER**.



DAY ONE
07 NOVEMBER 2018

At the EPP Congress, delegates debated how to deliver a secure, sustainable, prosperous and fair Europe to all the continent's citizens.



Additionally, delegates adopted four policy papers and nine resolutions:

Policy Paper on a secure Europe

Policy Paper on a Europe for all: prosperous and fair

Policy Paper on a sustainable Europe

Policy Paper on a Europe that defends our values and interests in the world

Resolution on Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova

Resolution on a balanced society for a growing economy: Restoring a confident and prosperous middle class

Resolution on protecting EU values and safeguarding democracy

Resolution on the situation in Belarus

Resolution on Cyprus problem talks

Resolution on a prosperous and secure Europe calling for a timely adoption of the EU budget post-2020

Resolution on Moldova

Resolution on human rights violations in the Palestinian territories

Resolution on Catalan attempts at secession contrary to law and democracy



← Following a vote at the EPP Political Assembly, **Esther de LANGE** was confirmed by Congress delegates as an EPP Vice-President.



DAY TWO
08 NOVEMBER 2018

On the second day of the Congress delegates elected **Manfred WEBER** to be the EPP's candidate for President of the European Commission.



DAY TWO
08 NOVEMBER 2018

The final plenary session featured election pitches and addresses by the EPP President **Joseph DAUL** and EPP Secretary General **Antonio LÓPEZ-ISTÚRIZ**; Kokoomus Chairman **Petteri ORPO**, EPP's EU Heads of State and Government; Presidents of the European Commission, European Council and the European Parliament **Jean-Claude JUNCKER**, **Donald TUSK** and **Antonio TAJANI** as well as EPP leaders.



Political Assemblies Highlights



30-31 JANUARY 2018

BRUSSELS

As a result of the work of the EPP Expert Group on the MFF, the Political Assembly members discussed and adopted the paper on “European People’s Party priorities for the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) post-2020. Towards a Prosperous and Secure Europe”. In addition, the Campaign Director **Dara MURPHY** reported on the preparation of the campaign in view of the European elections in 2019. The EPP Internal Auditors **Ingo FRIEDRICH** and **Leif HALLBERG** were re-elected unanimously. Within the framework of the EPP Political Assembly, a debate on “Transnational lists – the right way to get the EU closer to the citizens?” took place, with Vice-President Paulo Rangel, and Steven Van Hecke, Professor at KU Leuven and Chairman of the Wilfried Martens Fund.

9-10 APRIL 2018

BRUSSELS

The delegates paid tribute to former Prime Minister of the Netherlands **Ruud LUBBERS**, who had recently passed away. The procedure and timetable for the election of the EPP Spitzenkandidat at the EPP congress on 8 November were introduced. The EPP Vice-President and Chairman of the WG3 on EPP Membership **Paulo RANGEL** announced the upcoming fact-finding missions to Morocco and Montenegro. The delegates of the Political Assembly unanimously approved the upgrade of the status of the Finnish KD from observer to ordinary member, the exclusion of SDKU-DS Slovakia and took note of the fact that UDC Spain ceased to exist.

Given worrying developments in Slovakia which have caused threats to independent media, the EPP members expressed their deepest condolences to the families of recently murdered journalist Ján Kuciak and his fiancée Mária Kušnírová and called on the Slovak authorities to carry out an objective in-depth investigation and bring the culprits to justice as soon as possible. The resolution “Call for a decent Slovakia” was adopted unanimously.

In the framework of the Political Assembly, a debate on recent developments in Libya and Syria took place with H.E. Dr. Mahmoud Gebril, Former Prime Minister of Libya and Michael Benhamou, Political Advisor to the French Armed Forces.

4-5 JUNE 2018

WARSAW

Delegates gathered to acquaint themselves with the situation regarding the rule of law in Poland and in order to give support to EPP member parties Platforma Obywatelska (PO) and Polskie Stronnictwo Ludowe (PSL) ahead of the upcoming local, regional and national elections, The EPP called on the European Commission to use all the instruments, including the Court of Justice of the European Union, to make sure that the Polish government complies with the European law and standards. On the recommendation of the EPP Presidency, the members of EPP Political Assembly elected **Esther DE LANGE** as EPP Vice-President and expressed their gratitude for the work and commitment of former EPP Vice President **Corien WORTMANN-KOOL** throughout her years in the party presidency. Finally, the EPP Political Assembly held a minute of silence in tribute to **Nicole FONTAINE**, the former President of the European Parliament.



BRUSSELS

In preparation for the EPP Congress in Helsinki, the nomination process for the EPP candidates for President of the European Commission was officially opened.

The voting regulation, voting rules and the congress composition were adopted. Positive recommendation was given by the WG3 on the applications of the Moroccan parties Istiqlal and RNI to become partners as well as the Belarusian Movement for Freedom to become observer member party. Underlining the need for a sustainable political strategy to resolve the Libyan situation, the members adopted a resolution on Libya, prepared by the Expert Group on Migration and Integration and tabled by the EPP Presidency. Delegates also held a minute of silence in memory of the EPP Co-founder and first Secretary General **Jean SEITLINGER** and former US Senator **John McCAIN**.

6 NOVEMBER 2018

HELSINKI

The Political Assembly gathered in Helsinki ahead of the EPP Congress. The President presented the two candidatures for EPP Spitzenkandidat **Alex STUBB** and **Manfred WEBER**. The Assembly validated the two candidatures unanimously. The Assembly took note of the four Congress Policy Papers on “A Secure Europe”, “A Europe for All: Prosperous and Fair”, “A Sustainable Europe” and “A Europe that defends our values and interests in the world”. Furthermore it noted the two ordinary resolutions on “A Balanced Society for a Growing Economy: Restoring a Confident and Prosperous Middle Class” and “Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova”, as well as the seven emergency resolutions on “Protecting EU Values and Safeguarding Democracy”, “Situation in Belarus”, “Cyprus problem talks”, “A prosperous and secure Europe. EPP calls for a timely adoption of the EU budget post-2020”, “Moldova”, “Human rights violations in the Palestinian territories” and “Catalan attempts at secession are contrary to law and democracy”. Referring to the positive recommendation of the WG3, the delegates unanimously accepted partnership of two Moroccan parties Istiqlal and RNI and observer status of the Belarusian Movement for Freedom. The delegates paid tribute to the memory of WMCES Head of Communications and Marketing **José Luis FONTALBA**.

European Committee of the Regions



#EPPLocalDialogue - Europe starts in my village / city /region.

Ahead of the European elections in May 2019 more than ever we will need to work, as a unified pro-European EPP family, towards restoring people's trust in the European project.

With this aim, the EPP Group in the European Committee of the Regions (EPP-CoR), together with the EPP and GERB, launched the **EPP Grassroots Engagement in view of the 2019 European elections** in Sofia in March 2018.

As part of this initiative, local, regional, national and EU-level EPP politicians have held a number of EPP Local Dialogues across Europe; from Cork to Chitila, from Torún to Turku and beyond, with the objective of listening to citizens and hearing what they expect from their EPP leaders and the EU.

"We cannot win the 2019 EU elections without local and regional support [...]. Regions, towns and villages are the backbone of Europe and that's where the EU makes a difference", said EPP President **Joseph DAUL**.

Ahead of the Polish local and regional elections, to express support for local and regional political leaders, EPP-CoR, together with political parties PO and PSL, organised a high-level meeting on 5 June in Warsaw entitled 'Strengthening Regions and Cities to Deliver a Secure and Prosperous Europe to the Citizens'.

To demonstrate how the EPP brings concrete results on the ground, EPP-CoR and Kokoomus organised a major event alongside the EPP Congress on 'EPP-led Cities Joining Forces to Deliver Sustainable Solutions for Citizens' in Helsinki on 7 November.

"Our Group's cooperation with the EPP has never been closer. At our EPP Local Dialogues, our leaders can engage directly with citizens and talk about EU politics that matter for people's everyday lives", said EPP-CoR President **Michael SCHNEIDER** at the Helsinki EPP Congress.

Subsidiarity, a central value of the EPP and a priority of the Austrian Presidency, has also been at the core of the work of the Group, with President Michael SCHNEIDER as one of the three members of the CoR in the European Commission's Task force on subsidiarity. 'A Europe Closer to its citizens, a Europe that delivers and protects' was the theme of the high-level EPP-CoR/EPP event in Klosterneuburg, Austria on 10 December, joined by the EPP Spitzenkandidat, **Manfred WEBER**. "We shall be proud of our identity as citizens belonging to our cities, regions and member states. Our EPP local dialogues are an invaluable tool in connecting with people across Europe and hearing their expectations ahead of the 2019 EU elections" said Manfred WEBER.

Throughout the year, EPP-CoR members played a leading role in the work on several opinions of the CoR; on the MFF for 2021-2027, on Cohesion Policy, migration and rebuilding trust in the European Union, to name some. The opinions have allowed Europe's cities and regions to bring their views to the EU-level discussions on issues, which will be decisive for the future of Europe and its citizens in the years to come.



For more information please visit:
epp.cor.europa.eu



Council of Europe / OSCE / NATO / Euronest



EPP IN THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE



The EPP is committed to its involvement in the Council of Europe, an organisation that promotes the principles of the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms. In October, the EPP-CD Group in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), the largest political group in PACE, elected as their new President **Aleksander POCIEJ** (PO, Poland) together with new Bureau members. The year 2018 was marked by financial challenges of the organization, by the difficult discussion on the possible return of the Russian delegation and by the report on strengthening the decision-making process of the Parliamentary Assembly concerning credentials and voting. During the year EPP President **Joseph DAUL** regularly attended EPP-CD Group meetings in PACE, where he highlighted the EPP position on the most pressing issues.

EPP IN THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF OSCE



In Berlin, Germany, the Parliamentary Assembly in the OSCE-PA elected **George TSERETELI** (EG, Georgia) as President, after serving ad interim a half year earlier. **Margareta CEDERFELT** (MOD, Sweden) took the lead of the EPP and likeminded Group. EPP President Joseph Daul attended the Group meeting in Berlin, explaining the future challenges on security and encouraged the members to be more united in their work in defending European values. The EPP was also present during the autumn meeting in Bishkek, Kirgizstan. Special focus was paid to terrorism and migration and the active participation of MPs in election observation missions in Italy, Russia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mongolia, Germany, Armenia, Kirgizstan and the USA, among others.

EPP IN THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF NATO



The EPP and associated Group in the NATO Parliamentary Assembly led by **Karl A. LAMERS** (CDU, Germany) continued managing the coordination of common answers to the different issues related to NATO partners. The EPP and associated group was successful in defending its influence in the different working committees at the annual meeting in Halifax, Canada, as well as at the previous meeting held in Warsaw, Poland, after a shorter presidency of **Rasa JUKNEVIČIENĖ** (TS-LKD, Lithuania) who replaced **Paolo ALLI** (AP, Italy) who served as President of the Assembly for more than a year and a half. During this year, special attention was paid to cyber defense, online terrorism, relations with Russia, deployment in Afghanistan and the EU-NATO relations.

EPP IN THE EURONEST PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY



Chairwoman of the EPP Group in EuroNest and EPP Group Vice-Chair **Sandra KALNIETE** (Vienotība, Latvia), together with other members of the European Parliament and of the national parliaments of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries, met for the VII Ordinary Session of the EuroNest Parliamentary Assembly in Brussels, from 25-27 June. The EPP, in cooperation with the EPP Group, organised the EPP EuroNest family meeting on 24 June, prior to the Assembly. This meeting was hosted by EPP Secretary General **Antonio LÓPEZ-ISTÚRIZ** where the following issues were discussed: main challenges and perspectives of the Eastern Partnership, political situation in EaP countries, the upcoming EU elections and the coordinated EPP position regarding the upcoming EuroNest Assembly.

Working Groups / Events



Working Groups are the backbone of the EPP's political work, where representatives from the EPP member parties, groups and associations develop common positions and strategies on major policy areas and submit specific recommendations to the Political Assembly for final approval.

A Working Group can also be given a specific mandate for preparatory work for EPP Congresses, as well as for organising conferences, roundtable discussions and other important events.

WORKING GROUP 1

Working Group 1, titled "European Policy", co-chaired by EPP President **Joseph DAUL** and EPP Vice-President **David McALLISTER** (CDU, Germany), is the key policy Working Group of the EPP. The discussions mainly focussed on four policy areas which led to the drafting of the four Congress papers: 'A Secure Europe', 'A Europe for All: Prosperous and Fair', 'A Sustainable Europe' and 'A Europe that defends our values and interests in the world'.

The drafting process was carried out in close cooperation with the EPP member parties, groups and associations. The four policy papers were adopted at the EPP Congress in Helsinki, Finland on 7 and 8 of November.



WORKING GROUP 2

EPP Working Group 2, titled "Economic and Social Policy", was co-chaired by EPP Vice-President and Campaign Director **Dara MURPHY** (FG, Ireland) and EPP Vice-President **Esther DE LANGE*** (CDA, Netherlands). The Working Group presented a resolution at the Helsinki Congress. The resolution "A Balanced Society for a Growing Economy: Restoring a Confident and Prosperous Middle Class" focused on strengthening the middle classes, as understood in a broad sense.

The EPP is determined to address the concerns of the middle class and restore belief in the ability to achieve a higher standard of living and offer better opportunities for their children. Our policies emphasise job security, equality of opportunity and social mobility. We believe that by working hard you must get further in life. Working Group 2 worked closely with the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies, the EPP Group in the European Parliament, the EPP Group in the European Committee of the Regions and with the EPP Commissioners.

***Esther DE LANGE** replaced Vice-President **Corien WORTMANN-KOOL** in the summer 2018 and became a co-chair of the WG2 at the same time.



WORKING GROUP 3

Working Group 3, entitled "EPP Membership", chaired by EPP Vice-President **Paulo RANGEL** (PSD, Portugal) assesses parties which have applied to become ordinary, associate or observer members or partners of the EPP.

Several working group meetings took place in the course of 2018, not only dealing with the EPP membership issues, but also hearing comprehensive analyses and views of the invited experts on the political situation in Morocco and Montenegro. End of January 2018, Vice-President **Paolo RANGEL** travelled to Minsk for a support and fact-finding visit, campaigning under most difficult conditions with the Belorussian member parties, the only pro-democratic forces in Belarus, for their upcoming local elections.

As a result of WG3 spring meeting, the Political Assembly in April upgraded the status of Christian Democrats of Finland to the EPP Ordinary Member Party. Rabat was the centre of a Working Group fact-finding mission in May when an EPP delegation, led by Vice-President **Paulo RANGEL** and EPP Secretary General **Antonio LÓPEZ-ISTÚRIZ**, met with the two Moroccan applicant parties for partnership, Istiqlal and the Rassemblement National des Indépendants (RNI). High-level meetings on the Morocco-EU relations, migratory and religious challenges were valuable parts of the program. In June 2018, another fact-finding mission was organised to Podgorica to assess the membership application of the Bosniak Party but also focusing on such issues as Montenegro's NATO's membership and media freedom in this country.

As a result of the EPP WG3 fact-finding missions and comprehensive discussions during the WG3 meetings, EPP Political Assembly on 6 November 2018 accepted Movement for Freedom (MFF) as new EPP observer member as well as welcomed Istiqlal and RNI from Morocco into the EPP family as new partners.



EPP EXPERT GROUP ON DIGITAL EUROPE

The EPP Expert Group on Digital Europe, co-chaired by Commissioner **Carlos MOEDAS** (PSD, Portugal) and MEP **Michał BONI** (PO, Poland), and composed by a diverse multi-stakeholder group, met to discuss how a transformative technology such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) could play in serving humanity — and not supersede it — toward tackling the biggest societal challenges of our time. Participants highlighted that new technologies are blurring the lines between the physical, digital and biological spheres but as well that the speed of the current technological breakthrough has no historical precedent — it is evolving at an exponential rather than linear pace. It was also pointed out that AI will have great impact on society and economy — both positive and negative. And while there are many utopian visions, there are also dystopian warnings. It was outlined that in Europe, the future of AI should not be driven by blind-optimism or paralyzing fear; it is about time for human-centric policies and standards, digital ethics, new social contracts for work and global agreements in addressing AI — both to foster its development as well as to humanize it.



EPP EXPERT GROUP ON MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION

The EPP Expert Group on Migration and Integration is co-chaired by **Tobias BILLSTRÖM** (MOD, Sweden), Parliamentary Group Leader of the Moderate Party in the Swedish Parliament, and EPP Vice-President **Kinga GÁL** (FIDESZ, Hungary).

During the meetings in 2018, the group discussed the deteriorating situation in Libya and the horrifying treatment of refugees in its detention centres. The experts of this working group drafted the EPP resolution 'Situation in Libya', that was adopted at the EPP Political Assembly in Brussels on 6-7 September 2018.

BREXIT TASKFORCE

The EPP continued its Brexit Taskforce. As part of that work, the EPP brought together key people from the European Parliament, the Council of the EU and the European Commission to exchange information and coordinate positions. The work was chaired by EPP President **Joseph DAUL** and EPP Vice-President **Dara MURPHY**.

In February 2018, the EPP invited member party representatives for a briefing on the state of negotiations with EU Chief Negotiator for Brexit **Michel BARNIER**. The EPP will continue its coordination work to ensure that the EU27 remain united in the UK withdrawal negotiations and in those discussions concerning the future relationship between the EU and the UK.



CAMPAIGN MANAGERS MEETING

The EPP organised two Campaign Managers Meetings in Brussels. The second meeting's main purpose was to debate with **Manfred WEBER**, who was elected as EPP's lead candidate for the 2019 European elections. These meetings also allowed for the review of the new election campaign trends and for campaign managers and communication experts of the Member Parties to exchange experience in modern campaigning among themselves.

Both Campaign Managers Meetings analysed new directions on how to best reconnect with voters and how to communicate the EPP answers to the voter's main concerns.



SAINT GÉRY DIALOGUE

The EPP continued its tradition of organising the Saint Géry Dialogue: an annual forum held in the Brussels city centre, in which key decision-makers and experts discuss topics related to economic policy. The 8th Saint Géry Dialogue was organised on 6 September with the title "Past, Present and Future of Europe". The high-level speakers were Vice-President of the EPP and of the European Commission **Jyrki KATAINEN** and EPP Vice-President and Campaign Director **Dara MURPHY**. EPP President **Joseph DAUL** delivered a welcoming address and EPP Deputy Secretary General **Christian KREMER** made the closing remarks.



EPP TALKS

One speaker. One idea. 10 minutes to convince everyone. EPPtalks is the antidote to lengthy, and often confusing political speeches. EPP offers thinkers a venue to sell their idea and the citizens an opportunity to engage directly by asking questions and debating with the speaker. More EPPtalks to follow in 2019!



EU Elections Digital Campaign

As we move into 2019, the campaign for the European Parliament elections and the race to elect a Spitzenkandidat to the Presidency of the European Commission moves into full swing. The EPP has constructed a multi-faceted digital team, based at party headquarters in Brussels, to wage the campaign online, to talk to voters about their concerns, to listen to European citizens and to run an optimistic, truly European campaign.

THE TEAM

The digital team has been designed to fight the battle on all fronts during the campaign: email, social media, creative, copywriting and research. The party will manage social media accounts in every member state of the EU, supporting the Spitzenkandidat and member parties across the continent. Digital campaigning is a more challenging endeavor in a post-GDPR world, where disinformation is highly prevalent, and the EPP is up to the fight.

HELSINKI CONGRESS

The EPP digital campaign team excelled itself at the Helsinki Congress in November 2018. A digital outreach team managed all EPP Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, Facebook and Snapchat, photography and video at the event, the campaign and congress websites, and the 'Twitter Wall' in the plenary, helping to generate more than 58,000 online conversations about the Congress in the two days. A second team hosted a video interview studio, recording 30 delegates during the event: Prime Ministers, former Prime Ministers, senior ministers and MEPs were in front of the camera voicing their hopes for the campaign.

RESEARCH

The EPP has taken its internal research to new levels over the course of 2018, giving the party a brand-new insight to voters across the continent through polls, attitudinal surveys and online analysis. The work of the research team gives the party a huge boost going into the election campaign.



Foreign Affairs



In 2018, the EPP family continued to develop its strong and comprehensive foreign policy in order to foster stability, democracy and prosperity of the EU's neighbouring countries.

As the largest and most influential transnational party in Europe, the EPP bears international responsibility. Most of the current political, economic, security and environmental challenges of the EU cannot be tackled without partners outside Europe.

Therefore, the EPP engaged intensely with its member parties, likeminded parties and partners all over the world to stabilise and further integrate the continent and by engaging more with Western Balkan and Eastern Partnership countries, as well as with those from the Middle East and North Africa.

At the same time, closer ties with the EU also require that important democratic standards are met: the rule of law, an independent justice system, the fight against corruption, good neighbourly relations and respect for human rights and international law. During 2018, EPP President **Joseph DAUL** actively promoted this message during numerous meetings with non-EU leaders. In the course of 2018, the EPP organised several official missions, held events and adopted documents strengthening EPP's political role in foreign affairs.

The EPP enlarged summit provided a unique opportunity to meet with EPP leaders from the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership countries and to work with them on the most pressing issues, encouraging reforms in these regions for the good of their citizens. The EPP has always been, and remains, a strong supporter and advocate of the transatlantic relationship. The EU-US relationship remains fundamental not only to European, but to global peace and prosperity.

WESTERN BALKANS



The Western Balkan countries remain a top priority for the EPP. The European Union is not complete without them. Bearing in mind that the EU enlargement has been one of the most successful European policies, the EPP is convinced of the importance of stabilising our continent by engaging more with the Western Balkan region. Thus, several EPP summits in 2018 were focused on the Western Balkan topic. In May, in the framework of the EPP-led Bulgarian EU Council Presidency and co-hosted with Prime Minister **Boyko BORISSOV**, the EPP organised an EU-Western Balkan Summit in Sofia. An ambitious joint declaration was adopted by the EPP EU and non-EU leaders summarising the strong EPP family convictions, highlighting the need for robust and more honest engagement, strict conditionality for EU support, the respect for the sovereignty and integrity of all the Western Balkan countries as well as necessary real eradication of corruption. Throughout 2018, the EPP actively encouraged the efforts made by member parties from the Western Balkans to advance with the reforms needed to keep them on their European path.

The EPP supported its member party, the Democratic Party of Albania and, especially this year, their women and youth organizations, via several visits to Tirana. With clear statements, the EPP did not cease to underline that the fight against organised crime and decriminalization of politics must be one of the top priorities next to the necessary adoption of the electoral law reform ahead of next year's local elections.

As regards the member party LDK from Kosovo, the EPP hosted several times high ranking delegations from Pristina. EPP welcomed Kosovo

Parliament's approval of the Border Demarcation Agreement with Montenegro as a step forward towards an EU perspective. In the joint meetings, EPP's full support for their necessary oppositional work and keeping the dialogue with Belgrade constructive and enhancing was reiterated. EPP President **Joseph DAUL** underlined the common EPP position in the need for territorial sovereignty in the region.

The October elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina changed the political landscape in the country. The EPP parties generally scored well, especially those who kept reforming the party and rejuvenated their teams. Nevertheless, again, serious undemocratic practices were observed. Despite numerous mediation efforts by EPP President **Joseph DAUL**, the electoral reform compromise could not be agreed before the elections. It nevertheless remains important to jointly tackle the necessary reforms, allow the swift implementation of governments and put all reform efforts for the better of the citizens.

In Serbia, the EPP member party SNS chaired by the country's President **Aleksandar VUČIĆ** celebrated in October its 10th birthday. Bearing in mind the important role played by the country and the party in the region, the EPP was actively supporting the dialogue with Pristina, pressing for further reforms and supporting all initiatives for good neighbourly relations. VMSZ party President **István PÁSZTOR** was several times in Brussels reporting about their role in government and the situation of the Hungarian minority.

A turbulent year lies behind for the member party in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. While acknowledging the difficult role in the opposition and giving support in holding the current government accountable for all their unfulfilled promises, the Euro-Atlantic path of the country must be enhanced. Together with VMRO-DPMNE, the window of opportunity needs to be seized through upholding the rule of law, the independence of justice and combatting corruption. EPP Secretary General **Antonio LÓPEZ-ISTÚRIZ** played an important role in the

Jean Monnet cross-party dialogue and gave a speech in May 2018 in Ohrid in order to bridge the gaps between the opposition and the ruling coalition.

Montenegro was in 2018 the center-stage of the EPP fact finding mission to Podgorica. In the youngest NATO member country, the EPP works on strengthening the relationship with the applicant Bosniak Party which was invited to the Helsinki Congress.

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

The European Union maintains a strong commitment towards the Eastern Partnership (EaP). This is especially the case for the EPP, which has been one of the major actors of the EaP since its launch. Some of the EaP countries are going through important and painful transformation processes: implementing reforms, dealing with corruption, Russian aggression and the difficult security situation in the region. Experience proved that the implementation of the Agreements is a difficult task. Partners will need to realise that this new phase requires a greater political commitment and greater resolve in strengthening the rule of law, fighting against corruption and having a strong independent justice system. It is a crucial stage to deliver results.

In 2018, the EPP continued its active engagement in the region. During the course of the year, the EPP adopted a number of resolutions on the elections in Georgia, in Armenia, on worrying developments in Moldova, on the situation in Belarus and to support the European aspiration of Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova. Furthermore, the EPP expressed its strong support to **Oleg SENTSOV**, the Ukrainian political prisoner in Russia, who became the 2018 winner of the European Parliament Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, as the nominee of the EPP Group. Furthermore, EPP continued to monitor and support necessary reforms in Ukraine. The leaders of the EaP countries that are part of the EPP family, as well as the representatives of the opposition, attended the EPP enlarged summit, where they had an opportunity to draw the attention of EU leaders to the most important issues related to the region. The EPP has been observing the developments in Belarus with great concern, especially the deteriorating human rights situation and the attacks on the media. In January 2018, EPP Vice-President **Paolo RANGEL** visited Minsk to support the members of the centre-right coalition ahead of the local elections.

The EPP Political Assembly in November gave observer status to the Freedom for Movement from Belarus. The strong deterioration of democratic freedoms and democratic standards, especially the harassment of opposition parties in Moldova caused grave concern to the EPP. Specifically, EPP strongly condemned the invalidation by the authorities of the mandate of the democratically elected mayor of Chisinau, **Andrei NASTASE**.



In Georgia, presidential elections were held at the end of the year. The EPP member parties in opposition, UNM and European Georgia signed an agreement brokered by the EPP to unite forces and support in the 2nd round candidate **Grigol VASHADZE**. Once again it was proved that only united EPP can make a difference, despite the obvious electoral irregularities, which allowed the government-supported candidate to win. Eastern Partnership policy remains among the main priority issues for the EPP's foreign policy.

MENA



Since the end of 2015, the EPP offers a new status "EPP partners" to EPP like-minded political parties from member states belonging to the Union for the Mediterranean. The purpose of this partnership is to have an opportunity for both, EPP and partners from the southern neighbourhood, to share and discuss solutions to common challenges such as migration and security, economic development but also climate change. The EPP continued working to further strengthen and expand its partnership program in the MENA area. This year in May, a Fact-Finding mission, led by EPP Vice-President **Paolo RANGEL** and EPP Secretary General **Antonio LÓPEZ-ISTÚRIZ** was organised to Morocco to

assess the application of two Moroccan parties, the Istiqlal party and the National Rally of Independents (RNI). The two parties have been granted the status of partners during the EPP Political Assembly in Helsinki in November. This new partnership will not only allow EPP to have reliable partners in Morocco, which is a strategic partner for the EU in key areas, but also continue having an open and frank discussion to enhance the cooperation and the dialogue between the two sides. Furthermore, in October 2018, an EPP visit has been organised to Lebanon to support the two partner parties, better understand the current political and economic situation in the country, but also witness on the ground the situation of the Syrian refugees in Syria's neighbouring country.

TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS



Relations with the US remain more important than ever, in a world increasingly uncertain. Secretary General **Antonio LÓPEZ-ISTÚRIZ** visited Washington, DC in July, meeting with US lawmakers, academics and business leaders and participating in the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies' Transatlantic Think Tank Conference. One highlight was the opportunity for the Secretary General to address the Republican Study Committee, comprising 123 Republicans in the House of Representatives, on the topic of Europe and transatlantic relations. The EPP mourned the loss on 25 August of longtime US Senator from Arizona and IRI President **John McCain**, a fighter for democracy and freedom. He was a true friend of Europe and of the EPP family, especially since the late EPP President **Wilfried MARTENS** together with Senator John McCain created an official cooperation between the two organisations. He will be greatly missed.

At the EPP Helsinki Congress, Secretary General Antonio LÓPEZ-ISTÚRIZ and the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies welcomed Congressional Institute President and Harvard Kennedy School Institute of Politics Fellow **Mark STRAND** for a special in-depth analysis of the previous day's US midterm elections.

Communications



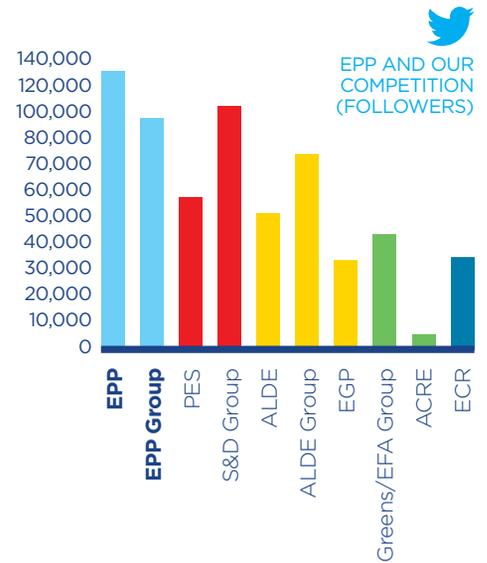
PRESS

The EPP Press Department promotes the ideas and values of the EPP political family.

In constant contact with international and national media, the EPP Press Department informs European citizens of the party's policies and achievements. It designs and implements the communications strategy that ensures the best exposure of the party's priorities.

Throughout its day-to-day management of media inquiries, press releases, interviews, articles and op-eds, the EPP Press Department promotes the party's policies and positions to maximise its media coverage. Moreover, it continuously builds close relationships with European and Brussels-based journalists by organising press conferences and briefings prior to, and during, major EPP events such as congresses, summits and European elections.

To build on last year's successes, the EPP Press Department continued the "EPP Working Visit" programme of inviting national and regional journalists to Brussels to meet with EPP leaders ahead of EPP Summits and the EPP Congress in Helsinki. This project aims to increase the EPP's visibility in EU countries and highlight the EPP's achievements whilst also helping journalists improve their understanding of the European Union.



"THE EPP BELIEVES IN OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY AND STRIVES TO PROVIDE THE EUROPEAN CITIZENS WITH AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE ABOUT THE WORK OF THE PARTY."



SOCIAL NETWORKS

The EPP is very active on all major social networks and outpaces our political competitors in every category!



Twitter account
130,000 Followers

Facebook page
433,000 Likes

Flickr account
13,071,000 Photo views

EPP in
numbers
December
2018

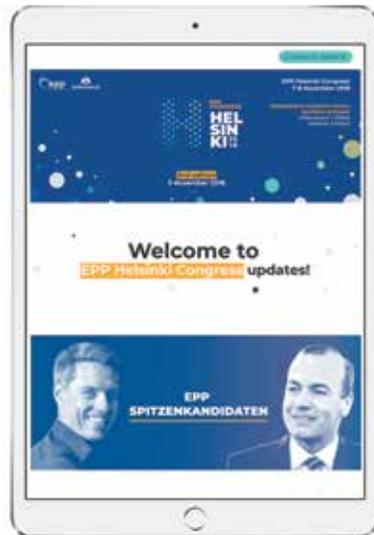
COMMUNICATIONS

During its fourth year of activities, the Communication and Marketing Department (C&M) of the EPP managed to deliver different services to its stakeholders. The C&M Department made sure that the EPP core messages and values have been communicated to its stakeholders using the proper tools, especially during key events for the Party, such as the EPP Congress in Helsinki.

Furthermore, the Department has been investing more in in-house video production, guaranteeing a high-quality and raising its standard when communicating on social media platforms. An important achievement of the C&M activity has been the management of the social media channels of the EPP. The use of social media has followed the latest updates and best practices in this field, expanding its domain to embrace the most recent trends. Throughout the year, all the different social media used have seen an increase in their figures.

2018 has finally marked the launch of a series of new communication projects substantially promoted on social media, aimed to gear up the Party's communication ahead of the 2019 European elections. The Congress in Helsinki has seen several EPP audiences, including the EPP family members, actively involved in sharing the core messages of the event by using the same social media communication tools.

Throughout the Helsinki Congress, the C&M kept the EPP member parties and other stakeholders at the core of its activities, by involving them and informing them through internal communication tools such as the Congress newsletter and the Congress App.

**Get Social with us!**

 twitter.epp.eu

 facebook.epp.eu

 youtube.epp.eu

 flickr.epp.eu

 linkedin.epp.eu

Structure and Resources



NEW LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The new Regulation 1141/2014 on the statute and funding of European Political Parties was applied for the first time in 2018 for the funding of European Political Parties. The funding decision falls within the competence of the European Parliament (DG FINS) while the 'Authority' for European Political Parties is responsible for registering, controlling and imposing sanctions on Parties. The registration by the Authority is one of the pre-conditions for funding of the parties.

HUMAN RESOURCES

EPP Staff

An international (19 nationalities) and multilingual staff of 31 people is at the service of the EPP member parties and stakeholders.

EPP Internship

EPP continued its Internship Programme in view of immersing young university graduates in the political life of the European Institutions, European Politics and EPP.

EPP Digital Campaign Team

In the 2nd half of 2018 EPP started to recruit a team of social media experts that will run all social media accounts and channels during the 2019 European Election Campaign.

EPP Deputy Secretary General
Luc VANDEPUTTE



FINANCIAL RESOURCES IN 2018

EPP Funding

The European Parliament budget for 2018 set aside 32,4 million EURO for party funding. 15% of the budget is distributed among the parties in equal shares. 85% is distributed on the basis of the number of Members of Parliament (MEPs) accounted for by every Party.

The European Parliament subventions constitute 2/3 of the EPP income. The rest of the income is generated through the **Membership Fees**. 75% of the 2018 Membership Fees have been settled before 31 December 2018.

The accounts of all European Political Parties are audited by an external auditor (Ernst & Young) appointed by the European Parliament. The EPP accounts are additionally audited and reviewed by the EPP internal auditors Dr. **Ingo FRIEDRICH** and **Leif HALLBERG**. The Internal Auditors present their report and recommendations at the EPP Political Assembly. The day to day budget management is performed by EPP Treasurer **Christian SCHMIDT**, Secretary General **Antonio LÓPEZ-ISTÚRIZ** and Deputy Secretary General **Luc VANDEPUTTE**.

EPP Treasurer
Christian SCHMIDT



10 European Political Parties were recognized and registered by the Authority and received funding from the European Parliament (in million EURO):

EUROPEAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (EPP) - 9.6

PARTY OF EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS (PES) - 6.8

ALLIANCE OF LIBERALS AND DEMOCRATS FOR EUROPE (ALDE) - 2.9

ALLIANCE OF CONSERVATIVES AND REFORMISTS IN EUROPE (ACRE) - 2.5

EUROPEAN GREEN PARTY (EGP) - 2.3

MOUVEMENT POUR UNE EUROPE DES NATIONS ET DES LIBERTÉS (MENL) - 1.8

PARTY OF THE EUROPEAN LEFT (EL) - 1.7

EUROPEAN FREE ALLIANCE (EFA) - 0.9

EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN POLITICAL MOVEMENT (ECPM) - 0.7

EUROPEAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (EDP) - 0.6

EPP Internal auditors
Leif HALLBERG and Dr **Ingo FRIEDRICH**



Headquarters / Internship Programme



EPP HEADQUARTERS: THE BRUSSELS MEETING POINT OF THE EPP FAMILY

The EPP Headquarters (HQ) is the true Brussels meeting point for everyone that is linked to the large European People's Party family. The meeting rooms and lounge host numerous Working Groups, conferences, seminars, Presidency and Ministerial Meetings.



Almost every day, the EPP HQ welcomes visitors and groups from member parties, associations and high-level delegations from our family from all over the globe.

In addition to the EPP Staff, the EPP HQ also hosts the EPP member associations of YEPP, EDS and EUCDW, the Centrist Democrat International and the Forum for European Studies.

Member Associations



YEPP

YEPP is the youth organisation of the EPP, bringing together 65 member organisations from 41 countries and more than one million members. YEPP started the year with a Council of Presidents on the Future of Work in Milan. In May, YEPP organized a Council Meeting on The Future of the Economy: Farming and Food Supply in Roeselare, where the participants were submerged to an authentic farm-life experience. In June, YEPP kicked off the summer with a Summer School on The Future of the Economy: Tech and Society in Cascais. After the Summer break, YEPP gathered in Munich to discuss its strategy for the years to come. September belonged to the talks on the Future of Human Mobility which culminated in Bucharest. Finally, YEPP concluded the year with its 12th electoral Congress in Athens where the new leadership and Board for 2018-2020 was elected.

Ana Lídia PEREIRA
PRESIDENT

Eileen LYNCH
SECRETARY GENERAL

For more information please visit:
youthpep.eu

YEPP - Activities in 2018.

- **15-18 February:** Council of Presidents "The Future of Work: Automation", Milan, Italy
- **3-6 May:** Council Meeting "The Future of the Economy: Farming and Food Supply", Roeselare, Belgium
- **14-17 June:** Summer School "The Future of the Economy: Tech and Society", Cascais, Portugal
- **1-2 September:** Organisational Review Meeting, Munich, Germany
- **21-23 September:** Council Meeting "The Future of the Human Mobility: Migration and Demographics", Bucharest, Romania
- **1-4 November:** YEPP 12th Congress, Athens, Greece



ESU

Since 1995, the ESU is a growing network of seniors' associations from all over Europe. Today, it consists of 34 member organisations in 27 countries. The ESU is dedicated to the advancement of the rights of senior citizens, their participation in all parts of society and intergenerational solidarity. In line with the EPP Congress document "Europe secures our future" (2017), the ESU calls for a general European strategy responding to the challenges of demographic change. In 2018, ESU organised 2 general assemblies, 3 board meetings, several conferences and the Summer Academy.

An HERMANS
PRESIDENT

Guido DUMON
SECRETARY GENERAL

For more information please visit:
esu-eppeu.eu

ESU - Activities in 2018.

- **24 April:** Symposium with IDEA on the occasion of the European Day of Solidarity between Generation, Brussels, Belgium
- **27 - 28 April:** Regional conference "Growing older in the EU regions", Aachen, Germany
- **16 - 18 May:** Regional conference "Building bridges towards solidarity and social cohesion in the Baltic states", Vilnius, Lithuania
- **7 November:** Regional conference "Seniors in a Digital Era", Helsinki, Finland
- **7 November:** Round Table with EUCDW and YEPP "A new social contract for Europe", Helsinki, Finland
- **23 November:** Conference "The ESU and its member associations in the European election campaign 2019", Leuven, Belgium



EPP WOMEN

EPP Women (EPPW) brings together more than 60 women's organisations and partners from EPP member parties in both EU and non-EU countries. In 2018, the association focused particularly on the necessity of involving more women in the digital sector and on how to encourage young female graduates to choose STEM studies - the bottom up approach - by using the tools created by the European Commission. Furthermore, the discussions led to the important role of women in the European integration of the Balkan countries and finally, to female empowerment in decision making in both business and politics. The Congress and General Board in Ljubljana, Slovenia re-elected the EPP Women President and Treasurer, elected Vice-Presidents and confirmed the Secretary General for the term 2018-2021. The Congress and General Board adopted in Slovenia the resolution on "Women's Role in the Digital Transformation of our Economy and our Society".

Dr.h.c. Doris PACK
PRESIDENT

Hillie VAN DE STREEK
SECRETARY GENERAL

For more information please visit:
www.eppe-women.org

EPPW - Events 2018.

- **29 January:** Executive Board Meeting, Brussels, Belgium
- **9 April:** Colloque: "Women in the Digital Era: Perspectives for the Labour Market", Brussels, Belgium
- **20-21 September:** "European Integration of the Balkan Countries and Role of Women", Tirana, Albania
- **5 October:** Executive Board Meeting, Glyfada, Greece
- **5 - 6 October:** Autumn Academy on "Women First", Glyfada, Greece
- **6 November:** Executive Board Meeting, Helsinki, Finland
- **7 November:** Roundtable discussion EPP Congress "Digital Europe for Everyone", Helsinki, Finland
- **23 November:** Executive Board Meeting, Ljubljana, Slovenia
- **23-24 November:** Congress and General Board on "Women First", Ljubljana, Slovenia





EDS

European Democrat Students (EDS) is the official student organisation of the EPP. With 43 members organisations from 35 countries, EDS is the most influential voice of centre-right and pro-European students and the largest student political organisation in Europe. Over the past year, EDS made important contributions on the topics of digitalisation, the role of young leaders in local communities, higher education and human rights. With the upcoming EU Elections, EDS is working on strategies and proposals to engage young people and encourage them to make sure their voices are heard. EDS publishes its opinion magazine BullsEye online and in printed form.

Virgilio FALCO
CHAIRMAN

Sara JURIKS
SECRETARY GENERAL

For more information please visit:
edsnet.eu

EDS - Activities in 2018.

- **21-25 February:** Winter University in Krakow, Poland
- **19-22 April:** Council Meeting in Riga, Latvia
- **30 April-1 May:** EPP Training Campaign in Brussels, Belgium
- **7-10 June:** Centre-Right Academy in Zagreb, Croatia
- **25-29 July:** Summer University in Genoa, Italy
- **7-9 September:** Bureau Meeting and Skills Training in Brussels, Belgium
- **27-30 September:** Council Meeting in Budapest, Hungary
- **6-8 November:** EPP Congress and Bureau Meeting in Helsinki, Finland



EUCDW

The European Union of Christian Democratic Workers (EUCDW) is the voice and official association of Christian workers' movements in the EPP. Led by President **Elmar BROK**, Secretary General **Ivo BELET** and Treasurer **Ria OOMEN-RUIJTEN**, the association celebrated its 40th Anniversary last year and is committed to strengthening the Social Market Economy which lies at the heart of the European Union. The EUCDW brings together 24 Christian trade unions, social movements and workers' associations, providing ground for political coordination and training within the EPP family. The highlight of this year was the XII Statutory Congress on 14-15 December 2018 in Vienna. Keynote speakers were Austrian Chancellor **Sebastian KURZ**, European Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs **Marianne THYSSEN** and EPP Spitzenkandidat **Manfred WEBER**.

Elmar BROK
PRESIDENT

Ivo BELET
SECRETARY GENERAL

For more information please visit:
www.eucdw.org

EUCDW - Activities in 2018.

- **26 January:** Presidium and Board meeting in Timisoara, Romania
- **20 June:** Board meeting in Brussels, Belgium
- **26 September:** Board meeting in Brussels, Belgium
- **14-15 December:** XII Statutory Congress in Vienna, Austria



SME Europe of the EPP

SME Europe works for the interests of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in many areas, the first of our priorities is for the Board, Senators and Chairs of our working groups, represented by acting Members of the European Parliament, to further develop and advise on EU legislation and tailor-made political solutions for the SMEs it represents. It gathers information, opinions and positions both locally in Brussels and in the member states using communication platforms, but more so by means of events in which varying stakeholders from the European Parliament, European Commission as well as associations, academics, and of course the SMEs, interact with each other. We believe that SMEs have an important mediatory role in today's society. As a result, they know the effects brought by legislation on their own businesses better than anyone, therefore their experiences and knowledge must be always integrated for the best result.

Ivan ŠTEFANEČ
PRESIDENT

For more information please visit:
smeeurope.eu

SME Europe - Activities in 2018.

- **12 February:** Conference on "Entrepreneurship for Growth: EFSI Financial Support, SME Funding & Single Market Benefits", Bratislava, Slovakia
- **6 March:** Working Breakfast on "The Future of Trade between the EU & India"
- **10 April:** 2018 Working Breakfast on "Patents as a Springboard to success for European SMEs"
- **26 April:** Conference on "Brexit: How to foster success & growth for Enterprises in Great Britain & the European Union", London, England
- **12 September:** Working Breakfast on "How to Create fairness for SMEs in Platform - to - Business Relations?", Strasbourg, France
- **27 September:** Working Breakfast on "EU Free Trade Agreements: The Best Deal for Innovative Industries, New Opportunities for European Textile & Fashion"
- **11-13 October:** Conference on "Industry, Entrepreneurship - Road to success: The Convergence of Education, Business & Local Governance" in Timisoara, Romania
- **17 October:** SME Star Awards 2018

Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies



The Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies (or Martens Centre), the official think tank of the EPP, had yet another year of exciting developments in 2018, while strengthening its network of member foundations, which now comprises 32 member foundations and over 20 partners and third parties we cooperate with!

TEN YEARS... YOUNG!

In January 2018, we marked the decennial (10th anniversary) of the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies (WMCES) with a gala titled "What Future for the European Project?". Since its establishment, in September 2007, the mission of the Centre has been to provide fresh and innovative ideas for a strong and secure Europe, based on the values of the EPP.

Every year, WMCES is thrilled to welcome new member foundations and partners to its family, which has now grown to over 40 foundations and partners throughout Europe and beyond. It organises more than 100 events and projects throughout the year in order to provide a platform for centre-right decision-makers, experts and thinkers, to discuss and exchange views on current affairs and the challenges Europe is facing.



NET@WORK, MANAGING CHANGE

NET@WORK is the biggest gathering of European centre-right think tanks which debate and advocate EU policies. The third edition of Net@Work took place in April 2018 in Brussels, politicians and stakeholders from different EU member states met for a full day of action-packed panel debates. This year, NET@WORK featured interesting and engaging panel debates. Its format comprised of an impressive schedule: three sessions each with four simultaneous panels. Each panel was hosted by one of twelve political foundations of the Martens Centre's network. Under the title "Managing Change", this year's topics included: migration and the refugee crisis; foreign and security policy challenges; EU political and socio-economic reforms; the future of the EU and Brexit; populism and disinformation.

**THE FACES AND VOICES BEHIND OUR RESEARCH**

Apart from the typical research formats, the Martens Centre has also inaugurated different audio, visual and written formats which aim to give both a face and a voice to the research and to the members of the EPP political family. Besides our well-known "Political Week in 60 Seconds", the Martens Centre produces "Brexitometer", a monthly recap of the state of the Brexit negotiations with the research associate, **Angelos CHRYSOGELOS**. We also author a candid interview series called "I say Europe, you say...?", where it asks centre-right movers and shakers of the European project about a variety of topics, from their legislative work to food preferences, from weekday causes to weekend hobbies.

It also produces two podcasts, "Europe Out Loud" and "Defence Dialogues", feature **Federico Ottavio REHO** and **Niklas NOVÁKY**, respectively. In September 2018, the former was awarded the Best Digital Channel in 2018 by the Digital Communications Awards, held in Berlin.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: THE FUTURE OF WORK

The rapid technological progress in automation, robotisation and artificial intelligence have raised fears but also hopes, that in the future the nature of work will change significantly.

Addressing these concerns, **Žiga TURK**, Member of the Martens Centre's Academic Council, wrote a research paper titled "The Future of Work: Robots Cooking Free Lunches?". In this publication, he addressed many pertinent questions on the future of the work relationship, for example, will work disappear altogether and, with it, the societal relations and inequalities that result from differing success in the workplace? If this happens, what policy options are there to address these issues?

**EUROPE, GET READY FOR THE MAKERS REVOLUTION!**

In May 2018, at the Autoworld Museum, Makerstown took over Brussels for the third time. Makerstown brought together more than 40 young and innovative "Makers" - giving a platform to a new generation of entrepreneurs and DIY experts empowered by Web 3.0 tools, technology and crowdfunding. Part fair and part conference, Makerstown was organised in partnership with Think Young, the first think tank to lobby exclusively for young people.

**ECONOMIC IDEAS FORUM 2018**

This year, WMCES took EIF back on the road, to debate economic policies which shape the Union. Commemorating our 9th edition, #EIF18 took place in Paris, in June, and was organised with the support of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation's (KAS) city office in Paris. EIF brings together economic experts, EU heads of state and government, European Commissioners, ministers, business leaders and other influential stakeholders from around the world. The Forum provides an opportunity to identify innovative ideas and place them within the policymaking processes of the EPP.

REFORMING UKRAINE

Introduced in late 2014, under the leadership of WMCES President **Mikuláš DZURINDA**, #UkraineReforms is a project carried out by the Martens Centre with the support and expertise of local partners in Ukraine - Kyiv School of Economics, Ukrainian Center for European Policy and Reanimation Package of Reforms. The project consists of visits of senior decision-makers and reformers from the EU to Kyiv in the framework of the project, which focuses on Ukraine and its path to the rule of law, democracy and a functional market economy.

WMCES is proud to announce that this series, one of its flagship projects, has been shortlisted for the European Excellence Awards 2018 in the category of "Best Project" organised on the territory of Poland, Ukraine or Republic of Moldova. The project concluded in December 2018, with a high-level event taking place in Brussels, co-organised with Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSS). Of course, WMCES' commitment to empowering Ukraine remains unchanged and it aims to have more common projects there in 2019.

Who is Who Presidency

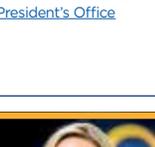


<p>PRESIDENT</p> <p>→</p>	 <p>Joseph DAUL France - LR</p>	<p>SECRETARY GENERAL</p> <p>→</p>	 <p>Antonio LÓPEZ-ISTÚRIZ Spain - PP</p>
<p>VICE PRESIDENTS*</p> <p>* In alphabetical order →</p>	 <p>Esther DE LANGE Netherlands - CDA</p>	 <p>Kinga GÁL Hungary - Fidesz</p>	 <p>Johannes HAHN Austria - ÖVP</p>
 <p>Jyrki KATAINEN Finland - KOK</p>	 <p>David McALLISTER Germany - CDU</p>	 <p>Dara MURPHY Ireland - FG</p>	 <p>Paulo RANGEL Portugal - PSD</p>
 <p>Antonio TAJANI / European Parliament President, Italy - FI</p>	 <p>Marianne THYSSEN Belgium - CD&V</p>	 <p>Rafał TRZASKOWSKI Poland - PO</p>	 <p>Christian SCHMIDT / Treasurer Germany - CSU</p>
<p>EX OFFICIO VICE PRESIDENTS</p> <p>→</p>	 <p>Jean-Claude JUNCKER Luxembourg - CSV</p>	 <p>Donald TUSK Poland - PO</p>	 <p>Manfred WEBER Germany - CSU</p>

Secretariat

As of 1 January 2019.



ELECTED OFFICIALS			SPOKESMAN			STAFF		
 <p>Christian KREMER Deputy Secretary General</p>	 <p>Luc VANDEPUTTE Deputy Secretary General</p>		 <p>Siegfried MURESAN Spokesman, MEP</p>	 <p>Brenda FURNIERE Head of President's Office</p>	 <p>Sara PINI Deputy Head of President's Office</p>			
 <p>Patrick CAMINADE President's Office</p>	 <p>Hamda M'RAD DALI Assistant</p>	 <p>Luis Fernando Blanco Chief of Cabinet of the Secretary General</p>	 <p>Pilar SANTAMARIA Head of Press of the Secretary General</p>	 <p>Maite ZABALETA Assistant to the Secretary General</p>	 <p>Karine MILHEIRO Senior Press and Communication Adviser</p>	 <p>Ecaterina CASINGE Senior Press Relations Adviser (on leave)</p>	 <p>Gareth GREGAN Assistant</p>	
 <p>Ines Elise PRAINSAK-WARD Head of Policy and Strategy Unit</p>	 <p>Patrick VOLLER Secretary of External Relations</p>	 <p>Galina FOMNCHENKO Senior Political Adviser</p>	 <p>Juan MAGAZ Political Adviser</p>	 <p>Eva PALACKOVÁ Political Adviser</p>	 <p>Juha-Pekka NURVALA Political Adviser</p>	 <p>Ajla HOTIC Political Adviser</p>	 <p>Nathan SHEPURA Political Adviser</p>	
 <p>Gonçalo RAPOSO CARRICO Political Adviser</p>	 <p>Claudia CAJVAN Political Adviser</p>	 <p>Julia LISENS-ZALUTSKAJA Assistant for External Relations</p>	 <p>Yelba TORRES Assistant for Ministerial Meetings and Working Groups</p>	 <p>Pavlína HEYMANS-SPACKOVA Assistant for Ministerial Meetings and Archive Manager, Administrator EPP Women</p>	 <p>Martin HARANGOZO Assistant to the Deputy Secretary General Christian Kremer</p>	 <p>Héla SLIM Assistant to Campaign Director Dara Murphy</p>	 <p>Daphné LAMAL HR and Finance Manager</p>	
 <p>Charlotte FRIZBERG Event Officer</p>	 <p>Matteo ALBANIA Communication and Marketing Officer</p>	 <p>Rok TUS Graphic Designer and Video Editor</p>	 <p>Stefan TODOROVIC Social Media Editor</p>	 <p>Mariana ALVES COELHO Graphic Designer</p>	 <p>Bianca PANA Video Editor</p>	 <p>Katerina MEXI Video Editor</p>	 <p>Guy VOLCKAERT Manager of Informatics & Internet</p>	

Member Parties and Partners

European Union Countries



* Associate members ° Observer members

	AT	Die neue Volkspartei / ÖVP / Austrian People's Party
	BE	Christen-Democratisch en Vlaams / CD&V / Christian Democrat and Flemish Centre démocrate humaniste / cdH / Humanist Democratic Centre
	BG	Граждани за европейско развитие на България • Grazhdani za evropeysko razvitie na Balgariya / ГЕРБ • GERB / Citizens for European Development of Bulgaria Демократи за силна България • Demokrati za silna Bulgaria / ДСБ • DSB / Democrats for a Strong Bulgaria Движение България на гражданите • Dvizhenie Bulgariya na grazhdanite / ДБГ • BCM / Bulgaria of the Citizens Movement Съюз на демократичните сили • Sayuz na demokratichnite sili / СДС • UDF / Union of Democratic Forces
	HR	Hrvatska demokratska zajednica / HDZ / Croatian Democratic Union Hrvatska seljačka stranka / HSS / Croatian Peasant's Party
	CY	Δημοκρατικός Συναγερμός / ΔΗΣΥ • DISY / Democratic Rally
	CZ	TOP 09 Křesťanská a demokratická unie - Československá strana lidová / KDU-ČSL / Christian Democratic Union - Czechoslovak People's Party
	DK	Det Konservative Folkeparti / C / Conservative People's Party Kristendemokraterne / KD / Christian Democrats
	EE	Isamaa / Pro Patria and Res Publica Union
	FI	Kansallinen Kokoomus / KOK / National Coalition Party Kristillisdemokraatit / KD / Christian Democrats
	FR	Les Républicains / LR / The Republicans
	DE	Christlich Demokratische Union Deutschlands / CDU / Christian Democratic Union of Germany Christlich-Soziale Union in Bayern / CSU / Christian Social Union in Bavaria
	GR	Νέα Δημοκρατία • Nea Demokratia / ΝΔ • ND / New Democracy
	HU	Fidesz - Magyar Polgári Szövetség / FIDESZ / Fidesz - Hungarian Civic Union Kereszténydemokrata Néppárt / KDNP / Christian Democratic People's Party

	IE	Fine Gael / FG / Family of the Irish
	IT	Forza Italia / FI Alternativa Popolare / AP / People's Alternative Unione di Centro / UDC / Union of the Centre Popolari per l'Italia / Ppl / Popolars for Italy Partito Autonomista Trentino Tirolese ^o / PATT / Trentino Tyrolean Autonomist Party Südtiroler Volkspartei ^o / SVP / South Tyrolean People's Party
	LV	Vienotība / Unity
	LT	Tėvynės sąjunga - Lietuvos krikščionys demokratai / TS-LKD / Homeland Union - Lithuanian Christian Democrats
	LU	Chrëschtlech Sozial Vollekspartei / CSV / Christian Social People's Party
	MT	Partit Nazzjonalista / PN / Nationalist Party
	NL	Christen-Democratisch Appèl / CDA / Christian Democratic Appeal
	PL	Platforma Obywatelska / PO / Civic Platform Polskie Stronnictwo Ludowe / PSL / Polish People's Party
	PT	Partido Social Democrata / PSD / Social Democratic Party Centro Democrático e Social - Partido Popular / CDS-PP / Democratic and Social Centre - People's Party
	RO	Partidul Național Liberal / PNL / National Liberal Party Româniai Magyar Demokrata Szövetség • Uniunea Democrată Maghiară din România / RMDSZ • UDMR / Democratic Union of Hungarians in Romania Partidul Mișcarea Populară / PMP / People's Movement Party
	SK	Kresťanskodemokratické hnutie / KDH / Christian Democratic Movement Most-Híd Magyar Közösség Pártja • Strana maďarskej komunity / SMK • MKP / Party of the Hungarian Community
	SI	Slovenska demokratska stranka / SDS / Slovenian Democratic Party Slovenska ljudska stranka / SLS / Slovenian People's Party Nova Slovenija - krščanska ljudska stranka / N.Si / New Slovenia - Christian People's Party
	ES	Partido Popular / PP / People's Party
	SE	Moderata samlingspartiet / MOD - Moderaterna / Moderate Coalition Party Kristdemokraterna / KD / Christian Democrats

Non-EU Countries

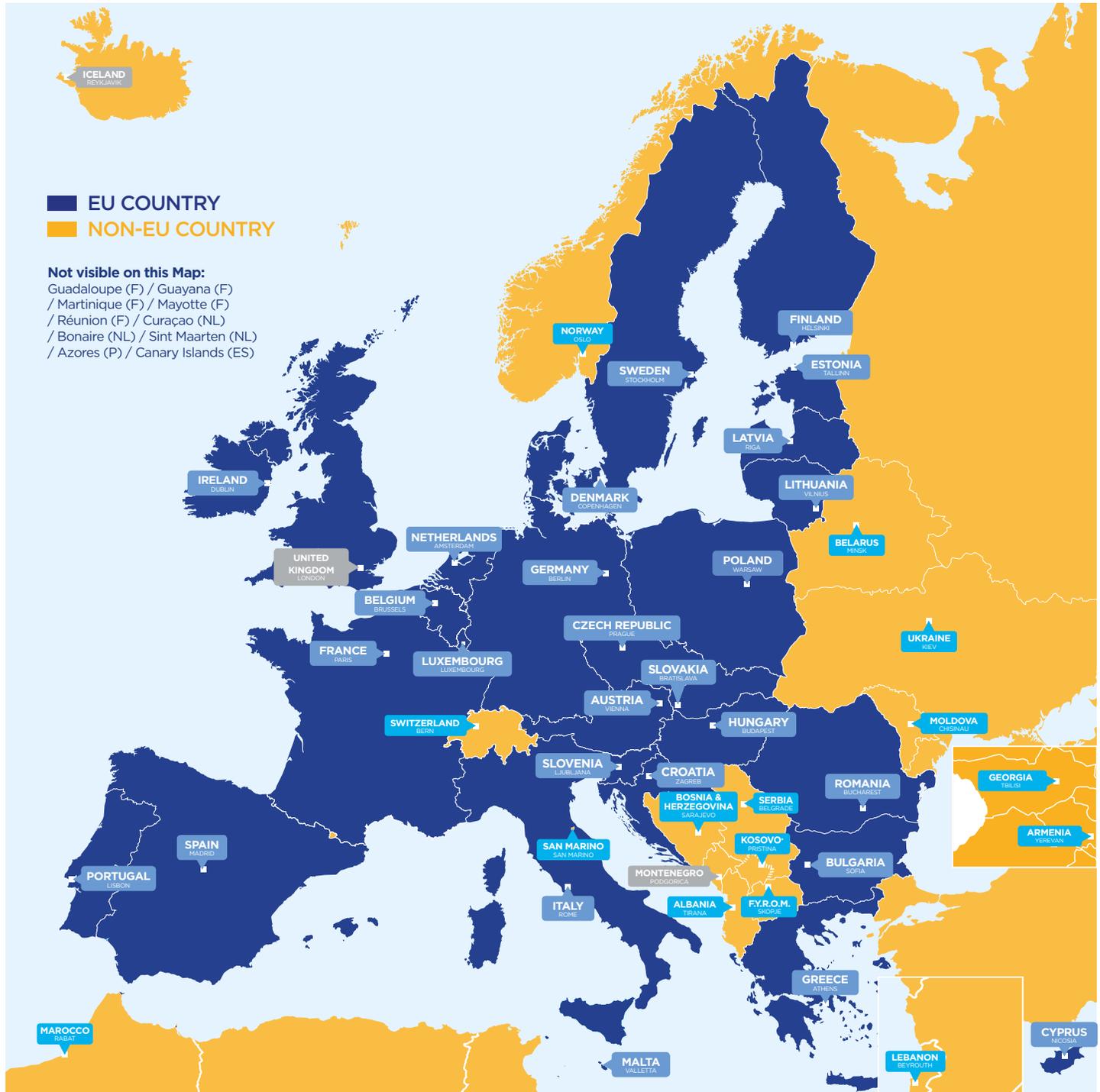
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= Partners

	AL	Partia Demokratike e Shqipërisë * / PDSH / Democratic Party of Albania
	AM	Հայաստանի Հանրապետական Կուսակցություն • Hayastani Hanrapetakan Kusaksutyun ° / HHK / Republican Party of Armenia Փառանգություն • Zharangutyun ° / Heritage
	BY	Аб'яднаная грамадзянская партыя Беларусі • Abjadnanaja hramadzianskaja partyja Bielarusi ° / АГП • AHP / United Civic Party of Belarus Партыя Беларускай Хрысціянскай Дэмакратыі • Partyja Bielaruskaja Chryscijanskaja Demakratyja ° / БХД - BCD / Belarusian Christian Democracy Party Рух “За Свабоду” • “Rukh “Za Svabodu” ° / ПАГА . MFF / Movement for Freedom
	BA	Stranka Demokratske Akcije ° / SDA / Party of Democratic Action Hrvatska demokratska zajednica Bosne i Hercegovine ° / HDZ BiH / Croatian Democratic Union of Bosnia and Herzegovina Hrvatska demokratska zajednica 1990 ° / HDZ 1990 / Croatian Democratic Union 1990 Партија демократског прогреса • Partija demokratskog progressa ° / ПДП • PDP / Party of Democratic Progress
	MK	Внатрешна македонска револуционерна организација – Демократска партија за македонско национално единство • Vnatrešna makedonska revolucionerna organizacija - Demokratska partija za makedonsko nacionalno edinstvo * / ВМРО-ДПМНЕ • VMRO-DPMNE / Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation – Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity
	GE	ერთიანი ნაციონალური მოძრაობა • Ertiani Natsionaluri Modzraoba ° / ენმ • ENM - UNM / United National Movement ევროპული საქართველო – მოძრაობა თავისუფლებისთვის° • Evropuli Saqartvelo - Modzraoba Tavisuflebitvis/ European Georgia – Movement for Liberty
	LEB	حزب الكتائب اللبنانية = / LKP / Lebanese Kataeb Party حزب القوات اللبنانية = / LFP / Lebanese Forces Party
	MD	Partidul Liberal Democrat din Moldova ° / PLDM / Liberal Democratic Party of Moldova Partidul Acțiune și Solidaritate ° / PAS / Action and Solidarity Party Partidul Politic Platforma Demnitate și Adevăr ° / PPDA / Dignity and Truth Platform Political Party
	MA	رارح أأل ينطولا عمجت لآ = / RNI / National Rally of Independents لآلق سآالآ بزح = / Istiqlal Party
	NO	Høyre * / H / Conservative Party Kristelig Folkeparti ° / KrF / Christian Democratic People's Party
	SM	Partito Democratico Cristiano Sammarinese ° / PDCS / Sammarinese Christian Democratic Party
	RS	Vajdasági Magyar Szövetség • Савез војвођанских Мађара • Savez vojvodanskih Mađara * / VMSZ • CBM • SVM / Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians Српска напредна странка */ SNS / Serbian Progressive Party
	CH	Christlichdemokratische Volkspartei • Parti démocrate-chrétien • Partito popolare democratico * / CVP • PDC • PPD / Christian Democratic People's Party
	UA	Всеукраїнське об'єднання “Батьківщина” • Vseukrayins'ke Obyednannya Bat'kivshchyna ° / Batkivshchyna / All Ukrainian Union “Fatherland” Український демократичний альянс за реформи ° / УДАР • UDAR / Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reform
	KOSOVO	Lidhja Demokratike e Kosovës ° / LDK / Democratic League of Kosovo

Map of Europe





European People's Party

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