Towards a better future for Europe

epp
european people's party





www.epp.eu





1976**2016**
LUXEMBOURG
40 YEARS OF
EPP FAMILY



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**.

Get Social with us!

- twitter.epp.eu
- facebook.epp.eu
- youtube.epp.eu
- flickr.epp.eu
- linkedin.epp.eu



Contents

This publication is up-to-date as of December 2016. 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.

02 WELCOME to the EPP



04 European Councils - EPP Summits

06 Summit Highlights

10 Heads of State and Government

13 Ministerial Meetings

16 European Commission

18 European Parliament

19 Decision-Making Bodies

20 FOCUS!
19762016
LUXEMBOURG
40 YEARS OF EPP FAMILY



26 Political Assembly Highlights

27 European Committee of the Regions

28 Council of Europe / OSCE / NATO / Euronest

29 Working Groups / Events

32 Foreign Affairs

34 Communications



36 Structure and Resources

37 Headquarters / Internship Programme

38 Member Associations

40 Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

42 Who is Who

44 Member Parties and Partners

47 Map of Europe







EPP Annual Review 2016
This publication is produced by the EPP Press Department.

Date of issue
December 2016

Editor in Chief
Siegfried MUREŞAN

Assistant Editors
Joanna NOWAK
Ecaterina CASINGE
Karine MILHEIRO

Design & Production
www.blcreative.eu

Printing Company
Dereume

Photos
European People's Party
European Commission
European Parliament
ÖVP/Jakob Glaser

Download this publication
www.epp.eu

Questions about this publication
press@epp.eu

Printed with the financial support of the European Parliament.

Welcome to the EPP



ANTONIO LÓPEZ-ISTÚRIZ
EPP SECRETARY GENERAL

JOSEPH DAUL
EPP PRESIDENT

“WE ARE SUCCESSFUL BECAUSE WE PUT THE WELL-BEING OF THE CITIZENS AT THE CORE OF OUR ACTIONS.”

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 our roots to the European Union’s founding fathers – **Robert SCHUMAN**, **Alcide DE GASPERI** and **Konrad ADENAUER** – the EPP is committed to a strong Europe based on a federal model and relying 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. The 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.

The EPP is the largest European-level political party, with 79 member parties and partners from 41 countries, 8 EU and 6 non-EU heads of state and government, 14 European Commissioners, the largest Group in the European Parliament, with 217 members, and the heads of two of the main EU institutions: the European Commission, led by President **Jean-Claude JUNCKER**, and the European Council, led by President **Donald TUSK**.

Throughout 2016, we welcomed new EPP heads of state and government. In October, **Andrej PLENKOVIĆ** became the new Prime Minister of Croatia. The Irish voters re-elected **Enda KENNY** as Taoiseach, and Spain voted in favour of **Mariano RAJOY** for his second term as Prime Minister. In November, the Serbian Progressive Party and Prime Minister **Aleksandar VUČIĆ** joined the EPP political family.

The EPP family met in Luxembourg in May to celebrate 40 years since the EPP’s founding. The occasion provided a unique opportunity to discuss our achievements and reflect on our rich history, a history which has shaped the European Union. In a series of speeches, the EPP’s prominent leaders reiterated their support towards securing the future of the European project.

2016 brought serious challenges affecting the day-to-day life of European citizens and the future of the EU project. The barbaric terrorist attacks left Europeans shocked and worried about their safety. Human traffickers and smugglers continue to take advantage of the deteriorating situations in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), putting the lives of refugees and migrants at risk. Russia’s ongoing aggression in Ukraine poses a serious security challenge. Finally, despite a growing economy, many fear for their financial security.

To protect our citizens and the future of the continent, we must defend our core values. The dignity of the human being, freedom, democracy, equality, justice, solidarity combined with responsibility, subsidiarity: these values have brought peace and prosperity to our continent and have shielded us for many decades. Sadly, populists try to undermine their importance and thereby ruin the achievements of the EU. With misleading rhetoric and simplistic explanations, they aim at mistrust and spread dangerous misinformation. The United Kingdom’s vote to leave the EU, decided by a slim majority, was in many cases based on false information.

Contrary to populists, the EPP, now with 40 years of experience in bringing results to the people, offers solutions that work in practice. We are successful because we put the well-being of the citizens at the core of our actions. Everything we do is based on one objective: staying together and securing the benefits of an open and united Europe.

We must always put the security of our citizens first. Threats in our globalised world increase rapidly. Europe cannot be on standby and passively watch, counting on our partners to help us in need. While our cooperation with NATO remains crucial, we must become a more reliable partner in our own right. The EPP has long advocated for increased cooperation and information sharing and for a genuine defence union, with permanent structured cooperation, EU battlegroups and operational headquarters. We need a genuine defence union to protect the safety of our citizens.

The number of refugees and migrants coming to Europe in 2016 has significantly dropped, but Europeans remain worried about migration. The EPP put forward concrete solutions for controlling migratory flows. Protecting the lives of those fleeing war and persecution also remains at the centre of our actions. We must destroy trafficking networks, secure the EU’s external borders and offer legal ways to enter the EU through resettlement programmes. We must also increase our cooperation with partners in the region to address the root causes of migration. In order to do so, the EPP has established a Partnership Programme, aimed at improving cooperation with likeminded-parties in the MENA. In November, for the first time in our history, we welcomed two Lebanese parties as partners into our political family.

Security also entails economic stability. We see job creation as being at the forefront of our efforts. Our goal is to bring the fruits of a growing economy to every European family. Thanks to the European Strategic Investment Fund, more than 200,000 small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) had the opportunity to invest, grow and create jobs. We have also worked towards creating a genuine digital single market. In this context, however, we must also ensure that everyone gets a chance to develop a useful skill-set, one allowing him or her to stay competitive in a rapidly changing labour market. The EPP also firmly believes in the Social Market Economy, where competitiveness is balanced with social justice. We are committed to fighting against all forms of poverty and social exclusion to help those in need. Only by adapting our social model to new realities we can protect and empower the vulnerable and ensure that no one is left behind.

We are determined to work tirelessly and find the answers European citizens are looking for. The EPP family will gather in Malta at the beginning of 2017 to discuss the future of our continent in the years to come. Our objective is to offer a thorough and achievable way forward. We will continue to rise to any challenge; we will secure a prosperous future for the citizens of Europe.

European Councils EPP Summits



DONALD TUSK
PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

"I CATEGORICALLY REJECT THE FATALISTIC APPROACH AND THIS TEMPTATION TO GIVE IN TO THE TRENDS. I DO NOT ACCEPT ARGUMENTS ABOUT THE DECADENCE OF EUROPE AND THE WEST, BECAUSE I DEEPLY BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE BUILT TOGETHER A WORLD WHICH, DESPITE ITS IMPERFECTIONS, IS STILL THE BEST OF WORLDS. WE MUST PROVE, HOWEVER, EVERY SINGLE DAY, THAT LIBERAL DEMOCRACY DOESN'T HAVE TO BE A SYNONYM OF WEAKNESS."





Statutory summits are limited to representatives of EU Member States, while 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 at the European Council.

Three statutory and two enlarged summits were held in 2016.



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 hosted by EPP President **Joseph DAUL**.











Summit Highlights

01
STATUTORY SUMMIT
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM
18 FEBRUARY 2016

EPP President **Joseph DAUL** welcomed **Kyriakos MITSOTAKIS** and **Grzegorz SCHETYNA**, Presidents of Nea Demokratia (ND) and Civic Platform (PO), respectively, for their first EPP summit as well as Croatian Deputy Prime Minister **Tomislav KARAMARKO**, participating for the first time in his new position. The participants also offered their congratulations on the election of former EPP Vice-President **Marcelo REBELO DE SOUSA** as President of Portugal. Topping the agenda were the UK deal and migration. President of the European Council **Donald TUSK** spoke about remaining obstacles for the deal with the UK: the euro's ins and outs and related financial regulations, child benefits and the notion of "ever closer union". He underlined the importance of reaching an agreement soon. European Commission President **Jean-Claude JUNCKER** supported President Tusk's plan on Britain, stressing that the deal needs to be fair for the UK but also for the rest of the European Union, and that it must withstand the scrutiny of the Court of Justice. On migration, he advocated a European solution instead of divergent national solutions. Closing internal borders would have dramatic costs. ND President Kyriakos MITSOTAKIS provided insight into the political situation in Greece and spoke about the advances Greece had made with regard to tackling the migration crisis. The Summit's participants approved two declarations: one outlining their vision of a deal between the UK and the EU and one to support Fine Gael and Taoiseach **Enda KENNY** ahead of upcoming Irish elections.













02
ENLARGED SUMMIT
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM
17 MARCH 2016

The focus of this EPP Summit was on the migration deal with Turkey, including visa liberalisation. According to President of the European Council **Donald TUSK**, migration will remain on the European agenda for many years; and unity among the 28 EU Member States, both on this issue as well as regarding implementation of the agreed measures, is crucial. Different EPP heads of state and government and party leaders expressed their positions on the need for border controls, cooperation with Turkey and countries of origins, the closure of the Balkan route, solidarity vis-à-vis the Western Balkans and Greece, the fight against smugglers, the need for implementation of the relocation plan and the readmission agreements linked to visa liberalisation. Once again, the EPP Summit proved instrumental in bringing into closer alignment different positions on migration. Furthermore, EPP Vice-President **Marianne THYSSEN** reported on the Tripartite Social Summit, stressing the importance of the new impetus given to social dialogue; and leaders from the Western Balkans and from Eastern Partnership countries reported on the political situations in their countries. Finally, CSV President **Marc SPAUTZ** invited everyone to the EPP's 40th anniversary celebration in Luxembourg on 30 May. It was the first EPP Summit in which the new Latvian Deputy Prime Minister **Arvils AŠERADENS** participated.

03
STATUTORY SUMMIT
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM
28 JUNE 2016

EPP President **Joseph DAUL** congratulated Prime Minister **Mariano RAJOY** and Partido Popular for winning the Spanish elections and Taoiseach **Enda KENNY** for the formation of his new government; the President also reported on the successful celebration of 40 Years EPP in Luxembourg at the end of May. The headline of the EPP Summit was the negative outcome of the UK referendum on EU membership; EPP leaders discussed a common stance. European Council President **Donald TUSK** reminded colleagues that the EU should respect the will of the British voters but also the European Treaties, meaning that we must wait until the UK triggers Article 50; before this happens, no negotiations with the UK can take place. He also announced a reflection process about the EU to take place among the other 27 Member States. German Chancellor **Angela MERKEL** called for courage in taking new measures so that people see the benefits of the EU and for positive messaging about the European Union, underlining the need to move forward as a family of 27, not in different groups. Different speakers supported this need for unity among the 27 and among the European institutions. Taoiseach Enda KENNY proposed working on how we want young people to see the European Union in five-to-ten years; as the EPP, he said, we must prove we are the party of the future. Prime Minister Mariano RAJOY elaborated on the Spanish election results and the challenges ahead.







Summit Highlights

04
ENLARGED SUMMIT
MAASTRICHT, NETHERLANDS
20 OCTOBER 2016

The Enlarged Summit, in preparation for the European Council, was celebrated in Maastricht, on the invitation of CDA Leader **Sybrand BUMA**, in order to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Maastricht Treaty. European Commission President **Jean-Claude JUNCKER** reminded colleagues of the important role the EPP has played in introducing the euro. The EPP Summit in Maastricht was the first such event for **Laurent WAUQUIEZ** and **Viorel CIBOTARU**, new Presidents, respectively, of Les Républicains and PLDM, and for **Andrej PLENKOVIĆ**, new Prime Minister of Croatia. Andrej PLENKOVIĆ received congratulations for his election victory following a pro-European campaign; he elaborated on the political situation in his country. Discussions at the EPP Summit focused on the trade agreement with Canada (CETA), relations with Russia and migration as well as the Association Agreement with Ukraine. EPP leaders expressed their support for CETA, for the Association Agreement with Ukraine and for a clear stance against Russia. Moreover, leaders discussed how to tackle future migration flows from Libya and Africa. Ukrainian President **Petro POROSHENKO** spoke of the approval of the roadmap in the context of the Normandy format and about the importance of the Association Agreement, not only for Ukraine and the EU but also as an answer to Russia. Furthermore, EPP leaders discussed the situation in the countries of the Western Balkans and the Eastern Neighbourhood. EPP Vice-President **Johannes HAHN** underlined the crucial question for the EU in this regard: whether we export stability or import instability from our Neighbourhood? President **Joseph DAUL** referred to the upcoming EPP Congress in Malta at the beginning of 2017, which will focus on the future of the EU for the next five-to-ten years, and how the EPP can deliver in response to our citizens' concerns.









05
STATUTORY SUMMIT
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM
15 DECEMBER 2016

The participants started this Statutory Summit by paying tribute to **Peter HINTZE**, a long-standing EPP vice-president who passed away at the end of November. The leaders congratulated **Antonio TAJANI**, elected earlier in the week as EPP candidate for the Presidency of the European Parliament, wishing him success and offering messages of support ahead of the January election. **François FILLON** returned to the EPP Summit in his new capacity as the candidate of the right and the centre for the French presidential elections, after having recently won the primaries. Items topping the EPP Summit agenda were the Association Agreement and visa liberalisation with Ukraine, as well as the European Security and Defense policy. EPP leaders demonstrated their strong support for granting visa liberalisation to the Ukrainian people, without any delay. They also adopted a declaration to strengthen security and defence cooperation among EU Member States, based on an initial text prepared by the EPP Ministers for Defence and EPP Ministers for Foreign Affairs. **Manfred WEBER**, who was congratulated for his re-election as EPP Group Chairman in the European Parliament, elaborated on the procedure for electing the new President of the European Parliament and emphasised the fact that during these difficult times, as Europe strives to manage constant challenges, EU citizens need a reliable majority in the European Parliament which can deliver concrete results and continue fighting for European principles and values. Cypriot President **Nicos ANASTASADIAS** provided a state-of-play report on negotiations to resolve the Cyprus issue, and PN Leader **Simon BUSUTTIL** invited all EPP heads of state and government and all party leaders to the EPP's March Congress in Malta, which he will be co-hosting.









Heads of State and Government

As of December 2016, 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



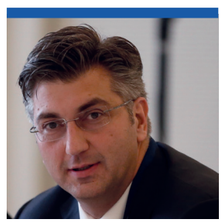
Enda KENNY
Ireland, FG



Angela MERKEL
Germany, CDU



Viktor ORBÁN
Hungary, FIDESZ



Andrej PLENKOVIĆ
Croatia, HDZ



Mariano RAJOY
Spain, PP

The EPP has 6 non-EU heads of state and government, who are invited to attend the Enlarged EPP Summit meetings.

NON-EU LEADERS



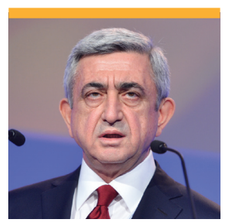
Erna SOLBERG
Norway, Høyre



Emil DIMITRIEV
F.Y.R.O.M., VMRO-DPMNE



Aleksandar VUČIĆ
Serbia, SNS



Serzh SARGSYAN
Armenia, HHK



Mladen IVANIĆ
Bosnia-Herzegovina, PDP



Isa MUSTAFA
Kosovo, LDK












Ministerial Meetings

01
ECONOMY AND FINANCE MINISTERS (ECOFIN)

Chaired by **Luis DE GUINDOS** (PP, Spain)
and **Valdis DOMBROVSKIS** (European Commission Vice-President for the Euro and Social Dialogue)

The 2016 meetings of the EPP Economy and Finance Ministers focused on boosting recovery and job creation. The Ministers held various discussions on the Economic and Monetary Union and the Banking 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 **Valdis DOMBROVSKIS** and with European Commission Vice-President for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness **Jyrki KATAINEN**.

02
EXTRAORDINARY EPP EUROGROUPS

Chaired by **Luis DE GUINDOS** (PP, Spain),
Valdis DOMBROVSKIS (European Commission Vice-President for the Euro and Social Dialogue)
and **Joseph DAUL** (EPP President)

In spring 2015, the EPP Eurozone Ministers began holding preparatory EPP Eurogroup meetings due to increased tensions with the Syriza government in Greece. These meetings played an important role in improving information sharing as well as in coordinating and consolidating positions during crucial months in 2015. Given the meetings' very useful outcomes, the Ministers decided to continue meeting on an ad hoc basis in 2016.

Throughout 2016, the Ministers held two extraordinary Eurogroup meetings on economic developments in the Eurozone. 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

Chaired by **Elmar BROK** (CDU, Germany)
and **Sebastian KURZ** (ÖVP, Austria)

The EPP Foreign Affairs Ministers convened on a regular basis in 2016 to discuss current foreign policy challenges, primarily the ongoing migration crisis. 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 twice before the GYMNICH meetings. The February meeting in Amsterdam focused on Brexit, whereas the September meeting in Bratislava paid special attention to EU-Turkey relations.

The 5th EPP enlarged Seminar of Foreign Ministers was a highlight of 2016. The meeting, held in Vienna upon the invitation of Austrian Foreign Minister **Sebastian KURZ**, provided an excellent opportunity for an exchange of views with colleagues from Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership countries. EPP President **Joseph DAUL** moderated the discussion along with EPP Vice-President and EU Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Commissioner **Johannes HAHN** focusing on regional cooperation and the refugee crisis.





Ministerial Meetings

CONSILIUM

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.

04
AGRICULTURE MINISTERS

Chaired by **Andrä RUPPRECHTER** (ÖVP, Austria) and **Simon COVENEY*** (FG, Ireland)

The agricultural sector, especially meat and dairy, is increasingly under pressure. EPP Agriculture Ministers met regularly in 2016 to discuss new market support measures and how to improve their efficiency. Together with EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development **Phil HOGAN**, the Ministers discussed international trade negotiations and the importance of securing new markets for European products. The Ministers also debated simplifying and greening the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), the aim pursued by the European Commission with its last CAP reform of 2013.

* Simon COVENEY served in this role until March 2016.

05
GENERAL AFFAIRS MINISTERS

Chaired by **Dara MURPHY** (FG, Ireland) and **Jacek SARYUSZ-WOLSKI** (PO, Poland)

The EPP General Affairs Ministerial Meeting gathers EPP Foreign and European Affairs Ministers in preparation for the General Affairs Council and the European Council. Throughout 2016, the Ministers discussed the ongoing refugee and migration crisis, the economic situation in the EU, Brexit, EU-Turkey relations, the deteriorating situation in Syria and the EU's strategy towards Russia.

06
ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS

Chaired by **Andrä RUPPRECHTER*** (ÖVP, Austria) and **Giovanni LA VIA** (NCD, Italy)

The meetings of the Environment Ministers in 2016 focused on the Paris Agreement and the EU's actions in fighting climate change. The Ministers discussed how individual Member States contribute to reducing emissions in the energy, agricultural, transport, buildings and waste sectors.

* Andrä RUPPRECHTER (ÖVP, Austria) was appointed Co-Chair in June 2016.

07
ENERGY MINISTERS

Chaired by **Jacek SARYUSZ-WOLSKI** (PO, Poland)

Although no EPP Energy Ministers Meeting was held in 2016, this gathering constitutes one of the EPP's permanent Ministerial Meetings and normally takes place before every meeting of the Energy Council.

08
JUSTICE MINISTERS

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

In 2016, the EPP Justice Ministers focused on improving counter-terrorism measures. The Ministers strongly insisted on better cooperation between countries' secret service offices as well as on intelligence and expertise sharing. The Ministers also held fruitful discussions on further development of the Counter-Terrorism Directive and on the European Public Prosecutor's Office.





09
HOME AFFAIRS MINISTERS

Chaired by **Thomas DE MAIZIÈRE** (CDU, Germany) and **Esteban GONZÁLEZ PONS** (PP, Spain)

The Home Affairs Ministers met in 2016 in order to coordinate the work between the Justice and Home Affairs Council, the European Commission and the European Parliament. The Ministers were particularly focused on the European Border and Coast Guard — a crucial agency for securing the EU's external borders. They also held various talks on counter-terrorism measures, the Weapons Directive, Data Protection and the European Travel Information and Authorisation System. In addition, the Ministers debated the EPP resolution entitled "Protecting lives and controlling migration".

10
TRADE MINISTERS

Chaired by **Daniel CASPARY** (CDU, Germany), **Jyrki KATAINEN** (European Commission Vice-President for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness) and **Richard BRUTON*** (FG, Ireland)

In 2016, EPP Trade Ministers and State Secretaries met to discuss important topics on the EU's 2016 trade agenda. The meeting focused on the pending decision whether to grant China market economy status as well as on the topics of CETA and TTIP, the two major transatlantic trade deals under discussion. The Ministers agreed as to the potential benefits of these agreements, particularly for European SMEs, and on the importance of positive messaging in promoting them.

*Richard BRUTON served in this role until May 2016. Jyrki KATAINEN took over as Co-Chair as of May 2016.

11
DEFENCE MINISTERS

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

In 2016, the EPP Defence Ministers discussed necessary measures to prevent threats at home and vis-à-vis Europe's challenging neighbourhood. The Ministers reiterated their support for a European Defence Union, and for strengthening the Common Security and Defence Policy and the EU-NATO partnership. The EPP paper entitled "For a stronger European security and defence — towards a European Defence Union", adopted in 2015, continued to top the EPP's defence agenda. In order to improve vital cooperation in the fields of defence and foreign affairs, EPP Defence Ministers met with their Foreign Affairs counterparts in December to discuss the EPP's new paper on security and defence. The paper focuses on cooperation among Member States and calls for the prompt implementation of existing EU initiatives.







European Commission

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

JEAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER

President of the European Commission – Luxembourg

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 most urgent. I am therefore proposing a positive agenda of concrete European actions for the next twelve months. We need to deliver a better Europe: a Europe that protects, preserves the European way of life, empowers our citizens and defends at home and abroad.



KRISTALINA GEORGIEVA

Vice-President; Budget and Human Resources – Bulgaria

We must never lose sight of the fact that the EU budget is our citizens' money. Our guiding principle must be the responsibility to them to spend it wisely and only where it is most needed; to ensure that every last euro is spent effectively and prudently in order to deliver security and prosperity to everyone.



VALDIS DOMBROVSKIS

Vice-President; Euro and Social Dialogue – Latvia

We are now in the fourth year of Europe's recovery. But we need to make it stronger and more sustainable. That's why we're working to relaunch investment, modernise the structures of our economies and encourage responsible fiscal policies. Our efforts in these three areas have one clear objective: to support growth and jobs in Europe.



JYRKI KATAINEN

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

We need, first of all, coordinated European action, minimising the impact on debt and deficit. We need to leverage the EU budget in order to get more out of it. We need to increase the lending capacity of the European Investment Bank (EIB) and also of national promotional banks and other European financial instruments.



DIMITRIS AVRAMOPOULOS

Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship – Greece

Migration, security challenges and the rise of populism are affecting our common European endeavour. Now is the moment to live up to our values and work together in order to safeguard the most ambitious and greatest democratic achievement of all times: the European Union.



ELŻBIETA BIENKOWSKA

Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs - Poland

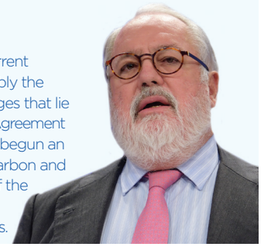
We have launched an initiative aimed at helping consumers, businesses and public authorities engage confidently in the collaborative economy. We also delivered in the areas of defence and space, with the European Defence Action Plan and the Space Strategy.



MIGUEL ARIAS CAÑETE

Climate Action and Energy – Spain

The threat of climate change and the current uncertainty in energy markets are probably the clearest examples of the difficult challenges that lie ahead of us. Yet with the historic Climate Agreement reached in Paris last December, we have begun an unprecedented journey towards a low-carbon and sustainable world. The EU's ratification of the Agreement is a sound example of the unity and solidarity of our Member States.



JOHANNES HAHN

European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations – Austria

Human rights and the rule of law are the precondition for prosperity, as they guarantee the framework within which individual creativity and investments can flourish. It is in Europe's own interest to promote these values in our immediate neighbourhood.



PHIL HOGAN

Agriculture & Rural Development – Ireland

We have a shared obligation to ensure that the Common Agricultural Policy delivers fully on its environmental objectives, thus strengthening the contribution of the agri-food sector to the EU's international sustainability and climate obligations. We must ensure that we maintain a viable farming community as well as strong, sustainable rural communities.



CARLOS MOEDAS

Research, Science and Innovation – Portugal

Open innovation is about involving far more actors in the innovation process, from researchers to entrepreneurs, users, governments and civil society. This means creating the right ecosystems and increasing investment. I would like to go further and faster towards open innovation.



TIBOR NAVRACSICS

Education, Culture, Youth and Sport – Hungary

We must ensure that young Europeans have the chance to shape the future – their future. Education, both inside and outside the classroom, is vital in this. It equips young people with the aptitudes and attitudes they need to find fulfilling work and become independent, active citizens. And it is the key to reaffirming the shared values the European Union is built on.



GÜNTHER OETTINGER

Digital Economy and Society – Germany

My aim is to create a Digital Union – without discrimination, without barriers and with continent-wide rules. This will allow citizens to benefit from bigger choice and more offers – also in a cross-border context. And it will enable industries to seize new opportunities, to grow, to serve markets both in the European Union and beyond and to create jobs.



CHRISTOS STYLIANIDES

Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management – Cyprus

Humanitarian crises have a common need: education. Education has become a basic need. Because from day 1, it offers a sense of normality. It teaches life-saving skills. It protects from exploitation. It is a shield against radicalisation. This is why in 2016 I increased from 1% to 4% the EU's humanitarian budget for education in emergency situations.



MARIANNE THYSSEN

Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility – Belgium

We work for jobs, growth and fairness. Europe needs to be competitive on world markets, but it also needs to become a truly inclusive society. We need to adjust our European social model to make it fit for purpose, also in the future. This is the rationale behind the European Pillar of Social Rights.



European Parliament

In 2016, the EPP Group in the European Parliament worked hard to improve its capacity to address the parallel challenges faced by the EU.

In a pivotal moment, on 23 June, Britain voted to leave the EU. In negotiating new relations with the United Kingdom, the EPP Group's position will remain clear and unambiguous in protecting the interests of the European Union.

Brexit did not distract the EPP Group from its main duties in 2016. Under the Chairmanship of **Manfred WEBER,** the EPP Group is the largest political group in the European Parliament with 217 Members from 27 Member States. The EPP Group remained united in providing vision, commitment and determination to protect the core European values of democracy, freedom, tolerance and the rule of law. Bringing tangible results to European citizens remains the top priority.

On security and counterterrorism, the EPP Group stepped up its efforts to put the safety of Europeans first. The adoption of the Passenger Name Record (PNR) in April represented a huge success. The EPP Group continuously pushed for the swift adoption of this legislation; it represents a notable victory for the security of EU citizens.

Building on the EU-Turkey Agreement to stem the uncontrolled flow of migrants, in July the EPP Group managed to push the law on the new European Border and Coast Guard Agency through the European Parliament in record time. This success demonstrated that the EU can deliver on matters of primary concern for EU citizens, such as securing the EU's external borders.

As the most powerful political force in the European Parliament, the EPP Group is driving the completion of the Digital Single Market in order to meet the expectations of European citizens and businesses. In September, the EPP Group successfully pressured the European Commission to scrap its roaming fees plan.

This confirmed that as of June 2017, roaming charges will be fully and unambiguously eliminated throughout the whole of the EU. The end of roaming charges provides a tangible example of the added value of the European Union.

The EPP Group welcomed European Commission President Juncker's pledge, in his State of the Union Speech in September, to strengthen the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI). The fund is creating jobs and triggering investments in the real economy every day.

Other notable successes in 2016 included the ratification of the Paris Climate Agreement in October. EU ratification will trigger the entry into force of the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal, ensuring a healthier and cleaner planet for future generations. In 2016, EPP Group meetings were convened in Bratislava, Cologne, Nice, Split, Vilnius, Bucharest and Venice. A series of multi-lingual publications documented the positions adopted by the EPP Group at these meetings, covering a range of policy priorities.

European unity has brought 71 years of peace and prosperity to the European continent. These achievements, however, cannot be taken for granted. The EPP Group will continue to work to develop a greater sense of the EU's worth and to ensure citizens' faith in its ability to address Europe's problems.

For more information please visit:
eppgroup.eu



Decision-Making Bodies

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 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 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, guests of observer member parties, partners, member associations and groups. 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.

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 highlights 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.

1976**2016**
LUXEMBOURG
40 YEARS OF EPP FAMILY

On 30 May, the EPP family gathered in Luxembourg, upon the invitation of our Luxembourgish member party, CSV, and its leader, Mark SPAUTZ, to celebrate our 40th anniversary.

With over 700 leaders, guests and journalists in attendance, this commemorative event was the highlight of 2016!









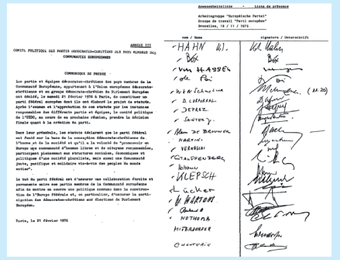


«As pro-Europeans and as the main political force in Europe, we have the duty to act. Great power implies great responsibilities. We must continue to provide leadership, with the same courage as our founding fathers, to move the European project forward.»

JOSEPH DAUL
EPP PRESIDENT

To shed light on our rich history, the EPP prepared a booklet entitled “40 years of the EPP family”. Through 40 images, the booklet brings alive memorable events that have shaped the future of the EPP and the European Union.





In early 1976, the Political Committee of the European Union of Christian Democrats (EUCD) reached an agreement on the foundation of the European People’s Party – Federation of Christian Democratic Parties from the European Community, with Belgian Prime Minister **Leo TINDEMANS** as its first president. The official inauguration took place in Luxembourg on 8 July 1976.



At the first congress in 1978, the EPP adopted its programme “Together towards a Europe for Free People”. Since then, more than twenty documents have laid the programmatic basis for the party.



In 1990, **Wilfried MARTENS** became the fourth EPP President, succeeding **Jacques SANTER** and **Piet BUKMAN**. Over the course of 23 years, he strongly advocated for a federal Europe and worked tirelessly to promote and consolidate the EPP’s position as Europe’s strongest political force.

epp
european people’s party





19762016 LUXEMBOURG 40 YEARS OF EPP FAMILY

In 2014, the EPP took an important step by voting on its lead candidate for the European election campaign. EPP delegates elected **Jean-Claude JUNCKER** as EPP candidate for President of the European Commission. After a successful Europe-wide campaign, the EPP won the European elections and Jean-Claude JUNCKER became the European Commission President.



We continue working for the next generations!

1976
2016

40 YEARS
OF EPP FAMILY



During the Congress in Madrid in 2015, the EPP presented a new logo, also used by its Group in the European Parliament and the EPP's associations and groups in various assemblies. The common logo emphases that we all belong to one political family: the EPP family.

epp
european people's party













The future of Europe - Facebook contest.
The celebrations concluded with a debate on the future of Europe. Marsida, Manuel and Paweł — winners of an EPP Facebook contest — together with EPP Deputy Secretary General Christian Kremer, discussed key challenges facing the EU and presented their visions for the European project.

«The EPP is a responsible, serious political force and our parties will democratically overcome populism. Populism is not the answer to our citizens' concerns. We have to be at the forefront of the solution.»

ANTONIO LÓPEZ-ISTÚRIZ
EPP SECRETARY GENERAL

Political Assembly Highlights

28-29 JANUARY 2016
BRUSSELS
In light of the unprecedented number of refugees and migrants trying to reach the EU, the EPP Political Assembly held an in-depth discussion on the European Union's response to the crisis. The delegates called on Member States to promptly step up their efforts in implementing the agreed proposals. The Assembly also advocated a complete reform of the European Asylum system, such that asylum requests would be processed at the EU's external borders or, preferably, outside the EU. Concerning the EU-UK negotiation, the delegates agreed that the EU and the UK must find a deal that is fair for both sides. As the backbone of the EPP's political work, the Political Assembly renewed its commitment to working groups and designated respective co-chairs, tasked with developing common EPP positions and strategies.

4-5 APRIL 2016
BRUSSELS
Following the terrorist attacks in Brussels in March 2016, the Political Assembly paid tribute to the victims and unanimously adopted an emergency resolution on counter-terrorism. The resolution reaffirmed the EPP's commitment to the safety of EU citizens and stressed the importance of EU intelligence sharing, protection of the victims and their families and swift implementation of existing legislation. In addition, the EPP resolution supported a liaison on counter-terrorism in Europol's European Counter Terrorism Centre to monitor foreign fighters, terrorist financing and illegal arms trafficking.

After the outbreak of violence in the Nagorno-Karabakh region, EPP representatives approved an emergency resolution calling for an immediate cessation of military actions and a return to the negotiations process mediated by the OSCE Minsk Group. The EPP Political Assembly also adopted a resolution on smart and green cities.

30-31 MAY 2016
LUXEMBOURG
At the May Political Assembly, held in Luxembourg in the framework of the EPP's 40th anniversary celebration, the participants focused on the European social model for the 21st century. The EPP delegates reiterated their support for the Social Market Economy and offered concrete proposals on how to make it better fit the new reality. Following the discussion with EPP Vice-President and EU Commissioner **Marianne THYSSEN**, the delegates agreed that it was crucial to further invest in adequate high-skills training in order to create — and fill — more jobs and to boost Europe's competitiveness. The Assembly also recognized that the EU must put in place sustainable social protection systems as well as improve work-life balance and gender equality across Europe. The Political Assembly also adopted a resolution on implementing a Day of the Associations, which will offer a forum for the associations to discuss policies and start new initiatives.

5-6 SEPTEMBER 2016
BRUSSELS
To secure Europe vis-à-vis its Southern Neighbourhood, the September Political Assembly adopted a resolution entitled "Enhancing security in Europe's Neighbourhood" and reiterated its commitment to improving EU capacities and cooperation in order to enhance security both at home and abroad. In a resolution entitled "Inspiring more innovation in Europe", EPP delegates stressed the importance of creating the right circumstances making it easier and cheaper for companies to hire, invest and grow. By agreeing on a resolution called "More social Europe for a productive and prosperous continent", the delegates expressed their commitment to a more social Europe aimed at improving the well-being and welfare of all European citizens. The delegates also debated the consequences of the UK's decision to leave the European Union. They opposed any attempts by the UK to gain full access to the single market while limiting access to the labour market — a fundamental EU principle.

Finally, the Assembly discussed the success of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI). EPP Vice-President and European Commission Vice-President **Jyrki KATAINEN**, together with **Wilhelm MOLTERER**, the EFSI's Managing Director, explained that EFSI has contributed to increased investments and more jobs for EU citizens.

14-15 NOVEMBER 2016
BRUSSELS
EPP representatives voted in favour of accepting the Serbian Progressive Party as an associate member and Trentino Tyrolean Autonomist Party as an observer member. The Political Assembly approved, for the first time in the EPP's history, two Lebanese parties, Kataeb and Lebanese Forces, as partners of our political family. The Assembly adopted a resolution entitled "Protecting Lives and Controlling Migration to Europe", which put forward concrete solutions to tackle the refugee and migration crisis. The resolution called on the EU to protect lives by helping refugees and fighting criminal networks as well as promoting legal access through resettlement programmes. The EPP also proposed establishing asylum centres outside the EU to process asylum requests and effectively control migration flows. The paper also stressed the need for better protection of the EU's external border and for stronger cooperation with the MENA countries to address the root causes of migration. In a resolution entitled "Migration and Integration: The Impact on Women", the delegates called for reducing poverty and investing in women's education and healthcare, and for eliminating violence against women — one of the main causes of migration.



European Committee of the Regions

Towns, cities and urban areas are powerful engines for growth and jobs and make a significant contribution towards the EU's economic, social and territorial development. That's why during the European Committee of the Regions' (CoR) dedicated Amsterdam Forum in May, the EPP-CoR Group took concrete steps towards the implementation of the EU Urban Agenda, with more partnerships in the urban dimension of EU policy making.

Around 60% of public investments within the EU are made by local and regional authorities. At the 7th Summit of Regions in Cities in Bratislava in July, together with leaders and representatives from both the public and private sectors, the EPP-CoR called for the EU to address the alarming fall in public investment in order to tackle growing regional disparities, support sustainable growth and restore faith among citizens. In recent decades, Cohesion Policy has proven that it can successfully address these challenges as many of the solutions are to be found at the local and regional level. Together with President **Michael SCHNEIDER**, the EPP-CoR Group has launched a debate on the future of the EU's Cohesion Policy beyond 2020, and the EPP-CoR intends to present concrete proposals during the upcoming year.

To narrow the gap between citizens and the European Union, a series of high-level town hall debates have been launched under the theme "Reflecting on the EU". Together in the presence of key political actors, from both heads of state as well as local decision makers, our efforts aim to revive dialogue with citizens on how policies impact their lives. The Group hopes that debates in Gabrovo in Bulgaria, Eger in Hungary, Dubrovnik in Croatia, Dublin and Cork in Ireland as well as Mechelen in Belgium, can bring inspiration for positive changes.

The refugee crisis has had an impact all over Europe; nowhere has this been felt more strongly than in our cities and regions. Europe's local and regional authorities are at the heart of the solution to the recent refugee crisis and of successful implementation of the EU's migration policy. The EPP-CoR Group called for direct access to the financial resources made available by the EU at our refugee conference in Thessaloniki, Greece on 16 September. It has also committed to the discussions on European macro-regions, and on 28 October, the EPP-CoR debated the impact which the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR) could have on increasing prosperity and security in Europe.

The EPP-CoR Group's 9th Winter University in November brought together over 60 young journalists and media students to discuss how to make better use of the EU's open data policies in communication between Brussels and EU citizens.

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



EPP-COR PRESIDENT **MICHAEL SCHNEIDER** & COR PRESIDENT **MARKKU MARKKULA** WITH EUROPEAN COUNCIL PRESIDENT **DONALD TUSK** AT COR PLENARY SESSION IN FEBRUARY, DISCUSSING THE ROLE OF REGIONS AND CITIES IN DELIVERING A BETTER EUROPE FOR CITIZENS.

Council of Europe / OSCE / NATO / Euronest

EPP IN THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

The EPP remains committed to its involvement in the Council of Europe, an organisation that promotes the principles of the rule of law, the values of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The EPP-CD Group in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) is chaired by **Axel FISCHER** (CDU, Germany), together with 10 Vice-Presidents from different countries. The former Chairman of the EPP Group, **Pedro AGRAMUNT**, was elected as PACE President in January 2016.

More than 200 Group members regularly engage in promoting peace, freedom, democracy, prosperity, respect for human rights, solidarity and social cohesion in the world. Throughout 2016, EPP President **Joseph DAUL** regularly attended the EPP-CD Group meetings in PACE, during which he highlighted the EPP's position on the most difficult challenges facing the EU.

EPP IN THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF OSCE

The EPP and likeminded Group in the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE, under the leadership of **George TSERETELI** (UNM, Georgia), paid special attention to migration in 2016. At the Annual Session in Tbilisi, Georgia, the EPP and likeminded Group strengthened the EPP's presence in the OSCE PA by winning 8 out of 12 mandates in the OSCE PA Bureau. In 2016, the Group observed elections in Russia, Belarus, Moldova, Georgia and Kazakhstan, in order to ensure that the election process respects international standards and the rule of law.

EPP IN THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF NATO

The EPP and Associated Group in the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, led by **Karl LAMERS** (CDU, Germany) continued to work in close cooperation with NATO partners on key security challenges. At the Annual meeting in Istanbul, Turkey, EPP candidate **Paolo ALLI** (NCD, Italy) was elected President of the Assembly, replacing **Michael R. TURNER** (Republican, USA). In 2016, the EPP and Associated Group paid special attention to terrorism, intelligence and collective defence to dissuade Russia, the conflict in Ukraine, the refugee and migration crisis and the ongoing conflicts in Syria and Iraq.

EPP IN THE EURONEST PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

EPP Vice-President and Chairman of the EPP EuroNest Group **Jacek SARYUSZ-WOLSKI**, together with other Members of the European Parliament and with national parliamentarians from Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries, met for the 5th Ordinary Session of the EuroNest Parliamentary Assembly in Brussels from 21-23 March. Prior to the Assembly meeting, the members of the EPP Group in EuroNest met in the EPP Headquarters for their internal meeting in order to develop a common position on key issues. Resolutions on foreign policies and external threats to security, on policy development regarding unconventional gas and its potential impact on energy markets as well as on the Nadiya SAVCHENKO case were among the issues on the table.

Working Groups / Events

Working Groups are the backbone of the EPP's political work, where representatives from the EPP member parties 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

In 2016, EPP Working Group 1 was co-chaired by EPP President **Joseph DAUL** and EPP Vice-President **David McALLISTER** (CDU, Germany). Discussions mainly focused on two EPP resolutions. The first paper addressed a new approach to security challenges in Europe's Southern Neighbourhood; the second addressed the current migration challenge in Europe. The drafting process was carried out in close cooperation with EPP member parties, who offered essential views and contributions.

Furthermore, Working Group 1 prepares Congress documents to be considered for adoption during the EPP Congress in Malta on 29 and 30 March 2017.

WORKING GROUP 2

In 2016, EPP Working Group 2, entitled "Economic and Social Policy", was co-chaired by Minister and EPP Vice-President **Dara MURPHY** (FG, Ireland) and EPP Vice-President **Corien WORTMANN-KOOL** (CDA, Netherlands).

The Working Group presented four resolutions to the Political Assembly. The resolutions focused on boosting innovation, strengthening the social pillar of the European Union, defending globalisation and helping people return to the labour market and supporting the creation of a digital single market.

Working Group 2 worked closely with the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies and with the EPP Commissioners.

WORKING GROUP 3

Working Group 3, entitled "EPP Membership", chaired by EPP Vice-President **Paulo RANGEL** (PSD, Portugal), assesses new parties which have applied to become full, associate or observer member, as well as partner, under the newly established Partnership Programme for the Middle East and North Africa region.

Following a fact-finding mission to Beirut, led by Chairman Paulo RANGEL and EPP Secretary General **Antonio LÓPEZ-ISTÚRIZ**, the EPP Political Assembly, for the first time in its history, voted in November in favour of accepting two Lebanese parties, Lebanese Forces and Kataeb, as partners. The Political Assembly also accepted the Serbian Progressive Party as associate member and Trentino Tyrolean Autonomist Party as observer member.

In addition to party memberships, Working Group 3 organises study visits to get better insight into the political situation in various countries. A study visit to Moldova took place in May, led by EPP Spokesperson **Siegfried MURESAN**. Working Group 3 expressed support for EPP member party PLDM and encouraged Moldova's centre-right parties to choose a common candidate ahead of 2016 presidential elections.







Working Groups / Events

EPP HIGH-LEVEL GROUP ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

The EPP High-Level Group on the Future of Europe was re-launched in 2016 under the leadership of **Herman VAN ROMPUY**, the first President of the European Council, and **Elmar BROK**, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs in the European Parliament. The main objective of this group is to offer a vision of the future of Europe and to address the current challenges the EU faces.

In 2016, the EPP High-Level Group met to discuss the draft of the EPP's position paper on the Future of Europe, prepared by Herman VAN ROMPUY and Elmar BROK. The paper will be finalised prior to the EPP's Malta Congress and will contribute to the discussion on the Future of Europe.



EPP EXPERT GROUP ON DIGITAL EUROPE

The EPP Expert Group on Digital Europe, co-chaired by Commissioner **Carlos MOEDAS** and **Michał BONI**, met to discuss the transformation of the internal market into a full-fledged digital market, driven by the Digital Single Market Strategy. The Group, composed of experts and specialists with academic and business backgrounds as well as industry and consumer representatives, highlighted the importance of infrastructure and the free flow of data to the digital economy.

The Expert Group also addressed the reforms needed in the telecoms sector, particularly regarding modernisation and harmonisation of infrastructure, in order to boost investments and competitiveness. The debates focused on restrictions to the free flow of data, especially on data localisation and access. Finally, experts stressed the need to create the right conditions for innovation to flourish in an environment bringing together both the physical and digital worlds.



EPP EXPERT GROUP ON MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION

In 2016, the EPP launched the Expert Group on Migration and Integration, led by **Tobias BILLSTRÖM**, First Deputy Speaker of the Swedish Parliament, and EPP Vice-President **KINGA GÁL**. Four successful meetings were held in Brussels with experts and specialists on this topic, as well as with Members of the European Parliament and national parliamentarians.

The Group's main objective is to offer input and help in shaping EPP policy. Due to the unprecedented flow of migrants into Europe and the challenges associated with this, the EPP must define its priorities and put forward workable solutions in the months to come.



EPP CAMPAIGN MANAGERS MEETING

Every year the EPP organises a Campaign Managers Meeting, in which campaign managers and experts from EPP member parties review national and regional election campaigns. These meetings allow for an exchange of experience and a review of current trends in modern campaigning. The 2016 meeting was held in Sofia, Bulgaria, with Bulgarian Prime Minister **Boyko BORISSOV** in attendance.

SAINT GÉRY DIALOGUE

In 2016, 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 in economic policy. The 6th edition of the Saint Géry Dialogue was organised on 4 April with the title "The EU in The Future Global Economy: To Lead or Be Led?" This year's speakers were **Donald TUSK**, President of the European Council; **Maria Luis ALBUQUERQUE**, Former Minister of Finance of Portugal; **Dara MURPHY**, Minister of State for European Affairs and Data Protection of Ireland and EPP Vice-President; **Benoît POTIER**, Chairman of the European Roundtable of Industrialists; and **Martin WOLF**, Chief Economics Commentator at the Financial Times. EPP Deputy Secretary General **Christian KREMER** moderated the discussion. EPP President **Joseph DAUL** delivered a welcome address, and EPP Secretary General **Antonio LÓPEZ-ISTÚRIZ** offered closing remarks.



Foreign Affairs

In 2016, the EPP continued to develop a strong and comprehensive foreign policy strategy in order to help in fostering more stable, democratic and prosperous partners. The EPP believes in stabilising our continent by engaging more with Western Balkan and Eastern Partnership countries as well as with those from the MENA region.

However, closer ties with the EU require that important standards be met: the rule of law, an independent justice system, eliminating corruption, good neighbourly relations and respect for human rights and international law. EPP President **Joseph DAUL** was very active in promoting this message during various meetings with non-EU leaders. To effectively engage with our partners outside the EU, the EPP organised several official visits, held events and adopted documents aimed at strengthening our political role in foreign affairs. The EPP's enlarged summits, organised several times per year, provide a unique opportunity to meet with EPP leaders from Western Balkan and Eastern Partnership countries and to discuss with them the most important issues in these regions. The EPP also firmly supports a strong EU-US partnership. The EU and the US should constantly look for ways to work together, based on shared values and interests, in order to tackle global challenges.



WESTERN BALKANS

The Western Balkan countries are a top priority for the EPP. The European Union is not complete without them. Bearing in mind that 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. Throughout 2016, the EPP actively encouraged the efforts made by member parties from the Western Balkans to conduct the reforms needed in order to keep them on their European path.

The EPP supported our member party, the Democratic Party of Albania, through complex negotiations on judicial reform, launched in summer 2016. Successful implementation of the reform will be a very important step for the pro-European future of Albania.

In February, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), led by EPP member parties, submitted its application for EU membership. The country remains committed to implementing a joint declaration entitled "European Values, Identity, the Social Market Economy and the Rule of Law", signed under the leadership of EPP President **Joseph DAUL** in 2014.

In February, EPP Vice-President **Antonio TAJANI** visited the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. He met with government and VMRO-DPMNE party officials and encouraged all sides to counter the political destabilisation of the country. At the beginning of December, the EPP organised a second visit to the country, led by **Sandra KALNIETE** MEP. The EPP representatives encouraged all political forces to hold free, fair and peaceful elections on 11 December.

In Kosovo, the EPP closely followed important measures taken by our member party, LDK, to prepare and implement reforms needed to obtain visa liberalisation for Kosovar citizens. In 2016, we welcomed the entrance into force of the EU-Kosovo Stabilisation and Association Agreement and the newly established special Hague tribunals on war crimes. We also encouraged Kosovo and Serbia to continue normalising their relations.

In November, the EPP Political Assembly accepted the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) as an associate member. The Assembly acknowledged SNS's contribution to EU integration and encouraged the party to continue to strengthen its European values.

Finally, following October's parliamentary elections in Montenegro, the EPP visited the country to establish a dialogue with like-minded parties supporting Montenegro's Euro-Atlantic path.



EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

The Eastern Partnership (EaP) remains a paramount priority for the EPP. However, recent developments in Eastern Europe have seriously challenged the very concept of the EaP. Russian aggression against Ukraine and Russia's interference in other countries have seriously undermined the EU's and Eastern Partnership countries' common efforts to extend the area of prosperity, stability and security to the entire region.

The EPP closely monitored parliamentary elections in Belarus. EPP President **Joseph DAUL** and EPP Secretary General **Antonio LÓPEZ-ISTÚRIZ** travelled to Belarus to support the EPP's member parties and partners ahead of September's parliamentary elections. The EPP leaders raised concerns, especially with regards to opposition parties' registration, media access, early voting and vote counting. The observed shortcomings resulted in elections which once again were neither free, nor fair nor democratic. Yet despite this difficult electoral environment, a representative of the opposition United Civic Party entered parliament for the first time in 20 years.

The EPP also remained concerned about developments in Georgia. The current government has continued to proceed with undemocratic practices: it harassed members of the EPP's member party, UNM, and suppressed freedom of media — especially with regard to Rustavi 2 TV channel. EPP President Joseph DAUL and EPP Vice-President **David McALLISTER** visited the country in order to support UNM ahead of October's parliamentary elections. The EPP representatives, together with UNM's minority leader **David BAKRADZE**, highlighted the importance of a strong and independent judiciary, of the rule of law and of an independent media, as well as the importance of territorial integrity and sovereignty.

In May, the EPP organised a study trip to Moldova, led by EPP Spokesperson **Siegfried MURESAN**. During the visit, the EPP delegation encouraged centre-right parties to choose a common candidate ahead of the 2016 presidential election. The EPP representatives met with **Nicolae TIMOFTI**, President of the Republic of Moldova; with PLDM and leaders of centre-right parties; with diplomats; with representatives of civil society as well as of KAS, IRI and alumni of the Robert Schuman Institute. Following numerous calls from the EPP to present one candidate, three centre-right, pro-European parties in Moldova agreed to put forward **Maia SANDU** as their presidential candidate in October's elections. The EPP and its member parties actively supported Maia SANDU during her campaign. Despite attacks and dirty methods, she obtained an outstanding result in both the first and second rounds. The elections showed that the people of Moldova desire corruption-free and pro-EU leaders, committed to the country's European path. The EPP will continue to support Sandu in the future and encourage centre-right forces to further unite and cooperate ahead of parliamentary elections in 2018.

After the constitutional referendum, and with parliamentary elections coming up, Armenia faces a decisive moment. The EPP offered full political support to our member parties and underlined the importance of respecting European values.

Ukraine was also high on the EPP's agenda. In regular exchanges with our members and partners, the EPP encouraged needed reforms, especially regarding the fight against corruption. The EPP also successfully demanded the immediate release of Ukrainian pilot **Nadia SAVCHENKO**.

MEDITERRANEAN, NORTHERN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST (MENA)

In October 2015, the EPP launched its newly created "EPP Partners" status, providing new partnership opportunities for pro-democracy parties in the Union for the Mediterranean. The EPP strongly believes that the solutions to common challenges, such as migration and security, lie in the Middle East and North Africa region. Therefore, in 2016, we continued further cooperation and political dialogue with like-minded parties in various countries around the Mediterranean.

In September, the EPP's Working Group 3, led by Chairman and EPP Vice-President **Paulo RANGEL** and by EPP Secretary General **Antonio LÓPEZ-ISTÚRIZ**, organised a fact-finding mission to Lebanon in order to assess applications from two Lebanese parties: Lebanese Forces and Kataeb. The delegation met with Prime Minister **Tammam SALAM** and with His Beatitude Patriarch **Boutros al RAHI** and discussed the current political deadlock in the country, the refugee crisis and the importance of interfaith dialogue, especially given the complex situation of Christian communities in the Middle East. Following the positive outcome of the mission, the EPP Political Assembly, in November, accepted Lebanese Forces and Kataeb as partners of our political family.

In May, EPP President **Joseph DAUL** and EPP Secretary General Antonio LÓPEZ-ISTÚRIZ travelled to Morocco to meet with government officials, including Head of Government **Abdelilah BENKIRANE**, to discuss EU-Moroccan relations and common security challenges. The delegation also exchanged views with President of the National Council of Human Rights **Driss El YAZAMI** and Secretary General of the Rabita Mohammadia des Oulémas **Ahmed ABBADI** on how to protect human rights and fight radicalisation.





TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS

A strong EU-US partnership remains the cornerstone of EPP foreign policy, as underlined in the EPP's 2012 Bucharest Platform. Strengthening this partnership means reaffirming our unfailing commitment to NATO and our robust support for next-generation trade deals. In 2016, populist voices on both sides of the ocean have sought to undermine the transatlantic bond. The EPP will never take this line. We stand firm with our allies across the water in promoting the same common defence and economic cooperation which have brought us so far for so long.

Following the EPP's 20 October Summit, EPP President **Joseph DAUL** reiterated the EPP family's support for the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) with Canada, currently in process of ratification by the European Parliament.

In July, EPP Secretary General **Antonio LÓPEZ-ISTÚRIZ** attended the meeting in Cleveland of the International Democrat Union (IDU). He also held a series of meetings with lawmakers and officials in Washington, DC and participated in a study visit to Washington organised by the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies, the International Republican Institute, the Hudson Institute and the European Ideas Network.

The EPP continues to build ties with Latin America as well in conjunction with both the IDU and the Christian Democrat International (IDC-CDI). The EPP has supported calls for basic freedoms, the rule of law and the release of political prisoners in Venezuela. In October, EPP Secretary General Antonio LÓPEZ-ISTÚRIZ met in Brussels with Cuban human rights activist and 2010 Sakharov Prize recipient **Guillermo FARIÑAS HERNÁNDEZ** to discuss ways to demand political freedoms, respect for human rights and the immediate release of political prisoners in Cuba as a precondition for the bilateral EU-Cuban relations to normalise.



Communications

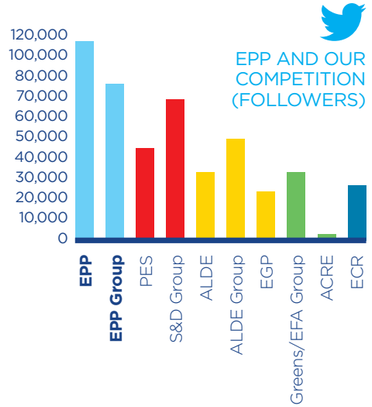
PRESS

The EPP Press Department plays a key role in promoting the ideas and values of the EPP political family. By maintaining direct contact with national and international media, the EPP Press Department informs European citizens about the party's policies and activities. It prepares and oversees the EPP's press and external communications strategy, in line with the party's priorities.

Through its day-to-day management of media inquiries, press releases, interviews, articles and op-eds, the Press Department promotes the EPP's policies and ensures comprehensive media coverage. Moreover, the Press Department continuously builds close relations with national and Brussels-based journalists and organises press conferences and press briefings prior to, and during, major EPP events, such as Congresses, Summits and European elections.

This year, the Press Department has launched a new initiative to strengthen the EPP's relationships with journalists based in EU Member States ahead of the 2019 European Parliamentary elections. In this regard, the EPP has invited a selected group of local journalists to Brussels to meet with EPP leaders and to participate in EPP Summits. The aim of this new project is to increase the EPP's visibility in EU countries, help journalists understand the EU better and raise awareness of the party's achievements and activities.

Finally, the Press Department manages and promotes the EPP Twitter account, which has seen a 35% increase in followers this year.









COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING

In just its second year of existence, the EPP's Communications and Marketing (C&M) Department delivered various services to the party's stakeholders. The C&M Department ensured the EPP's core messages and values were effectively communicated to stakeholders, especially during key events, such as the celebrations for the party's 40th anniversary in Luxembourg.

The Department has successfully negotiated with virtually all the EPP's Associations and Groups the implementation of the new logo. The common logo plays an important role in comprehensive and coordinated communications among members of the EPP family.

The C&M Department continues to successfully manage the EPP's social media accounts. Throughout the year, all social media portals have seen an increase in usage. The EPP Facebook page has increased its audience engagement by 20%. YouTube videos reached record numbers of views. Many of those videos are produced in a newly created EPP studio. The C&M Department also focused on investing in image production, which has increased during the last twelve months. In particular, the EPP Flickr account has achieved new records of album views for main EPP events.

2016 has marked the consolidation of activities launched in 2015 and a strong emphasis put on new ways of cooperating with EPP stakeholders and increasing awareness regarding the EPP's identity.



SOCIAL NETWORKS

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

EPP in numbers
December 2016

Twitter account
112,445 Followers

Facebook page
306,970 Likes

Flickr account
2,334,569 Photo views





Get Social with us!

twitter.epp.eu
facebook.epp.eu
youtube.epp.eu
flickr.epp.eu
linkedin.epp.eu

Structure and Resources

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The European Parliament budget for 2016 set aside 31.4 million euro for party funding. 15% of the budget is distributed among the parties in equal shares; 85% is distributed according to the number of Members of the European Parliament accounted for by every party.

Fifteen European political parties were recognized in 2016 and received funding from the European Parliament (in million euros):

EUROPEAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (EPP) - 8.1
PARTY OF EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS (PES) - 6.5
ALLIANCE OF LIBERALS AND DEMOCRATS FOR EUROPE (ALDE) - 2.1
ALLIANCE OF EUROPEAN CONSERVATIVES AND REFORMISTS (AECR) - 1.9
EUROPEAN GREEN PARTY (EGP) - 1.7
PARTY OF THE EUROPEAN LEFT (EL) - 1.6
ALLIANCE FOR DIRECT DEMOCRACY IN EUROPE (ADDE) - 1.2
MOUVEMENT POUR UNE EUROPE DES NATIONS ET DES LIBERTÉS (MENL) - 1.2
EUROPEAN FREE ALLIANCE (EFA) - 0.7
EUROPEAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (EDP) - 0.6
EUROPEAN ALLIANCE FOR FREEDOM (EAF) - 0.5
EU DEMOCRATS (EUD) - 0.4
EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN POLITICAL MOVEMENT (ECPM) - 0.4
EUROPEAN ALLIANCE OF NAT. MOVEMENTS (AEMN) - 0.3
MOVEMENT FOR EUROPE OF LIBERTIES & DEMOCRACY (MELD) - 0.4

The European Parliament funds constitute two-thirds of EPP income; the rest is generated through membership fees. Membership fees for ordinary member parties are calculated on the basis of a party's political strength and number of MEPs. Membership fees for associate and observer member parties are calculated by the Political Assembly on the basis of the votes obtained by these parties during their most recent national elections. 69% of 2016 membership fees were settled before 31 December 2016.

The accounts of all European political parties are audited by a single auditor (Ernst & Young), appointed by the European Parliament. The EPP's accounts are additionally audited and reviewed by the EPP's own internal auditors, Dr **Ingo FRIEDRICH** and **Leif HALLBERG**. The internal auditors present their annual report and recommendations at the EPP Political Assembly.

HUMAN RESOURCES

An international (18 nationalities) and multilingual staff of 29 people is at the service of the EPP member parties and stakeholders. In 2016, two colleagues left the EPP HQ to pursue other professional challenges: **Giuseppina CURRELI** (Head of Secretary General's Cabinet) and **Tadeja PROSEN** (Political Adviser).



EPP Deputy Secretary General
Luc VANDEPUTTE



EPP Treasurer
Christian SCHMIDT



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

Headquarters / Internship Programme



EPP INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME 2016

The EPP internship programme is focused on immersing young graduates in the short-term and long-term political planning and activities of the party: organising meetings and conferences, preparing reports and press releases, editing publications, communicating with member parties, EPP Groups, associations and other affiliated organisations and liaising with officials from the European institutions.

THE 2016 INTERNS

Nathalie HERBERGER	Germany
Jasmin LADURNER	Italy
Miklos LINKA	Hungary
Sophie MARTENS	Belgium
Giuseppe NAVARRA	Italy
Morgane SUANEZ	France
Nikolaus SUTTER	Austria

EPP HEADQUARTERS: THE BRUSSELS MEETING POINT OF THE EPP FAMILY

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

Almost every day, the EPP HQ welcomes visitors from member parties and high-level delegations from all over the globe. All of them are charmed by the modern, efficient and inviting look and feel of our premises.

In addition to the EPP staff, the building also hosts several EPP associations, including YEPP, EDS and EUCDW, the Centrist Democrat International and the Forum for European Studies.





Member Associations

YEPP

YEPP is the youth branch of the European People's Party, with 60 member organisations in 40 countries. In March 2016, YEPP hosted a Council Meeting in Budapest entitled "The Mobile Generation", featuring Commissioner **Tibor NAVRACSICS**, to kick-start the campaign on labour mobility in Europe. Later in the year, YEPP joined Commissioner **Marianne THYSSEN**'s efforts for a truly mobile labour market in the EU. In May, YEPP met in Bucharest to discuss the New Narrative for the European Centre Right, a commitment from YEPP's youth organisations regarding the new European Centre Right and how to tackle populism together. The peak for this campaign came in Vienna, in October where the presidents of 60 member organisations met to sign the declaration. True to the transatlantic bond, team YEPP joined its partners at the IRI to co-host the Transatlantic Youth Summit in Washington in July. YEPP members also met on 15-18 December in Helsinki to discuss the EU Common Energy and Security Policy.

Konstantinos KYRANAKIS
PRESIDENT

Andrea VODANOVIĆ
SECRETARY GENERAL

For more information please visit:
youthepp.eu

YEPP - Activities in 2016.

- 3-6 March: Council Meeting "The Mobile Generation: A European Plan for Labour Mobility", Budapest, Hungary
- 19-22 May: Council Meeting "Rebuilding a new Centre Right", Bucharest, Romania
- 12-13 July: Transatlantic Youth Summit focusing on Foreign Policy, Economy and Youth, Washington, DC, USA
- 6-9 October: YEPP Council of Presidents "Get Europe Back on Track: Council for Innovation and Growth", Vienna, Austria
- 15-18 December: Council Meeting, Helsinki, Finland



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 and their engagement in society and to responding to the challenges brought on by demographic changes.
The highlight of the ESU's year was its triennial Congress in Leuven on 4-5 November, entitled "Together for a safe and social Europe".
ESU President **An HERMANS** was re-elected, a new Presidium was chosen, Secretary General **Guido DUMON** and Treasurer **Etienne VANDERROOST** were appointed, and the Leuven Declaration was adopted. There were also several inspiring speeches: among others, former European Council President **Herman VAN ROMPUY**, who gave a speech entitled "The storm and Europe: an inseparable couple".

An HERMANS
PRESIDENT

Guido DUMON
SECRETARY GENERAL

For more information please visit:
esu-epp.eu

ESU - Activities in 2016.

- 29-30 April: Launch of the Foundation "Youth and Seniors for Europe", Brauweiler-Pulheim, Germany
- 26-27 May: Regional Conference "Active ageing and the participation of seniors in public life", Budapest, Hungary
- 1-3 July: ESU Summer Academy "Europe must not fail", Vienna, Austria
- 21-22 October: Regional Conference "Civil society and active participation", Ljubljana, Slovenia
- 4-5 November: ESU Congress "Together for a safe and social Europe", Leuven, Belgium



EPP WOMEN

EPP Women (EPPW) brings together 58 member organisations from EPP member parties in both EU and non-EU countries. The organisation is dedicated to advancing women's political emancipation throughout Europe and the promotion of politically relevant women's-related issues, such as the role of women in strengthening democracy, the necessary contribution of women in conflict situations and in tackling the refugee crisis, gender equality on the labour market and encouraging women to better take advantage of the potential of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) as one of the seven priorities of the Europe 2020 Strategy. The organisation also focuses on the role of women in fostering democracy and improving the rule of law in EU countries and beyond. For EPP Women, the main topics of 2016 were the following: "Women on Boards" and "Immigration and Integration: The Impact on Women", the later was adopted by the Political Assembly on 14-15 November.

Doris PACK
PRESIDENT

Hillie VAN DE STREEK
SECRETARY GENERAL

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

EPPW - Activities in 2016.

- 26 January: Executive Board Meeting, Brussels, Belgium
- 9 April: EPP Women General Board and Colloque, "Women on Boards", Prague, Czech Republic
- 8-9 July: EPP Women Summer Academy, "Migration and Integration: Impact on Women", Málaga, Spain
- 6-7 October: EPP Women General Board and Congress, "Migration and Integration and its Impact on Women", Sofia, Bulgaria





EDS

European Democrat Students (EDS) is the official student organisation of the EPP. With 42 member organisations from 33 countries, EDS is the strongest voice of centre-right and pro-European students and the largest student political organisation in Europe. In 2016, EDS celebrated its 55th anniversary in Berlin, where EPP Secretary General **Antonio LÓPEZ-ISTÚRIZ** congratulated the organisation for its achievements and hard work over the decades. Over the past year, EDS continued to make important contributions on the topics of the skills gap, youth entrepreneurship and the matching of higher education with the labour market. The year 2016 saw EDS placing an increased emphasis on the European project and the achievements of the EU. Most importantly, in light of recent developments and the British referendum, the European Democrat Students sought to strengthen the European spirit, launching the "iMEurope" campaign in early April. Linked to this initiative, the students encouraged EDS members and young people to partake in a dialogue and exchange of ideas through various channels, most notably social media. The results of this campaign were summarised in a White Paper and approved at the EDS annual assembly in Cyprus.

Georgios CHATZIGEORGIOU
PRESIDENT

Ivan BURAZIN
SECRETARY GENERAL

For more information please visit:
edsnet.eu

EDS - Activities in 2016.

- 8-10 January: Bureau Meeting, Vienna, Austria
- 23-28 February: Winter University, Berlin, Germany
- 20-24 April: Council Meeting, London, United Kingdom
- 12-15 May: Centre-right Academy, Zagreb, Croatia
- 1-5 June: Study Mission, Minsk, Belarus
- 2-7 August: Summer University, Larnaca, Cyprus
- 9-11 September: Bureau Meeting and Skills Training, Brussels, Belgium
- 29 September-2 October: Council Meeting, Venice, Italy
- 3 - 4 November: Digital Youth Academy, Brussels, Belgium
- 8-11 December: Council Meeting, Kyiv, Ukraine



EUCDW

The European Union of Christian Democratic Workers (EUCDW) is the voice and official association of Christian Democratic workers in the EPP. Led by EUCDW President **Elmar BROK**, Secretary General **Ivo BELET** and Treasurer **Ria OOMEN-RUIJTEN**, the association is committed to strengthening the Social Market Economy which lies at the heart of the European Union, successfully combining sustainable economic competitiveness with social justice. The highlight this year was the event "The Way Forward for the European Social Market Economy" on 2 May — with keynote speakers Prof. **John HILLS** (LSE), President of the European Commission **Jean-Claude JUNCKER** and Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs **Marianne THYSSEN** — attended by over 200 participants. EUCDW brings together 24 member organisations from 18 European countries, including Christian Democratic trade unions, Christian Social movements and workers associations in political parties, having as its main objective supporting the work carried out by the member organisations, maintaining good contacts within the EPP family and providing ground for training, discussion and cooperation in order to prepare Christian Democratic workers organisations to build tomorrow's Europe.

Elmar BROK
PRESIDENT

Ivo BELET
SECRETARY GENERAL

For more information please visit:
www.eucdw.org

EUCDW - Activities in 2016.

- 9 January: Presidium and Board Meeting, Frankfurt, Germany
- 2 May: Event: "The Way Forward for the European Social Market Economy", Brussels, Belgium
- 3 June: Board Meeting, Lisbon, Portugal
- 6 July: EPP Workers' Group Meeting, Strasbourg, France
- 16 November: Board Meeting, Brussels, Belgium



SME Europe

SME Europe represents the small- and medium-sized entrepreneurs of Europe within the EPP family. SMEs are the backbone of the European economy and need tailor-made political solutions. The purpose of SME Europe, which became an EPP member association in 2013, is to shape EU policies in a more SME-friendly way and to bring a new spirit and fresh entrepreneurial wind to the political debate. SME Europe addresses a wide range of issues, such as the internal market, international trade, innovation and research and fighting red tape in order to strengthen the European economy and create sustainable jobs, growth and prosperity.

SME Europe works closely together with national business organisations and European policy makers within the EPP political family, with a particular focus on the European Parliament. SME Europe believes that less, and smarter, state intervention provides the best framework conditions for SMEs to develop.

Bendt BENDTSEN
PRESIDENT

Iuliu WINKLER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

For more information please visit:
smeeurope.eu

SME Europe – Activities in 2016.

- 26 January: Working Breakfast on "TTIP – A Chance for SMEs?", European Parliament
- 2 March: Working Dinner on "Automated Driving and Data Management", European Parliament
- 21-23 April: European Economic Conference on "Time to re-think a modern SME Policy for Europe", Sibiu, Romania
- 13 July: Working Breakfast on "The Role of SMEs during Slovakia´s EU Presidency: what can we expect?", European Parliament
- 28 September: Working Breakfast on "Fostering SME Ideas – can covered bonds finance SMEs?", European Parliament

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 2016, while strengthening its network of member foundations, which now comprises 37 members and 9 partners!



GAME OF TROLLS: 2016, THE BATTLE AGAINST DISINFORMATION

The confrontation with a newly aggressive Russia is the most severe test the European Union has undergone in recent years. After "The Renaissance of the West", published in 2015, the Martens Centre has continued to organise events and publish research on Russia's tactics to undermine the West. Among its targets, Western journalists have been increasingly harassed, both physically and mentally, when reporting on Ukraine and other topics. The Martens Centre held the event "Game of Trolls: Turning Words into Weapons" on 29 February, to much public appreciation. The conference served as a platform for an expert-level consideration of the use of propaganda and disinformation in hybrid warfare, thanks to the fruitful discussion between journalists, policy-makers and an actual "troll".







FROM LAB TO LAW: ADVOCACY AND THE IMPACT OF THINK TANKS IN EU POLICY MAKING

As the European Union, in general, and the European Parliament, in particular, have acquired more policy-making powers in recent years, the think tank landscape in Brussels has also evolved and expanded. In this context, how can European policy-makers, including members of the European Parliament, make the most of the research and policy recommendations put forward by different think tanks? Parallel to that, and taking into account some of the more recent populist tendencies in the European Union, should think tanks become more involved in explaining and communicating European Union policy output to the wider European public?

These questions were on the agenda of an event held in the European Parliament on 2 March, which was opened by **Antonio LÓPEZ-ISTÚRIZ** and organised in partnership with **James G. MCGANN**, whose work has given rise to the Global Go To Think Tank Index Report. Among the conclusions from this debate, it was apparent that think tanks should be more active in speaking out regarding future scenarios and in providing answers to difficult issues. James G. MCGANN's final remark was that we must invest in helping think tanks be transformed, becoming more effective and useful given their difficult mission vis-à-vis citizens, in order to constitute a bridge between knowledge and power.

NET@WORK, PUTTING THE NETWORK TO WORK

NET@WORK is the first public platform of European centre-right think tanks gathering to debate and advocate EU policies.

Experts, politicians and stakeholders from different EU countries met for a full day on 20 April 2016, a day filled with roundtable discussions, hosted by nine different national think tanks of the Martens Centre network, on a wide variety of topics: political and economic reforms in the EU; the migration, security and demographic challenges ahead for Europe; ethnic minorities and local governments; and the core values and pillars underpinning the European project.

The aim of the event is to create common ground for discussion, develop new solutions and advocate centre-right political content, bringing together national and European priorities — the first edition was a success and will return with gusto in April 2017.

EUROPE, GET READY FOR THE MAKERS REVOLUTION!

Held on 24 May 2016 at the Square Meeting Centre, Makerstown was the first event of its kind in Brussels. It brought to the European capital 50 young and innovative "Makers" — a new generation of entrepreneurs and DIY experts empowered by Web 3.0 tools, technology and crowdfunding. From 3D printing to robotics, wearable technology to new ICT and food to fashion, these Makers, selected from all over Europe, might just be tomorrow's Robert Bosch, Enzo Ferrari or Arthur Guinness.

Part fair, part conference, Makerstown was organised by the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies, and by Think Young, the first think tank to lobby for young people.

After a day of demos and discussions, everyone who attended the event could agree on at least two things: Europe's manufacturing tradition is getting an update, and Makerstown was the place to experience it first-hand! Breaking free from the confines of a regular EU-bubble conference, it was anything but a talking shop. Instead, it was miles ahead, celebrating European innovation in a dynamic, engaging and inspiring way. Missed the action this year? No worries, Makerstown 2.0 will be back in town in 2017.

THE ECONOMIC IDEAS FORUM 2016

On 8 December in Brussels, the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies hosted the 7th Annual Economic Ideas Forum (EIF). The Economic Ideas Forum is an annual high-level conference bringing 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 policy-making processes of the EPP.

This year's event focused once more on themes which underpin the EPP's economic and political objectives: first, an acknowledgement that the digital economy has the potential to transform the European economy and to act as a driver of growth and jobs across all Member States; second, the digital economy has brought with it a maelstrom of new demands, with education and innovation being at the heart; and third, the effect Brexit should have on the European Union's relationship with the United Kingdom.

REFORMING UKRAINE

In December 2016, the Martens Centre celebrated the two-year anniversary of its flagship Ukraine Reforms project, under the leadership of Martens Centre President **Mikuláš DZURINDA**. #UkraineReforms is an initiative of the Martens Centre, together with the support and expertise of its local partners in Ukraine: Kyiv School of Economics, Stronger Together and Reanimation Package of Reforms. Ukraine Reforms brings together the expertise of senior EU decision makers in support of the reform process in Ukraine. The anniversary event will be held in February 2017 with Ukrainian Prime Minister Volodymyr GROYSMAN – stay tuned!







Who is Who
Presidency

PRESIDENT



Joseph DAUL
France – LR

SECRETARY GENERAL



Antonio LÓPEZ-ISTÚRIZ
Spain - PP

VICE PRESIDENTS*

* In alphabetical order



Kinga GÁL
Hungary – Fidesz



Johannes HAHN
Austria – ÖVP



Jyrki KATAINEN
Finland – KOK



David McALLISTER
Germany – CDU



Dara MURPHY
Ireland – FG



Paulo RANGEL
Portugal – PSD



Jacek SARYUSZ-WOLSKI
Poland - PO



Antonio TAJANI
Italy - FI



Marianne THYSSEN
Belgium – CD&V



Corien WORTMANN-KOOL
Netherlands – CDA



Christian SCHMIDT / Treasurer
Germany – CSU

EX OFFICIO VICE PRESIDENTS



Jean-Claude JUNCKER
Luxembourg - CSV



Donald TUSK
Poland - PO



Manfred WEBER
Germany - CSU

Secretariat

As of 1 January 2017.

ELECTED OFFICIALS



Christian KREMER
Deputy Secretary General



Luc VANDEPUTTE
Deputy Secretary General

SPOKESMAN



Siegfried MURESAN
Spokesman

STAFF



Brenda FURNIERE
Head of President's Office



Sara PINI
Deputy Head of President's Office



Morgane SUANEZ
Assistant at President's Office



Patrick CAMINADE
President's Office



Pilar SANTAMARIA
Head of Secretary General's Cabinet and Media Adviser



Maite ZABALETA
Assistant to the Secretary General



Karine MILHEIRO
Senior Press and Communication Adviser



Ecaterina CASINGE
Press Relations Officer



Joanna NOWAK
Press Officer



Ines Elise PRAINSACK-WARD
Head of Policy and Strategy Unit



Patrick VOLLER
Secretary for External Relations



Galina FOMENCHENKO
Senior Political Adviser



Juan MAGAZ
Political Adviser



Beatriz DE ANTA DE BENITO
Political Adviser



Eva PALACKOVÁ
Political Adviser



Juha-Pekka NURVALA
Political Adviser



Ajla HOTIC
Political Adviser



Claudia CAJVAN
Assistant and Policy Officer to Deputy Secretary General Christian Kremer



Julia LISENS-ZALUTSKAJA
Assistant for External Relations



Yelba TORRES
Assistant for Ministerial Meetings and Working Groups



Pavlína HEYMANS-ŠPAČKOVÁ
Assistant Ministerial Meetings, Archive Manager, EPP Women Admin

Nathan SHEPURA
Officer, Transatlantic Relations Adviser and EN Proofreader

Daphné LAMAL
HR and Finance Manager

Giuliano EPIS
Administrative assistant

Charlotte FRIZBERG
Assistant Event Management

Matteo ALBANIA
Communication and Marketing Officer

Rok TUS
Graphic Designer and Video Editor

Guy VOLCKAERT
Manager of Informatics & Internet

Gonçalo RAPOSO CARRIÇO
Digital Policy Officer & IT Administrator

Giuseppe NAVARRA
Intern

Nikolaus SUTTER
Assistant Trainee

Member Parties and Partners
European Union Countries

⁺ Associate members ° Observer members

	AT	**Österreichische 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 • SDS / Union of Democratic Forces **Демократическа партия • Demokraticheska partia** / ДП • DP / Democratic Party
	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 ja Res Publica Liit** / IRL / 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 / Forward Italy **Nuovo Centrodestra** / NCD / New Centre-Right **Unione di Centro** / UDC / Union of the Centre **Popolari per l'Italia** / PpI / Populars for Italy **Partito Autonomista Trentino Tirolese**° / PATT / Trentino Tyrolean Autonomist Party **Südtiroler Volkspartei**° / 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 **Romániai Magyar Demokrata Szövetség • Uniunea Democrată Maghiară din România** / RMDSZ • UDMR / Democratic Union of Hungarians in Romania **Partidul Mișcarea Populară** / PMP / People's Movement Party **Partidul Național Țărănesc Creștin Democrat** / PNȚCD / Christian Democratic National Peasant's Party
	SK	**Kresťanskodemokratické hnutie** / KDH / Christian Democratic Movement **Most-Híd** **Slovenská demokratická a kresťanská únia – Demokratická strana** / SDKÚ-DS / Slovakian Christian Democratic Union – Democratic Party **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 **Unió Democràtica de Catalunya • Unión Democrática de Cataluña** / UDC / Democratic Union of Catalonia
	SE	**Moderata samlingspartiet** / MOD - Moderaterna / Moderate Coalition Party **Kristdemokraterna** / KD / Christian Democrats

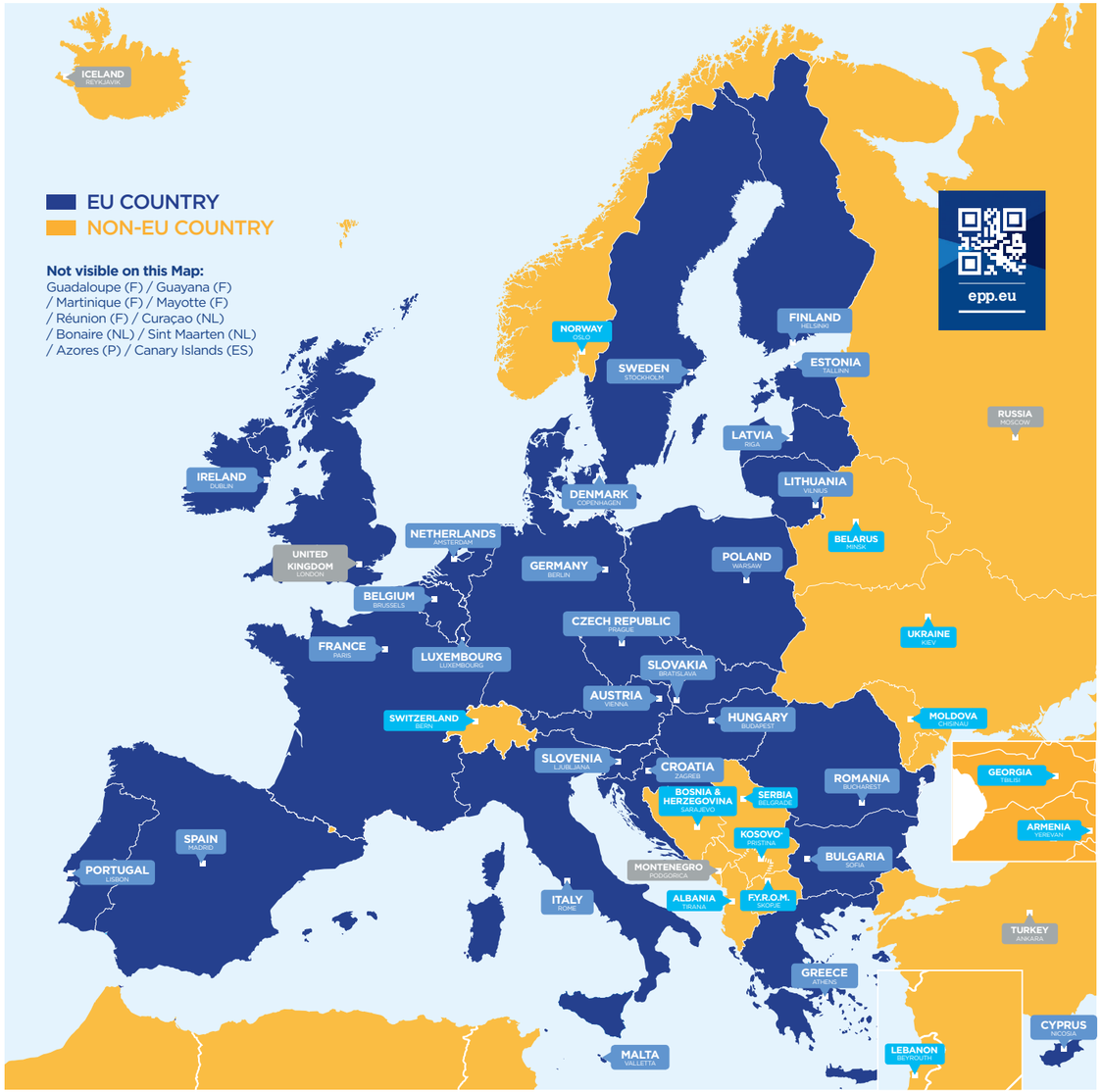
Non-EU Countries

⁺ Associate members
° Observer members
= Partners

	AL	**Partia Demokratike e Shqipërisë**⁺ / PDSH / Democratic Party of Albania
	AM	Հայաստանի Հանրապետական Կուսակցություն • **Hayastani Hanrapetakan Kusaktsutyun**° / ՀՀԿ / Republican Party of Armenia Օրինաց երկիր • **Orinats Erkir**° / OEK / Rule of Law Ժառանգություն • **Zharangutyun**° / Heritage
	BY	**Партыя БНФ • Partyja BNF**° / ПБНФ • PBNF / BPF Party / Belarussian People's Front **Аб'ядна́ная грамадзя́нская па́ртыя Белару́сі • Abjadnanaja hramadzianskaja partyja Biełarusi**° / АГП • AHP / United Civic Party of Belarus
	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 progresa**° **/** 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
	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
	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 vojvođanskih 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**° / Batkivschyna / 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

epp european people's party



European People's Party
Rue du Commerce 10
B-1000 Brussels

epp
european people's party

Get Social with us!

twitter.epp.eu
facebook.epp.eu
youtube.epp.eu
flickr.epp.eu
linkedin.epp.eu

epp.eu