



EUROPEAN DEMOCRATS' CONGRESS

Rome, IT - 14 October

Draft political motion - EDP Congress in Rome

Meeting in Congress in Rome on 14 October 2022, the EDP adopted the following political motion.

1. The war in Ukraine

- i. The European Democratic Party (EDP) reiterates in the strongest terms its condemnation of the invasion of Russian troops in Ukraine, in defiance of international law, the UN Charter and the founding principles of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).
- ii. The EDP denounces the strategy and behaviour of the invading Russians towards the Ukrainian population: massive and deliberate destruction of civilian buildings and homes, summary executions of unarmed citizens, kidnapping and torture, inhuman and degrading treatment, and even the child abduction.
- iii. The EDP considers that the masquerade of the so-called referenda on the request for the attachment to Russia of four regions along the eastern border makes it necessary and urgent to implement new and reinforced sanctions (financial, economic, industrial, restrictions on freedom of movement, freezing and seizure of assets); the EDP welcomes, in this respect, the eighth package of sanctions adopted by the European Union
- iv. The EDP supports a large-scale and swift reinforcement of military support to the Ukrainian army from European countries. Doing so helps Ukrainian forces, which are already on the offensive at the moment, to retake swaths of land illegally and fraudulently annexed Russia. Time is of the essence: Russian troops will be reinforced by the 300,000 men called up by Vladimir Putin within the framework of the partial mobilisation operation now underway.
- v. The EDP stresses the need to counteract moves by Vladimir Putin's Russia to destabilise certain European states and to divide the EU member states. He wants to them pulled under his orbit and destroy the Union's standing. To counteract this, EDP supports the creation of a European Political



Community. Launched by President Emmanuel Macron to strengthen the links between member states, the states already engaged in accession negotiations and the other European states, whether or not they wish to apply in the future. In this way, a European Community of democracies can be created and able to cooperate in areas of common interest and reshape the architecture of continental stability and security.

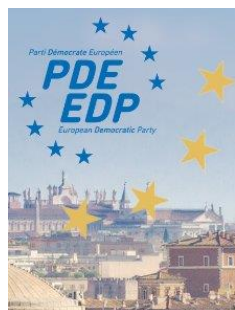
The EDP welcomes the success of the first meeting held on 6 October in Prague.

- vi. The EDP sees one of the points to be put on the political community's agenda should be to build a consensus among European democracies and garner support internationally on the jurisdiction responsible for identifying and prosecuting the perpetrators of war crimes committed in Ukraine.

2. Our fight for a sovereign Europe in a worrying political landscape

The political situation in Italy

- i. The EDP welcomes the results of Italia Viva in the fall 2022 elections and the creation, with Azione, of the "Renew Italy" movement. We stand alongside our Italian allies to build a real alternative to a far right now in power and to an increasingly conservative left. The 2024 European elections will be an chance to increase our consensus and influence as a central and reforming force, in Italy and in Europe. Hence the importance of having a new pro-European movement like "Renew Italy" that defends our vision for a stronger, sovereign and democratic Europe.
- ii. Indeed, on the one hand, the European People's Party is more and more a "back-up" partner, used by extremists to gain power, as we can see in Rome and Stockholm. The left is weakening and looking more and more to alliances with populist and extremist forces. The EDP believes, and has for many years, that by uniting against populists and Eurosceptics, pro-European centrist forces will increasingly become the engine of European recovery. This is our great challenge in view of the European elections in 2024.



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The political situation in Europe

- i. The appeal of the extremes and populists is not unique to Italy. It is a Europe-wide threat beyond the arrival in government of Giorgia Meloni. In Sweden, the far right is on the brink of power. In Germany too, the results of the populist Alternative für Deutschland party have crept up in several elections. In France, the far-right keeps changing their leader and name, while muting their "Frexit" rhetoric since Britain's floundering Brexit. Yet they keep the same extremist agenda: pushing for an inward-looking France and the end of the EU as we know it. We have seen the far-left do better than before, though the wrapping is different, it too contains an anti-EU agenda.
- ii. The EDP recalls that the dangers of an absolute majority obtained by political extremes are well known: they then think they can do whatever they wish, forgetting the balance of power, eroding judicial independence, interfering with fundamental rights, such as the right to abortion, and shredding Europe's common values: equality, justice, the rule of law, mutual respect and openness towards others.
- iii. For the EDP, an inward-looking Italy, led by Giorgia Meloni is bad news for Europe and its citizens. A more extremist Sweden damages Europe. A weakened Germany weakens Europe. Yet a pro-European victory in France, enshrined in the re-election of Emmanuel Macron as President, was a victory for Europe. Our economies, daily lives, prosperity, democracies and destiny as Europeans are intrinsically interlinked. Now more than ever before, Europe's citizens watch what their neighbours are doing, and how they are voting.

European sovereignty

- i. Recent events such as the Covid-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and the energy crisis have all repeatedly shown the Union's limits. Many European countries are ill-equipped to tackle today's challenges because of over-reliance on unreliable, or even hostile external suppliers.
- ii. For the EDP, the Union and its Member States have a historic responsibility to draw up and implement strategic plans capable of progressively ensuring security of supply in the sectors essential for their operation and future



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development: security, energy, health, advanced technologies, infrastructures of the future, among others.

- iii. In the current context, the top priority is a plan for the security of the EU energy supply and its Member States. This plan should, at the very least:
 - a. Set binding targets (possibly modulated according to the Member States) to be achieved in stages, to enlarge the share of renewable energy in the overall energy mix (final target between 80 and 100%);
 - b. Strengthen the pooling and joint management of energy infrastructures throughout the Union. This implies a common investment plan over three years to structure and complete the European electricity network, and to bring national managers closer together to achieve harmonised management of operations.
 - c. Promote the search for innovative solutions to improve energy efficiency;
 - d. As an immediate step, require all Member States to fill strategic gas reserves before winter.

3. A new phase for the European Democratic Party

- i. When it was founded in 2004, the EDP was already calling for a "new central path" in European politics. Ahead of its time, EDP continues today to reject the false dichotomy between traditional parties and the extremes. Eighteen years later, the European Democrats are the central pillar, together with our liberal friends, of the new central alliance "Renew Europe".
- ii. Our group in the European Parliament has become indispensable and has been at the origin of highly important advances since 2019, such as the new conditionality for the rule of law (no European funds to those who do not respect European values), the Green Pact for Europe, the Recovery Plan, the introduction of transnational lists and the Conference on the Future of Europe, the first exercise of direct citizen participation on a continental scale.
- iii. The EDP will continue to fight for a strengthened, truly transnational and sovereign European democracy. We will draw new people and new ideas into politics, from civil society to entrepreneurs, from students to farmers, and many others. We will grow our political family to fight for our project for the future from



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Rome to Rotterdam, from Brno to Bilbao, from Ljubljana to Larnaca, from Venice to Vilnius, from Madeira to Munich, and from Strasbourg to Santa Cruz de Tenerife.

And we will continue our unity in diversity, with full respect for different identities and through an increasingly territorial anchorage. Indeed, our movement, like those of our member parties, is deeply rooted at the local and regional level, and we demonstrated this today with a Summit of Democratic Mayors in Rome.

- iv. Today, the EDP is entering a new phase. Between now and the next European elections in 2024, our goal is to become the only real alternative to the extremes. In every country and in every election where we are present, we will dismantle, piece by piece, the populist dam that had drained Europe.
- v. The EDP will carry these battles forward, fight to defend the values of the Union and be the standard bearer for European reforms.