

ELECTION special edition

by Richard Milsom

elcome to the 7th edition of The Con-servative. Our final edition before next five years 500 million citizens head to the polls Elsewhere in the paper we offer you our usual to decide on the future of Europe. And the stakes coverage of European and World news, including have never been higher. Years of economic and a story about the evolution of the center right in social mismanagement have left people frus- Latin America. Chile has long struggled with how trated with the direction of the Union. The best to unite its conservative movement. A new migration crisis has left people untrusting of movement looks set to add to the complications. the political system and a slow recovery has left We also cover two recent reports on Human people feeling bitter about the state of the Euro-Rights around the world. The first looking at the zone. People are tired of the calls for Europe to violent suppression of Muslims in China, and the $do\ more.\ They have \ had\ enough\ of\ the\ status\ quo \\ new\ system\ of\ state\ control\ being\ imposed\ by\ the$ and are unwilling to allow things to continue as Chinese Communist Party. The central govern-

As a result this election will see a huge shift munity and holding them in internment camps away from the establishment. But who will be that the US State Department has described as a the new MEPs? What parties are likely to enter 'genocide' the new Parliament? For our part, we are happy Spain has just concluded its hotly contested to introduce you to our candidates. In this Special elections, but voting isn't over. Spain will head to Election Edition of the newspaper we would have the polls again on the 26th of May for regional and a snapshot analysis of our member parties and European elections, in what is being described as those who sit in the European Conservatives and 'Super Sunday'. We look at what impact that may Reformists Group. We offer you details of their have on turnout and the results. platforms and present to you, for the first time in Finally, Croatian MEP Ruza Tomasic looks at one place, their Party lists of candidates.

We also offer you their views on how we can the impact Brexit will have on the budget. In her make a Europe that does less but better and opinion piece she argues that Cohesion policy has works in the interest of all member states. We been a driver of economic growth, and will conlook at what kind of substantial reforms our tinue to do so, if it's reformed the right way.

These upcoming elections are a time for choos- to keep moving towards a nation of Europe. We ing, and perhaps the last chance to see substantial must seize the opportunity to make a Europe that reform of the European Union. This is our time, as does less, but better and works for the people. conservatives, to make the case for a looser Union That's why these elections are so important and of Nation States, rather than allowing federalists that's why we urge you to go and vote.

ment is forcibly re-educating the Muslim com-

the future of European Cohesion funding and



















Campaign Season

ple of weeks have been heavily focused on didate Jan Zahradil was shown. the European Elections and supporting

On Monday 6th of May, Jan Zahradil was in rent path, or destroy it.

On Saturday 4th of May, ACRE was in Lecce, Across the rest of Europe, our parties are uties. ACRE hosted a stand at the rally for him, years to come.

s expected, most events in the last cou- where a video of support from Presidential Can-

our member parties. Across the continent, from Madrid to meet with the Vox party. The party Riga to Rome, our candidates have been busy at has come out of the recent Spanish General Elecwork trying to persuade the public that it's time to tion with more than twenty seats and is going reform the EU, rather than continue on the cur- into the European Elections with a strong list of candidates.

Apulia in Italy to lend support to Vice President building up momentum and holding election Raffaele Fitto. Mr Fitto is standing for re-elec- rallies and attending debates in each member tion as an MEP in the Southern Italy seat. Before states. The campaign is now in full swing, as he was an MEP he was President of the Apulia we approach the key stage of the campaign to region, and a member of the Chamber of Dep- ensure we that we have a reformed Europe in









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Discover EU initiative gives young people free travel passes

he Discover EU Initiative is a program to distribute free travel passes to young people to enable them to travel to other European countries. Under this program European's born in the second half of 2000 and first half of 2001 can register their online application for free rail tickets from 2 May until 16 May.

The European Parliament voted to finance the program that will give 30,000 18-year-olds the chance to travel in the EU for free in 2018. An additional 20,000 young people will now also be able to benefit from the Discover EU inifree in Europe by rail between 1 August outermost regions. 2019 and 31 January 2020.

of transport is available; for example, other countries and foster European tions.



ues. Critics have argued that the ini-The articulated intention of the ini- tiative mostly will benefit the already The participants will be able to tiative is that it will allow young people relatively well-to-do as the travel will travel up to 30 days to at least one for- to experience Europe's diversity, better include additional costs. Furthermore, eign country. Travel will be mainly by understand each other and learn more it has been argued that the costly prorail, but also by bus and ferry to ensure about our continent. The hope is that it gram in reality is a backhander to perwide access. Flights will be allowed in will encouraging young EU citizens to suade the youth to think positively of exceptional cases where no other form travel in the EU and meet people from the European Union and its institu-

European Parliament

Majority votes to turn Frontex into border and coast guard agency



Member States still need to accept quently became more hesitant. this in the Council.

to cross the EU's borders illegally. migrants trying to enter the EU ille-Even though this number is consid- gally who are picked up at borders erably lower than in previous years, or coastlines. Commissioner Avramthere are still fears in many Member opoulos has claimed that Frontex States that developments such as the officials will soon be able to expel increased warfare in Libya may drive migrants at the borders. it up again.

a step-by-step approach".

Another measure agreed by MEPs to embark on perilous journeys. group who fear data leaks.

not only to protect EU borders, but far not been using that leverage. also to fight cross-border crime and A more ambitious idea that has be returned.

round 700 million people One idea that was abandoned was cross the European Union's to enable Frontex staff to act against borders each year, so to the wishes of a Member State. This properly guard these borders is an caused concern that the establishambitious task. A majority in the ment of an EU Border and Coast European Parliament has voted in Guard Agency might violate national favour of turning Frontex into a per- sovereignty. As a result, Austria and manent EU Border and Coast Guard Hungary were initially strong sup-Agency, but for this to happen the porters of the reform but subse-

Another open question that has yet In 2018, 150,000 people tried to be answered is what will happen to

In light of the fact that Africa's The proposal supported by a population is to double in the next majority in the EP is to turn Fron- few decades, European policy maktex into a permanent agency with a ers have started to seriously concapacity of 5,000 staff by 2021 and sider changing EU border policy. In 10,000 staff plus additional staff dele- June 2018 EU leaders agreed a new gated by Member States by 2027. The approach: to create "disembarkation EP also wants Frontex to have addiplatforms" for those who are saved tional capacity for a rapid interven- in search and rescue operations. The tion force for emergency situations. idea is that such platforms could be European Commissioner for Migra- hosted in Egypt, Tunisia or Morocco, tion, Dimitris Avramopoulos, has and serve as a place to send those said in response that "little by little, caught entering the EU illegally. They we will increase and reach our goal by could then await their asylum request 2027. This is not a postponement, but or repatriation procedure in these locations, eliminating the incentive

is to centralise and cross-refer- Despite the fact that such disemence a number of databases contain- barkation platforms would be a border ing information on asylum seekers, protection game changer, the Euroarrivals and departures, wanted per- pean Commission has failed to negosons and missing passports. This is tiate such an arrangement with third something that police services have countries. In theory, the Commission been requesting for a long time, but should have great leverage in terms has been frowned upon by civil rights of denying visa and development aid over the countries that could be candi-The idea of upgrading Frontex is dates to host such centres, but has so

help national authorities with repa- also been discussed is to creat triation operations, for example to proper "refugee cities". These cities identify illegal migrants and acquire would be located in North Africa but travel documents to enable them to governed by Western officials, in the same way that Hong Kong was gov-Frontex, which is headquartered erned by British officials. They would in Warsaw, currently only employs serve as a safe hub for refugees just as around 300 people. It does not have Hong Kong sheltered refugees from its own equipment or border guards Communist China and, if designed and relies on EU Member States to well, may bring more investment to provide border guards, vessels, air- North Africa. Perhaps this option craft and other resources. The main might be more attractive to the task of Frontex at present therefore countries the EU is negotiating with is to share intelligence between the than the prospect of having to host migrants denied asylum in Europe.



Socialists win, PP falls and Vox is a success

👕 n the last four years, Spain has held three general elections. On Sunday 28 April polls closed with a record turnout, but the political outcome of the election was uncertain as no clear majority formed for either the left or the right. Since the election, however, some trends have become apparent, and this will probably dictate the future development of Spanish politics for the foreseeable future. On the left, the Socialist Party improved

of votes from 5.5 to 7.5 million compared past Rivera has tried to find some sort to the previous election. Incumbent of accommodation with the Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez celebrated Party, but the Ciudadanos leader now this as a major victory, but his party's 123 argues that this offer is no longer on seats in parliament is the lowest result the table due to Sánchez's agreements ever for a victorious party. It seems that with separatist forces. some of the support for the Socialist Party came from Podemos, the communist coacel of politics. In the history books the lition, as its total number of votes fell by 2019 general election will be rememalmost 350,000 and its representatives bered for the historic rise of Vox. The were reduced from 71 to 42. In the ongoparty went from 0.2 to 10.3 per cent ing negotiations, it looks like Sánchez is of the popular vote. Almost 2.7 millikely to lead a minority government that lion voters supported the new consertakes Podemos as its key partner but is vative force in Spanish politics. This forced to negotiate with separatist parties impressive performance was the grand in order to produce a stable majority.

On the centre-right, the People's which Vox became the most discussed Party (PP) suffered a painful defeat, political party in the country. Vox will with 4.4 million votes compared to 7.9 have 24 representatives in parliament million votes in the 2016 general elec- and will have solidified itself as a real tion. Its share of the popular vote fell choice for Spanish voters. from 33 to 17 per cent of the electorate.

ano Rajoy, was forced to leave power in likely government did not win the popmid-2018 after a vote of no confidence. It ular vote, and attributed the disapwas clear then that the party was headed pointing result for the PP, Ciudadanos for a major defeat. Following an internal and Vox to the electoral system. In total election, Pablo Casado took over and tried the Socialist Party and Podemos earned to stop the party's fall in the polls. Based 11,213,684 votes, while the PP, Ciudadaon the outcome of the 28 April election, nos and Vox obtained 11,276,920 votes. it is clear that Casado's efforts have been When translated in to parliamentary unsuccessful and the internal problems seats, however, the leftist bloc earned of the party are likely to become more 158 representatives while the rightapparent in the near future.

ALDE member Ciudadanos did winner of the two electoral debates elections.

r n a recent interview with the Dan-

Inille Weiss, lead candidate for

the centre-right Danish EPP party

strengthening the EU's cooperation

with Africa and bringing more foreign-

ers to work in the EU. She explains that

million people to come and work, and

come". The interview has caused head-

seen as a vote winner by her party. With

lines and a rift in the party.

in the coming years the EU will need 10

the Conservatives, argues in favour of

ish newspaper Berlingske, Per-

Danish European Election campaign

EPP Split over migration

that she wants to create a "front door" to the party's position", but accepts the

the EU through which "everyone is wel-candidate's regret and statement that it

Weiss, whose company offers advice qualified labour in the future, but it is

on health and architecture, wishes to not in itself a conservative wish to have

Pape Poulsen emphasised that it "is not stricter immigration policy.



held on prime-time television. In 2016 Ciudadanos earned 3.1 million votes, whereas the 28 April election its result. The party increased its number ended with 4.1 million votes. In the

All of these changes are part and parfinale of a remarkable campaign, in

Some pollsters and political strate-The long-time leader of the PP, Mari- gists have pointed to the fact that the wing forces received 147 seats.

Spaniards will vote again on 26 May. improve its result. Its leader, Albert The upcoming "Super Sunday" will Rivera, was widely perceived as the combine local, regional and European

all was a "misunderstanding". Pernille

Weiss now says that "we must ensure

Spain's "Super Sunday"

European Election to be held on same day as Regional and Local votes

pain's political calendar did not salt. But, for what it is worth, the survey try will celebrate what is widely being cent, Podemos 16 per cent, Ciudadanos 15 called "Super Sunday", when the elector- per cent, and Vox would enter the Euroate will vote in three elections at the same pean Parliament with more than 8 per time, electing new European, regional and cent of the popular vote. local representatives.

tion was only 45 per cent. This dropped tion and therefore fail to take into account by one point to 44 per cent in 2014. By the results of 28 April. For instance, it is tions of 2011 had a turnout rate of 69 per 20 per cent in the European election if tunity to vote for a party that they may not cent, increasing by one point to 70 per they only were able to reach 17 per cent of support in national, regional or local eleccent in the 2015 elections. For this reason, the popular vote in the general election, tions for tactical reasons. This could work and not because Spaniards have signifi- Several commentators also believe that against traditional parties like the PP, and affairs, it is likely that turnout in the forth- polls indicate since it is at the centre of the coming European election will increase Spanish political debate substantially.

estimates should be taken with a pinch of inces. Furthermore, voters often perceive is expected to do very well.

end with the general election on 28 shows that the Socialist Party stands to April. On 26 May the Iberian counearn 29 per cent of the vote, the PP 20 per

However, the answers to the survey In 2009 turnout in the European elec- were collected before the general eleccomparison, the regional and local elec- unlikely that the PP will be able to reach the European election as a special opporcantly increased their interest in Brussels the Vox result will be better than these benefit Ciudadanos and Vox.



The Vox leader, Santiago Abascal, has declared that the main objective of Vox in It should also be noted that Spain's elec- Super Sunday is to achieve a great result in No independent organisations or toral rules are different in the European the European election. This explains why media outlets have commissioned any election. Instead of assigning a certain Vox has saved some star candidates – such polls on how Spanish voters intend to vote unumber of representatives per province, as Hermann Tertsch, a very well-known in the European election. The only survey the entire country is counted together. conservative journalist – for this election that has been released was commissioned This increases proportionality and should rather than the general election. Tertsch, by the European Parliament. The fact that in theory benefit the centre-right par- who reaches hundreds of thousands of peoit is a single sample together with the commissioning organisation indicates that the groups in Cataluña and the Basque prov-large following in traditional media outlets,

French European Elections

Nicolas Dupont-Aignan, the Euro-realist

ince his support of the Gaullist candidate Jacques Chaban-Delmas in 1974, Nicolas Dupont-Aignan has always been loval to his Gaullist ideals. After his dissociation from Les Républicains in 2007, he is emerging as a right-wing alternative to Emmanuel Macron thanks to his unification of several political parties and to his increasing popularity among the right-wing electorate.

Rewarding convictions

On March 28th, Nicolas Dupont-Aignan presented his list for the European elections of 2019. His ambition motivated by a continuous progression, starting from winning 1.79% of the vote in the presidential election of 2012 to winning and Marine Le Pen of the Front National. actively defends the member-states' warplanes instead of European ones. and possibly has more of recognition right to not adopt a treaty that does for his own right-wing alternative to not suit them which led him to con- euro-reformist, Nicolas-Dupont Aignan Emmanuel Macron. Mr Dupon-Aignan demn the undemocratic application of plans to completely re-shape the EU's rent Wauquiez has betrayed Gaullist Trade Agreement. Even if he calls for ment of the EU given that he estimates traditions with his active adherence to more protection against unfair competitudat that the accelerated integration process the current EU positions. At the same tion and uncontrolled neoliberalism, he has been a failure and has fragilized even time, the Front National has failed to does not reject openness to markets and more the external borders of the EU. offer up a clear and coherent alternative economic liberalism. His economic doc-

make it easier for EU companies to hire 10 million migrants come to Europe just labour from outside the bloc. This is not like that" Peter Kofod, the Danish People's Parfirm opponent of the Maastricht Treaty. ing standards. just weeks until the European elec- ty's leading candidate for the European tion and a month before the national election, does believe Weiss' explanaentary election, the controver- tion. In a comment he quotes the Bibl sial proposal is making it easy to attack as saying "for the mouth speaks out of the Conservatives. Reactions have that which fills the heart", and goes on been harsh from within her own party: to state that "Europe's borders must be "I spilled coffee on myself this morn-secured, they must not be overrun". Weiss. This is not a conservative policy. explain why the centre-right parties in

It is important to focus on the labour the government are expecting losses to market's need for labour, but not by the Social Democrats in both the Eurogetting millions of Africans to come to pean election and in the general elec-Denmark", the Conservative Minister tion expected to be held in June. One for Social Affairs Mai Mercado wrote on reason is that in recent years the Social Democrats in Denmark have changed Conservative Party Chairman Søren their policy and are now in favour of a

Twenty years later, he has not abandon He castigates the current European co-Italian border with an AK-47 in his his ideals: "In all of the European coun- Union for its lack of democratic spirit. car trunk. tries there is a magnificent awakening. He argues that it is through "authentic of the people. It is our duty to cement it. democracies that the EU will be strong largely relies on his platform les Amou-We will defend a Europe of the nations when facing the other's". This implicitly reux de la France, which includes his and of the projects." This sovereigntist means that he rejects unwilled further party Debout la France and other groups discourse has to be associated with his delegation of power from the nation- such as the National Centre of Inde-Gaullist heritage and the refusal to del- states to Brussels and that he wants to pendents and Peasants (CNIP) and an

Europe of nations instead of technocratic federalism

To build an alternative European His model of alternative EU would con- ond round, Debout la France emerges as Union Mr Dupont-Aignan insists on sist more of projects made up of small a very likely positive surprise in the May



Common projects, innovation and political emancipation of the EU

the necessity to reinforce the EU's groups of European countries in various 2019 elections.

fields including energetical transition, health and spatial conquest. In a context of growing concern regarding the energetical transition, Nicolas Dupont-Aignan does not lack of imagination: for nstance, he calls for the development of modernized solar panels and of algae fuels. He emphasizes the need to build European alternatives to rely less on the American technologies. Typically, he insists on the necessity to relaunch the European spatial program to allow the European people to fully benefit from the economic spin-offs of the spatial conquest. He often refers to Airbus which he describes as a standing example of the efficiency of nation-states' voluntary expertise sharing.

According to him, this emancipation from the United-States can be also almost 5% in 2017 and possibly as high competitiveness compared to the rest achieved through a common European as 8% in the European elections of 2019. of the world. This requires two things defense policy. He stands for the sys-Mr Dupont-Aignan has slowly but surely to be done. First, he defends that the tematic preference of European military promoted himself as an alternative to EU has to protect itself from external material and heavily criticized Bel-Laurent Wauquiez of the Republicans risks including unfair competition. He gium's recent choice to buy American

Unsurprisingly for a right-wing also benefits from declining trust in Les the Transatlantic Free Trade Treaty border policy. He intends for more con-Républicains by the electorate as Lau- and the Comprehensive Economic and trol. It starts by stopping the enlargeto EU positions, under Marine Le Pen. trine can therefore be defined as a cauing the protection of the external and Mr Dupont-Aignan's political engage- tious and pragmatic kind of liberalism internal borders of the EU. Innovative ment can be traced back to 1992 when he as he seeks to balance competitivity and in his communication, he spectacularly started to work with Philippe Séguin, a protection to preserve the European liv-highlighted the absence of border control within the EU by crossing the Fran-

egate national responsibilities to supra- give back power to the European citizens. increasing amount of diverse right-wing personalities that adhered to his project. In a context where Les Républicains keeps a Macron-friendly stance and where the Front National heavily lacks legitimacy after a failed presidential sec-

Macron's response to "Yellow Vest" protests

Rules are meant to be broken

rench President Emmanuel Eric Drouet, one of the self-appointed Macron has announced a sec-spokespeople of the "yellow vests", to cope with the "yellow vest" protests. new measures "bla bla" in a video pub-The first package included an additional lished after the French President's press spending of €10 billion and an increase conference in the minimum wage, and the second

to the protests, which were triggered the wealth tax. by a hike in fuel taxes, was a massive

referendums. Another high-profile mea- level. sure is to shut down the École Nationale beginning of his presidency.

by the second package either. A poll to avoid a clash with the EU and other More importantly, it would send a sigby Le Figaro found that 61 per cent of Member States, however, the French nal to the rest of the world that France the population do not think these mea- will need to limit the deficit. sures constitute a big change in policy. Other policies that might work but runs until 2022. He should use it.

ond package of measures in a bid called Macron's announcement of the

ond set of measures serving to respond in France should be much higher than in popularity. to the public concerns. These include €5 the UK or Germany, both of which also Fighting vested interests may not billion in tax cuts, decentralising public have disadvantaged regions that have be easy. But given that the French are services and lowering barriers to hold been struggling to compete at the global already protesting, Macron should

The Italian Government has com- by, for example, increasing the cap to d'Administration, a top school that has plained that the European Commission 38 hours per week. He could debunk educated most of the French Govern- applies different standards when judg- the argument that dividing work creates ment elite. It is, however, notable that ing budgetary policies. The Commismore jobs, and such a policy would likely the French President, despite substan-sion's excuse for giving France a pass has produce the desired economic effects in tial pressure to do so, has refused to always been that the country not only a short period of time. This change in restore the wealth tax he scrapped at the has a lower debt to GDP ratio than Italy, regulation would inject new energy into but also that it is also more ambitious in the French economy, increase profits The public does not seem convinced undertaking economic reform. In order and enable companies to hire more staff.



would not cost much money are honesty

Given the French tax burden, Macron and fighting vested interests. If Macron includes a €5 billion reduction in taxes. is absolutely right to go for tax cuts. But simply tells the public that tax cuts are The French fiscal deficit for this year the tax cuts should be financed by the not possible without spending cuts, was already estimated at 3.2 per cent, same amount of spending cuts. This is while linking his own fate to the sucand the new measures to deal with the necessary not only to comply with EU cess of his policies, he might manage to protests are likely to make it worse. It deficit rules, but to also restore trust in convince a sizeable part of the general is likely therefore that France will vio- France's financial position and attract public. Despite his many failings, this late the European Union's budget defimore private investment. Many of the is what Macron's predecessor, François yellow vests are opposed to spending Hollande, did when he promised not The French President's first response cuts and call for the reintroduction of to run again for President if he did not meet his target to reduce unemploy-Given the situation, Macron should ment. Hollande never tried to seriously spending package, but this failed to focus on reforms that do not cost money reform France's labour market. On the boost his popularity materially. He then but rather boost employment. Scrap- contrary, one of his first measures was embarked on a "national conversation" ping the rigid labour market rules and to lower the pension age, shamelessly with the public, triggering nearly two opening up the services sector should sending the bill to the grandchildren. million online responses. One of the be particularly high on the list. France's A very solid majority in France favour conclusions made by the French Gov- unemployment rate hovers around 9 per another reduction in the retirement age, ernment was that taxes were too high in cent and youth unemployment in partic- but Hollande's fate indicates that this is ular is at a troubling 21 per cent. There is neither economically viable nor a politi-Macron has now come up with a sec- no reason, however, why unemployment cally sustainable long-term strategy for

> tackle the 35-hour work week head-on is open for business. Macron's mandate

Swedish European Election campaign

Left abandons working class

Democrats, Jimmie Åkesson, and those living in rural areas. has raised the temperature of the European election campaign consider- Sweden's largest newspaper, Åkesson ably by maintaining that the Social Demargues that the "Swedish labour market undertakings of the welfare state.

fuel, which makes it more expensive to ditions in Sweden.

he party leader of the Sweden get to work and mainly affects the poor In an op-ed piece in Aftonbladet,

ocrats are no longer the workers' party model" is under threat from EU rules. they once were. According to Åkesson, The Swedish model is a tradition from the labour movement has broken the the 1920s where the main players on the labour market - employers and unions Mr Åkesson claims that the left-wing - sign binding agreements on wages the Commission's proposal to increase government's cut in taxes for those who and conditions for the employed. Swe-the Swedish contribution to the EU budearn the most whilst increasing taxes for den therefore has no legislation on the get by 40 per cent. Sweden is already one those who have the least "is a betrayal". minimum wage. This is an example of of the biggest net contributors and there He also argues that it has become the diversity of customs and traditions is not much appetite among voters to increasingly apparent that access to care in different European countries that pay more. Even so, the government has has decreased and that the policies of the could be under threat if the EU harmorefused to threaten to veto any budget Social Democrats have broken the promnises social conditions across the Union. with this level of increased contribution. ise of universal healthcare. Further- In the European Parliament the Social Jimmie Åkesson insists that Sweden, more, cuts in police funding will lead to Democrats have actively voted in favour "instead of pumping extra money to the increased insecurity. Åkesson also takes of a policy that risks eroding the Swedish bureaucrats in Brussels" should provide aim at the government's tax increase on model, thereby degrading workers' con- "tax relief in Sweden to those who need



Another topic attracting attention is

Kurz calls for reform

ustrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz called for a reopening of the treaties during a speech in Vienna. The 32-year-old Chancellor said that a lot had changed in Europe since the Lisbon treaty was signed in 2007, and that the EU didn't seem to be in a position to react to the problems that face the continent today.

large amounts of debt in the Eurozone. Freedom Party.

Peoples Party belongs.



Mr Kurz, who has been in govern ment in Austria since 2017, has made a In particular he called for tougher number of changes to the Peoples Party measures to be taken against mem- since becoming its leader. Most notaber states who waved illegal migrants bly he has changed taken the party in through, rather than stopping them a more conservative direction, includat the external border. Mr Kurz also ing in the parties attitude towards the called for stricter fiscal measures to migrant crisis and his willingness to prevent countries from running up bring the party into coalition with the

"He who demands reforms must The Austrian Peoples Party curralso be prepared to make them where ently sits with the European Peoples it hurts," Kurz said during the speech. Party in the European Parliament, Many of the measures that the Chan- however if it's leader, Manfred Weber, cellor are calling for put him at odds requires the support of the Socialists with the leadership of the European and Greens to secure the Commission Peoples Party, to which his Austrian Presidency, he may be forced to kick the Peoples Party out of the EPP. ■

Belgian Federal Election

Calculating the cost of political proposals

n the run-up to Belgium's federal election on 26 May, the country's Federal Planning Bureau has been calculating the cost of selected measures proposed by the different political parties. It is the first time that an effort has been made by the Federal Planning Bureau to evaluate the cost and income of political proposals ahead of an election. The initiative to calculate the cost of the different par- train travel and welfare. For this reaties' election proposals is inspired by son, their promise not to increase the a similar practice in the Netherlands general taxation level is less than credwhich has had a law in place since the ible. The liberal parties, who have been 1980s requiring such estimates.

measures that do not increase the defithrough hefty increases in taxation.

has also suggested that savings can be debt burden. achieved by limiting the period a person can receive unemployment bene- falls in August, taxes are a major politfits, limiting the growth in healthcare ical issue. Some left-wing parties are spending and keeping nuclear plants keen to cut taxes on labour by increasopen longer. Belgium is one of the only ing them on capital. However, their countries in the industrialised world claims that Belgium has no effective where unemployment benefits are not taxation on capital are being contralimited in time, and introducing a cut-dicted by the centre-right parties, who off point would not only lead to a direct argue that international statistics indisaving but also create greater incentive cate that the country already has some

increase taxes by €13 billion, includ- on acquiring real estate. ing a new CO2 tax, a tax on flight tick- The Federal Planning equivalent amount to their employ- ping migration or climate policies. ees tax free would – according to ana- Belgium's largest daily newspaper, compensation.

spending spree, increasing support for manipulation.



in power since 1999, have proposed According to the Federal Planning considerable tax cuts that would lead Bureau, only three parties propose to a €5 billion increase in the deficit. Controversial proposals by the

cit. The measures proposed by the cen- Socialists include a guaranteed pentre-right Flemish nationalist N-VA sion of €1.500 per month and free visits would reduce the deficit by an esti- to a general practitioner. The party has mated €2.7 billion, mostly through been criticised by its opponents for the savings in government expenditure. latter proposal since it is thought that The other two parties proposing mea- this would lead to over-consumption. sures that would reduce the deficit The Flemish Socialists have. however are the Flemish Greens and the hard- also proposed savings in the governleft Communists. Both parties aim to ment and cuts in subsidies for comachieve the reduction in the deficit panies. The Federal Planning Bureau was unable to calculate government N-VA, in power between 2014 and income from the party's proposal for a 2018, has proposed cutting taxes and capital gains tax, which contributed to increasing the lowest pension. But the the conclusion that the proposal would party, currently leading in the polls, increase Belgium's already high public

In Belgium, where Tax Freedom Day of the highest taxation on capital in the The Flemish Greens want to OECD when including the high taxes

ets and road tolls. The party's proposal struggled to calculate a whole range to abolish the system of company cars of measures proposed by the political without enabling employers to pay the parties, such as those relating to stop-

lysts - mean that the average employee Het Laatste Nieuws, has called the calcurrently with a company car would culation effort a "disappointment" effectively lose €500 per month in The paper suggests that since only five policies of each political party were The Francophone Greens, who included in the calculations, and the according to the polls are the biggest fact that the parties themselves sugparty in Brussels and the second big- gested which five measures should be gest in Wallonia, are keen to go on a calculated, the door was left open for

Orban withdraws support for EPP Candidate

Minister, has withdrawn his parheading to Germany. the European Peoples Party lead candision President Jean Claude Juncker, who date for the Commission. Mr Orbans Fid- famously referred to him as 'the dictator' sez party currently sits in the EPP Group before a European Council Summit in in the European Parliament, however was Brussels. This spat was partly what lead to suspended from the European Peoples his party being suspended. Party itself just before the election started. Without the support of Fidsez in his own

full force of the migration crisis as it was a wider split within the movement.

ties support for Manfred Weber, Orban has also clashed with Commis-

Mr Orban has been at odds with the party, Mr Weber could struggle to become EPP establishment for some time now, Commission President without enlisting in particular in his criticism of German the support of the Social Democrats and Chancellor Angela Merkel and her pol- Greens, which would put him at odds with icy towards migration. Hungary felt the a number of his other parties, and risk a



Chinese Communist Party harasses Muslims

onating to mosques, not chatting to neighbours and walking in public without prior authorisation have been revealed as just some of the reasons for Chinese state police to investigate Muslims in Xinjiang region.

Human Rights Watch analysed a police app to reveal a number of seemingly lawful acts that officers record on phones and then link to a mass surveillance database. The United Nations has estimated at least a million Muslims have been detained by Chinese authoriin the middle of the desert.

Beyond the detainment camps, spaces without permission.

tile approach to the Muslim population their "Social Credit" system that sees that inhabits the region on the North people assigned a score that affects Western frontier of the country, bor- everything from their ability to take out dering Central Asia. On top of detain- a bank loan to their to travel around the ment and re-education, there have been country and beyond.



Oppressive tactics like this are not many Xinjiang citizens are believed to just reserved for the country's Muslim be under house arrest or barred from minority. Tibetans, who's country was entering public spaces. The police app annexed during a short war in the 1950s, can track individuals' movements and have faced equally poor treatment over alert officers when they enter public the years. And even ordinary Chinese citizens are now subject to constant China has taken an increasingly hos-scrutiny from the government through

Conservative star launches own political platform

t the end of the 1980s, the tran-Chilean political parties to establish new alliances. For the centre-right, the new scenario required an underconservatives (Unión Demócrata Independiente - UDI) and the moderates (Renovación Nacional – RN).

two parties led to a joint electoral

presidential election, leftist forces had reckoned with in Chilean politics. been in place for 20 years. Yet after Piñera's government, the centre-right cana, Kast has announced that his goal struggled to find a suitable candidate, is to coordinate a campaign that will which cleared the way for socialist try to play a key role in the 2020 presileader Michelle Bachelet to return to dential election. Although the former power in 2014. Its inability to articulate UDI member has acknowledged that he a coherent alternative to Piñera's lead- is open to a potential agreement with ership forced the centre-right to articuichile Vamos!, he has also made it clear late a new coalition, this time known as that this will only happen if the coalition iChile Vamos! (Let's go Chile!). UDI and revises its position and breaks away from RN remain the largest forces within the Piñera's watered-down conservatism. coalition, but the project has also incorporated the Independent Regionalist ance, Kast has acknowledged that such a

Although the new coalition was a seri-first priority is to "build and solidify netous attempt at updating and upgrading works that allow conservatives to face the centre-right platform, its leader- the challenges posed by the radical left, ship once again fell on the shoulders of which is trying to limit our democracy Piñera, whose decision to run on a mod- and our freedoms" erate platform has angered hundreds of Acción Republicana's leader has

nor does he seem concerned with chal-supporters who buy into his vision of a lenging the left's dominance in various renewed centre-right. Kast message at a socioeconomic matters. Although he has recent event was that "We do not apoloalways run on a centre-right platform, gise for what we are and what we believe the businessman has not hesitated to in. We are proudly conservative. And raise taxes or increase funding for state while others try to demonise us by sayuniversities. As a result, Chile is wit- ing that we are far-right extremists, we nessing the birth of a new conservative remain committed to serving the people movement, known as Acción Republi- and defending common-sense solutions cana and led by José Antonio Kast.



separated from their families.

sition to democracy forced the standing between two large groups: the At first the agreement between the

platform called Democracy and Prog- man and university professor. He was ress. Since 2000 the coalition has been first elected for local council in 1996 known as the Alliance for Chile. Ini- and then became a representative at tially the presidential candidates of the the National Chamber of Deputies in Chilean centre-right were unable to 2002, where he held onto his seat until earn more than 30 per cent of the pop- 2018. After several years tied to UDI, ular vote. However, the slow emergence Kast decided to challenge Piñera's leadof new leaders, such as Joaquín Lavín, ership in the 2016 presidential election. helped to raise the coalition's popu- With his fresh, unapologetically conserlarity and ultimately enabled busi- vative platform, Kast ran a surprisingly nessman Sebastián Piñera to become successful campaign as an independent. After earning seven per cent of the pop-When the Alliance won the 2009 ular vote, Kast soon became a force to be

Since launching Acción Republi

When asked about this potential alli-Party (PRI), and Evópoli, a liberal group. partnership could happen, although his

thousands of strong-principled voters. proven to be a fast-rising star, filling uni-Piñera is certainly not an ideologue, versity auditoriums with enthusiastic for all".

United States

Media have already lost **Presidential Election**

older generations, with their rate of From the first day of the presidential approval dropping from 40 per cent in primary within the Republican Party in 2010 to 27 per cent today. Gallup tracks a June 2015, Trump defined the left-leansimilar pattern, finding that 70 per cent ing mainstream media as his chief oppoare losing trust in the media. Trust in the nent; not the Democratic Party, nor its media is higher among left-wing voters. candidate Hillary Clinton. Furthermore, Pew reports that news- This drop-in trust and the differentiaroom employment has dropped by 23 tion in trust between left and right-leanper cent over the past decade, and that ing citizens came earlier, however, with experienced journalists are frequently the candidacy and then presidency of being replaced by younger, less expen- Barack Obama. Different media studies

ley, located in one of the country's most pared with his republican counterparts. left-leaning regions, accentuates the Many republican voters thought that progressives' dominance in the media. the US mainstream media did not give industry. Google, for example, now conchance. mobile social traffic and Amazon about opponent in the presidential election. 75 per cent of US e-book sales. Nearly The majority of American people are not native viewpoints on key issues such as two-thirds of all voters now get at least left wing, and by confronting the media climate change, where even mild scepsome of their news through Facebook he exposed their bias. Trump was not a ticism is ignored, or the effect of the and Google. This dominance is even gentleman in the mould of John McCain Trump tax cuts. This increasingly ideogreater in both the United States and or Mitt Romney, but he did win the the United Kingdom among millennials election. who, by some accounts, are almost three

the free debate and exchange of views influence and prestige in the American of media in left-leaning big cities, while and it is undermining trust in the media. over the last few years.

ew reports that young US voters President Donald Trump is the first have become as negative about conservative political leader to truly major mainstream media as the understand the new role of the media.

have revealed that reporting on Obama

tising, Facebook almost 80 per cent of of Trump to treat the media as the real media"

times more likely to get their informa- By some estimates some 92 per cent of ers such as Joel Kotkin, Presidential tion from these platforms than from all major network coverage of Trump, Fellow at Chapman University and colbeside Fox News, has been negative. This Facebook's attempts to "curate" con- reflects a decay in journalistic standards. plain about the stridency of younger tent often eliminates conservative Today the notion that news reporters journalists shaping coverage to fit their views, according to former employees. should first and foremost inform, letting accepted ideological narratives. Another recent Pew study notes that readers come to their own conclusions, over 70 per cent of Americans believe seems almost quaint. Even if it is far too that social media platforms "cen- early to predict which party will win the panding realm of options in the arts and sor political views". Progressives may presidential election next year, it is not journalism. Instead, as a recent Harsavour the media's leftward tilt, but ulti- too early to assert that the mainstream vard study has demonstrated, we have mately this development is a threat to media have lost in terms of national increased the geographic concentration that are the prerequisite for democracy, public debate in their battle with Trump local independent media continue to



As Trump supporters never cease to The shift of control to Silicon Val- was substantially more positive com- point out, the Mueller report undermined the supposedly rock solid case for "collusion". Whatever the truth, a solid majority of Americans believe that the The media's tendency towards con- balanced and objective reporting, and Russian affair was politically motivated. centration - and ideological unifor- that neither John McCain in 2008 nor Some progressives, like Rolling Stone's mity — reflects the dynamics of the tech Mitt Romney in 2012 were given a fair contributing editor Matt Taibbi, believe that Mueller represents "a death-blow trols nearly 90 per cent of search adver- It was therefore a shrewd strategy for the reputation of the American news

> Media reports often overlook alterlogical cast has been worsened by journalism schools' shift towards social Now a new election circle is starting. iustice advocacy. Even well-placed writumnist for The New York Times, com-

Once there were bold notions of the internet helping to create an ever-ex-



North Korea

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North Korea fires rockets

Torth Korea has fired a number of "unidentified short range projectiles" off its Eastern coast, into the Sea of Japan, according to its neighbours. The South Korean government has responded by calling on its Communist neighbour to the North to stop escalating tensions on the Korean peninsula.

The South Korean military at first had described it as a missile launch, but later offered a more vague description as to what projectiles had been launched by the Communist regime of Kim Jong Un. Some analysts believe that the recent

flurry of military activity by North Korea been compelled to open up negotiais an attempt to reopen negotiations tions with the West, as the economic with America, following the failed talks and social situation continues to disin Vietnam earlier in the year.

is the first leader to have met with the that food shortages and power outages North Korean regime when he held are becoming more and more frequent, bilateral talks in Singapore in June 2018. with almost the entire population living The summit had resulted in the two in abject poverty. leaders agreeing to meet again in Vietnam, which they did in February of this train across the border to meet with



integrate in the communist country American President Donald Trump Observers of the country have noticed

On 25 April, President Kim took a Russian President Valdimir Putin.



Many activists and journalists have reported that security forces have shot demonstrators with tear gas and rub- down some of the biggest domestic radio over the past couple of months. The ber bullets at close range, and in some stations. Press censorship is being used inflation rate hit 1.3million per cent in instances armed pro-government as a tool to try and keep the public in the November last year. Over 3 million Vengroups have fired on demonstrators dark about the extent of the anti-governe ezuelans have fled the country since the with live ammunition On top of this, the socialist regime has

taken CNN, the BBC and other western The human rights situation in of food and medication.

detainees or peaceful demonstrators."



ordinary citizens.

Government responds with violence

channels off the air, whilst shutting Venezuela has continued to decline ment protests and continue to repress start of the crisis. And those who have

remained in the country face shortages

Middle East

Christian persecution in Middle East on unprecedented scale

he Bishop of Truro in the United Kingdom has produced an interim report as part of his Independent Review into the Persecution of Christians. The Right Reverend Phillip Mounstephen conducted the review at the request of the British Foreign Secretary, Jeremy Hunt. Mr Hunt had tasked extremists and other actors to exploit was not properly addressed.

anity "is at risk of disappearing" in some tians) from the Middle East." parts of the world, pointing to figures which claimed Christians in Palestine

Authority.

created a fertile ground for religious in the year.



the Bishop with conducting the research religion, and to intensify religious and just after Christmas, having published an sectarian divisions in MENA. The rise of article describing how he felt that 'politi- religious extremism, civil wars and gencal correctness' had meant that the issue eral violence in various countries, especially since early 2000, has caused a huge The interim report warned the Christimigration of Christians (and non-Chris-

The report also criticised countries in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia of similar represent less than 1.5% of the popula—abuses against Christians. A focus was tion, while in Iraq they had fallen from 1.5 also put on the treatment of Christians million to less than 120,000 since 2003. in communist countries such as China The report also talks about different and the DPRK. "Accusations against. kinds of persecution faced by Christians and arrests of, Christians in China take around the world. Including abuses by on subtle forms, with Church leaders the government in North Korea, Sudan accused of embezzlement and fraud and Myanmar. As well as the preva- as a way of impeding their ministry. lence of mass violence and intimidation Churches have also been requested by in Egypt, Indonesia and the Palestinian authorities to remove religious symbols from buildings.

According to the report; "The polit- The conclusions and recommendaical failures in the Middle East have tions of the report will be released later

New Emperor crowned

🗖 ew Japanese Emperor Naruhito made his first public appearance on the 4th of May, delivering a speech in which he stated that he hopes the country would pursue a policy of promoting world peace.

been born since the end of World War Two, and the crowning of the 59 year old monarch is seen as the start of a new cul-

with other royal families. The relatively from a balcony of the Imperial Palace.



tural age in Japan. He formally ascended relaxed lifestyles of the United Kingto the Chrysanthemum Throne on the dom's royals amazed him. He is said to 1st of May, following the abdication of have been surprise when he discovered Emperor Akihito, the first to do so in that Queen Elizabeth II poured her own

The new Emperor was educated at "I wish for your health and happiness Merton College Oxford, in the United and sincerely hope that our country Kingdom, and has a keen interest in pursues world peace hand in hand with classical music. Whilst a student he other countries and will develop furtravelled across Europe, often staying ther," the new Emperor told supporters

New Direction report

SPENDING OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY

vided we do not give false evidence ing our property, house, land, livestock his own money. or whatever else we may possess for

poses or pursuits they consider noble long, shared history. and worthy, not least for redistribution from the rich to the poor, but also for is perhaps the most sophisticated in a closed society because othersubsidising various activities, such as attempt in our time to justify the wise they could be made unsustainopera houses in big cities or quaint redistributive state, John Rawls' the- able, for example by the exodus of the lifestyles in remote areas. The author ory, finding his rejection of self-own-rich. The two redistributionists have. poses it is immoral and unjust to spend collective fund ready to be distributed tition and stipulate 'Socialism in One other people's money, even if a case unpersuasive and impractical. His thecan certainly be made for taxation to ory was really of prudence rather than serious inequality in the world today government, such as upholding law risk-averse individuals against poten- and prosperous societies and those and order, maintaining a strong and tial adversity. The author applies who live elsewhere and face limited effective defence force and taking care Rawls' maximin rule—aiming at the opportunities to escape poverty. In of those who cannot look after them- best possible standard of living for writing this report the author has benselves and who have nobody on whom the worst off—to the modern world, efitted much from lively discussions to rely except the community.

short account of the discussions by Hegel and Rawls, wealth seems to be damental social problems.

he Ten Commandments, which Locke and other philosophers about Moses brought down from Mount justice in initial acquisition. His conten-Sinai thousands of years ago are tion is that land and other resources mostly in the form of explicit, narrow can be justly appropriated if and when prohibitions rather than direct orders. others are not made worse off by it. We are told not to kill, or steal, or give He then turns to some passages on false evidence against our neighbours, wealth and poverty in the Holy Book or set our heart on their property. This and argues that they are often misunleaves us at liberty to do other things derstood: they provide no justification not prohibited in the Command- for coveting and seizing your neighments, such as choosing what we say bours' property if the purpose is redisto, or about, our neighbours (pro- tribution in one way or another, for example from the rich to the poor. The against them) and such as exchang- Good Samaritan was in fact spending

The author moves onto the philo- the social evil, not poverty. He points something we want from our neigh- sophical foundations of the modern out that poverty has been greatly bours (where of course they have the welfare state found in Hegel whose reduced in the last few decades and same right to accept or reject the pro- ideas were first implemented in Bis- that new money has largely replaced posed transaction as we). But Chicago marck's Germany and then perhaps old money amongst the rich so that economist and Nobel Laureate Milton most comprehensively in Sweden. He Piketty's narrative of a runaway accu-Friedman sometimes remarked that notes that the social integration and mulation of inherited capital becomes an eleventh commandment should be inclusion desired by Hegel sometimes implausible. He argues that the much added and that it ought to be: "Thou may be achieved by spontaneous maligned rich perform some useful shalt not do good with other people's cooperation. Whereas the Nordic functions without necessarily intendcountries are often invoked by redis- ing to do so. Some of Piketty's data In this report, the author argues that tributionists, in particular Sweden, he on increased inequality of income and there seems to be little limit to people's argues that their prosperity is despite. wealth may also be flawed. goodness when it does not cost them- and not because of redistribution and After digressing on two nineteenth selves anything. Even if they may not that it can be attributed mainly to the century novelists, Honoré de Balzac covet their neighbours' property for rule of law, free trade and social cohe- and Jane Austen, demonstrating that themselves, they want to apply gov- sion coupled with a high level of trust, their message is quite the opposite ernment power to seize it from them brought about by the relative homog- of what Piketty believes, the author in order to use it for all kinds of pure enjety of Nordic societies, with their points out that both he and Rawls



have to insist on their redistribu-The author briefly analyses what tive programmes being implemented argues, however, that for most pur- ership and belief in the existence of a in other words, to outlaw tax compeinance widely accepted functions of flustice; it was a strategy adopted by fis between those who are born in free concluding that even on his prem- at meetings of the Mont Pelerin Soci-The study begins by trying to estabises capitalism seems acceptable. He ety, an international academy of liberal lish that there is indeed such a thing then turns to the recent call by French and conservative scholars, of which he as other people's money: that most economist Thomas Piketty for world- has been a member since 1984, and people in most countries are entitled wide redistribution of income, not so from many colloquia held by Liberty to what is registered as their property. much in order to lift up the poor as to Fund, an institution devoted to the In order to do so, the author, gives a bring down the rich. For Piketty, unlike calm and reasoned discussion of fun-

FUTURE OF COHESION POLICY





Ruža Tomašić

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In the next programming period, all regions within the EU will continue to be supported by Cohesion Policy differentiated according to their respective structural development and their regional needs.

he budgetary and policy debates on the post-2020 reform have potentially major implications for the future of Cohesion policy. In my view, post-2020 Cohesion Policy should continue to pursue the reduction of regional disparities. The importance of maintaining a strong Cohesion Policy is particularly evident in small Member States, like Croatia.

It is clear that the EU's future mul-

tiannual financial framework will face special challenges. Consequently, the weighting of European policy will shift. Most obviously, the EU budget will be under pressure as a result of Brexit and the loss of the second largest net payer. The spending review being conducted within the European Commission is looking at scenarios of cuts of 15-30 per-

fund-specific objectives, Cohesion brain-drain. Policy supports smart, sustainable. Furthermore. sin

respective structural development developing the institutional and policy a prospect of catching up.

We should be thinking if we can further enhance its EU added value by focusing even more on projects that contribute strongly to EU priorities, notably growth and jobs. An important question is whether we should focus more on regions in need. We need to reflect how we can help regions that are strongly affected by globalisation and technological change.

headings. In future, assistance from the the most important goal remains to capacity-building, for implementing avenues such as introducing specific cri-EU Structural and Investment Funds reduce the backlog of severely disadshould be better integrated and more vantaged regions. At the same time, The existing Cohesion Policy already needs and particularities.

effective in reaching the regional and however, Cohesion Policy should also addresses many of these challenges and provide funds to help regions effec- contributes to mobilisation at a local for economic growth and jobs and has Within the framework of the tively tackle demographic change and and regional level, which is crucial when helped many regions to develop. Thereit comes to achieving concrete results. fore, it clearly has an added value. The challenge for the EU is how to pro- During and in the aftermath of the ecoinnovative and inclusive growth and regulatory framework and harmoni- mote stronger and sustainable growth nomic and financial crises it helped employment. Because of its fundamen- sation of rules across the ESI Funds while ensuring that national, regional to prevent major disruptions in many tal role in strengthening the EU's eco- and potentially other EU instruments and local levels are able to exploit oppor- regions. So, this policy should remain nomic, social and territorial cohesion, has been extensively discussed, but tunities from globalising trade and tech- an important part of the future EU budwe should all make sure that Cohesion the challenge will be to simplify and nological change. In this regard, recent get. But we should be thinking if we can Policy will continue to be an invest- maybe differentiate while ensur- research has focused on the longer term further enhance its EU added value by ment area of outstanding importance ing that the progress with reducing pathways of economic development, focusing even more on projects that conand a key element of EU economic and the error rate is not reversed. Flex- providing a better understanding not tribute strongly to EU priorities, notably ibility is another important theme, just of the current or recent develop- growth and jobs. An important ques-In the next programming period, all either by enabling programmes to ment positions but how these are evolv-tion is whether we should focus more on regions within the EU will continue respond more quickly to unexpected ing over time - and their prospects for regions in need. We need to reflect how to be supported by Cohesion Policy shocks. The Structural Reform Ser- sustainable development in future, in we can help regions that are strongly - differentiated according to their vice is likely to play a greater role in particular whether lagging regions have affected by globalisation and technolog-

Smart specialisation is a particu larly successful working methodology for focusing resources regionally. It is based on each region's specific strength and is important for the whole Europe to develop. A clearer focus on smart specialisation in the next programming period would lead to a more strategic linkage between projects, better synergies with other EU programmes, and better complementarity and cooperation between regions across Europe.

While maintaining its focus on disparities, future Cohesion Policy should also be capable of addressing the different social, territorial and economic realities in Member States. In this respect, the forthcoming discussions regarding the allocation mechanism of the next Cohesion Policy and its thematic concent in the budgets of different policy and their regional needs. Therefore, frameworks, including administrative centration could also explore some new teria related to national and/or regional

Cohesion Policy has been a driver ical change.



BULGARIA

INTERNAL

MAÇEDONIAN

REVOLUTIONARY

ORGANISATION

(IMRO)

BMPO



A TIME FOR CHOOSING

by Robert Tyler

counter-culture clashing over the member states. establishment.

move towards a centralisation of power, creation of a platform to promote sub-

towards the elite, or does it wish to stay that coalition of willing partners, working together on the issues that really matter. I believe that the people of Europe would rather the latter option. They would rather Europe applied the breaks and took some time to reflect on what direction they want to

away from the people and

And the signs have ber states, on every level, sees those who in the interest of ordinary people.

But I put this to you, at what point did to grow and keeps consumers safe. Marine Le Pen securing 33% of the pop- Take the Diselgate Scandal as an conjure up the spirit of Ronald Reaular vote in France become a victory, example. It was clear that Volkswagen gan and make this a time for choosing. when only ten years before she won and other car manufacturers were cheat- Choosing whether or not we want to less than 10%. Or when did the Austrian ing the system when it came to emiscontinue down the current path towards Freedom Party losing the Presidency by sions tests, and showed the inadequacy a European Super State, or if we apply only a few percentage points become a of the current regulations. Daniel Dal- the brakes, and take time to reassess our victory, when in years past they would ton MEP delivered the only legislative direction of travel. It's time to choose

ity of voters decided to leave the Union their lifetime. An example of conservato step up and bring fresh ideas. then I don't know what is. It's clear that Equally, Swedish Democrat MEP that works for everyone, then it's time something has gone wrong along the way, $\;$ Peter Lundgren delivered substantial $\;$ for change. \blacksquare

speech endorsing Arizona Sena- So I put it to those in the establish- years as a truck driver and so he knew tor Barry Goldwater for President. Reament, it's not too late to change. Another where value could be added, and where gan had already started to establish a Europe is possible, and without having regulation would get in the way off his name for himself in the growing Amer- to surrender to the populist forces of former colleagues on the road. ican conservative movement of which Madam Le Pen and Mr Salvini. Change Conservatives also led the way on Goldwater was its head at the time. can come in the form of well-structured reforming counter-terrorism legisla-During the speech Reagan set out the reform. That once again sees the single tion, taking leading positions in the problems that faced the nation and how market as the centre of European policy, European Parliament. Working closely conservative ideas would fix a divided rather than the obsession with creating with Commissioners, advisors and the a political union. A Europe that sees the EU's Counter Terrorism Coordinator, America in the 1960's was at a cross-commission as the guardian of the treathey updated guidelines on dealing with roads, deeply divided and still reeling ties, rather than a quasi-government. A radicalism, extremist content online, from the assassination of President Europe that focuses on cooperation in and how to prevent terrorists from John F Kennedy a few months before. the areas that matter and respects the entering the EU. Constructive coopera-It was in the middle of battle for the principle of subsidiarity, rather than tion meant that Member States and not soul of the nation with culture and trying to take more power away from the the central bureaucracy remained at the

tle of wills between the people and Conservatives and Reformists has been federalist fringes of European poliat the forefront of that movement for tics continued to push their agenda for Europe today faces a similar battle constructive European Reform. From more Europe. The last five years have for its future. Answering fundamen- London to Warsaw, Bratislava to Riga, seen the EU take power away from tal questions about which direction it Prague to Rome, the conservative move- Member States on foreign policy and too wishes to move in. Does it want to ment has been working towards the security policy, two areas most sacro-

> It's time to choose what kind of leaders we have in Europe, do we continue with the same federalist elite, or do we allow the next generation to step up and bring fresh ideas.

been there for a long time now. Each stantial change in the EU, and move eralists are looking to take more power election that takes place in the mem- Europe back towards policies that work from the Member States and hand them

wish to oppose the establishment doing When people complain about the EU, to raise taxes. They want to create an EU a little better. In some cases those on the conservatives don't sneer at them finance ministry, cementing their conthe extremes have come close to taking and call them populists, they ask them trol over the Eurozone, and finally buildhow Europe can better work for them. ing capacity to raise their own resources. The federalists would like you to What policies need to be changed and As conservatives, we stand against the believe that these are just anomalies, updated. And they have a proven track imposition of European level taxes, and that they aren't really reflective of the record of doing it. Constructively engag-reaffirm our position that lower taxes mood of the people and that actually ing with stakeholders to create better, overall raise the quality of life for workthey were victories for their own cause. leaner, regulation that helps businesses ing people.

ves in the sec-response to the emissions scandal that what kind of leaders we have in Europe And in the United Kingdom, a major- in real driving conditions, throughout elite, or do we allow the next generation

n 1964, Ronald Reagan, at the and contrary to what Mr Verhofstadt or changes to transport legislation, by time a little known actor who had Mr Weber may want to believe, this wave changing regulation for truck drivers. never held elected office, gave a of dissatisfaction is heading for Brussels. Mr Lundgren himself had spent many

core of these changes.

future direction of the Union. A bat- For the last ten years, the Alliance of And yet, all the while, those on the

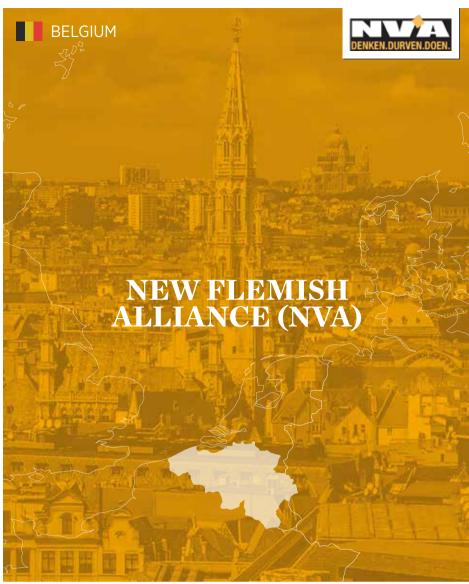
being pushed forward today would undermine the independence of European countries defense and ability to choose the direction of their own foreign policy. It would undermine the NATO Alliance and undermine the Transatlantic relationship. The obsession with a European Army is heading the same way as the Euro.

And all the while, fed-

to the Commission, including the ability

That's why in this election we must will mean cars are tested on the roads. do we continue with the same federalist

entirely. If these aren't the wake up call tives working constructively to change
If we want to prevent the rise of popthat Europe needs a change of direction bad regulation and make life better. ulism, and continue to have a Europe



he New Flemish Alliance (NVA) MANIFESTO is the largest political party in Belgium. They are the governing party in Flanders, where they have cut taxes and promoted sustainable growth. They also currently have the most seats in the Belgian House of Representatives and Senate. Until recently they were also represented in the Belgian government but left in December 2018, citing • Fight against group think in the their opposition to the Global Migration Compact.

theconservative.online

In the last mandate, NVA MEPs sat with the European Conservative and Reformist Group. From there, they went on to introduce important legislation on strengthening Europe's approach to counter-terrorism, and reform of the single market.

the current Minister-President of across the globe.

- They believe that laws should be made as close to the people as
- They want to strengthen the internal market, as they believe that it is the core to the European Union.
- **European Union, and prevent** politicians from being too detached from the people.
- Protect and strengthen the European external border.

Flanders. The number two on the list Their lead candidate, Geert Bour- is Assita Kanko, a survivor of FGM and geois, is a former party leader and a strong advocate for women's rights

the legacy of a historic organization of the governing GERB party. Party leader the same name, which encompassed Krasimir Karakachanov became Ministhe area of 'Greater Bulgaria', including ter of Defence as a result.

bazki. In 2017 they joined the United Committee.

he Internal Macedonian Revolu- Patriots group for the Parliamentionary Organisation, or IMRO, tary elections, and won 27 seats. They was founded in 1991; built on entered government in coalition with

modern day Macedonia as well as Bul- Their lead candidate in the Eurogaria. After 1994 the Party became polit- pean Elections is Angel Dzhambically active, and over the next decade zki, who has been an MEP since 2014. transformed itself into a modern politi- Before becoming an MEP he was a member of the Sofia City Council. He In the 2014 election IMRO joined the sat on the Culture Committee and the newly formed Patriotic Front coalition, Foreign Affairs Committee. He was the which won 19 seats. In 2014 they also Vice Chairman of the delegation to the elected their first MEP, Angel Dzham- North Macedonia-EU Parliamentary

TOP 5 CANDIDATES



DZHAMBAZKI



ANGELOV



Aleksandar SIDI













KANKO



TOP 5 CANDIDATES

VAN OVERTVELDT DEMESMAEKER

Geert

BOURGEOIS



DE MEERLEER

he Croatian Sovereign List is a of reducing the influence of the EU coalition of conservative parties on member states, and advocate standing together in the Euro- keeping Europe as a community of pean Elections. The lead candidate is sovereign states cooperating closely Ruza Tomasic MEP from the Croatian on issues of common concern. They Conservative Party.

The Croatian Conservatives and eighty and preserving the history of their allies are standing on a platform the country.

MANIFESTO

- HKS advocates a free market, deprived of protectionism and unfair competition
- The European Union is accepted solely as a community of sovereign national states cooperating on issues of mutual interest and refusing its federal regulation and concentration of power far from the eyes of the citizens of the Republic of Croatia.
- HKS believes that public administration, as a service of

citizens financed by the taxpayer's money, must be efficient, modern and transparent.

believe in promoting Croatian sover-

 HKS believes that every citizen with the right to vote in the elections bears the greatest responsibility for the state of the state and therefore has to have the right to freedom of speech and opinion, but also of direct influence on political circumstances in the country through the National Referendum

Institute.

TOP 5 CANDIDATES



Ruža TOMAŠIĆ



Ladislav



MAKSAN



SAČIĆ





won the 1992 legislative election, and Petr Nečas as Prime Minister. has remained in government for most In the 2017 legislative election, the strongest parties.

Minister of the Czech Republic after the has been leader since the 2014. 2002, served as Prime Minister from first entered the European Union.

ounded in 1991 as the pro-free 2006 to 2009. In the 2010 election, the market wing of the Civic Forum party lost 28 seats, finishing second, but by Václav Klaus and modelled on as the largest party right of the centre, it the British Conservative Party, the ODS formed a centre-right government with

of the Czech Republic's independence. party won 25 seats in the Chamber of In every legislative (except for the 2013 Deputies, making it the second strongest election) it emerged as one of the two party in chamber and the main opposition party in the country. The party is Václav Klaus served as the first Prime currently being led by Petr Fiala, who

partition of Czechoslovakia, from 1993 to Their lead candidates is Jan Zahradil 1997. Mirek Topolánek, who succeeded MEP, who has represented the Czech him as leader of the party in December Republic since 2004, when the country

MANIFESTO

- The only source of political legitimacy for the European Union is the Member States.
- The EU institutions are here to serve Member States and to facilitate mutually beneficial cooperation between Member States and to contribute adequately to strengthening the EU's economic and social importance and addressing common problems.
- The influence of Member States on day-to-day European policy needs to be strengthened.
- The EU does not have to pursue one common goal in all but it should operate flexibly.
- The fight against unnecessary bureaucracy is crucial. We are pushing for "big legal cleaning" to radically reduce the number of European standards. The EU should do less, but better.

- We want to increase the autonomy and flexibility of Member States' decision-making on how to use "European" money.
- Adoption of the euro must be voluntary.
- Free movement within the Schengen area applies only to citizens of the Member States.
- Our security depends on NATO. It is therefore necessary to fulfill the existing commitments.
- Brexit is changing the situation in the EU and needs to respond. Our citizens and interests need to be taken care of and in the future working with states that share the idea that further integration must be considered and not threatening the EU as such or coherence in the fundamental pillars of cooperation.

TOP 5 CANDIDATES



ZAHRADIL



Evžen **TOŠENOVSKÝ**



Veronika **VECIONOVA**





TRYLČOVÁ



he Finns Party is a conserva- MANIFESTO tive political party founded in 1995. The Finns party underlines the role of national sovereignty and are critical of both the EU and of globalism.

theconservative.online

The Finns party believes in national sovereignty and favour a policy of neutrality in international affairs and sustain of a large conscript army to guarantee the defence of Finland. The party's judicial programme included tougher punishments for violent crime, more resources for police and • The current immigration policy prosecutors, and calls for a prohibition on wearing the burga and the nigab in public.

The Party is committed to a continuous revision and renewal process for the EU and a corresponding need for change to be recognized. The Party believes that distributing existing bank debt across Europe will result in an even wider crisis. It is not the function • The Finns party argues that the of the EU to rescue the financial disasters of the investment bankers.

They believe that the single currency is a political project. They hold that Eurozone members differ too much with each other for the Euro to function properly without some kind of integrated financial framework.

In June 2014, the Finns Party joined the ECR Group in the European Parliament. In the 2019 parliament election the party got 17,5 per cent of the vote but increased its representation to 39

Pirkko

RUOHONEN-

LERNER

HAKKARAINEN

- The EU membership costs for Finland are too high and the calculation process needs re-evaluation and correction.
- The party believes Finland should renegotiate its membership in the Union, transfer more power back to Finland from Brussels, reduce the power of the EU Commission, and diminish common responsibility in economic affairs.
- does not increase the taxpavers' number and is very costly taking the place of spending in other areas. A strict control of immigration and the promotion of repatriation are in practice the most important measures available to protect the country from the downside of immigration.
- European Union is inefficient and has created excessive central governance in Brussels. The party does not accept the excessive centralisation of power to unelected technocrats and commissioners.
- Climate policy must not be based on pretentious self-flagellation. Emission reduction should therefore take place at the same rate, no more, not faster, in Finland than agreed in the EU. The largest reductions should occur in the countries with the largest emissions.

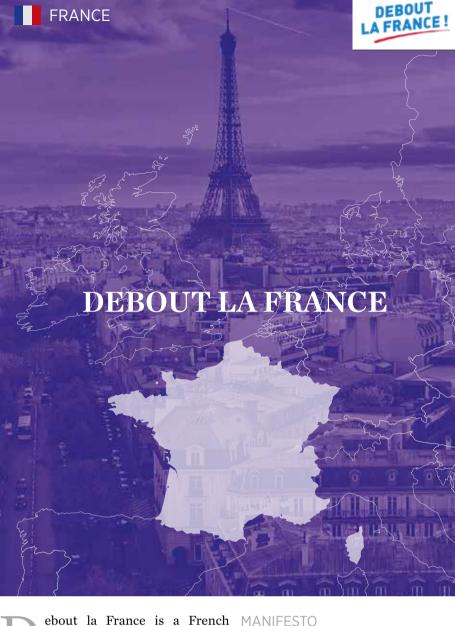
GRÖNROOS

Laura

HUHTASAARI

TOP 5 CANDIDATES

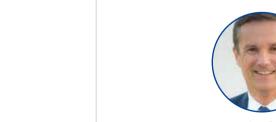
HELTIMOINEN



Gaullist party. They claim to be the true heirs to the intel- • Focus on coordination when dealing lectual traditions of the former French President, and World War Two hero, Charles De Gaulle. Their current party leader, Nicolas Dupont-Aignan stood for the French Presidency in 2017, winning nearly 2 million voters and 5% • Double the Erasmus budget so of the vote. He is their lead candidate, and has promised to step down from the National Assembly if elected to the European Parliament.

Their candidates include, Stephanie Gibaud, a former nominee for the • Help sustainable growth on Africa Sakharov prize for her work as whistle-blower during the UBS scandal in France, and Marie-Jo Zimmermann, a former member of the French National

- with terrorism.
- Shift power away from the European Commission and back towards the Member States.
- that at least 50% of students and apprentices study in a European country. Extend the program to the neighbors of Europe.
- to lessen the push factors when it comes to the migration crisis.



Nicolas DUPONT-AIGNAN



GIBAUD



Jean-Philippe **TANGUY**



TOP 5 CANDIDATES

Marie-Jo ZIMMERMANN



NORTH

ounded in July 2015 by a group MANIFESTO of five German MEPs the Liberal-Konservative Reformer (LKR) • They want to continue EU sits in the European Conservatives and Reformists Group in the European Parliament. They split from the Alternative fur Deutschland party, citing problems with the direction that the party was heading, including its increasing support for Russia and move towards exclusionary nationalism.

They oppose the EU's move towards • They believe in increased cooperation centralisation and believe that the EU should remain a loose association of Member States cooperating on areas within the principle of subsidiarity. They are particularly opposed to the idea of an EU level finance minister. They are advocates of market liberalisation and

Their lead candidate in the European Elections is Bernd Lucke MEP, a member of the European Parliament committee on Economic and Monetary affairs. Before being elected to the European Parliament in 2014, he was a university academic specialising in monetary policy.

- cooperation where it works, but don't want to see an expansion of competencies without good reason.
- They want to tackle the problems of inequality between North and South created by the introduction of the
- when it comes to strengthening the EU's external borders. They support he implementation of existing treaties when it comes to asylum, and are critical of the current unlawful approach.
- strong supporters of international trade. They oppose moves towards the creation of an independent EU military capability and support the role of NATO as the organisation best suited to defending Europe. They would call on all member states to meet their 2% budgetary commitment to NATO instead of spending on EU duplication.

TOP 5 CANDIDATES



Bernd **LUCKE**



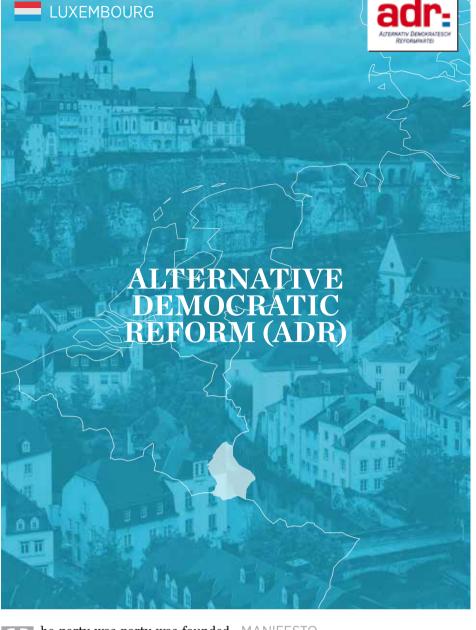
Stephan **SCHLITZ SCHUTT**



REICH



Hans-Werner **SCHOUTZ**



he party was party was founded MANIFESTO in 1987 in response to a fight over the Luxembourgish pension system between the public and the private sectors. The original name of the party was "Aktiounskomitee 5/6 Pension fir jiddereen". This movement had its origin in the Luxembourgish private sector, trade unions, among which were prominently the NGL, as well as an indepen• Respect for the policy of subsidiarity dent farmers' organisation. Two years later the party, massively supported by the private sector, sent four representatives to parliament. In 1999, after reform • Reject any proposals for the of the pension system, the party got to seven MPs, its best score until now. Since then, the party has evolved into • A fresh approach to dealing with a moderately conservative, value-oriented party.

- Defend unanimous decision making at a Council level, especially when it comes to tax and foreign policy.
- Defend freedom of speech and a free
- and the sovereignty of member states.
- introduction of EU level taxation.
- illegal immigration abuses that's fair to real asylum seekers.

TOP 5 CANDIDATES



GIBÉRYEN



BRISBOIS



Fernand **KARTHEISER**





MISCHEL



■ ratelli d' Italia is a national-con- MANIFESTO servative political party in Italy led by Giorgia Meloni. It was founded in 2012. Fratelli d' Italia is a Movement that aims to implement a political program that, based on the principles of popular sovereignty, freedom, democracy, justice, social solidarity, merit and fiscal equity, is inspired by a spiritual vision of life and values of the national tradition, • Stronger environmental protection liberal and popular, and participates in the construction of the Europe of Peoples. Fratelli d' Italia promotes respect • Strengthen Europe's external for sovereignty, independence and national unity, the peaceful coexistence of peoples, states, ethnic groups and religious confessions. Fratelli d' Italia carries out its own political program through the action of its members, its supporters, its sympathizers and all those who recognize themselves in the projects of the the FdI obtained 4.4% of the vote and

theconservative.online

obtained 2.0% of the vote and nine party agreed to join the European Conseats in the Chamber of Deputies. On 5 servatives and Reformists (ECR) group March 2013 the party's executive board in the European Parliament opening the appointed La Russa president, Crosetto way for a pact with other conservative coordinator and Meloni leader in the parties in Italy, notably including Raffa-Chamber. In the 2018 general election ele Fitto's Direction Italy.

- Refocus public financing to infrastructure, education and border security.
- Strengthen geographic indicators for agricultural and non-agricultural products.
- and emphasis on renewable energy.
- borders and reform asylum policy.
- Boost spending on aid in Africa and increase trade in order to counter push factors when it comes to migration.

Movement of participation in the admin- won more than three times the seats istration and government of the nation. compared to 2013. In November 2018, in In the 2013 general election the party the run-up to the European elections, the

TOP 5 CANDIDATES



Giorgia Raffaele **MELONI FITTO**



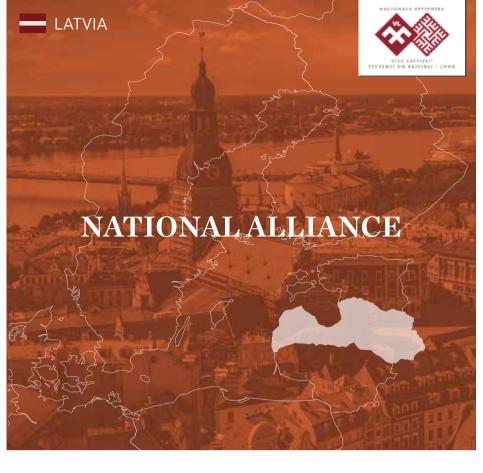
GARDINI



Remo **SERNAGIOTTO**



Stefano **MAULLU**



he National Alliance was currently hold the Presidency of the founded in 2012 as part of a Parliament. merger between two centre Their lead candidate is long-time

right political parties. It has constantly MEP Roberts Zile, who has represented been in coalition government since its Latvia in the European Parliament since founding. Currently the party has two 2004. He was their candidate for Prime ministers, the Minister of Agricul- Minister following the General Electure and Minister for Culture. In the tion in 2018. Another of their candidates 2018 General Election, the party won is the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs 11% of the vote and 13 seats. They also committee in the Latvian Parliament.

MANIFESTO

- The European Union is a union of national states, whose activities and essence are clearly defined in its treaties.
- Not a "multi-speed" but a decentralized European Union.
- A fair EU multiannual budget for 2021-2027 year. Only a European Union budget that works in the interests of all EU countries and is a means of reducing the gap between EU countries is welcome.
- The single market is a cornerstone of the EU. The National Alliance advocates strengthening the single

market rather than destroying it. Fair competition in the single market is in everyone's interests, while unilateral barriers are a threat to EU development. The National Alliance is against pseudo-social dumping, which essentially distorts the single market, restricting competition from Latvia and the region.

 The National Alliance believes that NATO is the sole security and defence provider in Europe. The National Union is opposed to the **European Security Union in a form** where it duplicates NATO objectives and thus weakens the Alliance's forces in Europe.

TOP 5 CANDIDATES



ZILE



MELBARDE



PUPOLS



Janis **GRASBERGS**



Edvins SNORE

he Forum for Democracy MANIFESTO (FVD) was founded in 2016 as a think tank. However, in 2017 • Stop the further enlargement they became a fully registered political party, winning two seats in the

• Referendum on Dutch membership Dutch Parliamentary elections. From there they have gone from strength to strength, most recently coming first • Referendum on the free movement in the Dutch provincial elections, giving them their first ever seats in the Senate.

They are a liberal conservative party, with a strong emphasis on free trade politicians, become more in touch and economic liberalisation. Many of through the use of direct democracy and their voters have come over from the reform of the political system. Dutch Liberal party, having found that Their lead candidate is former Memtheir views on Europe are better rep- ber of the European Parliament Derk resented by the FvD. The party aims to Jan Eppink, who sat with the ECR Group push for more accountability of elected between 2009-2014.

- of the EU
- of the Eurozone.
- of people.
- Prevent the deepening of EU policy.

TOP 5 CANDIDATES



Derk Jan **EPPINK**



ROOS

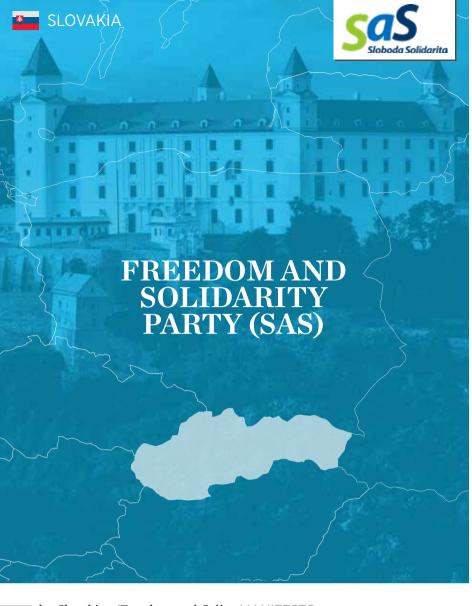


ROOKEN



ROOKMAKER





he Slovakian 'Freedom and Soli- MANIFESTO darity Party' was founded in February 2009 by former Slovakian Finance minister Richard Sulik. Sulik was an economist who had designed Slovakia's flat rate of income tax, that led to strong economic growth. They are currently the largest opposition party, having previously been in coalition gov
• A single seat for the European ernment from 2010-2012.

The Party stands on a classical liberal platform and advocates a smaller state. • ECB to stop financing public debt. On Europe, they strongly believe in the principle of subsidiarity and the need to • Stricter asylum policy and ensure that the EU does not become too overbearing.

Mr Sulik will be standing down as an MEP, having first been elected in 2014. Eugen Jurzyca, an MP in the Slovak National Council, will be their lead

- Abolish Economic and Social Committee as it is a drain on
- Cut the number of committees in the European Parliament.

- strengthening of the external border.
- Cut the number of Commissioners and departments in the Commission.

TOP 5 CANDIDATES



Eugen **JURZYCA**



BARÁNIK

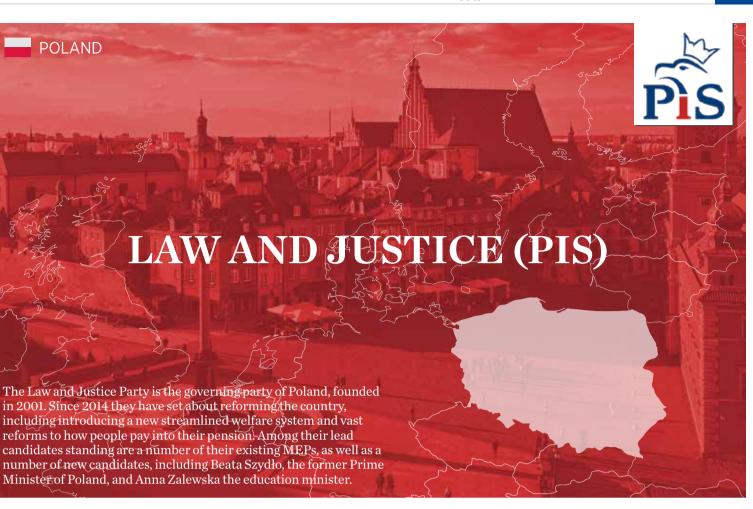


Lucia Duriš NICHOLSONOVÁ





Miroslav ŽIAK



TOP CANDIDATES



theconservative.online

Ryszard **LEGUTKO**

Anna

FOTYGA

Anna

ZALEWSKA









Karol

KARSKI

Beata

KEMPA

Elżbieta **KRUK**



JAKI







Patryk



WASZCZYKOWSKI



Zbigniew KRASNODEBSKI

Jacek



SARYUSZ-WOLSKI



Joachim BRUDZIŃSKI



Adam **BIELAN**



Ryszard **CZARNECKI**

Law and Justice puts forward a strong team for **EP elections**

The Law and Justice has selected its candidates for the elections to the European Parliament aiming to secure at least 20 seats in the next mandate, out-performing their electoral successes in the 2014 and 2009 European Parliament election.

At the heart of the ideological program of Law and Justice lies the respect for the inherent and inalienable dignity of every human being. The protection of this dignity is the chief duty and justification for the existence of a political community. This dignity is the foundation of the most elementary rights of the human person. Three of these rights have a special meaning - the right to life, the right to freedom and the right to equality rooted in human solidarity.

"The future of Poles and the future of Poland are the stake of the upcoming elections. Restoring dignity to Poles is our great goal" said Law and Justice President Jarosław Kaczyński during the Law and Justice Convention in Rzeszów in MARCH. He added that "Law and Justice invests in the family, because the family is the basic social cell that lay at the foundation of our civilization."

Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki emphasized that the promises made by Law and Justice will be kept and change Poland for the better. He emphasized that he wants to be Prime Minister not for the elites, but for ordinary people who need help and support. "The foundation of the changes we want to introduce is credibility," he added. He stressed that Europe is strong with its diversity, and Poland is able to give a lot to the EU.

"We are directing the EP to a strong representation that will defend the Polish raison d'état. We want to influence the fate of Europe. Already, together with the V4, we managed to change the migration policy. I believe that the spirit that is in us will allow us to fulfill our ambitions for a better life for Polish families" he said.

During the convention, Tomasz Poręba MEP, presented the European Declaration of Law and Justice, a twelve-point manifesto that includes the return to European Values and to the EU's founding principles, defending European families, increasing European support for Polish rural communities, negotiating a favorable EU budget for Poland, securing equal treatment of Polish companies in the European Common Market, defending European border protection and Security, ensuring energy security for Poland and Europe, protecting consumers and ensuring equal treatment and access to products of same quality, ensuring a Europe of equal opportunities and the elimination of double standards in the treatment of countries, a fair climate policy for Europe, sustainable development and ending the illegal immigration to the European Union.



that was founded in 1994. The for the first time broke through party primarily represents the Pol- 5 per cent threshold qualifyish minority in Lithuania and pri- ing for proportional represenmarily champions family values, tation seats. The party always sound economic management and fared well in the Vilnius district the causes of minorities in Lithua- council and the south-east of the nia (for example, the laws that reg-country, which has the biggest ulate language use, surnames in population of Lithuanian Poles. passports and street signs). It has 8 The party is a member of seats in the Seimas and one seat in the Alliance of Conservatives the European Parliament.

and Reformists in European

lectoral Action of Poles in The party experienced a surge and the party leader Valdemar Lithuania - Christian Fam- in support under the leadership Tomaševski sits in the European lies Alliance is a Chris- of Valdemar Tomaševski and in Parliament with the European tian-democratic political party the 2012 parliamentary election Conservatives and Reformists.



TOMAŠEVSKI





SWEDEN Sverigedemokraterna SWEDEN DEMOCRATS

that the country has had too much immi-

gration in recent years, which threatens

the national identity and societal cohe-

ing in climate research, and funding cli-

mate action on a global scale. SD wishes

dized housing for the elderly. On law and

order the SD wishes to instate the possi-

bility of life without parole for the worst

crimes and to repatriate a larger number

of foreign citizens found guilty of seri-

of Turkey to the European Union.

ox is a political party created contrast to the current, quasi-federal for the renewal and strength- political system ("State of Autonomies") ening of Spanish democratic instituted in 1978. life. It comprises of people from all Vox opposes Basque and Catalan sepwalks of life, professionals, freelanc- aratism in general. Vox have labelled ers, housewives, retirees, entrepre- themselves as a right-wing and Chrisneurs, employees, workers, officials, tian democratic party. In September students, people who have never lived 2014 the party elected Santiago Abascal,

through politics, who have been disap- one of its founders, as the new President,

pointed by current politicians and who and Iván Espinosa de los Monteros, as

VOX

After the Catalan referendum of 2017 this situation. Vox was founded on 17 December 2013 and the start of a Spanish constitutional as a split from Popular Party. The reacrisis, Vox opted to not participate in the sons for this schism was because of the Catalan regional elections of 2017. On violence of separatist group ETA, the 28nd April 2019, they won 24 parliamenfiscal policy of the PP, and the desire tary seats in the National Parliament, for a more centralized government in entering Parliament for the first time.

have taken a step to the front to change the General Secretary.

MANIFESTO

- VOX is a political project for the renewal and strengthening of Spanish democratic life with the aim of uniting the nation, achieving state efficiency, improving the quality of institutions, guaranteeing the honesty of public officials and promoting economic growth in benefit of all citizens.
- VOX notes that in the face of the degradation of the constitutional state to the state of parties and the inability of the two major political forces at the national level to design and implement the profound reforms that our institutional and legal system and our production model need, it is essential that new options emanating from civil society capable of responding to the current

structural crisis that Spain is going

- · VOX proposes, therefore, a Renewal Agenda that is specified in a set of measures that make the process of democratic transformation that Spanish citizens have been claiming through numerous platforms and civil initiatives since the beginning of the crisis come true.
- VOX calls all Spaniards who want a united Spain in permanent material and moral progress, and endowed with the prestige and influence that corresponds to it in the world for its historical, cultural and economic scope, to join a new project based on firmness of democratic convictions and the values of the open society.

weden Democrats is a social con- MANIFESTO

- servative political party. The Swe-• The European Union's Institutions den Democrats believe that the must respect the differences current Swedish immigration and intebetween member states. gration policies have been a failure and
 - The European Union should reduce the fees paid by the member states.
- sion. They wish to combat climate change The European Union should enhance by expanding nuclear power, investits ability to control external and internal borders.
- to lower the tax rate and increase subsi- The European Union should not dictate migration policy for the member states, e.g. forcing member states to receive a specific number of migrants.
- ous crime. The Sweden Democrats reject The European Union should strengthen cross-border work joining the Economic and Monetary against terrorism. Union and are opposed to the accession

The Sweden Democrats are a member doubling their support and becoming the of European Conservatives and Reform- third-largest party. The party is strongists group in the European Parliament. hold is in rural areas and in the southern The Sweden Democrats crossed the two regions of the country. During the threshold necessary for parliamentary European migrant crisis in the summer representation for the first time in the of 2015, the Sweden Democrats soared 2010 general election, polling 5,7 per in the polls. In the 2018 general election, cent and gaining 20 seats in the Riks- the SD increased its support to 17,6 per dag. In the European election of 2014 SD cent of the vote and secured 62 seats in received 9,67 percent of votes, winning parliament. The SD performed particutwo seats in the European Parliament. larly well in the county of Skåne, having In the 2014 election the Sweden Demo- the highest number of voters in 21 out of crats received 12,9 per cent of the votes, the county's 33 municipalities.

Jessica

STEGRUD

TOP 5 CANDIDATES



Jorge Buxade **VILLALBA**



TOP 5 CANDIDATES

Margarita de la Pisa Hermann TERTSCH **CARRION**



Mazaly

AGUILAR

Angel Jose Contreas

PELEAZ





LUNDGREN

Charlie

WEIMERS



NISSINEN

the oldest political party in the world. Founded in 1834 by Sir Robert Peel, the party has been one of the two main parties of government ever since. It has been through many changes over the last two centuries, but the core values have remained broadly the same: belief in the integrity of strong institutions, the strength of the marketplace, and the value of individual liberty. Being so old the party is also a broad church of idea and opin-

he Conservative Party is

ion, with a number of strong internal factions who work with one another: One Nation Conservatives, Traditional Tories, and Classical Libera/Libertarian wing of the party.

The Conservatives are currently the largest party in the United Kingdom. They are the largest party in the House of Commons, House of Lords, Local Government, and the second largest in the Welsh and Scottish Assemblies.

They are the governing party in the UK at the moment, having been brought back into power by David Cameron in 2010. David Cameron was also the Prime Minister, who in 2009, helped to set up the European Conservatives and Reformists movement.





Nosheena **MOBARIK**



KAMALL

John **FLACK**



Ashley FOX



Charles **TANNOCK**



Anthea **McINTYRE**



TOP CANDIDATES

Geoffrey VAN ORDEN



Sajjad **KARIM**



Daniel

DALTON



McCLARKIN



Daniel **HANNAN**



John **PROCTER**



Rupert **MATTHEWS**



Nirj **DEVA**



Amjad BASHIR



the Democratic Unionist Party. They take part in the power sharing arrangements as part of the
• Reform of the Common Good Friday Agreement.

They currently have 10 members of the Northern Irish • Reduce the regulatory Assembly and a strong presence in local government. They also hold one of the three seats • Support research allocated to Northern Ireland in the European Union. Since 1989

ounded in 1905, the Ulster they have been represented by The UUPs lead candidate will Unionist Party is one of Jim Nicholson, who has been an be Danny Kennedy, a former the big three parties in outspoken member of the Agri- member of the Northern Irish Northern Ireland. They are seen cultural committee, and strong assembly who had previously as the moderate face of British defender of unionist interests been the Minister for Regional Unionism within Northern Ire- in the European Parliament. He Development, and the Minister land and are not as hardline as will be standing down in 2019. for Employment.

MANIFESTO

Agricultural Policy.

burden of the EU.

and innovation in the agricultural sector.

Danny **KENNEDY**

We in the ECR are in a special position where we can try to

coordinate votes with people on the Left who would be hesitant to work together with parties such as Le Pen's Rassemblement

National. We need to join forces to finally get things done; to take a real stand against the Liberal

group and the EPP.

THE WHOLE PROJECT MUST BE SENT BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD

An Interview with Derk Jan Eppink by Eva Vlaardingerbroek

Derk Jan Eppink (DJE) is the lead candidate on Forum for Democracy's list in the upcoming European Elections. DJE is a Dutch journalist, columnist, author, cabinet secretary for European Commissioners Bolkestein (1999-2004) and Kallas (2004 – 2007), a Member of the European Parliament (2009 – 2014) and the recipient of the 2006 Prize of Liberty from the Flemish libertarian think tank Nova Civitas

readers about your professional back- disintegration. ground and political experience and how they have changed you

I have witnessed the whole evolution of the European Union, from the very first DERK JAN EPPINI elections back in 1979 up until today. In 2017, when Forum for Democracy for Democracy. The message of the first elections was was elected to Parliament for the first loud and clear: "the EU is the best thing time, I was living in the United States that could have happened to Europe". commenting in a journalistic capacity mind freely, so the moment Thierry Supporting the EU was a condition for on Trump's election. So the election of approached me to join his party, to join being considered a decent human being. Thierry Baudet came as quite a surprise the movement, I knew this was the way At that time, the differences between to me at the time. When I started see- forward. I want to help the first gen parties were minor. It took quite a ing more of Thierry I was energised to eration that is free from the grip of the while before the first dissenting opin- hear all the things I had been thinking ions materialised. And when dissent did and saying - for years, coming from the position. form, the critical voices came from the mouth of such a young man! To me he Left. Especially the Far Left saw the EU really represents a new generation – the EVA VLAARDINGERBROEK as a dangerous capitalistic project – as a Renaissance Generation. cathedral for big multinationals.

sceptical of the constant hail and praise if you expressed your ideas in public or thing which is a consequence of a much with the Cabinet quite regularly for sim- a European army. of the EU, but it was especially when in writing, like I did as a columnist, peodeeper cultural and political division. ply speaking his mind. "Commissioner, I started working as a cabinet secre- ple would warn you "not to become right- Then we have the issue of Brexit, the what are you doing?!", people would EVA VLAARDINGERBROEK tary for European Commissioner Frits winged", like it was a sin. We were treated question of membership for Turkey, ask. "There's a problem with the Com- What should ideally be dealt with on a Bolkestein, that I – and Bolkestein too like a relic of history, a leftover of the 19th and of course the conflicts between missioner, he just simply says what he European level? And what should the - started to think: "this is getting out century.

of hand. This project is like the Tower When I wrote that Trump would win You are no stranger to Brussels hav- of Babel, it will just get bigger and big- the elections, people treated me as if I ing worked there as a journalist, in the ger". Already then, I knew this would had lost my mind, and when he did win, Commission and as an MEP. Tell our not result in more integration but in they drowned in tears of disbelief. They

EVA VLAARDINGERBROEK

a candidate for Forum for Democracy? common sense lifestyle. In America we

With the introduction of the single ashamed of their cultural history and who central thesis in the book? market, the focus of the project changed want to protect and defend the core val-European Commission, I found myself ideas in the privacy of our own homes, but with regard to immigration; some- book was because Bolkestein clashed pean state, European taxation and even

Why and when did you decide to run as

and came to centre on the process of ues of our democracy. This type of cultural DERK JAN EPPINO harmonisation, which fed the bureau- assertiveness has been lost ever since the The thesis of the book builds on the that will never succeed, no matter how that the competences of the EU had cratic machine like crazy. It installed Netherlands, and the rest of Western idea that I have proclaimed during hard the European elites try to force it extended too far. bureaucratic centralism, which further Europe, became occupied with the ideas most of my time in Brussels, namely the upon the Member States. increased in the 90s due to great opti- of the protest generation, the Baby Boom- idea that the Union has continuously mism after the fall of the Berlin Wall, ers. I use the word "occupied" because it overstepped its boundaries. This has EVA VLAARDINGERBROEK and of course later the introduction of really describes what the Baby Boomers embedded many faults into the Euro- How does this book relate to your in division. Instead of learning from the the euro. The EU was presented as the __did: they occupied all institutions, media _ pean_landscape, and the consequences _ **other books?** world power of the future. Commis- and universities. The Renaissance Gen- are becoming increasingly visible with sioner Barroso even described the EU as eration is the first generation that has every passing day. the new Rome, completely in line with the ability to take a real stand against this The first rupture we have witnessed In 2004 Bolkestein and I wrote a book tralism – which was actually the central Fukuyama's idea that the end of history occupation. People from my generation is of course the division between the called De Grenzen van Europa (The Lim-principle of the Soviet Union – uses lived in what, during the time of the Ger- North and South with regard to the its of Europe). It was filled with inter- every crisis to impose a top-down inte-Even in my early days in Brussels, man Democratic Republic, was called die eurozone. Another is the division views with prominent MEPs at the time. gration process; in this case by calling when I started out as an intern for the innere Immigration. We could express our between Eastern and Western Europe Quite frankly, the reason we wrote this for a European government, a Euro-

still can't seem to accept the fact that they lost. Everything that they now call "populism" is nothing but the revolution of the ordinary man who practises a see Trump, in England Brexit, in France the yellow vests and in Holland Forum

I was tired of working in an environment where I couldn't speak my

France and Italy.

Everything that they now call "populism" is nothing but the revolution of the ordinary man who practises a common sense lifestyle. In America we see Trump, in England Brexit, in France the yellow vests and in Holland Forum for Democracy.

You have also recently written a book common in the last decade. The only Parliament's good books.

thinks!" Bolkestein's direct approach **EU do to get there?**

At this point in time, there is not one led to all sorts of conflicts, so frankly this single major topic on which a consensus book, filled with interviews with promcan be found. The common security and inent MEPs, was a sort of token of recforeign policy has not been in the least onciliation; a way to get back into the

I see a young generation who are not called European Realism. What is the issue the EU Member States seem to The book itself deals with both the have been able to agree a common posi- physical borders of the EU and the tion on is the punishment of the State of boundaries that should be placed upon Israel. In short, the EU model is an ideal the EU's competences. The thesis was

For the EU, the euro was meant to be a means to force European unity. Which financial crisis, the response of the E was again to try and force more integration. This type of bureaucratic cen-



The Socialists will also suffer a big loss, which will make them irritable and less likely to want to collaborate.

is due to the fact that the EU is built assistance of a big union.

of the Brussels institutions is that more "common" foreign policies of 28 coun- We in the ECR are in a special posi- Liberals, led by people like Macron and are not desirable. We should embrace power should always be centralised tries which actually never reach a con-tion where we can try to coordinate Verhofstadt, will overplay their cards, and celebrate European diversity a to Brussels and no power should be sensus on the most crucial matters. votes with people on the Left who would calling for an army and more power the different languages and cultures. returned to the Member States under Therefore, there is no common policy, be hesitant to work together with par- to Europe. This will pose some major It is exactly this diversity that makes any circumstances. This is something just mismanagement. A waste of money ties such as Le Pen's Rassemblem- issues when it comes to the formation of us European. the Brits are learning the hard way at the and effort, really. moment. Although the British Govern- Something I absolutely want to add: to finally get things done; to take a real of a President of the European Commis- EVA VLAARDINGERBROEK ment is not handling it in the best way there is one thing that should definitely stand against the Liberal group and the sion will therefore be an extremely diffi- So, you are a true European? possible, the European obstruction sends not be dealt with on a European level, EPP. Yes, people like Guy Verhofstadt cult task. It would be no surprise to me if a clear message to the rest of the Member and that is the topic of migration and Sophie in 't Veld [Editor's note: the first candidate that the Council pres-States: "think twice about leaving". So, if border control. Since the EU is always leader of the Democrats 66 in the Euro- ents is immediately rejected. we could go back to the drawing board, in favour of more migration, the EU pean Parliament] are the true federal I would vouch for the idea of a common will constantly think of ways to find fundamentalists. The other fundamenthe European Economic Community. Of absolute control over their own borders. the climate.

The dominant organising principle to be more effective than the so-called and the Right.

ent National. We need to join forces a majority coalition. The appointment

Parliament is that it has no real oppo- simply because it will be impossible to sition. Václav Klaus once said: a parlia- form a majority with this message. without liberty. Our goal is to form a since the Christian Democratic par- landscape is incredibly diverse and the real opposition after the upcoming electies are losing support all over Europe. source of immense cultural richness course, there are many fields that would tions. These elections are particularly They also have the issue of the Hungari- These countries are perfectly able to First and foremost, the whole project be susceptible to different forms of interimportant because now, for the first ans, who they have banished to the pen-work together, not just when forced to must be sent back to the drawing board. national collaboration, such as security time, finally, we have an actual chance alty box, and many parties in the EPP in a top-down manner. Every attempt Any reform of the current model from and environmental policies, but even to really make a change. We want to are calling for them to be removed from to unify Europe in a fast and aggressive the inside out is impossible. Reforming something as complicated as the Paris shift the power ratio and pull the brakes the group permanently. This will make manner - be it by Napoleon, the Gerthe existing construction always results
Climate Convention could be resolved where needed. The time of endless comit very difficult for the EPP to keep its
mans during World War II or the EU in *more* centralisation to Brussels. This by the nations themselves, without the promise is over and this time we actually position of power. see a possibility to work together with The Socialists will also suffer a big sity of the European nation states is Coalitions of the willing are going Eurosceptic voices from both the Left loss, which will make them irritable and too big to be placed in a straitjacket,

What are your thoughts on the climate The mainstream media is completely and how the Left have instrumental- in the hands of the European struc tures. In Brussels, critical media The climate is a new religion, with Greta "fake news" is just a way to get con Thunberg as the high priestess. The trol over the internet, where critical way the Left are using this poor girl for views on the EU are being spread or their ideology is nothing but child abuse a daily basis. It is comparable to what in my eyes. I myself have three young happened in the United States after children and their generation is con- Trump's election, when the Democrats stantly being told that the world is going claimed that the only reason he could to be destroyed within 10 years. Instill- have won was through Russian taming such immense fear, especially in the pering. This gives them a legitimacy to minds of the young, is an extremely pow-regulate platforms like Twitter and to

erful weapon and something we should get rid of unwanted opinions. be incredibly wary of. Hiding behind

The European Left has completely nnocent children and seemingly good adopted this narrative and presented ntentions, the climate-church is really Russia as our common enemy, which trying to regulate all of society down to also just happens to legitimise the idea its deepest levels under the pretext of of a European army. Of course, the Rus wanting to save the world. We should sians are provocative from time to time not be fooled by any of this, and should and they are not free of blame in bullying see this ideology for what it is: nothing their neighbours – in particular the Balout a new form of Marxism. Eco-Marx- tic states – but the extent to which the ism is the name I have use to describe it. European Left has propagated the story of Russian intervention is completely out of proportion. Most disinformation Eurosceptic parties are on the rise and fake news that we do find from Rusacross Europe. At the same time there sian sources is about Ukraine and the are still strong forces that want more Crimea, not about Europe.

European integration. How will this The biggest spreaders of fake news in play out in the next Parliament? What Europe are our own mainstream media not the Russians. The idea behind the European incentive to tackle "fake news" is their way to silence and cen Actually, we shouldn't overestimate the sor unwanted opinions that are spread number of people who are truly still

like Verhofstadt are loud, but they don't as in parties like the Greens. But the call **national history?** The big problem with the European for an ever closer union are dying down,

will be the main battleground?

calling for an ever-closer-union. People

I think the EPP will suffer a big loss, speaking, is our nation states. Europe's

less likely to want to collaborate. The and attempts to constrain diversity

Well yes, I even have an intercultural marriage! I have always been extremely fascinated by different cultures and lanmarket. Not a single market! The idea of new channels to stimulate immigration. talists in the Parliament are of course As an ex-journalist, what are your guages. I've been to almost all European a common market was the original idea of Nation states should therefore have the Greens, who have only one agenda: thoughts on European plans to countries. The only country I haven't Prague, Latvia, Maastricht debate



EVENTS

Press conference in Prague





It is only natural that one of the stops of Jan Zahradil's Retune the EU and More power for national parliaments.

On the road to Riga





speech at the ACRE Riga Meeting 2019 organised together with ACRE tal Europe, Future of Europe, and Sustainable Europe. member party, The National Alliance, and discussed foreign policy Parliament Rihards Kols

Jan Zahradil also met the Agriculture Minister Kaspars Gerhards campaign tour was in his home town Prague. On 24th April he spoke with whom he spoke about the Common Agriculture Policy and the But even after these 15 years we are still different and we need to to journalists and supporters in the Prague Hard Rock Cafe where he issues of underfunded farmers Latvia is dealing with. With Ināra respect that. We need to find a new balance between EU solutions presented his 6 main priorities towards less centralisation and flexi- Mūrniece. Speaker of the Latvian Saeima they agreed that Central and and national solutions. I call this a flexible Europe and I believe it is ble EU integration: The Great Review, Flexible integration, Security Eastern Europe countries together with Baltic States must be more lis- the only way forward out of the current deadlock, "said Jan Zahradil for citizens, EU as global leader in free trade, a multi-currency EU tened to in the EU because they bring to the table a unique historical in his final pitch. The debate can be watched on Politico Europe Youexperience and a different perspective.

The Spitzenkandidat debate in Maastricht





The first big Spitzenkandidat debate of all lead candidates except EPP's Manfred Weber took place in the city of Maastricht on Monday 30th April. Organised by the University of Maastricht, the debate was ACRE lead candidate Jan Zahradil visited Riga, Latvia as part of his moderated by Politico Europe's Ryan Heath and Rianne Letschert, Retune the EU tour on 25th - 26th April. He delivered a key note rector of Maastricht University, and focused on 3 main themes: Digi-

ACRE lead candidate Jan Zahradil was the only speaker campaignwith the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Latvian ing for a real EU reform against further centralisation and politicisation of the Commission

"My country joined the EU 15 years ago together with 9 others.

The new *Retune the EU!* video is out! You can watch it on the ACRE website: acreurope.eu/janzahradil











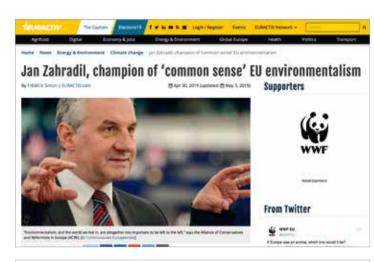


2:41 AM - 3 May 2019 I see @EUCouncil as my partner, not as "common enemy" as all other "spitzenkandidaten". Their attitude is frightening - do they continue power struggle among #EU institutions? Any comment from @donaldtusk? @ACREurope #RetuneTheEU

12:07 AM - 1 May 2019 #OnThisDay 15 years ago 10 countries mainly from Central & Eastern Europe joined the EU. "Sadly, 15 years later we're still not considered equal partners. #EU needs to work for all its Member States, not just the biggest two.'

6:40 AM - 27 Apr 2019 On behalf of @ACREurope I would like to wish our partner party @vox_es and its president @Santi_ABASCAL a great success in the general elections this Sunday in Spain. Good luck!

IN THE NEWS







MUSIC WHAT I AM LISTENING TO RIGHT NOW

Carole King

Cafe

Hard Rock



Detroit Rock City (Rocks Vegas)

This beer is for all politicians who once used to have a proper job.

About ACRE's Campaigns' Consultant, Richard Murphy

Party, Richard has campaigned directly with seven party lead- and the European Association of Political Consultants. ers including the incomparable Margaret Thatcher. He has a In each edition of *The Conservative*, Richard writes a short wealth of experience and expertise in structuring and man- piece on a particular aspect of campaigning. He has penned aging election campaigns at European, Parliamentary and his latest article below. If you wish to contact Richard, please Local Government levels. Richard specialises in grassroots email info@csm-limited.com.

Richard Murphy is ACRE's official Campaigns' Consultant. capacity building and GOTV. He also trains party activists Richard is Managing Director of Communication Strategy & nationally, and internationally, in "on the ground" field cam-Management Ltd (CSM), a political campaign consulting firm paigning techniques. Richard has trained party political activbased in the UK. CSM works alongside Members of Parlia- ists in countries such as Ukraine, Moldova, Bulgaria, Trinidad & ment, Members of the European Parliament and candidates Tobago, Slovenia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Armenia, delivering professional advice on the construction and management of their communication strategies. With almost ship & Management, Richard is also a former Board Member thirty years' experience of working with the UK Conservative of both the International Association of Political Consultants

The iceberg is straight ahead, the band is still playing, the ship is starting to slip beneath the waves - and *you* need to be fully turbo charging your grassroots team

any of you reading this may Rev. Witt, who memorably screams out the views of a majority group. The be doing so after key elecin frustration "Don't you realise? Can't word appears to entail representing be doing so after key elections have concluded. Oth
you see?" On that occasion, of course,

believe that they no longer have a voice ers may still have elections to face in he was only partly correct in his predic-believe that they no longer have a voice the very near future. Either way, let's tions. Some of those present survived in society. And those definitions are cortake a brief moment to contemplate the - miraculously. But it most certainly rect, why exactly is populism regarded

pean or otherwise, political change is for you to prepare to finish the job off iticians to listen to the will of the peolikely to be coming. The political elite, and take control of your country's des- ple and then promise to campaign for the establishment, within many nations tiny. You can do it and you must do it those viewpoints? I appreciate that it may not yet realise it but - be in no doubt for the sake of your respective elector- would mostly be a radical change to to be the same again. Some of our rul- not the other way around. People deserve make it intrinsically wrong to listen to ing classes may still be in denial, they better. People deserve to be heard. Peo-one's electorate does it? I may be old may still be dismissive and continue ple deserve to be listened to and to see fashioned but is that not democracy? to believe in, what many would see as, their will being democratically enacted their arrogant self-serving bubble of by those they elect to serve them. self-importance. But several are in for a very, very rude awakening. Currently numerous of our governing elites give the impression of imitating the band on the deck of the Titanic as the liner sails full steam ahead, into the huge waiting iceberg ahead. Equally, some of the great and the good seem so blissfully unaware of their impending peril that they even appear to be re-arranging the deck chairs, for equally oblivious fairweather co-passengers, to fleetingly indulge in the pleasures of the palpably ill-fated band.

The trouble is that the ship is actually already lethally holed and is gently startable God given right to rule.

over the trench lines at what is actulikely to understand, or have empathy, help you finish the job. finally kicked over the final traces of, brand as populist - Google the word. Bob Dylan. what some regard as, the elite's long In the UK, different search engines time industrial scale incompetence and describe the word 'populism' as: duplicity. Only when we are rid of these people's vanity, and their contempt for "Populism is a political philosophy ne who doesn't agree with them. can we truly start again. Theirs is an the people in their struggle against undemocratic method, an undemocratic system, and an undemocratic vision of government whose time has come and gone. That's the good news. The 'old order'

is, as I say, majestically oblivious to their unescapable doom but is actually, unknowingly, clinging on to the cliff edge by their fingertips. At this point I inimitable Jack Hawkins, playing the dates and political parties articulating missed but actually acted upon.

wasn't pretty.



Richard Murph Managing Director of Communication

Strategy and Management (CSM), ACRE's Campaigns' Consultant info@csm-limited.com

a privileged elite."

"Support for the concerns of ordinary people."

"It is clear that your populism identifies with the folks on the bottom of the ladder."

by the liberals as such a dreadful thing? For readers in most countries, Euro- But back to 2019. Now is the time After all, is it so very horrendous for polpolitical life in many places is soon to ates. Many politicians have forgotten what we have all be used to in many of alter forever. Things are never going that they are the servants of the people - our respective countries, but it doesn't Think about it...

And whilst you are thinking about it, take the opportunity to re-invigorate your emphasis on building your grassroots people's movement. And, if you think that I personally can help to provide some guidance or advice in this important venture, please do get

in touch. I would be thrilled to help, if

But whether we team up together, or not, please don't overlook the fact that there is almost certainly a groundswell of public opinion on your side, just waiting to be asked to help. So, get out there now and recruit new members. Sign up new volunteer canvassers, You have to now present a new style, a surveyors and literature deliverers. Ask ing to glide ever so quietly beneath the new type of politics. Out with the old and people to assist you with regular street waves. Nobody is yet abandoning ship, in with the new. Everything, everything, stalls and action days. There is masses to the lifeboats (if they are in evidence at needs to be viewed via a new prism. And, be achieved and like will always attract all) are still firmly fixed in place, and the crucially, do not allow yourself to be like. Your movement will grow and grow champagne and oysters are still being distressed by the establishment label- exponentially. And with the mass of the served with carefree abandonment to ling you 'populist'. The left, the liberals people on your side, in the long run, you those who believe they have an inalien- and so-called the social democrats have cannot fail in your objectives. The peohijacked the word populist. They make ple in many scenarios have too often Someone once said that it was time it out to be far-right, to be extremist, to been left, ignored, for too long. Many are to "drain the swamp". Well, swamp or no be racist. In most cases this is sheer and angry and disillusioned. Many want to swamp, the inescapable but unspoken unadulterated nonsense. It doesn't have take action but simply don't know how. fact is that many countries' politicians to be any of those things. The reality is To paraphrase someone rather famous continue to sit in their soundproof that this is just yet more Project Fear for utilising every resource possible bunkers unwilling to take even a peak from politicians who would never be give the people the tools, and they will

ally happening 'outside'. They will with the real meaning of populism. And Trust me, wherever you are, you can only truly understand the magnitude so, next time you hear a politician race make these failed politicians listen. You of the disenchantment from their peo- to demonise the word populism or den- really can. Just remember those, never ples, when the 'swamp drainers' have girate and dehumanise someone they more poignant, words from the great

> Come senators, congressmen Please heed the call Don't stand in the doorway Don't block up the ha For he that gets hurt Will be he who has stalled There's a battle outside And it is ragin'.

It'll soon shake your windows And rattle your walls For the times they are a-changin'.

Good luck to you all and I look forward to seeing many of you on the other side, am transported back in time to 1964 and Consequently, it seems to me that all in a brave new world, where the people's that magnificent film Zulu starring the populism means is politicians, candiviews are no longer discounted and dis-



EUROPE'S FASTEST GROWING POLITICAL MOVEMENT

THE CONSERVATIVE













