

STATUTES
of the
EUROPE OF FREEDOM AND DIRECT
DEMOCRACY GROUP

Article 1 Name and Members of the Group

The name of the Group shall be:

English: **EUROPE OF FREEDOM AND DIRECT DEMOCRACY**

Isabella ADINOLFI
Laura AGEA
John Stuart AGNEW
Daniela AIUTO
Tim Mark AKER
Jonathan William ARNOTT
Gerard BATTEN
Tiziana BEGHIN
Joëlle BERGERON
Louise BOURS
Fabio Massimo CASTALDO
David Adam COBURN
Jane Maria COLLINS
Ignazio CORRAO
Rosa D'AMATO
Lord William (The Earl of) DARTMOUTH
Bill ETHERIDGE
Eleonora EVI
Nigel Paul FARAGE
Laura FERRARA
Raymond Terence FINCH
Nathan Lee GILL
Roger HELMER
Mike HOOKEM
Robert Jarosław IWASZKIEWICZ
Peter LUNDGREN
Giulia MOI
Paul NUTTALL
Patrick O'FLYNN
Rolandas PAKSAS
Margot PARKER
Piernicola PEDICINI
Julia REID
Jill SEYMOUR
Dario TAMBURRANO
Marco VALLI
Kristina WINBERG
Marco ZULLO
Aymeric CHAUPRADE
Mireille D'ORNANO
Sophie MONTEL
Florian PHILIPPOT
Jörg MEUTHEN
Jiří PAYNE
Bernard MONOT

Political platform

The Group is open to Members that subscribe to a Europe of Freedom and Democracy and acknowledge the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights and parliamentary democracy.

The Group subscribes to the following programme:

1. Freedom and co-operation among people of different States

Committed to the principles of democracy, freedom and co-operation among Nation States, the Group favours an open, transparent, democratic and accountable co-operation among sovereign European States and rejects the bureaucratisation of Europe and the creation of a single centralised European superstate.

2. More democracy and respect of People's will

Convinced that the legitimate level for democracy lies with the Nation States, their regions and parliaments since there is no such thing as a single European people; the Group opposes further European integration (treaties and policies) that would exacerbate the present democratic deficit and the centralist political structure of the EU. The Group favours that any new treaties or any modification of the existing treaties are to be submitted to the peoples' vote through free and fair national referenda in the Member States. The Group does believe that the legitimacy of any power comes from the will of its Peoples and their right to be free and democratically ruled.

3. Respect for Europe history, traditions and cultural values

Peoples and Nations of Europe have the right to protect their social stability and strengthen their own historical, traditional, religious and cultural values. The Group rejects xenophobia, anti-Semitism and any other form of discrimination¹.

Furthermore the group subscribes to the concept of direct democracy believing it to be the ultimate check on political elites.

4. Respect for national differences and interests: Freedom of votes

Agreeing on embodying these principles in its proceedings, the Group respects the freedom of its delegations and Members to vote as they see fit.

The Group is formed by the Members of the European Parliament who signed the declaration to the President of the Parliament of June 2014.

¹ The Italian delegation rejects all forms of discrimination, in line with the article 3 of the Italian constitution.

Article 1 Application for Membership

New Members can be admitted with majority support of all members, it is allowed to vote by proxy.

Article 2 Voting procedures

Common political decisions can only be adopted by unanimity among the subgroups.

Each subgroup or member has complete freedom to act in accordance with his/her own conviction.

For the Group to be quorate, a third of members need to be present or have proxies.

The Group can decide by majority vote whether an administrative decision should be taken by the Bureau.

Proxy votes are admissible, without numerical limitations. Such votes should be communicated to the Presidency and Secretary General one hour before the meeting.

Article 3 Speaking time in the European Parliament

The speaking time allocated to the Group will be distributed on an equitable basis, giving priority in accordance with the responsibilities of Members in Parliamentary Committees and inter-parliamentary delegations.

The Group secretariat shall make a proposal on the basis of the wishes expressed.

Article 4 Group meetings

The Bureau organises working parties and Group meetings at which Members inform each other on the work of the European Parliament.

The Group meeting shall be held the week before and during the sessions in Strasbourg.

On a proposal from the Bureau, the Group shall decide on meetings held outside Parliament's normal working places.

On a proposal from the Bureau, the use of Group facilities placed at the Group's disposal shall be allocated equitably on the basis of decisions taken at Group meetings.

The subgroups have their own autonomy and can organise their own subgroup meetings.

Article 5 Initiatives on behalf of the Group

Pursuant to Parliament's Rules of Procedure, Parliamentary initiatives introduced on behalf of the entire Group must be approved unanimously at a Bureau meeting.

The group can express itself with a single voice on subjects on which there is a common position.

However, in the absence of a Group mandate, single members can always act and sign documents on behalf of themselves.

Article 6 Allocations of seats in Parliamentary Committees and inter-Parliamentary delegations

Full and substitute Members of parliamentary committees and inter-parliamentary delegations shall be designated by a decision of the Group, taking account of the wishes of all Members and ensuring an equitable distribution in relation to the political weight of the different committees.

Article 7 Organs of the Group

The Group is headed by a President and a Bureau.

The Group elect its President. The President is responsible for tasks allocated to the Presidents of the political groups by Parliament's rules and they represent the Group within Parliament.

The Group elects the President for a period of 2½ years and each subgroup elects its own Vice-President as the subgroup representative in the Bureau. The Group elects an authorising officer and a treasurer. These Members shall constitute the Bureau.

The Vice-Presidents shall take precedence according to the size of their own subgroups.

The Members in the Presidency may chair Group meetings in turn according to the agreed division of responsibilities.

Meetings of the Bureau are open to other Members of the Group.

In case a subgroup cannot be represented at a Bureau meeting by its Vice-President or one of its Members, the Bureau can allow a member of staff of that subgroup to intervene in the meeting without voting rights.

The Bureau shall be responsible for the smooth functioning of the Group. It shall submit for Group approval the choice of Secretary-General, two or more Deputy-Secretary-Generals and staff and the distribution of their tasks.

The secretariat shall assist the Group. In particular, members shall be assigned in accordance with the aims and needs of the Group and its subgroups. The staff of the Group shall undertake to give loyalty to the Group.

Article 8 Modification of the Statutes

Modifications of the Statutes can be proposed by the Bureau or by at least one fifth of the Members of the Group and must be approved by all subgroups.

Article 9 Finances and facilities

The Bureau decides the budget for common activities by agreement between the subgroups.

All other facilities available to the Group can be used freely by the individual Members and subgroups as long as they are not claimed by others. If demand is too great the Bureau will decide distribution.

Article 10 Disciplinary code

If a Member is considered to have violated the Group's Statutes, he or she can be temporarily suspended by the Group Presidency or by at least one-fifth of the Members of the Group for consideration at the next Group Meeting.

Each subgroup has its own internal rules and can at any time communicate to the Group the suspension or exclusion of its subgroup member.

The decisions on expulsion or to confirm the suspension shall be taken by a majority of members of the Group.

Updated to 17/01/2017