21st issue

PATRIOTS

FOR **EUROPE**

PLENARY BOOKLET









PLENARY SESSION APRIL I

27 - 30 APRIL 2026

INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOKLET

*This session will be a decisive moment for **accountability, sovereignty, and the responsible use of public funds**. Patriots for Europe will focus on the **Julien Sanchez report on fraud and the protection of the EU's financial interests**. After securing a strong result at committee level, we now expect the plenary to confirm a clear message: every euro lost to fraud is a euro taken from taxpayers, farmers, and families across Europe. This is not abstract bookkeeping—it is about trust, fairness, and respect for citizens' contributions.*

*At the same time, the debate on the next **Multiannual Financial Framework** (MFF) raises serious concerns. While the timeline must be respected, the direction proposed by Brussels is deeply troubling.*

Instead of prioritising cohesion and agricultural support, we see plans to reallocate funds toward political projects, NGOs, and migration policies—while at the same time demanding even more financial contributions from Member States and, ultimately, from citizens.

Patriots for Europe firmly rejects this approach. Europe does not need a bigger budget that burdens its people further; it needs a better budget that respects priorities, efficiency, and national sovereignty.

***Energy sovereignty** will also remain central to our work. Recent geopolitical tensions once again demonstrate the risks of dependency on external actors. European families and businesses should not pay the price for instability abroad.*

*Finally, we will continue to defend **democratic integrity**. National elections must remain in the hands of citizens, **free from external interference**. This plenary is about restoring balance—financial, political, and democratic—within the European Union.*

Patriots Request Topical Debate on Commission Interference in Democratic Process and Elections

A pattern of external influence on national electoral processes in Europe is raising concerns. A few months ago, the report by the US House Judiciary Committee confirmed long-standing concerns that the European Commission operates an extensive system for moderating politically sensitive online content and uses such practices in the context of national elections.

According to the report, such interventions have previously taken place in France, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Ireland, Romania, Moldova, and during the 2024 European elections.

Questions about external interference also arise in connection with the recent elections in Hungary. The statement by Ursula von der Leyen suggesting a clear link between the freezing of €17 billion in EU funds for Hungary and the outcome of the elections reinforces these suspicions.

Not to mention the activation of the Rapid Alert System by the Commission, which enabled the flagging and reduction of visibility of certain digital content ahead of the elections. Although the election result is clear, the use of these tools points to potential external interference.

With decisive elections set to take place in Member States in 2027, it is essential that these matters are clarified in order to prevent any similar attempts of interference in the future.

This is why the Patriots for Europe Group has requested a topical debate on electoral interference in democratic process and elections.

Kinga Gál

> "Questions about external interference arise in connection with the recent elections in Hungary."



First Vice-President Patriots Group, Hungarian delegation - Fidesz

A Bigger Budget, a Smaller Democracy: The Commission's Quiet Power Shift

The Commission presents its proposal for the 2028-2034 Multiannual Financial Framework as a modernisation. In reality, it is a centralisation of power, a dilution of accountability, and a quiet sidelining of democratic control.

Behind the impressive headline figure of €1.76 trillion lies a more troubling shift: traditional, proven policies such as cohesion and agriculture are weakened, while new, vaguely defined instruments concentrate decision-making in Brussels. The creation of national and regional partnership plans, adopted without meaningful involvement of the European Parliament, is not simplification, it is a bypass of democratic scrutiny.

Even more concerning is the growing reliance on "financing not linked to costs." This may sound technocratic, but in practice it weakens auditability and opens the door to reduced transparency and political discretion.

At a time when citizens demand clarity on how their money is spent, the Commission offers opacity.

The proposal also fails to sufficiently address the well-documented shortcomings of the Recovery and Resilience Facility. Instead of correcting past mistakes, it risks institutionalising them into the next budget cycle.

We believe that a European budget must serve citizens not administrative convenience. It must respect subsidiarity, ensure clear oversight, and preserve the role of Member States and regions in shaping priorities.

Europe does not need a bigger black box. It needs a budget that is transparent, accountable, and rooted in democratic legitimacy.

Klára Dostálová

> "We believe that a European budget must serve citizens not administrative convenience."



Vice-President Patriots Group, Czech delegation - ANO 2011

Our Own Citizens First

The European Union has decided to sponsor Ukraine with €90 billion. This enormous amount is needed to cover two-thirds of Ukraine's financing needs for 2026 and 2027.

Supporting Ukraine must never come at the expense of our own citizens.

Across Europe, people are paying the price for failing policies. Energy costs are becoming extremely high, fuel prices are unaffordable for many, and everyday expenses continue to rise.

Families are forced to make difficult choices, while their purchasing power is steadily eroded.

Sanctions against Russia and the ongoing instability in the Middle East have driven up energy prices, while years of misguided European policies have made our countries more dependent and more vulnerable.

Instead of protecting citizens, governments have added to the burden through high taxes and costly regulations.

At the same time, billions of euros are being sent abroad. To Ukraine. To development projects in Africa. Funded by taxpayers who are already struggling to make ends meet.

This imbalance is unacceptable.

Our citizens should not come last. Taxpayer money should first be used to protect the people who pay for it. That means lowering energy taxes, reducing costs, and giving Member States the freedom to act in the interest of their own population.

Europe should take care of its own people first.

Mieke Andriese

> "Policy must start with the people who pay for it."



Vice-President Patriots Group, MEP Dutch delegation - PVV

Jewish Life in Europe is Our Commitment To Freedom and Security

The fight against antisemitism and the protection of Jewish life in Europe must be at the very core of our political responsibility. Across our continent, Jewish communities are once again facing rising threats, intimidation, and violence. This is unacceptable. Europe carries a historic duty to ensure that Jewish citizens can live freely, openly, and safely—without fear, without hesitation, and without compromise.

A significant driver of this renewed antisemitism is the spread of radical Islamist ideology. In particular, the Islamist ideology propagated by the Iranian mullah regime plays a destabilising role far beyond its borders. Through networks, propaganda, and proxies, it actively fuels antisemitism and radicalisation, including within Europe.

This challenge cannot be ignored or downplayed. If Europe is serious about protecting Jewish life, it must confront these sources of extremism with clarity and determination.

That requires stronger security measures, better intelligence cooperation, and a firm stance against organisations and actors linked to extremist ideologies.

At the same time, this reality has direct implications for migration policy. The EU's migration policy has also contributed to this development, which endangers Jewish life in Europe. As a consequence, we therefore demand a resolute "No Way" policy, secure external borders, and a consistent return policy for those who have entered Europe illegally — especially those who promote radical or extremist ideologies.

Protecting Jewish life in Europe is not negotiable. It is a test of our commitment to freedom, to security, and to the very foundations of our societies

Harald Vilimsky

> "Protecting Jewish life in Europe is not negotiable."



Vice-President Patriots Group, Head of Austrian delegation - FPÖ

No Vote, No Mandate: Commission Interference in European Democracy

The European Union was never meant to govern nations; it was meant to serve them. Its institutions derive legitimacy from the Member States, not the other way around. And yet, a growing unease is spreading across Europe: unelected bodies are overstepping that mandate.

Evidence raises serious concerns. A U.S. House Judiciary Committee report points to sustained engagement by the European Commission with major digital platforms to shape content moderation policies under the label of combating "disinformation." Whatever the intention, the effect is clear: unelected actors influencing the boundaries of public debate.

Inside the Union, the pattern is equally troubling. In Hungary, ahead of the 2026 elections, the European Union withheld significant funds over rule-of-law disputes. This was done through formal mechanisms - but its political impact is undeniable. Financial conditionality, regulatory pressure, and institutional signalling all shape the environment in which democratic choices are made.

The Commission denies any interference, insisting it merely enforces agreed rules. But this is precisely the issue. When an institution can both define the standards and apply pressure based on them, it moves from service to influence.

A heavy bureaucracy that becomes a machine of self-preservation is a dangerous evolution. Influence over funding, growing reach into information flows, and the alignment of media and NGOs through financial dependence - these are not neutral developments.

Democracy demands clarity: institutions must serve, not steer.

Europe must remain a union of free nations, deciding their own future - sovereign, accountable, and unafraid.

Because freedom is not delegated. It is sovereign.

António Tânger Corrêa

> "Democracy demands clarity: institutions must serve, not steer."



Vice-President Patriots Group, Head of Portuguese delegation - CHEGA

Protecting Europeans' Money: Transparency, Real Oversight and Sound Management of the EU Budget

We now know all too well that the European Union's budget is poorly managed. With outstanding borrowing that could exceed €900 billion by 2027, nearly ten times the 2020 level, one could even argue that the budget is no longer managed at all. Opacity, waste and irresponsibility have become the norm.

This is compounded by costly ambitions such as the proposed enlargement to Ukraine, a country long associated with serious corruption concerns.

Even more troubling, instead of addressing misguided spending and refocusing priorities on the real concerns of Europeans (border security, agriculture and research), the European Union intends to create new own resources, in the form of taxes and levies, in order to further expand its budget while concealing past and ongoing mistakes.

Through this report, I sought to promote a clear and practical course of action: better protecting the Union's financial interests in order to ensure fairness and defend the interests of European citizens.

This means strengthening expenditure controls, ensuring full transparency in the use of EU funds, recovering revenues that should enter the EU budget but are lost each year, and combating large-scale fraud, organised crime, corruption and conflicts of interest.

My approach focused on stronger cooperation between Member States and key institutions, notably the Commission, OLAF, the European Public Prosecutor's Office, Eurojust, Europol and the European Court of Auditors. The report was prepared through hearings with these bodies in order to identify practical shortcomings.

I also proposed modernising anti-fraud tools through digitalisation, improved information-sharing and the integration of artificial intelligence into control systems. This gives the report a pragmatic dimension, offering concrete instruments to detect and prevent fraud risks from the earliest stage of EU programmes.

With this report, the Patriots for Europe Group defends all citizens who expect their money to be used properly.

Julien Sanchez

> "Opacity, waste and irresponsibility have become the norm."



MEP Patriots Group, French delegation - Rassemblement National

Defending Sovereignty and Farmers from Brussels' Ideological Budget Agenda

Under the new Multiannual Financial Framework, Brussels is planning significant cuts - up to 20% - to cohesion and agricultural subsidies, taking away the funds from the European farmers and regions and redirecting them towards the Commission's political priorities such as political activist groups, and migration policies, progressive media and woke propaganda – just as the left-liberal groups in the EP expect it to do. However, the Patriots for Europe Group strongly opposes this shift and will defend the interests of European farmers and citizens.

The time has come to reclaim a Europe that reflects the real needs of its people rather than ideological agendas. We reject the left-liberal majority's proposal, which serves a detached elite instead of citizens. The Patriots demand a post-2027 EU budget that prioritises transparency and national sovereignty. No more taxpayers' money should go to politically motivated NGOs that claim neutrality but drive division.

We also reject the Commission's use of financial pressure to enforce ideological conformity and to fundamentally change domestic political relations in the Member States. Brussels wants to tell the citizens who to vote for, what position to take on certain political issues. This overreach is unacceptable and constitutes an abuse of power. This overreach is unacceptable and constitutes an abuse of power. Sovereignty must remain non-negotiable.

This MFF is being prepared unusually early, raising concerns about bypassing key democratic moments such as the 2027 elections in France. There is also growing centralisation of power within the European Commission, risking less support for farmers and regions and more funding for ideological projects.

The Patriots remain committed to supporting farmers, businesses, and citizens, offering a clear alternative to the current direction.

Tamás Deutsch

"The Patriots remain committed to supporting farmers, businesses, and citizens, offering a clear alternative to the current direction."



MEP Patriots Group, Head of Hungarian delegation - Fidesz

Situation of Fundamental Rights in The European Union in 2024 And 2025

The European Parliament is preparing to vote on the annual report on the situation of fundamental rights in the European Union for 2024–2025, a text that claims to assess threats to democracy, media freedom and the rule of law across Member States.

In reality, the report reflects a deeply ideological approach, where fundamental rights are increasingly reinterpreted to justify political control rather than to protect genuine freedoms.

What emerges clearly is a growing attempt by EU institutions—often backed by national governments and segments of the judiciary—to police public debate under the labels of "disinformation" and "hate speech".

This trend risks turning legitimate political positions into targets of censorship, especially when they concern migration, security, or the influence of Islamist networks in Europe.

The report goes even further by implicitly framing political forces on the right as a primary source of risks to fundamental rights, while systematically ignoring or downplaying episodes of violence and intimidation originating from the far left. This selective approach undermines the credibility of the entire exercise and reveals a worrying double standard.

At the same time, the report fails to address the real-world consequences of uncontrolled migration policies, including rising insecurity and social tensions in several Member States.

Fundamental rights cannot become a selective tool used to silence dissent while ignoring the protection of citizens.

Without balance, the EU risks turning rights into an instrument of political enforcement rather than a guarantee of freedom.

Paolo Borchia

> "Fundamental rights cannot become a selective tool used to silence dissent while ignoring the protection of citizens."



MEP Patriots Group, Head of Italian delegation - Lega Per Salvini Premier

Strolenberg's Blind Spot

The report on Fundamental Rights in the European Union for 2024 and 2025 is yet another missed opportunity. Under the rapporteurship of Anna Strolenberg (Volt, NL), it repeats a familiar leftist ideological line: promoting woke orthodoxy, undermining free expression, and remaining blind to the growing threat that Islamic extremism poses to fundamental rights in Europe.

Fundamental rights are firmly anchored in the legal frameworks of the Member States and are best safeguarded at the national level. We strongly reject the EU's increasing tendency to instrumentalise "fundamental rights" as a vehicle for legal activism, encroaching on areas of exclusive national competence such as healthcare, education, and the organisation of the judiciary.

Moreover, the report endorses efforts to build a centralised censorship apparatus under the pretext of combating "misinformation" and "hate speech."

Citizens and elected representatives must never be penalised for expressing lawful opinions, even when these may be considered offensive by others. The policing of subjective sentiments is incompatible with freedom of expression.

While the report raises concerns about "Islamophobia," it fails to acknowledge that the Islamisation of European societies is often accompanied by a rise in antisemitism.

It is unacceptable that Jewish communities across Europe are increasingly forced to live in fear and to invest heavily in their own security.

We must adopt zero tolerance for antisemitism, including among those seeking international protection in Europe.

Marieke Ehlers

> "We reject censorship and stand firmly against antisemitism."



MEP Patriots Group, Head of Dutch delegation - PVV

Patriots Force a Plenary Debate on EU Interference in National Elections

At our Group's request, the European Parliament will debate this week in Strasbourg the interference of the European Commission and EU institutions in the electoral processes of the Member States. The Treaties are clear: the organisation of elections, the regulation of political life and the public conversation of each nation belong to the Member States, not to the Commission nor to any unelected committee in this building.

The catalogue is overwhelming. The U.S. Congress has documented, under subpoena, more than one hundred closed-door meetings in which the Commission pressured Big Tech to censor lawful political speech around at least eight national elections. The Digital Services Act is the instrument; X, which refused to obey, was fined 120 million euros. Weeks before the Hungarian vote the Commission activated its "Rapid Response System", coordinating EU-funded NGOs and platforms to throttle Orbán's content.

Romania saw its presidential election simply annulled. Italian voters were openly threatened by the Commission President herself – "we have the tools" – before they cast a ballot. Poland and Hungary have been blackmailed with frozen funds, opposition structures financed, rule-of-law procedures timed to electoral calendars.

Meanwhile, the very Commission that lectures the nations on sovereignty tolerates Qatargate, Moroccogate, hands Spanish judicial wiretaps to Huawei, and bankrolls the green lobbies that then "demand" the Green Deal. In Spain, Pedro Sánchez has invented HODIO to rank and intimidate any platform that refuses to silence his opponents.

They will win battles. They will not subdue the nations. Sovereignty is not theirs to surrender.

Jorge Buxadé

> "The Digital Services Act is a regulation built to police what citizens of sovereign nations are allowed to read, say and share about their own governments."



MEP Patriots Group, Head of Spanish delegation - VOX

The Ominous Shadow of The European Commission

The EU–Mercosur agreement will provisionally enter into force on 1 May 2026, even though the European Parliament has not voted on it. The European Commission is pushing this agreement through, bypassing the very treaties and procedures it previously established for ratification.

This agreement is a scandal and a clear overreach of powers by the European Commission. Trying to push it "through the back door" without the consent of the European Parliament, and while waiting for a ruling from the Court of Justice of the EU (the Parliament has requested an opinion on whether the Mercosur agreement is compatible with the treaties), shows a deeply questionable style of governance under Ursula von der Leyen.

Bypassing full democratic procedures is not the only problem. There is also a serious issue of unequal production standards.

In the EU, producers must follow much stricter environmental, sanitary, and animal welfare rules than those in South America.

However, aligning these standards was not part of the negotiations at all. There are also no strong mechanisms to monitor and enforce the rules of the agreement. The EU simply does not have the capacity to properly control food imports from Mercosur countries. The so-called safeguard clauses included in the agreement will not protect European farmers from a large increase in imports. Instead of strengthening domestic production, the agreement increases the EU's dependence on imported agricultural goods and raw materials.

From May, we are seeing a politically driven opening of the market, carried out at the expense of farmers, fair competition, and proper EU procedures.

Anna Brylka

"From May, we are seeing a politically driven opening of the market, carried out at the expense of farmers, fair competition, and proper EU procedures."



MEP Patriots Group, Head of Polish delegation – Ruch Narodowy

PATRIOTS INITIATIVES

80 amendments to the **discharges (European Parliament, Commission, European Council and Council, Court of Justice of the European, European External Action Service, Agencies, Court of Auditors, European Economic and Social Committee, Committee of the Regions, European Public Prosecutors Office (the 'EPPO'), European Data Protection Supervisor);**

1 amendment to the **Control of the financial activities of the European Investment Bank Group;**

30 amendments to the **Interim report on the proposal for the multiannual financial framework for 2028-2034;**

6 amendments to the **Estimates of revenue and expenditure for the European Parliament;**

6 amendments to the **Market stability reserve for the buildings, road transport and additional sector;**

2 amendments to the **Simplification of certain requirements and procedures for chemical products;**

2 amendments on **Applying a generalized scheme of tariff preferences;**

18 amendments to the **Situation of fundamental rights in the European Union in 2024 and 2025;**

6 amendments on **Monitoring the application of European Union law in 2023, 2024 and 2025;**

An alternative motion for a resolution **(on the LIBE/FEMM report) on the Importance of consent-based rape legislation in the EU;**

1 amendment to the **Role of ocean diplomacy for the competitiveness of EU fisheries and aquaculture;**

12 amendments to the **Commission's 2025 Rule of Law report;**

A motion for a resolution on **Cyberbullying and online harassment.**

PATRIOTS EVENTS



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PATRIOTS FOR EUROPE

BRUSSELS

Zweig Building - 07K014
60 Rue Wiertz
B-1047 Brussels

STRASBOURG

Louise Weiss Building - T04055
President Robert Schuman Avenue
1, CS 91024
F-67070 Strasbourg Cedex