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PATRIOTS
FOR EUROPE

PLENARY BOOKLET









PLENARY SESSION SEPTEMBER I
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INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOKLET

The September I plenary in Strasbourg comes at a decisive moment for Europe.

At the centre of the week will be the ***State of the Union debate*** *– an opportunity to assess the direction of the European Commission and ask whether its priorities truly reflect the concerns of Europeans.*

For Patriots for Europe, the message is clear: Europe needs ***less centralisation and ideology****, and more results. Citizens expect* ***secure borders****,* ***safer communities*** *and an* ***economy capable of competing*** *– and winning – on the global stage. Europe has the talent, experience and strength to lead again, but this requires a fundamental change of direction.*

Recent events in ***Ceuta*** *underline the urgency of restoring control over Europe's borders and ensuring security for its citizens. While the EU speaks forcefully about sovereignty beyond its borders, it must also defend security and sovereignty within them.*

The plenary will also address broader questions about ***Europe's democratic direction*** *and* ***competitiveness****.*

Throughout the week, Patriots for Europe will remain focused on three priorities: security, borders and competitiveness – the issues that matter to Europeans and that Europe's institutions can no longer afford to ignore.

Europe Does Not Need a Brussels-Shielded Democracy

National sovereignty of Member States and freedom of expression are core values of democracies for Patriots. We do not want shield against real democracy.

The European Democracy Shield is presented as a tool to protect democracy. In reality, it risks giving the European Commission new powers to intervene against political forces and opinions that challenge the Brussels mainstream.

Under the pretext of fighting foreign interference, legitimate political views on migration, Europe's declining competitiveness or failed sanctions policies could increasingly be labelled as "disinformation" or "harmful content" by fact-checkers and NGOs linked to the European Commission. This would not protect democracy; it would restrict political debate and therefore influence electoral competition within Member States.

The proposed system relies heavily on fact-checkers and NGOs, many of which receive EU funding while helping to define what constitutes acceptable public discourse. Yet their selection, financing and accountability remain deeply opaque.

The hypocrisy is striking while Brussels claims to defend democracy, it remains silent when Hungary's new government undermines basic democratic principles, restricts political pluralism and seeks to exclude opposition forces from democratic competition.

We, the Patriots, reject any centralised EU system of information control and any censorship mechanism operating directly or indirectly under the authority of the European Commission.

Democracy cannot exist when free speech and diverse opinions are filtered, funded or controlled from Brussels.

We stand for free elections, open debate, and the sovereign right of Europeans to express their views freely and choose their governments without ideological interference from EU institutions.

Kinga Gál

> "We stand for free elections, open debate, and the sovereign right of Europeans to express their views freely.."



First Vice-President Patriots Group, Hungarian delegation - Fidesz

SOTEU: Perhaps Brussels should listen before it speaks

Every year, the State of the Union tells Europeans what Brussels believes Europe and Europeans need. Perhaps this year Ursula von der Leyen should begin by asking what Europeans think instead.

A new study based on almost 6,000 interviews across six European countries paints an uncomfortable picture: nearly 70% of respondents describe Europe in terms of decline or a loss of normality, while only 12% see signs of a European awakening. One young respondent summed up Europe rather brutally: "It talks a lot, but does nothing." An unfortunate slogan for Brussels. But a rather good description of the problem facing this year's SOTEU.

We will undoubtedly hear about resilience, competitiveness, strategic autonomy, prosperity and European leadership. We may get new initiatives, new strategies and perhaps a new roadmap explaining how the previous roadmaps will finally be implemented.

But Europeans are not asking for better Brussels vocabulary. They are asking for results. And here is the message Brussels should finally understand: fewer than 13% want to abolish the EU. Europeans are not turning against Europe. They are turning against the way Europe is being run.

The message is not "we do not want EU." It is: "we do not want EU like this." And that should be the real subject of this State of the Union.

So before President von der Leyen tells 450 million Europeans what the next chapter of the European project should look like, perhaps she could answer a simpler question: Why are so many Europeans losing faith in the one they already have?

Klara Dostalova



> "Nearly 70% of respondents describe Europe in terms of decline or a loss of normality.."

Vice-President Patriots Group, Czech delegation - ANO 2011

Cuba: Europe Must Stand Against Communism

For more than sixty years, Cuba has been held hostage by a communist regime that has denied its people fundamental freedoms. Behind the romantic image of the Cuban revolution still defended by parts of the European left lies a darker reality: political repression, arbitrary detention, censorship and persecution of opponents.

Today, more than 1,200 political prisoners remain detained in Cuba simply for demanding democracy, pluralism and freedom of expression. Their courage reminds us that freedom is not a privilege granted by the State, but a fundamental right.

For too long, the European Union has responded to the Cuban dictatorship with ambiguity and complacency. Brussels signed the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement with Cuba while continuing to allocate European taxpayers' money to cooperation with the island. Ten years later, what has changed?

The regime remains in power, opponents remain behind bars and the Cuban people continue to pay the price.

This policy has failed.

Europe cannot condemn authoritarianism in words while legitimising it in practice. European funds must never strengthen institutions controlled by the Cuban regime. Cooperation must benefit the Cuban people and genuine independent civil society, while those responsible for repression and human rights violations must face targeted sanctions.

For us Patriots, there can be no double standards. We stand with political prisoners, their families, dissidents and all those peacefully fighting for freedom. Europe must choose: accommodation with dictatorship or solidarity with those demanding freedom. Our choice is clear: we stand with the Cuban people.

Susanna Ceccardi

Vice-President Patriots Group, Italian delegation - Lega Per Salvini Premier

> "Europe must choose: accommodation with dictatorship or solidarity with those demanding freedom."



Iceland: Democracy in Action

The slogan of the European Parliament is “Democracy in Action.” Recently, Europe saw an example of democracy in action when the people of Iceland voted in a referendum against opening membership negotiations with the EU.

The Icelandic people voted no, just as the Dutch did when they rejected the European Constitution in 2005. However, while the Icelandic government has respected the outcome of the referendum, the Dutch government did not. The text that the people rejected was simply reworded by the EU and then pushed through without consulting the people again. That is the difference between EU-style “democracy in action” and democracy in action in Iceland.

No wonder the Icelanders, attached to their democracy, do not want to join the EU. This was particularly evident among young people. Sixty percent of Iceland’s 18-to-29-year-olds voted against opening negotiations with the EU.

Ironically, the Brussels eurocrats regard Iceland’s resistance to the EU as a form of “provincialism.”

This is yet another example of the EU’s habit of redefining terms to convey exactly the opposite of their true meaning. “Democracy in action” in EU-speak becomes the violation of democracy, and when people oppose turning a sovereign nation into a province of the Brussels Empire, this is labelled a “provincialist” attitude.

We, the Patriots for Europe, demand that our countries once again become nations rather than provinces of Brussels. The reason is simple: we, too, want to be real democracies again.

Mieke Andriese

Our country,
a nation once again!



Vice-President Patriots Group, MEP Dutch delegation - PVV

State of the Union: Brussels Now Wants Your Savings

After years under Ursula von der Leyen, the state of our Union is anything but good. Europeans have been given more bureaucracy, more centralisation, less freedom and continued mass migration. Competitiveness is declining, energy remains expensive, businesses are suffocating under regulation – and Brussels' answer is always the same: more Europe, more intervention and more money.

Now, the Commission is turning its attention to citizens' savings. Around 70 percent of European household savings – roughly €10 trillion – are held in bank deposits. Instead of asking why Europeans lack confidence to invest, von der Leyen describes these savings as "idle" and wants to mobilise more private capital for European investment.

This reveals a dangerous mentality. The savings of Europeans are not a financial reserve for Brussels to finance the consequences of its failed policies. They belong to the people who earned them.

Whether citizens keep their money in a savings account, invest it in companies or put it aside for their children and retirement is their decision alone.

If Brussels wants investment, it should restore competitiveness: cut bureaucracy, lower energy costs, end ideological overregulation and create conditions in which businesses can prosper.

Europe does not need the Commission directing citizens' money towards its preferred industrial, climate, defence or budget priorities.

A Union that increasingly interferes with our borders, our economies, our freedoms and now potentially our savings is heading in the wrong direction. It is time to return power, responsibility and freedom to Europe's nations and citizens.

Harald Vilimsky

> "Now, the Commission is turning its attention to citizens' savings."



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

Where are the Sanctions Against Morocco?

That is the question Europe must answer after Ceuta. On 30 and 31 July 2026, more than 70,000 people entered Spanish territory from Morocco in an unprecedented mass crossing.

Declassified Spanish documents show that Moroccan intelligence had been warned the previous day about organised calls for crossings by sea and over the fence. Spanish security reporting during the crisis also recorded Moroccan “passivity” and the absence of a proactive response.

Yet Brussels has not sanctioned Rabat. Instead, the European response has focused on managing the consequences inside Spain: emergency funding, Frontex, Europol, asylum support and border infrastructure.

Europe is paying for the aftermath while avoiding accountability.

That restraint contrasts sharply with the EU’s response to Belarus.

When Minsk was accused of instrumentalising migrants against the Union, Brussels widened its sanctions regime, imposed asset freezes and travel bans, and targeted officials, airlines, tour operators and companies involved in facilitating illegal crossings.

Why should the principle change when the pressure comes from the south rather than the east?
If Europe concludes that Moroccan authorities deliberately facilitated, enabled or tolerated a hybrid attack on an EU external border, consequences must follow: targeted sanctions, suspension of cooperation and funding, visa restrictions, asset freezes and isolation of those responsible.

And no privilege should be exempt from scrutiny. Morocco’s role as co-host of the 2030 FIFA World Cup should also be questioned. Strategic partnership cannot mean strategic impunity. Europe’s credibility begins where political expediency ends.

António Tânger Corrêa

> “Strategic partnership cannot mean strategic impunity.”



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

Protecting Ceuta Means Defending Europe

This summer, Ceuta reminded us of a reality that Europe can no longer afford to ignore.

The mass entry of 80,000 migrants into the Spanish enclave marked a new turning point in the migratory pressure facing Europe.

For years, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez has multiplied incentives for illegal immigration by massively regularising undocumented migrants, thereby putting the entire continent at risk.

Faced with this situation, passivity is no longer an option.Ceuta is not simply a Spanish enclave: when it comes under pressure, the whole of Europe is directly affected.

It is time to impose a coordinated, firm and immediate response. Protecting our borders requires stronger powers and greater resources for Frontex, the deployment of cutting-edge surveillance technologies, and absolute firmness towards third countries that exploit human suffering to exert pressure on Europe. But the events in Ceuta are only the tip of the iceberg. Every year, hundreds of thousands of asylum seekers, economic migrants and other migrants arrive on European soil, legally or illegally, gradually disrupting our demographic, cultural, economic and social balances.

The European Union must finally make it clear that its borders are neither porous nor negotiable.

It must demonstrate unwavering political will. The security of our citizens, the preservation of our social model, respect for our sovereignty and the defence of our identity depend on it. Defending Ceuta today means defending the borders, integrity and future of Europe as a whole!

Jean-Paul Garraud

> “Defending Ceuta today means defending the borders.”



MEP Patriots Group, Head of French delegation - Rassemblement National

No Double Standards

The State of the Union debate is not only about where Europe stands today. It is about what kind of Europe we want to build.

In a democracy, governments change. Different political forces, with different visions for their country, can win elections and take responsibility for governing. That is democracy. But a democratic mandate is not a blank cheque to rewrite constitutional rules retroactively, restrict the rights of voters, eliminate political competition or use state power against political opponents.

Hungary shows why this matters for Europe.

For years, a sovereigntist Hungarian government defended its right to make its own choices — on migration, the economy, families and national interests. Because it refused to follow the political line of Brussels, it faced constant pressure, witch-hunt and false accusations from the European mainstream.

Today, Hungary has a government welcomed by that same mainstream. Yet we see retroactive constitutional changes, the removal of the President, officeholders dismissed before the end of their mandates, political opponents excluded from elections and extraordinary state powers used against them.

And Brussels mainstream is remarkably silent.

This double standard tells us something about the state of our Union: sovereignty is respected only when national choices please Brussels, and democracy is defended selectively.

That is not our Europe.

We Patriots stand for a Europe of sovereign nations, genuine political pluralism and equal democratic standards for all.

Tamás Deutsch

> “Sovereignty is respected only when national choices please Brussels, and democracy is defended selectively.”



MEP Patriots Group, Head of Hungarian delegation - Fidesz

A Balanced Approach is Needed to Protect SMEs and Competitiveness

While the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) aims to achieve important environmental goals, the way these rules are being implemented does not seem to be taking us in the right direction.

Reducing the ecological footprint of packaging is a reasonable concern. However, we cannot ignore, once again, the impact these measures are having on our productive system, especially on SMEs.

We are now seeing some of the consequences that the Lega party had already warned about during the previous legislature, when I served as shadow rapporteur for the ITRE opinion on the PPWR.

The new requirements are increasing costs for businesses, putting jobs at risk and forcing many companies to adapt their production processes.

And all of this is happening without providing our businesses with the necessary support to manage these changes.

In Italy, entire supply chains have already invested in effective recycling systems. Nevertheless, these rules on packaging reduction and reuse risk creating additional pressure on businesses.

I believe that environmental purposes must go hand in hand with economic sustainability and competitiveness. This means supporting companies and giving each sector the time it needs to meet the targets set at European level.

Paolo Borchia

> "We cannot ignore the impact these measures are having on our productive system, especially on SMEs."



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

Ostrich Ursula's State of the Union

In this year's State of the Union, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen will once again present her "key projects and flagship projects for the year to come". But just like an ostrich, Ursula's head is buried deep in the sand.

While she keeps dreaming of enlarging and deepening the EU, her project is crumbling right, left and centre.

Last week, in Ursula's heimatland, Germany, the voters of Saxony-Anhalt tore down the firewall of the establishment against the so-called "extreme-right" by giving the AfD a landslide victory over Ursula's own party, the CDU.

Saxony-Anhalt had been governed by a coalition of Christian-Democrats, Social-Democrats and Liberals – the same political conglomerate running the EU. The electorate swept them away. But Ursula ignores it.

Last month, we witnessed the collapse of the EU's immigration policy when tens of thousands breached the border in Ceuta, hoping to join the one million illegals which the Spanish government intends on regularising. Ever more Europeans demand that the borders be closed, that illegals be returned, that welfare payments to newcomers who will never contribute to our society be stopped. People demand it, but Ursula ignores it.

Meanwhile, Iceland's refusal to even contemplate joining the EU makes it clear that no people bound to be a net contributor to the EU, is willing to join the club. Ursula, however, wants to bring more net recipients in.

Hence, there is only one meaningful State of the Union message: Stop the EU madness!

Marieke Ehlers

> "The message is clear: Stop the EU madness!"



MEP Patriots Group, Head of Dutch delegation - PVV

Call it What it is

No doctor treats a patient before naming the illness. Get the name wrong and the patient does not recover; the condition becomes chronic. A month and a half on, the Spanish government still calls Ceuta an irregular crossing and an asylum caseload, and Ceuta is worse today than it was in August.

The correct name is not difficult. What Ceuta suffered in July is an invasion, and Spain has been attacked by a third state.

Morocco has done this before, and it belongs to a sequence: the Sahara, Perejil in 2002, the invasion of 2021 to which this government answered with nothing, and the permanent illegitimate claims on Ceuta, Melilla and the Canary Islands. That is hybrid warfare, and it is a chain, not an accident.

Name it that way and the treatment follows. A state under attack does not ask permission to defend itself.

Article 72 of the Treaty says what our government pretends not to know: asylum rules do not override a member state's duty to maintain public order and internal security. Spain lacks no legal instrument, only a government willing to use one. The invaders must be returned to their country.

Sánchez does the opposite. He blames social media and an "international far right" that exists only in his head. Thousands remain in Ceuta and his answer is to distribute them across the Peninsula. Spaniards are entitled to ask whom he is working for, because it is plainly not for them.

Ceuta has not surrendered. It is Spain, it will remain Spain, and it will be defended, with this government or in spite of it.

Jorge Buxadé



> “A month and a half on, the government still refuses to name what happened in Ceuta.”

MEP Patriots Group, Head of Spanish delegation - VOX

Reform, Meaning More Burdens!

In mid-July, the European Commission proposed the long-awaited package of changes to the ETS system.

However, this is not a revolutionary change, because the European Union is not abandoning its climate targets, and the Green Deal remains the foundation of EU climate policy.

The Commission did not have enough political courage and economic imagination to radically revise the target itself — a 90% reduction in net emissions by 2040.

However, it did have enough audacity to introduce new burdenshe most obvious example of these new burdens is the gradual inclusion of municipal waste incineration plants in the ETS, reaching 100% coverage from 2034.

They will have to buy CO_2 emission allowances, which will place a heavy burden on municipal budgets and sharply increase residents' waste collection bills.

Other important changes include: changing the pace of reduction of the emissions allowance pool — the linear reduction factor will be 3.7% in 2031–2035 and 1.7% in 2036–2040; allowing the use of up to 2% of high-quality international carbon credits in 2036–2040; creating an Industrial Decarbonisation Bank with EUR 100 billion in funding for decarbonisation investments; requiring Member States to spend 50% of ETS revenues on decarbonisation investments in sectors covered by the system; and including permanent CO_2 removals in the ETS.

The reform does not cover ETS2, which applies to road transport and buildings and will enter into force in 2028.

EU climate policy is destroying European industry and the energy sector by imposing additional costs on entire sectors.

Anna Brylka

> "The Commission did not have enough political courage and economic imagination to radically revise the target itself — a 90% reduction in net emissions by 2040. However, it did have enough audacity to introduce new burden."



MEP Patriots Group, Head of Polish delegation – Ruch Narodowy

PATRIOTS INITIATIVES

3 amendments to the **EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027**;

9 amendments to the **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism**;

5 amendments to **Establishing the Temporary Decarbonisation Fund**;

9 amendments to **Findings and recommendations of the EUDS Committee**;

12 amendments to the **Draft amending budget no 2**;

3 amendments to **Establishing the Single Market and Customs Programme**;

3 amendments to the **Impact of social media and the online environment on young people**;

3 amendments to **An EU health workforce crisis plan**;

3 amendments to **Gender inequalities in health**;

8 amendments to **Hybrid warfare and the protection of the EU's territorial integrity**;

11 amendments to **Narco-trafficking in Europe's waters**;

A motion for a resolution on the **Evaluation of the Common Fisheries Policy and follow-up**;

A motion for a resolution on **Political prisoners in Cuba**.

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