

Press release - European Democratic Party

Brussels, 10 December 2021

The European Democratic Party (EDP), a European political party and member of the Renew Europe parliamentary group, met on Friday 10 December for its Council. Initially scheduled to take place in Frankfurt am Main, the meeting was held online.

During this Council, the representatives of the democratic political parties unanimously re-elected François BAYROU and Sandro GOZI as President and Secretary General respectively of the European Democratic Party.

The European Democrats are also growing: they welcomed the party of former Italian Prime Minister Matteo RENZI - Italia Viva, and the Belgian Member of Parliament and former Minister for Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development, Marie-Christine MARGHEM.

As the European Parliament prepares for the second half of the legislature, the EDP took the opportunity of this meeting to adopt the Frankfurt Declaration: it sets the direction for the EDP's activities for the years ahead and defines its priorities for the remainder of this parliamentary term.

François BAYROU, President of the European Democrats explained: "This is a very happy and significant moment. The EDP was created with Romano Prodi and co-chaired for a long time with Francesco Rutelli. The matrix of the EDP, which embodies this great central force, is at the origin of the idea of the European institutions and of the federal idea. Everyone of us have our identity, and we work closely together. We have carried this movement against all odds, and at a time when this movement is expanding, I am very happy that Italy, through Italia Viva, is regaining its place in this movement. I am very happy about what is happening thanks to the choice of Matteo Renzi with the Italian government. It really is a beacon in the European Union, and it strengthens our Union's momentum."

Sandro GOZI, Secretary General of the European Democrats said: "We currently have 19 member parties from 14 countries. This is a solid base, and we have an ambitious programme. But recruiting new members is one of our main priorities, and we are already strengthening with Matteo RENZI's Italia Viva, which is great news."

The EDP is European political party that brings together political parties and MEPs who want a Union closer to its citizens. We are a trans-national political movement committed to building a European democracy based on the shared values of peace, freedom, solidarity, and education, while proudly affirming its culture in tomorrow's world. We are part of Renew Europe group in the European Parliament.

The following were also unanimously elected to the Presidency:

- Executive Vice-Presidents: Andoni ORTUZAR (Basque Country) and Ulrike MÜLLER (Germany)

- Vice-Presidents: Karl ERJAVEC (Slovenia), Marios GEORGIADIS (Greece), Marian HARKIN (Ireland), António MARINHO E PINTO (Portugal), Andrzej POTOCKI (Poland) and Gianluca SUSTA (Italy)
- General Delegate: Gérard DEPREZ (Belgium)
- Deputy Secretaries General: Marina DEMETRIOU (Cyprus), Jose Maria ETXEBARRIA (Basque Country), Frédéric PETIT (France), Istvan SERTO-RADICS (Hungary)
- Treasurer: Jean Marie BEAUPUY (France)
- Representatives of the European Parliament national delegations: Engin EROGLU (Germany), Izaskun BILBAO BARANDICA (Basque Country), Sylvie BRUNET (France), Nicola DANTI (Italy), Corina CRETU (Romania)
- Honorary President: Nicos KOUTSOU (Cyprus)