



2022

elevate. empower. engage.



About us

The European Christian Political Movement (ECPM) is the only European political party explicitly promoting Christian values in politics.

We are genuinely anchored in the political tradition that contributed significantly to the founding of the European Union: Christian Democracy.

Our goal is to bridge the gap between extremes in European politics by re-establishing Christian Democracy as a viable political alternative, with an emphasis on the Christian relational worldview.

We dream of a Europe where human dignity is protected, where people are free and safe, and where governments serve their citizens.

ECPM acts as a platform for its members and associates: we want everyone to feel elevated, their voice heard and aware of their value. Through our events, trainings and resources, we empower our members with knowledge and connection so that they will effectively and successfully engage in their parliaments and communities and be the voice that influences Europe.

Our movement brings together over 50 Christian- democratic political parties, individual politicians, NGOs and think-tanks from all across Europe.

Table of Contents

04

OUR VALUES

06

FORWARD BY THE ECPM PRESIDENT

08

DIRECTOR'S REFLECTION

10

ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT

12

INTRODUCTION

16

HUMAN DIGNITY

Pro Life Campaign National Conference

Future Leaders Programme- Spring & Fall Training Sessions

22

RELATIONAL ECONOMICS

Family - oriented business policy - a BündnisC / ECPM gathering
Cornerstone Dinner

26

HEALTHY FAMILIES

SGP Family Day

Familien Partei Deutschlands- ECPM Gathering

30

FREEDOM, SECURITY & STABILITY

The Adoption & Implementation of the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism

FREEDOM, SECURITY & STABILITY

Not Alone; We're in This Together. The danger looming over Ukraine's neighbors and Europe's solidarity in the face of aggression

Renewing our Minds Summer Gathering

Navigating Differences- ROM Reunion

Two States for Two Peoples? - report launch

42

FIGHTING MODERN SLAVERY

European Freedom Network- The Bridge Conference

46

REFORMING THE EUROPEAN UNION

Spanish Party Coalition Launch

REFORMING THE EUROPEAN UNION

The Fight for Data Control

Conservative Summit

Christian Union Members Event

54

PRESERVING CHRISTIAN HERITAGE & CULTURE

Forum Plus International Conference

Europe, Back to the Roots! - book launch

Christian Values in EU Forum

Christian Features of European Politics

62

ECPM GENERAL ASSEMBLY- 23RD EDITION

ECPM GENERAL ASSEMBLY- 23RD EDITION

'Boycott Russia' resolution

Preventing and combating human trafficking and reintegrating survivors

Resolution on the Iran nuclear deal (JCPOA)

70

ECPM DECLARATION ON RUSSIA'S INVASION OF UKRAINE

71

WORKING VISITS WITH ECPM MEMBERS

75

FAREWELL TO AUKE MINNEMA AND LEO VAN DOESBURG

80

ECPYOUTH

ECPYouth

Road to Freedom Through Mandatory Vaccination?

Fundraising for Ukrainian hospitals

Christian Changemakers (2021-2022 programme)

War and Pandemics: Implications for Europe's Future

International Summer School

ECPYOUTH

Christian Changemakers (2022-2023 programme)

Regional Event

94

ECPM BOARD

96

ECPM MEPS

98

ECPM STAFF

100

CONTACT & DONATE



Human Dignity

Human dignity expresses the intrinsic value of every human being. It is inviolable and must be respected and protected, as stated in Article 1 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. We believe this universal principle rests on the human being as created in the image and likeness of God and is the cornerstone all the other human rights depend on. Therefore, life should be protected from conception to natural death. ECPM believes that a vibrant and positive Europe should celebrate and promote life. The EU Member States have sole competence over issues like abortion, reproductive care, mental health, palliative care, adoption and disability.



Healthy Families

ECPM sees the family as the most important social entity and the foundation for a thriving society. We call on the European Union to respect the sovereignty of the family, based on the marriage between one man and one woman. Family policy is foremost the responsibility of EU Member States and, according to the principle of subsidiarity, European institutions should not interfere. At national level, we stand for policies promoting parenthood: maternity leave, affordable childcare services and increased flexibility in the workplace for those who want to take care of their children. ECPM also supports programs focused on protecting children and youth, on preventing addiction and violence, and on advocating for children's rights.

Our Values



Relational Economics

We believe the purpose of all economic activity is to support life and advance wellbeing for all- an economy that works for people and planet. We consider the principles of free trade and an open market are essential for Europe's economies, but believe there must be adequate checks and balances in place to protect the environment and address tax evasion. Economic policy needs to be people-centered, not driven solely by financial gains. Processes, contracts and projects need to be transparent, inclusive and democratic and not erode the rule of law. Technology must be developed and used fully respecting human dignity. ECPM believes that wise stewardship of Creation is a biblical mandate and that individuals as well as institutions have a responsibility to care for it.



Fighting Modern Slavery

Modern forms of slavery are dehumanizing, distorting relationships and severely hurting people. Most victims are trapped in forced labor conditions or sex trafficking. Since trafficking is a cross-border crime, combatting it requires international cooperation. ECPM strongly favors the implementation of the 2011/36/ EU Directive and the Nordic model approach in fighting sex trafficking. The Nordic model focuses on criminalizing the client and the trafficker. ECPM also calls for an EU-wide ban on advertising sexual services. EU Member States need to draft and harmonize legislation to eliminate child or forced labor from the supply chains.



Freedom, Security & Stability

Real freedom of faith, conscience and expression becomes apparent in interactions with those who feel, think or act differently. ECPM believes in the fundamental freedom to disagree with the view of the majority on any subject. We believe that implementing fundamental freedoms in volatile countries around the world would lead to greater stability and development. ECPM recognizes the need to support the security of Israel and its right to exist. We strongly believe that all European military operations should be conducted within NATO and that there is no need for a European army. We encourage increased collaboration between Member States on matters of border security, migration, (cyber) terrorism and organized crime.



Reforming the EU

We consider that the way the European Union works and acts needs to be reformed to enable it to be an instrument of peace and growth. ECPM believes more power and authority should be returned to Member States. Bureaucracy needs to be reduced by reviewing EU agencies and eliminating non-performing or redundant ones. The EU institutions should act more like facilitators and hubs for cooperation on transnational issues. The EU institutions and policies must adhere strictly to the principle of subsidiarity. We advocate for prioritizing EU Neighborhood Policy over EU accession for countries in the EU orbit.



Preserving Christian Heritage & Culture

ECPM acknowledges the Christian roots of the EU Members States and believes there is value in this heritage. Christian values like freedom, solidarity, reconciliation, love, truth and respect for life stand at the foundation of the European Union. We should celebrate and continue to build on these values and oppose secular, anti-religious ideologies. We stand against Turkey becoming an EU member. Our party is concerned about the persecution of Christians worldwide, as well as the persecution of Buddhists and Muslims in some countries. We promote and advocate for freedom of religion or belief as a right for everyone, regardless of their religious beliefs. ECPM also defends the right to conscientious objection and reasonable accommodation as tools that ensure everyone has a right to manifest their religion or belief in public and in private.

Foreword by the ECPM President

Dear ECPM members, colleagues, and friends,

Despite many challenges in 2022, God has been good and faithful to us. Thousands of years ago, speaking about the land of Israel, Moses said: **“the eyes of the LORD your God are continually on it from the beginning of the year to its end.”** (Deut. 11:12) It is a great comfort to know that the eyes of the Lord are continually on our countries from the beginning of the year to its end.

The war in Ukraine remains the biggest challenge for Europe. On February 24 a shockwave went through not just Europe, but the entire world. Since then, the people of Ukraine are going through the darkest period of their modern history. Millions of Ukrainians, especially women and children, became refugees.

Hundreds and thousands of innocent lives were lost. Tens and hundreds of villages, towns and cities were destroyed. The electrical infrastructure was bombed lately almost daily by Russian missiles, which threatened the life of millions of civilians because of freezing temperatures.

The European solidarity was a great help to Ukraine. I take this opportunity to thank all ECPM member parties, members

of national Parliaments and the ECPM MEPs for supporting Ukraine in their existential battle. Many European countries like the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Poland, Germany and the Netherlands opened their homes for refugees. From personal experience I know that churches in Moldova were first in providing housing and meals for refugees. At the European Prayer Breakfast in Brussels, MEP Peter van Dalen asked the participants to donate for electrical generators for Ukraine. There is still a great need to pray for Ukraine, for the end of this unjust war and for a just and lasting peace.

Like the year before, we had a few changes in leadership. Auke Minnema, ECPM General Director stepped down and moved to work for another Christian ministry. Leo van Doesburg, long-time Director for Policy & European Affairs, left to start a

new pioneer work. We organized a farewell gathering for each of them and welcomed the opportunity to show our gratitude for their hard work and commitment of all these years. Maarten van de Fliert was elected by the selection committee and appointed by the Board to be the new ECPM General Director. Despite all the changes, the ECPM operations team continues to be effective and committed, but I am sure they will appreciate your prayers and support.

As the ECPM President, I have decided to visit and meet with the leaders of all the member parties. To that end, I attended events co-organized between ECPM and Family Party from Germany, SGP and Christian Union from the Netherlands. I also tried to stay in touch with all ECPM MEPs, meeting them regularly during the European Parliament plenaries in Strasbourg. I believe prayer and good communication are key ingredients for a strong team. I look forward to continuing my visits and strengthening our partnership in 2023 as well. If there are events in the ECPM family where my presence can bring additional encouragement and motivation for Christian politicians, let me know and I will do my best to be there with you.

I was very glad to welcome ECPYouth in Chişinău who held their regional conference here around the topic of sustainability. It is a great encouragement to see our young people committed to promoting Christian values. We arranged a tour of the Moldovan Parliament and a brief meeting with the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament which was an additional motivation for our young people to continue their work in Christian politics.

At the end of the year, I had the privilege, together with other ECPM members, to attend the European Prayer Breakfast (EPB). The key Bible verse for the 25th EPB was Psalm 100:5, **“For the Lord is good and His love endures forever, his faithfulness continues through all generations.”** It was a wonderful opportunity to take stock of the year which was closing and to remember that the Lord is good, all the time. The keynote speakers for the breakfast were Mircea Geoană, Deputy Secretary General of NATO, and Dr. Gor Khatchikyan from the Netherlands. It was a pleasant surprise to hear from the Deputy Secretary General of NATO how important in his view is faith and prayer in our lives, especially in times of crisis (the war in Ukraine being one of them).

We are a few months away from the next European elections, which means a lot of hard work for our MEPs and member parties preparing to get a seat in the European Parliament. I count on our unity both in prayer and deed. We need it in order to fulfill our mission and to grow; ECPM aims to increase its presence in the future compeconence of the European Parliament.

Let me conclude with Jesus’ words in His farewell to the disciples: **“I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”** (John 16:33) Let us continue our walk into the uncertain, unknown future of Europe by putting our trust in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Valeriu Ghileţchi

President of the European Christian Political Movement



Director's Reflection

A year of change

“There is a time to come and to go, and the time to go has come” is an expression based on the Bible verses in Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. It is a phrase which applies to the European Christian Political Movement in 2022.

Auke Minnema, ECPM General Director for almost five years, stepped down so he could dedicate more time to his growing family and shift to a ministry-related job. Leo van Doesburg, Director for Policy & European Affairs, left to pursue a new career venture. After a few months of transition and handover, I started in my new role as ECPM's General Director on 1st of September, an honor I do not take for granted. I wish to thank both Auke and Leo for their work and dedication of all these years. We are all grateful for what they have done for ECPM and for advancing Christian values in European politics. May God bless them and guide them in the next stage of their careers and lives.

I have often used the above saying in goodbye speeches. So far I moved location and houses more than twenty times, including three times abroad, and most likely there is still more to come. As followers of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are

pilgrims on this Earth and change is part of our faith and our Christian journey. While change itself can be challenging, sometimes painful, our belief in an Everlasting, Unchanging God who deeply loves and cares for us, sustains us.

**“There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:
a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot, [...]
a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh, [...]
a time to search and a time to give up, [...]
a time to be silent and a time to speak, [...]
a time for war and a time for peace.”**

– Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8 (NIV)

We can quote all verses from this passage and find a link

to our daily lives. Each one has deep meaning and could be found in every day throughout 2022. For example, in February of this year, we were all shaken by Russia's aggression against Ukraine. I fervently pray that the “time for peace” comes soon.

This year brought several changes in the ECPM and also in Europe. As Christians who believe in an Unchanging God, we look at the shifting circumstances around us while anchored in Him who in all things **“works for the good of those who love Him”** (Romans 8:28 NIV); likewise, we turn changes into opportunities to better ourselves and our fellow citizens, moments to grow, to engage, to make a difference.

The ECPM is a movement which brings committed Christians together in sharing God's principles for the individual and for society. We truly believe that Jesus' teachings on freedom, equality, justice, love, self-sacrifice are good and useful models for our world today. Members of the ECPM are from all areas of Europe and although that can be challenging, we choose to listen and learn from each other on how to deal as Christians in difficult (political) decisions and situations. We are one in God's Spirit and working on the same goals.

In the short four months since I started my journey in ECPM I could see clearly that there is a need for what we are bringing in Europe and that we have a future as the only political party explicitly promoting Christian values in politics. In May 2024 we will be facing new changes as all citizens of the twenty-seven member states will be heading to the voting booths. Our members are getting ready for the elections and for the responsibility that comes with being elected to the European Parliament.

What about you? Are you ready to join us? Let's work together on making changes that will enrich and improve people's lives! I look forward to our cooperation.

Maarten van de Fliert

General Director



Advisory Council Report

The Advisory Council (AC) was established by the ECPM General Assembly (GA) on June 7, 2013 and is a consultative group to both ECPM board and its members.

It can propose topics for the GA and the board. It also checks the budget and the annual financial results. In addition, the AC checks and amends changes of program and statutes. It meets at least once a year.

We see this work as service, as a calling, and we ask God to guide us in making good decisions, with love and understanding for each other's differences. We want to always keep in mind the common goal which unites us: promoting Christian values in the European politics.

In 2022, the Advisory Council was composed by the following: Florica Cherecheș (President since 2021), Inga Bite (vice-president), Peter Östman, Branislav Škripek, Hanna Stretovych, George Rukhadze and Annelie Enochson. Mr. Rukhadze and Ms. Enochson stepped down in the latter part of the year and were replaced by Christophe Foltzenlogel.

We were delighted to see each other face to face in 2022 after two years when that was not possible due to the Covid-19 pandemic situation. The working meeting of the AC was on May 24 at the ECPM office in Amersfoort, preparing

the General Assembly of ECPM which was held on June 17 in Madrid. We received the relevant documents in advance and we discussed them during the meeting. We accepted the 2021 Independent Auditor's report presented at the General Assembly with no further questions. We also supported the decision to increase the membership fees, since it directly contributes to the 10% own resources ECPM must raise in order to continue its work. We have also reviewed the three resolutions tabled at the General Assembly, as well as the Identity Declaration ECPM is drafting and have provided guidance and feedback on all documents.

The Advisory Council regretted Auke Minnema's decision to step down from his function as General Director of ECPM. He has wonderfully fulfilled this role since 2018 but his involvement in ECPM dates from long before that; we thank him for his loyalty and steady leadership. However, we are

very pleased to see that the EPCM board has chosen Maarten van de Fliert, a fantastic and capable person, to take up the responsibilities of the General Director. We had the chance to meet Maarten at a dinner in the evening before our AC meeting and were impressed by his motivation to serve ECPM.

Long-time policy expert and Director for European Affairs Leo van Doesburg also decided to leave ECPM and move onto a new phase in his career; we are delighted for him and pray God's guidance over his new endeavor.

We were saddened to hear about the decision of our member party The Hrvatski Suverenisti/ Hrast from Croatia to leave ECPM. As a consequence, Ladislav Ilčić, board member for ECPM since 2013, has resigned. We are very grateful for all the years he served ECPM as board member and wish him all the best for the future.

We are thankful to God for His care and provision and for the opportunity we had to serve Him in this Advisory Council in 2022. We are also grateful for ECPM members across Europe and for the staff operational team for their diligence and support and consider ourselves fortunate to collaborate with such dedicated people.

Florica Cherecheș
President of the Advisory Council



Introduction

In this yearbook you will find summaries of the events ECPM organized in 2022 either as sole organizer or in partnership with our party members, members of European Parliament (MEPs) and non-governmental organizations.

Life slowly returned to normal in Europe this year and we were able to organize in person most of the events you will find in this yearbook. We continued focusing our activity around the seven spearheads which constitute our political program and which you can find neatly organized in the following pages.

It wasn't a year without challenges. The ECPM board, Advisory Council as well as the staff went through changes in personnel or some members rotating off, in addition to losing a party member and EP seat. Although that can feel destabilizing in the moment, we recognize it as a big opportunity for growth and innovation. We are already setting in motion new procedures and ways of engaging our members spread across Europe and of bringing them in closer contact. We believe this will be

highly beneficial and hopefully will yield great results at the upcoming European elections in 2024.

Behind the scenes we are constantly working on ECPM's message, visibility and purpose, continuously refining and adapting. Our dream is to see the voices of European Christians in politics elevated, recognized and making a difference. What you will see in this booklet are ways we empower our members and associates with resources, information and tools, ways we create the space and connections for each of them, for all of us together to be powerful agents of change (to be salt and light, as Lord Jesus called His followers) in the European political environment.

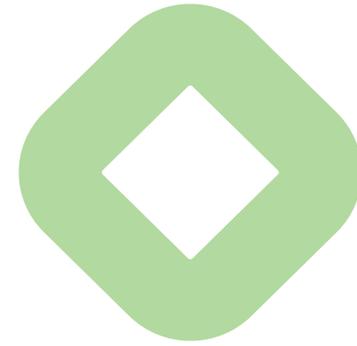




Human Dignity

"Human dignity is the same for all human beings: when I trample on the dignity of another, I am trampling on my own."

Pope Francis



Pro Life Campaign National Conference



Wendy Grace, national broadcaster and journalist in Ireland



Dr. Dermot Kearney, cardiologist, UK
Lois McLatchie, Communications Director for Alliance Defending Freedom International
Peadar Tóibín, Member of the Irish Parliament
Elaine Noonan, National Coordinator of Community Connect

The annual conference, which took place for the first time in person since the pandemic, has gathered professionals, experts and activists promoting pro-life healthcare. It was attended by 350 people and drew attention of the national media. The event focused on national as well as international changes in laws and public opinion regarding the prioritization of life in healthcare.

Medical experts spoke about latest medical developments in reversing the effects of the abortion pill, as many change their minds during the process. Community Connect leader spoke about practical ways to help and support pregnant women or new mothers in need. Legal professionals and political experts have discussed the aspect of freedom of conscience and objection, as well as young people's role in getting involved in grassroots activism and being trained in communicating effectively in the media.



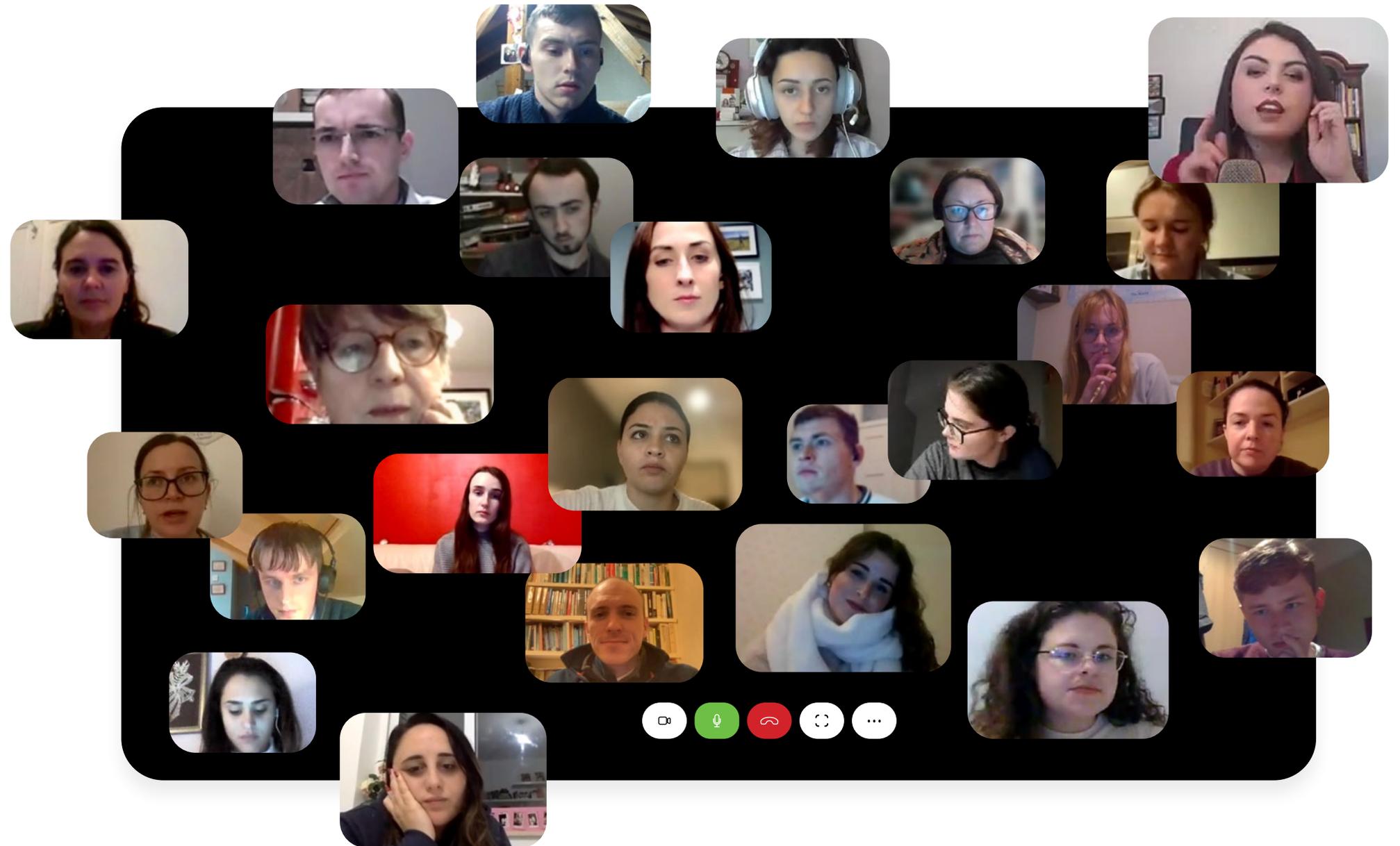
Future Leaders Programme



- Emily Albrecht**, Equal Rights Institute, USA
- Elaine Noonan**, national coordinator of Community Connect
- Dr. Christopher M. Wojtulewicz**, Anscombe Centre for Bioethics Oxford
- Dr. Berry Kiely**, retired pediatrician in Ireland
- Eilis Mulroy**, Solicitor and political strategist
- Rachel McKenzie**, coordinator at Rachel's Vineyard organization, UK
- Wendy Grace**, national broadcaster and journalist in Ireland

The Future Leaders Programme (FLP) organized by the Pro-Life Campaign is an intensive six-week training course for young people in Ireland and EU to equip them in becoming future leaders in life-defending healthcare. Over the last few years, over 100 young professionals have been trained in this programme. Following an extensive reviewing process of the applications received, 26 participants from Ireland and Malta were accepted into the two training sessions this year. The participants were students and young professionals from across the disciplines of philosophy, law, finance, politics, healthcare, and the arts.

The training included lectures and presentations, discussion groups and interactive seminars on freedom of speech, conscientious objection and freedom of belief, communicating one's beliefs with passion and civility, legal challenges and opportunities in the current national & European healthcare environment, and coaching on interacting with the media on human dignity issues.





Relational Economics

“Relational Thinking reminds us- and we need the reminder- that it is the quality of our relationships that, more than anything else, determines our happiness, fulfilment and the sense of a life well lived.”

Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks



Family-oriented business policy- a BündnisC / ECPM gathering



Rainer Lohfeld, CEO at Leuchtturm Akquise
Karin Heepen, BündnisC Chairwoman
Jacques Bazen, ECPM Treasurer/ board member

ECPM and member party BündnisC gathered in Bad Blankenburg, Germany to discuss current challenges in Europe and Germany regarding the economic crisis in particular. Our view of a relational economy was highlighted and a vigorous defense of the family-owned and small businesses was given.

The Chairwoman of BündnisC, Karin Heepen, opened the meeting with an overview of the political upheavals in Germany and Europe, which also include a general attack on the Christian foundations of our culture and society. The keynote speaker was businessman Rainer Lohfeld who argued that it is in the government's interest to support and encourage small and family-owned businesses since that is directly linked to an increase in quality of life and a thriving, happy workforce.

On behalf of ECPM, board member Jacques Bazen presented our recent activities and encouraged the BündnisC members present to take advantage of the ECPM network and create relationships with other like-minded members and to engage boldly with their communities and German society.



Cornerstone Dinner



Lars Rise, former member of Norwegian Parliament
Gilles Klass, business consultant
Sylvana Bal, ECPYouth President

The annual dinner, organized again in collaboration with the Cornerstone team, took place on December 7th in Brussels. Cornerstone is an informal network of young professionals centered around the principles of Jesus. The event was attended by 90 young professionals and other guests who had the opportunity to meet each other and discuss ways to live out the teachings of Jesus in their personal lives and in the workplace.

Lars Rise (former MP* from Norway and serving on boards of rehabilitation programs) praised initiatives like the Cornerstone Dinner, highlighting the importance of friendship. As Jesus himself said *"I don't call you servants, I call you friends"* (John 15:15). For Christian politicians in particular, godly friendships are vital for practicing accountability. He added that one of the biggest challenges for Christians in politics is to practice what they preach. Politicians often focus on promoting themselves and their initiatives instead of heeding the call of Scripture: *"But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you"* (Matthew 6:6).

Sylvana Bal (MSc in Public Administration and President of ECPYouth) spoke about the high pressure to perform young people face today in their personal and professional lives. Young people are suffering trying to fulfil society's expectations of what they should be, look like, dress like etc. Many of them bottle up their feelings, their insecurities and anxieties and as

*MP- Member of Parliament



such their mental health is threatened. In a contribution that contained also personal experiences, she showed how these pressures can be turned into a renewed commitment to life and to the service of others. Sylvana also spoke about the influence Christian principles played in her journey and her work with ECPYouth. Additionally, she gave a short presentation of the work of ECPYouth bringing together young Christians from across Europe who wish to make a difference in their societies through Christian democratic principles. She concluded by encouraging participants to sign up for the Christian Changemakers (ECPYouth's training program).

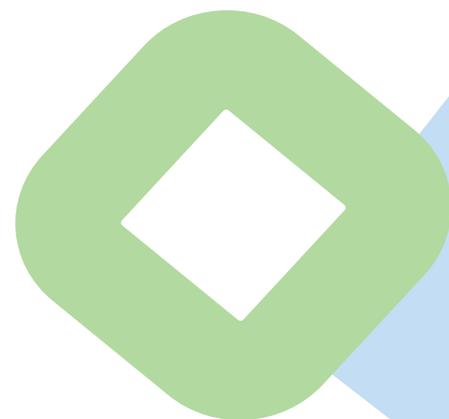
Gilles Klass, who has been active in the business sector, worked for 20 years in an HR consultancy, and is a board member in several Belgian and French organizations, shared his experience and the lessons learned along the way. He also talked about the role his Christian faith played in his professional life, how he was sustained when he had to make difficult business decisions and how he was comforted when he received a worrisome medical diagnosis.



Healthy Families

"The family remains the basic unit of society and the first school in which children learn the human, spiritual and moral values which enable them to be a beacon of goodness, integrity and justice in our communities."

Pope Francis



SGP Family Day

We were delighted to join our member party- the Dutch Reformed Party (SGP)- at Archeon Museum Park for celebrating family and their hundred-year activity in Dutch politics defending family values and Christian ideas.

Many SGP members and friends, entire families, came out to celebrate, watch re-enactments of medieval jousting tournaments, listen to ancient Roman history and got a chance to interact with MEP Bert-Jan Ruissen and other SGP elected leaders. Mr. Ruissen hosted several workshops where he explained how the European Parliament works and what he and the other MEPs have to do in the EP.



Scan to watch
the full video

Familien Partei Deutschlands- ECPM Gathering



MEP* **Helmut Geuking**, Familien Partei President
Valeriu Ghilețchi, ECPM President

Together with member party Familien Partei Germany we organized a gathering to present and discuss the current state of affairs in Europe, the agenda and policy priorities in the European Parliament, and how they are relevant for the German citizens.

Valeriu Ghilețchi spoke about the importance of Christian participation in society highlighting ECPM's slogan- ELEVATE. EMPOWER. ENGAGE: ***“Christians are oftentimes ignored or discounted in the European political landscape. ECPM is here to elevate those voices, to empower our members and partners by offering trainings and workshops, by giving them tools and connecting them to an extensive network of like-minded people across Europe so that they can engage their communities and society”***. He also thanked Mr. Geuking for being such a faithful ally in supporting human dignity, fair and social economic policies and for standing up for families and children's rights.

Mr. Geuking presented all his recent initiatives in the European Parliament and called for more measures to support families on a national and European level. The presence of many members and friends of the Familien Partei gave the opportunity for a lively discussion with the speakers.



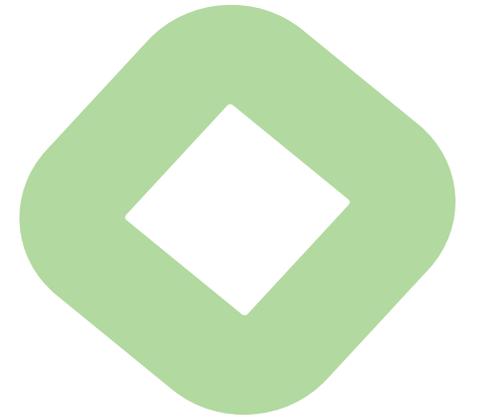
*MEP- Member of European Parliament



Freedom, Security & Stability

"The hallmark of a healthy society has always been measured by how it cares for the disadvantaged"

Joni Eareckson Tada



The Adoption & Implementation of the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism



MEP* Bert-Jan Ruissen (NL)
MP* Peter Östman (FI)

Together with the Israel Allies Foundation and Combat Antisemitism Movement we organized a meeting for decision-makers, policy advisers and experts where we discussed antisemitism in Europe today and the importance of The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA)'s definition and its implementation. The speakers praised the countries which have adopted it and turned it into a legal instrument for prosecuting hate crimes and instances of antisemitism against Jews, their properties, institutions and community.

This special meeting took place on the International Holocaust Remembrance Day when the entire world commemorates the tragedy of so many lives lost and commits to never again allow something like that to happen. However, statistics have showed that antisemitic incidents are on the rise in Europe and worldwide, year



Katharina von Schnurbein, EU Coordinator on Combating anti-Semitism and Fostering Jewish Life
Nachman Shai, IL Minister of Diaspora Affairs
MK* Ruth Wasserman Lande, Israel
Elan S. Carr, former U.S. Special Envoy for Monitoring and Combating anti-Semitism
Josh Reinstein, Israel Allies Foundation President

after year. A very disturbing trend and a phenomenon this working definition and the conference participants are determined to fight against.

"Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities."

- The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism



*MEP- Member of European Parliament

*MP- Member Parliament

*MK- Member of Knesset

Not Alone; We're in This Together. The danger looming over Ukraine's neighbors and Europe's solidarity in the face of aggression



Jacques Bazan, Lecturer at Saxion University, ECPM board member

In the aftermath of the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine, we felt it was important to hold an event emphasizing our solidarity with the people of Ukraine and to send out a message of encouragement in the face of this aggression.

Our friend and former member of Ukrainian Parliament- Pavlo Unguryan- joined us for this online meeting from a hiding place in Kiev, while air sirens were going off around him. He told us of clear instances of God's provision and miraculous intervention during the war and he encouraged everyone to keep praying for the peace and safety of Ukraine. Mr. Dzimitruk, a Belarussian Christian political leader living in exile, asked for forgiveness in the name of Belarussians who are unwillingly dragged into this war by



Valeriu Ghilețchi, ECPM President, former Deputy Speaker of the Moldovan Parliament
Pavlo Unguryan, former Ukrainian Member of Parliament
Georgi Dzimitruk, co-chairman of the Belarussian Christian Democrats

their authoritarian president and reassured the audience and speakers that Lukashenko does not represent the Belarussians' sentiment towards their Ukrainian brothers and sisters.

ECPM President Ghilețchi praised the Ukrainian resistance and encouraged the nations of Europe to continue supporting it, in order to prevent the Russian imperialistic ambitions extending to the other independent countries in Eastern Europe. He spurred the European institutions and nations around the world to implement sanctions against Putin's regime and to support Ukraine with aid and weaponry necessary to defend itself.



Scan to watch the full video

Renewing our Minds Summer Gathering



Bojan Ruvarac, ROM Director



Martha Weiss, Forum for Leadership and Reconciliation board chair

Heather Staff, assistant to British MP* and ward councillor in London

Leo van Doesburg, Director for Policy and European Affairs at ECPM

Alan Cutting, Samaritan's Purse project manager

Alan Staff, pastor and mental health professional

Jelena Vilotijevic, student and youth worker

Bryan Carey, Peace Catalyst International

Amra Pandzo, peace activist

Mirela Popaja-Hadzic, Jericho Foundation director

Dusan Beredji, pastor and activist

Noemi Mena Montes, Senior Lecturer at Radboud University and journalist

Camilla Bocăniălă, Polylogos founder and director

Thirty young leaders from Balkan countries as well as UK, U.S.A., Uganda, Norway, Ukraine, Spain and Moldova gathered for a two-week conference organized around the principles of peacebuilding.

The Renewing Our Minds (ROM) gathering's goal is to transform the thinking of future leaders in Europe and beyond through Jesus' teachings about peace, justice and loving one's neighbor.

In the context of present tensions at the Serbia/ Kosovo border, discussions about EU accession for Balkan countries and the present ethnic, religious and socio-economic divisions, a conference such as this which brings diverse groups together and fosters dialogue and understanding is extremely relevant.

The speakers at the event focused on issues of identity, nationalism, forgiveness, the power of narrative, reconciliation, servant leadership, community healing and disagreeing without demonizing. Attendants were encouraged through lectures, workshops and role-play to listen, to practice empathy, and to work together in finding solutions. Speakers from South Africa and Northern Ireland provided perspectives from their countries' past on racial reconciliation and national peacebuilding and drew parallels with the situation in the world today.

Bosnian peacebuilders unpacked the effects of decades of authoritarian leadership over the young potential leaders from the Balkans and underlined the importance of addressing intergenerational trauma and toxic nationalism.

Dusan Beredji spoke about using art as an instrument of peace, which engaged the audience, and he shared his journey of becoming an environmental activist and how that provided him the opportunity to reach out and work with anarchists, far left and far right activists in order to fight systemic corruption.

Liviu and Camila Bocăniălă reflected on what they have learned serving those affected by the war in Ukraine, while Alan Cutting spoke about the response, recovery and reconstruction stages of disaster response giving examples from Ukraine.



*MP- Member Parliament

Navigating Differences- ROM Reunion



- Bojan Ruvarac**, ROM Director, Serbia
- Tihomir Kukolja**, pastor, former ROM director, US/Croatia
- Justin Kagin**, Economy Diplomacy Integrity (EDI) co-founder, US
- Alan Cutting**, Samaritan's Purse project manager, UK
- Arian Galdini**, founder of Freedom, Democracy & Ethics party, Albania
- Mihaela Kovacs**, Director of Beraca Foundation, Romania
- Maarten van de Fliert**, ECPM General Director

We partnered once again with Renewing Our Minds (ROM) organization to organize a reunion for all past participants in ROM summer gatherings this time in Crikvenica, Croatia. The goal of the reunion was to encourage and strengthen alumni peacemakers in their efforts of promoting peace and unity in their communities and countries. Additionally, the current tensions between Bulgaria and North Macedonia on one hand, and Serbia and Kosovo on the other, require a renewed perspective and motivation.

Through lectures, small group discussions, networking and workshops, the participants became aware of prejudice, implicit bias and differences and learned to dismantle and navigate them in creative ways in order to serve as ambassadors of peace within their communities and spheres of influence. The event offered practical and tangible ways they can implement the things learned.



Two States for Two Peoples? - report launch



MEP* Bert-Jan Ruissen (NL)

For almost half of century now the EU's position on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict has been the two-state solution and to that aim, it has poured millions of euros of aid and resources to support the creation of a Palestinian state. However, the reality is that there is no independent and democratic Palestinian state and chances are slim it ever will be.

The Hague Initiative for International Co-operation (thinc.) unpacks the EU's current policy and interests in the Middle East and offers a critical assessment of the assumptions underlying them and of the legal inconsistencies which accompany them.

The authors argue that this conflict is more than territorial, it is existential- something the European institutions miss in their approach. They also review the troubled history between the two peoples and show that the existence of these two states side by side is not feasible from a security standpoint. A review of the divisions between the various Palestinian factions and groups also points to the impossibility of establishing a fully-fledged democratic state.



Andrew Tucker, thinc. Director
 Prof. Wolfgang Bock, former judge at the Frankfurt/Main regional court
 Leo van Doesburg, Executive Director of IAF Europe

The report suggests a new way forward towards peace, consistent with legal, historical and political realities. It calls for the European institutions to cease ignoring local power structures and political culture within Palestinian society and to insist on the development of democratic Palestinian institutions and on respecting rule of law. European financial aid should be conditional on the performance of benchmarked requirements in the areas of fundamental values, rule of law, civil/ religious/ political rights for all, personal freedom and equality, and on normalization of relations with Israel (similar to the Abraham Accords).

The Report is available for purchase in the Sallux bookstore.



Scan to go to bookstore



*MEP- Member of European Parliament



Fighting Modern Slavery

"Slavery is founded in the selfishness of man's nature –
opposition to it is in his love of justice."

Abraham Lincoln



European Freedom Network- The Bridge Conference



Sheldon Armitage, EFN Network Services



Leanne Rhodes, Executive Director of European Freedom Network (EFN)

Dr. Leah Edwards, consultant and researcher at Global Learning Community & at EFN

Connie Main Duarte, General Secretary of European Evangelical Alliance

Redina Kolaneci, fundraising consultant

Dr. Glenn Miles, researcher, up! International and Oxford Centre for Mission Studies, UK

Taina Moisaner, Don't Shut Your Eyes campaign creator

Livia Rădăcină, eLiberare Training Coordinator

Shawn Kohl, Director for Central & Eastern Europe at International Justice Mission

Shannon von Scheele, Executive Director at Netzwerk gegen Menschenhandel Germany

Adriana Rus, Communications Officer at ECPM

The European Freedom Network is a Christian community of organizations which exists to fight human trafficking and commercial exploitation in Europe and to seek the restoration of victims in collaboration with strategic stakeholders.

They gather yearly at the Bridge Conference, an event focused on connecting, data sharing and exchanging best practices. This year's theme was Shaping Tomorrow Together. What makes EFN highly successful in their fight against human trafficking is the friendships and interpersonal relationships the members have with each other; this helps them stay aligned to the common goal and very efficient in providing a quick response when crisis arises.

That was the case in the spring of this year when Europe faced a refugee influx from Ukraine caused by Russia's war of aggression. The Network quickly mobilized and created and distributed an info flyer in several languages to alert refugees to the perils of human trafficking and provide them with useful contacts and information

on their journey. Other EFN members helped with supplies, accommodation, transportation etc.

At the Bridge conference, Leanne Rhodes- executive director of EFN- kicked off the event with a message of vision and encouragement. She reminded the NGOs represented at the event in Sarajevo of previous experience and ways God has provided and she reflected on current changes and challenges. Ms. Rhodes inspired the members to really engage their local churches and communities in the ongoing fight against human trafficking. She presented the various action groups within EFN dealing with fighting various aspects of modern slavery. Each of the representatives of the various NGOs from the Network spoke about their work, the population they serve and the obstacles they face. Throughout the three days, the attendants split into various workshops organized around various themes/ issues in connection to the human trafficking phenomenon.

For their tireless work and remarkable data collecting/ sharing, EFN

received a commendation for Collaborative Disruption as part of STOP THE TRAFFIK 's Data to Disrupt Trafficking Awards 2022.

Dr. Leah Edwards held a presentation on National Referral Mechanisms, the newly re-written Handbook, and the challenges of implementation in various countries around Europe. The participants also watched a video interview she had with Tatyana Kotlyarenko, ODIHR Adviser on Anti-Trafficking Issues. Dr. Edwards also conducted a data collection session on trafficking routes and is preparing further research and a report based on it.

The EFN's Don't Shut Your Eyes campaign this year focused on slave labor in the garment industry, and it was promoted on the European Day Against Trafficking in Human Beings (18 October).

You can find videos from each day of the conference on the EFN's social media pages.



Reforming The European Union

"We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it,
the process is not yet finished."

Martin Luther



Spanish Party Coalition Launch



José Carlos Abellán, Secretary General of Contigo Más



Eulogio Gardeazabal, President of DSCyP
Alfonso Galdón, President of Valores party
Ana Rivas Giner, Vice-president of Unión Cristiano Democrata Española
Leo van Doesburg, Director for Policy and European Affairs at ECPM

A coalition of small Christian parties from across Spain- called Diálogo Sociedad Civil y Política (DSCyP)- was launched in Madrid the day before our General Assembly, spearheaded by our party member: Contigo Más.

It was highly encouraging to see people from different walks of life, various ages and professions come together around the Christian values they hold in common and which they wish to promote in the public sphere. The leaders of the parties forming the coalition stated their strong support for national and European policies protecting life, natural family and the nation. They base their political views on the social doctrine of the Catholic Church and the Bible's teachings.

ECPM President- Valeriu Ghilețchi- welcomed the coalition leaders and members and the press attending the launch, followed by Leo van Doesburg who held a presentation about the origins of Christian-democracy in Europe and the need to hold fast to those values in today's political landscape.



Scan to watch the full video

The Fight for Data Control: The Benefits and Cost of the European Digital Identity



Valeriu Ghilețchi, ECPM President, telecommunications specialist



Dr. Eppo Bruins, former member of Dutch Parliament and tech specialist

MEP* Cristian Terheș, former software developer and programmer, member of LIBE Committee in the EP
MEP Bert-Jan Ruissen (NL)

Inga Bite, lawyer, former Deputy Speaker of Latvian Parliament, vice-president of the ECPM Advisory Council

Michal Považan, policy advisor for Kresťanská únia Slovakia

The European Christian Political Movement (ECPM) gathered for its annual General Assembly in Madrid and, in conjunction, organized an event around the topic of the European Digital Identity- the benefits and risks associated with this proposed new technology.

In the aftermath of the COVID pandemic, the European Union decided there is a need for increased digitalization in Europe and for a centralized solution regarding services and access to them by the European citizens. Part of the big digital transformation package is also the initiative of a European

Digital Identity platform, a proposal meant to amend a previous regulation on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market (eIDAS). The changes proposed are significant and it raises various concerns about data privacy and protection, which our speakers addressed.

Dr. Eppo Bruins, former member of Dutch Parliament and tech specialist, presented examples of where data sharing is useful (like having only one charging key for all EV charging stations in a country), but warned that in case of centralizing personal data that could be dangerous. He believes this technology is inevitable, but we still have a say in how it will be used and what safeguards and watchdogs will accompany it. Currently, all of our data is owned by the tech companies, and they decide what to do with it and how much to sell it for. If the EU wishes to propose this digital identity technology, citizens should demand it is safe. He advocated for a self-sovereign identity (SSI) by which a person owns and controls their own data, without having to rely on an external, third- party. *"If the EU doesn't define the standards, then the industry will. And if the European continent doesn't fight back, no other continent will."*



Scan to watch the full video

MEP **Cristian Terheș**, former software developer and programmer, warned especially about the dangerous precedent this sets and he described a slippery slope where at the end of it the European citizens will face curtailing of their rights, of movement, social life etc. He spoke about the file on this technology which reached the LIBE committee of which he is a substitute member. He is the rapporteur on the file and recently submitted strong warnings to his colleagues and committee members about what is proposed. Namely, he is concerned that the citizens' data will become a commodity, threatening citizens' right to private life. Most worrying is the European Commission reserving the right to



add further legislative acts to this legislation, after it is passed. Mr. Terheș also criticized the Commission's claim that this technology respects the principle of minimization, saying that it is merely an illusion that the user owns their data but in reality it is the administrator of the server who owns it. He also highlighted the proposal that a certificate be added to the root of the most used browser, as that would severely impact security when browsing online.

The two presentations were followed by a panel discussion where MEP Bert-Jan Ruissen, Ms. Inga Bite and Michal Považan have discussed the forms of digital identity existing in their countries at the moment and whether a European Digital Identity would be beneficial or not.

At the end of each part, speakers and panelists answered questions from the audience.

*MEP- Member of European Parliament

Conservative Summit



Eduard Heger, Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic
Mateusz Morawiecki, Prime Minister of Poland
Judit Varga, Minister of Justice, Hungary
Boris Kollar, Speaker of the Slovak Parliament
Viliam Karas, Minister of Justice, Slovakia
Milan Krajniak, Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic
Anna Záborská, MP* Slovakia, special representative of the government of the Slovak Republic for the protection of freedom of religion or belief

In the context of the discussion on the Future of Europe and possible changes to the EU treaties, Slovakian NGOs hosted the second Conservative Summit where political scientists, members of Parliament and leaders of governments from the Visegrad 4 (Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary) have gathered to discuss and reflect on the role and space of Conservative values in national and European politics.

It was acknowledged that the Conservative world in central-Eastern Europe is divided and fragmented and the speakers unanimously called for a greater synchronization and unity on the values and ideas we all have in common. They have also drawn attention to the dangers of globalism, loss of national sovereignty and identity, the threat to freedom of speech and to the right to belief and worship.

Throughout the day, there were three main panels and various side workshops focusing on: the future of the EU, family policies and economic/ demographic challenges in Europe, and the youth's view and part in conservative politics.

*MP- Member of Parliament

*MEP- Member of European Parliament

Piotr Babinetz, MP Poland
Miriám Lexmann, MEP*, foreign policy expert
Marek Cichoński, Polish professor at Collegium Civitas, editor-in-chief of Teologia Polityczna, leading expert on Central Europe's relations with Germany and Russia
Balázs Orbán, political scientist and head adviser to the Prime Minister of Hungary
Peter Drulák, professor of international relations, former deputy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and former ambassador to France

The main goal of the summit was to connect the conservative leaders from the V4 countries and strengthen their relationships and to create a platform of cooperation for promoting the Christian and conservative values in national and European forums.



Christian Union Members Event



Gert-Jan Segers, ChristenUnie Chairman and Member of Dutch Parliament
Don Ceder, member of Dutch Parliament

We joined our members in Christian Union for a day of taking stock and planning for the future. The highlight of the event and of the speeches was the upcoming European elections. Some of the workshops taking place between the main sessions also focused on European themes and the EU institutions' roles. The ECPM is a valuable link to the European environment and that aspect was recognized during the event. The political program, themes and potential candidates for EU 2024 were presented and discussed.

A special donation and collection of essential items, warm clothing and bedding was organized by Irpin For Ukraine to help people affected by the war.





Preserving The Christian Heritage & Culture

"I would suggest that faith is everyone's business. The advance or decline of faith is so intimately connected to the welfare of a society that it should be of particular interest to a politician."

William Wilberforce



Forum Plus International Conference



Fr. Manuel Enrique Barrios Prieto, General Secretary of Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union
Fr. Jason Charron, Pastor of Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church (Carnegie, PA, USA)
Prof. Rodrigo Guerra López, Secretary of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America
MEP* Bert-Jan Ruissen (The Netherlands)
MEP Ladislav Ilčić (Croatia)
MEP Margarita de la Pisa Carrión (Spain)
MEP Karlo Ressler (Croatia)
MEP Michaela Šojdrtová (Czech Republic)

MEP Maximilian Krah (Germany)
MEP Patryk Jaki (Poland)
Bernhard Meuser, Youcat Foundation
Alexandre Goodarzy, SOS Chrétiens d'Orient
Bénédicte Colin, Federation of Catholic Family Associations in Europe (FAFCE) policy manager
Botond Feledy, Jesuit European Social Centre deputy general
Myriam Kaufmann, World Youth Alliance Europe
Don Mihovil Kurkut, Salesian priest, director of Salesiana publishing house

We were delighted to join Forum+, Youcat Foundation, Comece, and members of European Parliament from ECR and EPP groups for this three-day conference at the European Parliament aimed at youth from Croatia, Poland, Czech Republic and Slovakia. Forum Plus organized this event around three particular Catholic social teachings: solidarity, unity and responsibility.

The first day focused on the foundation for the Christians' work in politics and society, namely the Biblical teachings of Jesus. Beautiful analysis and comparisons were drawn with the Church Fathers writings and the Popes' encyclicals and the speakers pointed to how these teachings are still very relevant today.

In the afternoon, a panel of seven MEPs from various political groups shared about their experiences as Christians in European politics. They all identified their Christian faith as being their motivation to engage in politics and how the teachings of Jesus continue to be relevant for today. MEP Ladislav Ilčić especially called upon young people: **"European politics is like the beat-up man in the parable of the Good Samaritan. And it desperately needs you – young**

*MEP- Member of European Parliament



people in Europe – to be the good Samaritan, to care and make it your responsibility." ECPM MEP Bert-Jan Ruissen emphasized the responsibility of young Christians to serve Europe: **"Christians are called to serve – just like Jesus did. Governments and leaders are called to serve the people".**

On the second day the three concepts central to this year's conference were explored further. In the afternoon, several Christian NGOs and groups presented their work and various initiatives, inviting the youth in attendance to sign up and get involved.

During the evening session, the Secretary of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America- Prof. Rodrigo Guerra López- spoke about Christian social doctrine. He pointed to the fact that by God becoming human in the person of Jesus, He is uniquely aware and joined with us in our experiences, whether joy or pain. And that all of us together form the Church, his Body, here on Earth. Being bound together in this way should prevent us from division, from prejudice or malice towards our neighbor. He quoted Pope Francis:

"Indeed, while solidarity is the principle of social planning that allows the unequal to become equal, fraternity is what allows the equal to be different people. Fraternity allows people who are equal in their essence, dignity, freedom and their fundamental rights to participate differently in the common good according to their abilities, their life plan, their vocation, their work or their charism of service. [...] our brothers and sisters are the prolongation of the Incarnation for each of us". (Pope Francis, message to Prof. Margaret Archer, 2017)



Professor Lopez continued: **"A moralistic Christianity, focused on a defensive or merely combative attitude, does not exhibit what is specifically Christian. It is the love of God lived radically with the wounded brother, with the fallen brother, with the "adversary" brother, which can generate a novelty greater than that offered by the logic of power or the logic of ideology."**

On the third day, the panel focused on practical ways to implement the encouragement and principles heard the previous two days. ECPM Director for European Affairs- Leo van Doesburg- talked about the intersection of faith and politics and how Christians in politics can be effective at promoting the Christian-democratic values. In the Bible, we can find examples of good politicians, he explained. Human dignity is the starting point for everything in Christian politics. The secular vision sees human dignity in a somewhat passive way, whereas in Christian politics you have a responsibility towards it. That's why Christian politicians are needed, and why young people should step up. It is essential to listen, ask questions, and to get to know your political opponents, van Doesburg continued. Christian politicians should be creative and brave in order to make coalitions and have an impact.



Europe, Back to the Roots! – book launch

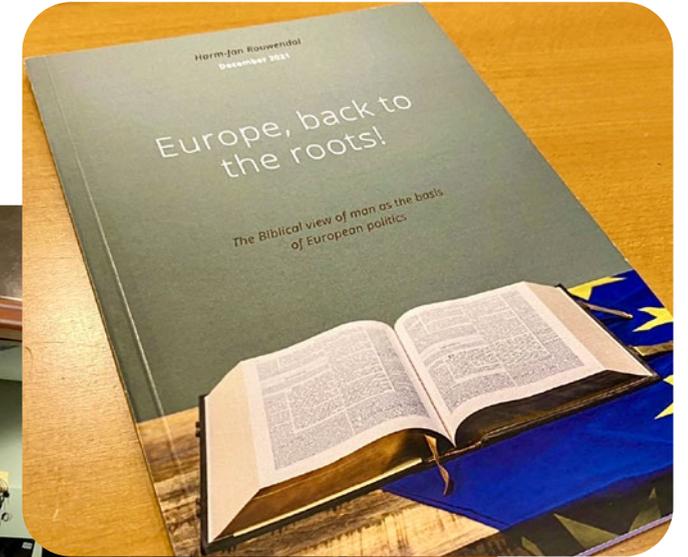


Harm-Jan Rouwendal, PhD. Student, University of Groningen
 Dr. Matt Williams, Jubilee Centre (UK)
 MEP* Cristian Terheş (RO)
 MEP Margarita de la Pisa Carrión (ES)
 MEP Bert-Jan Ruissen (NL)
 MEP François- Xavier Bellamy (FR)

Together with SGP and MEP Bert-Jan Ruissen’s office, we organized the launch in the EP of the booklet *Europe, Back to the Roots!* by Harm-Jan Rouwendal.

According to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, the basis for European politics is human dignity. It serves as a fundamental right and as an ultimate value. However, there is no general accepted definition of this term. It is therefore unclear how human dignity lays the foundation for the interpretation of other rights. This short study examines the development of thinking about human dignity in Europe and advocates a discussion about the interpretation of this concept as the basis of the EU. The author proposes a Bible-based, dependent interpretation of human dignity in contrast to the dominant autonomous interpretation of this concept. He investigates what a Christian interpretation of the concept of human dignity means for European values and European cooperation and concludes that a return to the Christian roots of Europe is necessary.

The presentation of the book was followed by a lecture by Dr. Matt Williams who reinforced Harm-Jan’s findings and spoke about the relational thinking stemming from a properly rooted understanding of human dignity. He spoke about fraternity and kinship as forgotten values in European speeches today and which, if re-adopted, would strengthen relationships between peoples of Europe socially, economically and politically.



Scan to watch the full video

*MEP- Member of European Parliament

Christian Values in EU Forum



Michal Považan, chairman of Rodina Institute, ECPM board member



Anna Záborská, Member of the National Council of the Slovak Republic

Milan Krajniak, Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic

Anna Veresová, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic

Slavomir Partila, State Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic

Ladislav Ilčić, Member of the European Parliament (HR)

Richard Vasecka, Member of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, Chairman of the Committee for education, science, youth and sport

Maarten van de Fliert, General Director of European Christian Political Movement (ECPM)

Gérard-François Dumont, Université Paris-Sorbonne

Renáta Ocilková, Slovak Society for the Family

Antoine Renard, Honorary President of FAFCE*

Sjoerd van den Berg, Educational consultant Wonderfully Made

Katarina Cavojská, Researcher

Andrej Skala, President of the Slovak Youth Council



Together with our member party Kresťanská únia and the Rodina Institute we organized a conference in Bratislava on the state of play in Europe on family policies and demography.

The first panel focused on education in the various member states represented at the conference. The speakers addressed the state of sexual education and the differences between the EU member states. Recent efforts from EU institutions to push a certain direction and ideology was discussed and analyzed; the speakers emphasized that is an overstep of the EU's competences. MEP Ilčić spoke about TeenStar, a holistic and value-based sex ed program developed and used in Croatia, presented its results and underlined the elements which could be useful in the other member states.

The speakers on the second panel brought up the demographic changes Europe is going through, showing various studies and scientific research of these trends. A point was made about promoting family-friendly policies at national and European levels and more support for family businesses. The Slovak members of Parliament presented their efforts and obstacles in passing a law which would support families and pregnant women.

The third panel approached the youth dimension, namely youth organizations and their activities, as well as a call for young people to get involved in politics and public life. A leader of a youth organization spoke about efforts to build and support youth in their communities, the phenomenon of peer pressure and the importance of positive role models. Speakers also pointed to ways governments can foster and encourage programs and policies for youth.

*FAFCE- Federation of Catholic Family Associations in Europe

Christian Features of European Politics



MEP* **Helmut Geuking**, Familien Partei President
Maarten van de Fliert, ECPM General Director

We co-organized together with member party Familien Partei an informal educational event focused on the Christian roots of the European Union and on the Christian values which guided the founders of the European project: Schuman, Adenauer, Henri Spaak and others. The Christian value of charity was given as an example underpinning what is called today humanitarian aid. Ideas like freedom, equality and justice also have Biblical roots. One of the speakers emphasized the importance of the youth learning about the origins of the European story and of their duty to keep Christian values alive in today's (and tomorrow's) society.

The event took place in Billerbeck where the Familien Partei has its headquarters, but also because Billerbeck has one of the oldest churches in Germany and has a long history of Christian influence in that community.



*MEP- Member of European Parliament

ECPM General Assembly - 23rd edition



Valeriu Ghilețchi, ECPM President

The European Christian Political Movement members gathered in Madrid on 17 June as a general assembly to discuss the status and future of the party, to decide the new membership fees and to talk about the resolutions submitted by ECPYouth and member party BundnisC Germany.

The resolutions adopted can be found on the next page.

The member parties present provided oral updates about their national environment and the situation of various policies they are fighting for at national level. The ECPM members of European Parliament present have informed the assembly about their activities and the challenges they face in the European Parliament.

ECPM treasurer – Jacques Bazen– presented the financial report and the external audit report for the previous year. At the same time, outgoing

General Director Auke Minnema formally introduced and handed over his tasks to incoming General Director: Maarten van de Fliert.

Karin Heepen (BundnisC Germany) was appointed vice-president of ECPM following the withdrawal of MEP Ladislav Ilčić and his party Hrast/ Croatian Sovereignists from the ECPM.

The Director for Policy & European Affairs– Leo van Doesburg– informed the General Assembly that he had accepted a new job challenge and would be leaving ECPM. During the general assembly, he spoke about his work for the past seventeen years with the ECPM and about the new adventure he is embarking on. The ECPM President and the incoming General Director thanked him for his commitment and hard work on behalf of ECPM.



'Boycott Russia!' resolution

Tabled by ECPYouth at the General Assembly of the ECPM on 17 June 2022 in Madrid, Spain

Recalling that the war that was started by Russia in Ukraine eight years ago escalated to a full-scale war on 24 February 2022,

Taking into account that on 02 March 2022 the UN General Assembly voted for the resolution which demands that Russia *"immediately, completely and unconditionally withdraw all of its military forces from the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders"*, which reaffirms Ukrainian sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, and Russia completely ignored the resolution,

Emphasizing that at the end of March 2022 after the first cities were liberated from Russian army the atrocities done by them became visible to the whole world and that there are still repeated attacks on civilian facilities such as residences, schools and hospitals, and civilian casualties, including women, older persons, persons with disabilities, and children in the territories occupied by Russian troops,

Considering that all EU Member States already considered Russian actions as war crimes and atrocities against Ukrainians, and that the International Criminal Court has already launched an investigation into war crimes,

Taking into the account that Russia destroyed, oppressed and forbade any national cultural activity in the occupied lands, as well as covered its own crimes with Russian cultural heritage and now it uses culture as part of propaganda,

Considering the ECPYouth Odessa Declaration which emphasizes equality, cooperation and sustainability as well as human dignity,

Understanding that one of the possible ways to stop Russian aggression is by imposing economic sanctions on the Russian Federation government,

Referring to the independent polls held in Russia, which show that the majority of Russians support the actions of their government in the war against Ukraine,

Calls upon all Members of the European Parliament, and especially of the ECPM, to:

- Impose a full embargo on natural resources coming from Russia, such as oil and diamonds, and to expedite the phasing out of Russian gas imports until the end of Russian aggression in other independent countries.

- Restrict goods that originate from Russia until the end of Russian aggression in other independent countries.

- Restrict consuming Russian products, including modern products of Russian culture, until the end of Russian aggression in other independent countries.

- Ban Russian government- backed propaganda on Russian cultural superiority over neighboring nations, including Ukraine, as well as other European countries, until the end of Russian aggression in other independent countries.

Preventing and combating human trafficking and reintergrating survivors

Tabled by ECPYouth at the General Assembly of the ECPM on 17 June 2022 in Madrid, Spain

Considering that human beings are created in the image and likeness of God and therefore never should be bought or sold,

Considering the ECPYouth Odessa Declaration which emphasizes the freedom, dignity and inviolability of every human being,

Considering article 4 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: "No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms."

Considering the 'EU Strategy on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings 2021-2025' which estimates that 60% of human trafficking is for the purpose of sexual exploitation,

Considering the EU Directive on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims (2011/36/EU) which states that "Preventing and combating trafficking in human beings is a priority for the Union and the Member States." (1),

Considering the 'EU Strategy on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings 2021-2025' which affirms that: 1) "Legislation is one of the most powerful tools at our disposal because it allows to define the crime, set sanctions and common objectives to prosecute criminals, and protect the victims." and 2) "Demand fosters all forms of exploitation of people in vulnerable situations [...]"

Considering that traffickers find innovative ways to recruit more victims, for example, via social media,

Considering the European Commission's call for a new strategic approach to eradicate trafficking in human beings,

Considering that according to the European Commission's report, only three EU Member States identified legal services as a measure of their long-term assistance to human trafficking victims and survivors,

Considering the legal right of victims to moral and financial compensation for the harm inflicted on them,

Considering the lack of legal protection for survivors of human trafficking,

Stressing the importance of reducing the demand by criminalizing the buyers of sex, and the necessity of new legislation in Member States in order to combat human trafficking,

Stressing that criminalizing the consumers of sexual exploitation would give victims and survivors of trafficking psychological comfort and legal protection to proceed with juridical processes of exiting,

Stressing that human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation is a violation of a person's human dignity, freedom, and other fundamental rights,

Stressing the vulnerability of human trafficking survivors to being pulled back into trafficking,

Stressing the importance of raising awareness about the traps of human trafficking, especially among the most vulnerable groups to it,

Stressing that the 'EU Directive on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims' calls for Member States to work on: "policy-making initiatives, information and awareness-raising campaigns, research and education programs and in training, as well as in monitoring and evaluating the impact of anti-trafficking measures."

Calls upon all Members of the European Parliament, and especially of the ECPM, to:

- Encourage developing and implementing awareness campaigns about human trafficking, especially in the source countries.

- Organize interdisciplinary meetings with all stakeholders involved in combating human trafficking, like NGOs, legal prosecutors, police officers, teachers, in an integrative approach.

- Advocate for increased communication and collaborative work in combatting human trafficking between source, demand, and transit countries.

- Encourage the collection, monitorization, evaluation and dissemination of human trafficking related data.

- Support national and international regulations which criminalize the buyers of sex.

- Table amendments recommending the 'criminalization of buyers of sex' in relevant committees and meetings.

Increase visibility and awareness about the effectiveness of 'criminalizing sex buyers' legislation in the European Parliament.

- Introduce amendments emphasizing the necessity of reintegration programs for people who want to step out of prostitution.

Emphasizing that buying sex includes escort services, etc.

Emphasizing the importance and necessity of opportunities for building a new life in terms of education, work, financial support and psycho-social therapy as requirements to step out, and therefore combat human trafficking,

- Introduce amendments asking for full legal protection of the survivors of trafficking from the traffickers in the case they quit their activities within the network.

- Introduce amendments asking for visa extensions or residency rights for survivors of human trafficking in the country of destination, asking for legal protection in the source country by collaboration between relevant organizations in destination and source countries.

- Recommend the creation of National Funds of assistance in rehabilitation and reintegration of victims and survivors of human trafficking.

- Encourage companies to create jobs and training for survivors of human trafficking.

- Encourage collaboration between companies, local authorities and NGOs to sponsor social entrepreneurial projects, e.g., restaurant, shop.

- Encourage the creation of networks of organizations and civil society actors, so the combined signals can create a more alert environment which would increase reintegration chances for survivors.

Resolution on the Iran nuclear deal (JCPoA)

Tabled by BündnisC at the General Assembly of the ECPM on 17 June 2022 in Madrid, Spain

Recalling that the 2015 nuclear agreement (JCPoA) reached with Iran by the US, China, Russia, France, the UK and Germany has not prevented Iran from continuing its nuclear programme of uranium enrichment, nuclear testing and in cooperation with North Korea,

Realising that the nuclear agreement only regulated international oversight of Iran's civilian nuclear programme, while the Iranian Revolutionary Guards' nuclear military programme has continued unimpeded since 1984,

Mindful of Iran's multiple violations of the agreement's caps on uranium enrichment and production,

Stressing that this is why the US pulled out of the agreement in 2018 and reinstated sanctions against Iran, so as not to help fund the continued construction of a nuclear bomb,

Noting that since then Iran has denied the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) access to its nuclear facilities, has steadily expanded its nuclear programme as well as the production and deployment of new missiles that threaten Israel,

Considering the Israeli government's warning to its allies against a new nuclear deal with Iran and continuing to be deceived by Tehran,

Taking note that the Iranian parliament legally approved the production and storage of at least 120 kilograms of 20 per cent enriched uranium per year at the end of 2020, and that the government has notified the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) of this,

Realising that Iran could thus have enough fissile material to build a nuclear bomb within weeks, and under President Ebrahim Raisi, the Islamic Republic is pressing ahead with its nuclear programme,

Warning that a new agreement on the nuclear deal would strengthen the regime economically and thus militarily, and also give it international recognition,

In view of repeated interruptions of the current negotiations by Iran's representatives and demands such as the removal of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards from the US list of terrorist organisations,

Also considering Russia's demands for guarantees that Western sanctions related to its invasion of Ukraine will not impede economic and military relations between Iran and Russia,

Deploring that the Iranian people suffer from international sanctions, but even more from the massive human rights violations of their rulers,

Calls upon all Members of the European Parliament, and especially of the ECPM, to:

- To stop negotiations with Iran on a new nuclear agreement, as the Islamist regime in Tehran has clearly shown not to comply with the agreements made so far.

Appealing that there is no reason to trust the Iranian regime more than the Israeli government,

Warning that the lifting of US sanctions will enable Iran to build a nuclear bomb within a few years and attack Israel with it,

- To bring European sanctions against Iran in line with the US sanctions, so as not to support Tehran's intentions of annihilation against Israel.

ECPM Declaration on Russia's invasion of Ukraine

24 February

ECPM strongly condemns Russia's military invasion of Ukraine today. Ukraine is an independent, sovereign, autonomous country and by invading it, Putin broke international law, former agreements and pacts. It is an attack on European security and stability and utterly reprehensible.

We stand with Ukraine and continue to pray for safety and peace. We pray for the people in Ukraine, especially thinking of our members, associates and friends. May God protect you!

We join the international community and call on Russia to stop hostilities, withdraw immediately and respect Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity!



Working visits with ECPM members

CPÖ – Christliche Partei Österreichs, Austria

ECPM General Director Maarten van de Fliert visited ECPM member– the Austrian Christian Party (CPÖ)– and had a rich and productive meeting with Secretary General Emanuel Dragomir. Our two parties are united in our commitment to defend life and human dignity, so it was a great opportunity to reinforce the relationship between ECPM and CPÖ and to discuss future projects and campaign plans.



Uniunea Democrată a Slovacilor și Cehilor din România (UDSCR), Romania

ECPM was invited to attend the 16th edition of the International Folkloric Slovak Youth Festival bringing together the Slovak minorities in Romania and celebrating their heritage. Adrian Merka– ECPM member and deputy in Romanian Parliament–welcomed the audience and brought a greeting from the Slovak prime–minister.

On behalf of ECPM, Leo van Doesburg highlighted the importance of the Christian & Slovak culture and tradition in the greater European landscape and encouraged those present to preserve and pass them on to the next generation.



VIA- La Voie du Peuple, France

At the invitation of VIA President- Jean-Frédéric Poisson- General Director Maarten van de Fliert and Events Manager Maria van Oost visited the party headquarters in Rambouillet, France. We got to meet the entire leadership and operational team of VIA and hear about everyone's role. It was a full day of updating each other, strategizing and making plans for future events and projects through which we can continue promoting Christian values in French and European societies.



HDA- Human Dignity Alliance & Ronan Mullen, Ireland

General Director Maarten van de Fliert met with ECPM member and Irish senator Ronan Mullen and with Eilis Mulroy, solicitor and political strategist for the Pro-Life Campaign. Together they discussed the healthcare situation in Ireland and the EU policies related to it. Plans have been made for the coming year to strengthen and intensify our collaboration and organize cross-European events where we can bring our continental and Irish members together.



PPM- Partido Popular Monárquico, Portugal

ECPM Director for Policy and European Affairs Leo van Doesburg visited our party member in Portugal: both the deputies in Azores as well as the party President and headquarters in Lisbon. It was a rich and eventful visit, having the honor to meet and speak with several dignitaries in the Azores as well as to witness a regional assembly plenary session and watch PPM deputies Paulo Estêvão and Gustavo Alves speak up on behalf of the citizens of the islands. Our members are fiercely fighting for protection of the Azores islands, for sustainability and the ecosystem.

The interviews conducted with the deputies, with the President of the Regional Assembly of Azores, with the Head of the Regional Government and with the Regional Secretary for Sea & Fishery are available on our YouTube channel.



With PPM deputies Paulo Estêvão and Gustavo Alves and their team



With PPM President Gonçalo da Câmara Pereira and the Chairman of PPM National Council João de Travassos.



Scan to watch the full video

European Parliament visit & luncheon, Brussels

ECPM invited all its members and alumni to a special lunch and visit of the European Parliament after the European Prayer Breakfast. We wanted to take advantage of a time when most of our members are in Brussels and connect with each other, get to know the new General Director- Maarten van de Fliert- and the rest of the staff.



Three ECPM presidents pictured- Valeriu Ghilețchi, Peter Vösu, Branislav Škripek.

Farewell to Auke Minnema and Leo van Doesburg

ECPM's General Director since 2018- Auke Minnema- announced his decision to resign from his role in Spring 2022. He moved to a ministry translating and distributing Bibles in a role which will allow him to spend more time with his growing family. We are all grateful for his leadership these last few years and his steady hand while the party was navigating through some rough waters. As a sign of appreciation and to give colleagues and staff the opportunity to send him off well and pray over him, we had a small gathering in the summer in Rotterdam. Though our time working together in European politics has come to an end, we cherish his involvement with ECPM and pray God's abundant blessing over Auke and his family!



Over the summer, he handed over responsibilities to the new ECPM General Director: Maarten van de Fliert. Maarten has a rich experience working in politics in the European Parliament and leading Communications for Open Doors, a non-profit defending persecuted Christians. Looking forward to this new chapter in the journey of our party!

In June 2022, Director for Policy and European Affairs Leo van Doesburg made public his decision to leave ECPM in order to focus on launching an advocacy initiative supporting Israel. In September colleagues and friends gathered to thank him for his hard work and dedication to ECPM for more than a decade. He tirelessly worked over the years to connect people to ECPM and to find like-minded collaborators and members; he significantly contributed to the growth of ECPM. We wish him the best and God's light and strength during this next stage in his career!



ECPYouth



ECPYouth

This year, ECPyouth opted for the theme: *'The lighthouse reignited'*. A lighthouse has always served as a point of guidance, especially in stormy circumstances. By reigniting it, we mean to say that Europe was once the engine of true progress with respect for all of creation and guiding itself by Christian values and that we need to go back to those roots. We see that Europe has lost its reference point during the intense secularization process it has gone through in the last half century.

We wish for Europe to become once again an example of how people can live together harmoniously, in small and large, diverse communities, while at all times keeping their own identity and traditions.

We focused on remaining challenges during the ongoing pandemic, the danger to our individual rights and what should be the Christian response. On our Facebook page you can find several links to published articles by members of the ECPYouth board who wrote in response to the Russian Federation's aggressive war against Ukraine. Together with our outgoing board member and citizen of Ukraine- Hanna Stretovych- we organized a fundraising campaign for hospitals and equipment.

The Christian Changemakers programme which started in 2021 finalized at the beginning of this year and, encouraged by previous success, we started a new session in October 2022 with new participants and fresh, exciting content.

During our General Assembly, a new board was voted in and Sylvana Bal was appointed the new ECPYouth President. Our summer school in Skopje and regional event in Moldova were opportunities to reflect on this year's theme and to decide on the 2023 one. Throughout this tumultuous and difficult year, we tried our best to work through who we are as young Christians in politics, to discover our calling and to find ways we can work together to put it in action.



Road to Freedom Through Mandatory Vaccination?



Peter Smits, ECPYouth President

Julija Stepanenko, member of Latvian Parliament

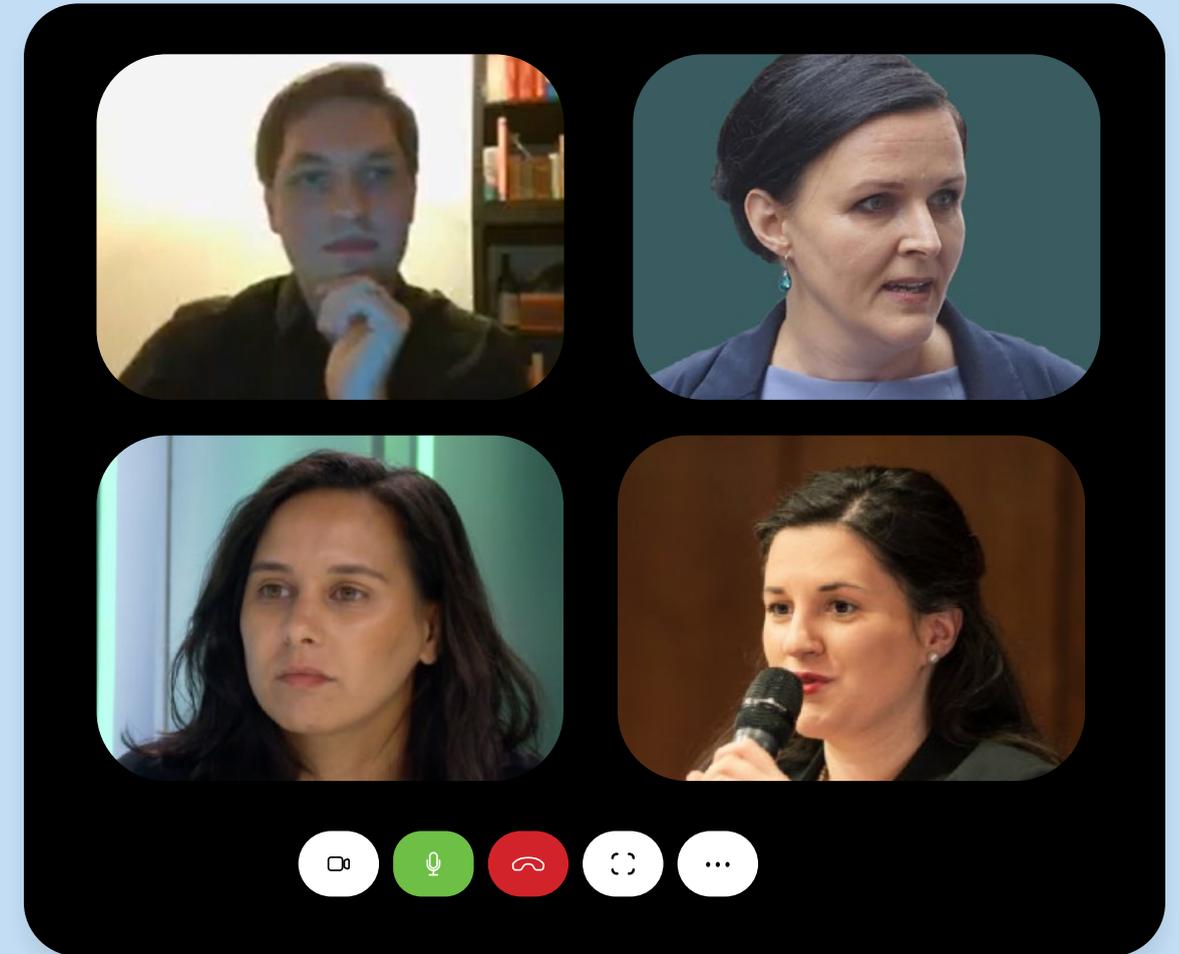
Nawal Farih, member of Belgian Parliament

Gabriela Urbanova, Director for the EU International Affairs at the Ministry of Health, Slovakia

ECPYouth held an online event debating the required COVID19 vaccination in the European Union. MP Stepanenko shared her difficulties being censored and suspended by the Latvian Parliament for her refusal to submit to required vaccination. As a lawyer, she mentioned the questionable legal aspects of the pressure and requirement to get vaccinated against COVID19.

MP Farih argued for the positive effects of the vaccination for the society at large but agreed with MP Stepanenko's points that it should not interfere with someone's job, exercising one's duties or with one's education, with someone's individual rights. She also acknowledged the negative results of isolation: increase in depression and suicide rates, in addiction behavior and a delay in education.

Ms. Urbanova shared with the audience the situation in Slovakia and detailed that a suggestion and possible solution to the refusal of vaccination would be to charge the medical costs of hospitalization directly to the patient. She also proposed to delay this debate (at an international level) for a time when the subject is not so polarizing and to make efforts in being better prepared for the next pandemic.



Scan to watch
the full video

Fundraising for Ukrainian Hospitals

The ECPYouth Board decided to initiate a fundraiser on behalf of ECPYouth to collectively donate 1000 EUR to Ukrainian hospitals. Hanna Stretovych, Board Member from Ukraine, suggested contributions be sent to hospitals in Ukraine as it is the most urgent need right now. Every donation matters. Please, join ECPYouth in this effort!



Donate here

Christian Changemakers (2021-2022 programme)



Klariska ten Napel, Christian Changemakers (CCM) Coordinator
Jeff & Romkje Fountain, Schuman Centre for European Studies founders

Philip Powell, Jubilee Centre, UK

Jack Valero, Catholic Voices

Oetze Deelstra, Accredited Assistant to MEP Peter van Dalen

Leo van Doesburg, ECPM Director of Policy and European Affairs

Elise Abbey van Doorn, International Coordinator at SGP⁶

Christian Changemakers (CCM) is a new initiative by the ECPYouth, a year-long programme aimed at equipping potential or current young Christian politicians with necessary tools such as public speaking, writing, debating and presentation skills, as well as running a successful campaign.

It consists of a combination of online and offline training, lectures, coaching sessions, and assignments throughout the year. In the 2021-2022 season, there were three in-person events, four online modules, and several other online meetings. Klariska ten Napel was the project leader and trainer, while Jeff & Romkje Fountain served as coaches for the participants for the whole year. The online modules were structured as four-week workload segments

(introduction, assigned reading, study & discussion, conclusions). All the online modules were guided by Philip Powell. Every event was precluded by homework.

This programme started in 2021 with an in-person three-day conference in Switzerland led by Klariska ten Napel (further details are found in the 2021 Yearbook).

The second event of this season took place on 9-12 February 2022 in Brussels, Belgium and was aimed at helping participants to stand with confidence and talk with grace in the political arena, debates and on (social) media as Christian politicians. A few of the guiding questions were: how to get your political message across with clarity and charity? How to stick to your own values and beliefs while debating your opponents? Jack Valero, Oetze Deelstra, Philip Powell, Elise Abbey, Erwin de Pagter and Leo van Doesburg spoke about these various aspects and the coaching of this event equipped the participants in effective techniques based on a Biblical approach. There was also a lecture on the way the EU and its institutions function, and the youth visited the EP⁷ and met with MEP⁸ Ladislav Ilčić from Croatia.

⁶SGP- Reformed Political Party

⁷EP- European Parliament

⁸MEP- Member of European Parliament



Ognen Janeski, journalist
Heiner Studer, politician, former member of Swiss National Council for EVP
Dr. Teuta Vodo, Adjunct Professor of Geopolitics, Business School Paris
Dr. Noemi Montes, senior lecturer at Radboud Univ., The Netherlands



The third event was held in North Macedonia (20–23 July) and it wrapped up the 2021-2022 programme. It focused on the topic of political campaigning and getting one’s message through different types of media, as well as dealing with opponents and polarization. The participants engaged in role-play simulating TV interviews and a press conference. We are very grateful to Ognen Janeski, Biljana Bejkov, Heiner Studer, Dr. Teuta Vodo and Dr. Noemi Montes who taught us useful strategies in communicating one’s message short, clearly and with grace.



War and Pandemics: Implications for Europe's Future

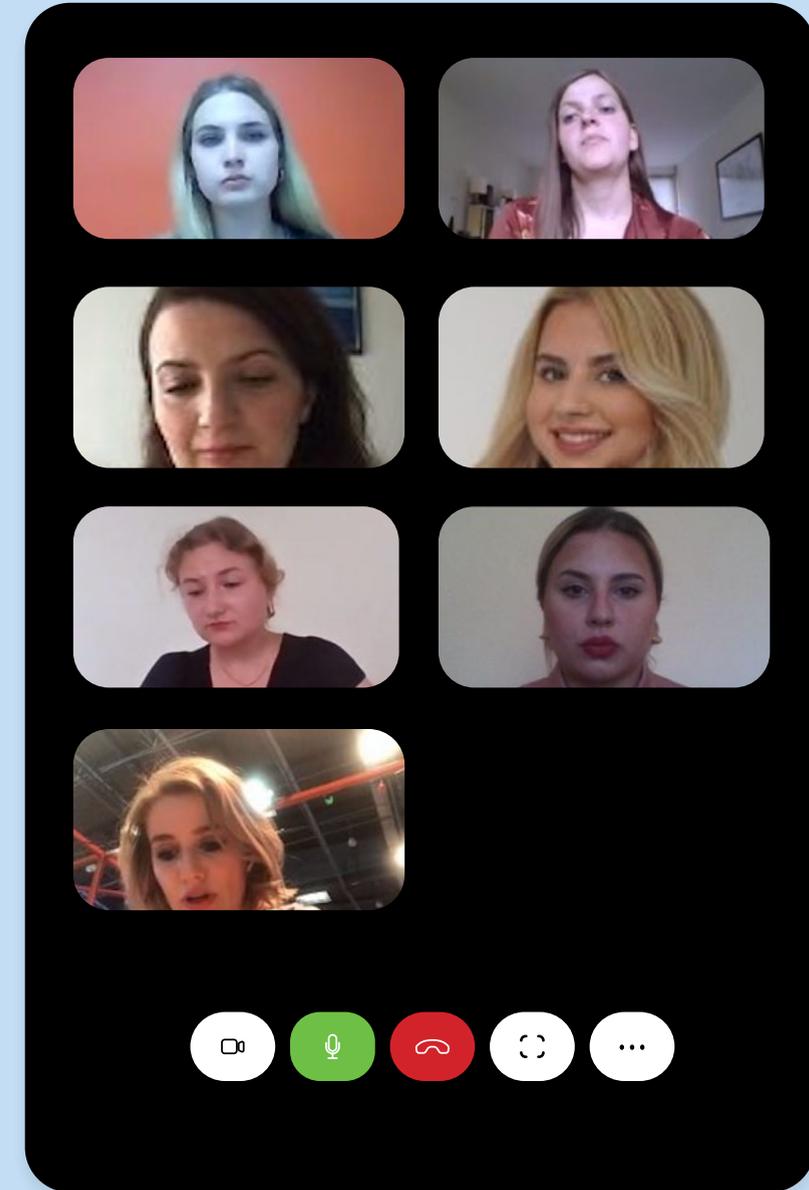


Veronika Ilievska, ECPYouth board member



Dr. Teuta Vodo, Adjunct Professor of Geopolitics,
Business School Paris
Sylvana Bal, CCM participant
Yuliya Odynets, CCM participant

ECPYouth hosted a panel discussion as an opportunity to reflect on the implications of the Covid19 pandemic and Russia's war in Ukraine and as a training possibility for the Christian Changemakers participants to practice their public speaking and persuasion skills. Each participant had 10 minutes to share their assessment/ analysis of the implications of the two crises for Europe's future, the role of diplomacy for crisis prevention, and tangible solutions on how to avoid the future crisis in Europe. They also explored the concept of 'just war' from a Christian perspective. Professor Teuta Vodo wrapped up the event with personal insights on crisis management acquired during her political experience in the Albanian government and invited participants to further reflection.



International Summer School



Marija Petrushevska, member of Parliament in North Macedonia
Dr. Ivan Ivanov, Associate Professor at International Balkan University in International Relations Theory
Dr. Ljupco Ristovski, President of Integra party, North Macedonia
Kosta Manevski, Mayor of Zelenikovo Municipality
Aleksandar Kolev – Cardiothoracic surgeon
Biljana Bejkov and Ognen Janevski, TV Reporters and Journalists



The 2022 International Summer School explored the yearly theme we chose: Europe- Lighthouse Reignited from several angles, including political climate in the Western Balkans and engagement with the EU, currency crisis, importance of improving medical standards in Europe, youth motivation for engaging in social and political life. The event included a visit to the North Macedonian Parliament with a lecture and tour from Member of Macedonian Parliament and former member of ECPYouth Marija Petrushevska.

Participants also benefitted from training in public relations and hosted the press conference simulation for the students in the Christian Changemakers program. The debated topics included abortion, migration, Russo-Ukrainian war, and Christian politics.

On the last day, we had our ECPYouth General Assembly where a new board was instated, and they appointed a new ECPYouth president: Sylvana Bal from The Netherlands.



Christian Changemakers (2022-2023 programme)



Klariska ten Napel, Christian Changemakers (CCM) Coordinator, public speaking trainer
Jeff & Romkje Fountain, Schuman Centre for European Studies founders
Philip Powell, Jubilee Centre, UK
Cristiana Bontea, Professional Orientation Coach at Coach for Insights



The second Christian Changemakers programme started in the fall of 2022 in Switzerland and includes seven participants. They come from The Netherlands, Belgium, Hungary, North Macedonia, Serbia and Belarus. They explored a variety of topics from a Christian perspective, such as inclusion, economics, healthcare system, corruption, women's rights and gender violence, freedom of speech etc. The theme for this kick-off event was *The Person Behind the Change*. The goal was to help participants identify who they are, what they want to do and what their message is. They were given practical teaching and helped to sharpen their writing and public speaking skills. The lectures also introduced them to the ideas of Christian-democracy and the values the EU was founded on.

The program aims to equip young Christians in the EU Member states and Eastern European countries with the practical tools to promote the Christian democratic values at the core of the European Union. The program includes a later visit to the European Parliament and coaching by thinkers and policymakers in Europe to introduce participants to the structure of the Union and basic mechanisms to make an impact as future Christian politicians and policymakers.

Regional Event



Valeriu Ghilețchi, ECPM President, President of Academy for Integrity in Leadership Moldova
Stas Ghilețchi, Deputy Director for Research at the Institute of European Policies and Reforms
Ruslan Codreanu, Leader of the Political Party The power of the People
Ruslan Stânga, Public Policy Expert at the Institute for Rural Initiatives
Sylvana Bal, ECPYouth President

We organized this event in Moldova in collaboration with the Academy for Integrity in Leadership Moldova.

The speakers focused on the newly granted EU candidacy status for Moldova and the various implications that has for the government and for the average citizens. Aspects related to economic stagnation, energetic shortages, rule of law, as well as the ever-present threat from the neighboring Russian Federation. We were honored to have the chance to visit the Moldovan Parliament and was accompanied by Mr. Valeriu Ghilețchi, former MP who explained to us further the internal and external challenges Moldova is facing. The lectures touched upon the Moldova- Ukraine relations as well and future plans for a more intense collaboration.

During our gathering in Chișinău, Moldova, we brainstormed and decided on the theme for our next work year: Sustainability. Together with the speakers we discussed the meaning of environmental and political sustainability in Moldova and neighborhood, as it relates to the European policies and direction. In addition, the board and individual members/organizations had the strategy planning session with Niek Bakker.



ECPM Board



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ECPM MEPs



Peter van Dalen

Country
The Netherlands

Political party
ChristenUnie/SGP

Website
petervandalen.eu

Peter van Dalen is a Dutch politician and former civil servant. He is a member of the ChristenUnie party and was formerly a member of the Reformatory Political Federation (RPF), which merged with the Reformed Political League (GPV) to form the ChristenUnie.

In 2014 van Dalen has been re-elected as member of the European Parliament where he was member of the Committee on Transport and Tourism, Committee on Fisheries and the Delegation for relations with India.

At the end of February 2009, van Dalen was designated leader for the 2009 European elections of the Christian Union. During this term, Van Dalen was vice-chairman of the Committee on Transport and Tourism in the European Parliament.

Elected for a third term in 2019, he is vice-chair of the Committee on Fisheries and member of the Subcommittee on Human Rights. He is also part of the Intergroup on Freedom of Religion and Belief.



Cristian Terheş

Country
Romania

Political party
PNȚCD (The Christian-Democrat National Peasant Party)

Website
pntcd.ro

Mr. Terheş is a Romanian MEP for the 2019–2025 mandate. He studied Theology, Journalism and Communication in Romania and The United States. He also served as a priest in the Greek-Catholic Romanian Mission and as the President of the Romanian Greek-Catholic Association in US for 10 years. Cristian Terheş has a natural flair for business development and uses technology and communication tools effectively to maximize return on investment and to market companies online. He has successfully used his skills in doing so for companies and

non-profits for almost 20 years.

At a political level, he has been involved with organizations which unite Romanians abroad and solidify relations between Romania and US, with an emphasis on religious liberty, the rule of law and fighting corruption in Romania.

As an MEP, he is a member of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and a substitute on the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee and the Petitions Committee.



Helmut Geuking

Country
Germany

Political party
Familien Partei

Website
familien-partei-europa.eu

Mr. Geuking is an MEP for Germany for the 2019–2024 EP mandate. He spent most of his career fighting for social justice for the elderly and disabled and has been a strong advocate for quality palliative care and support for families caring for their loved ones. In the European Parliament, he is a member of

the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs.

He is a defender of family rights, state-subsidized childcare and is working towards making the marketplace a more family-friendly environment.



Bert-Jan Ruissen

Country
The Netherlands

Political party
ChristenUnie/SGP

Website
eurofractie.sgp.nl

Bert-Jan Ruissen has been working for the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality for 19 years. He has represented The Netherlands in the EU Council in working groups and committees of DG AGRI. Ruissen has been the SGP representative in the city council of Krimpen aan den IJssel, his hometown.

In the European Parliament, he is vice-chair of the delegation for relations

with Israel and member of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development.

He believes that Biblical principles are beneficial for the society at large, is critical of the increasing concentration of power in Brussels and is a strong advocate for a well-functioning single market, sustainable agriculture, better relations with Israel and wants to fight modern slavery and oppression.

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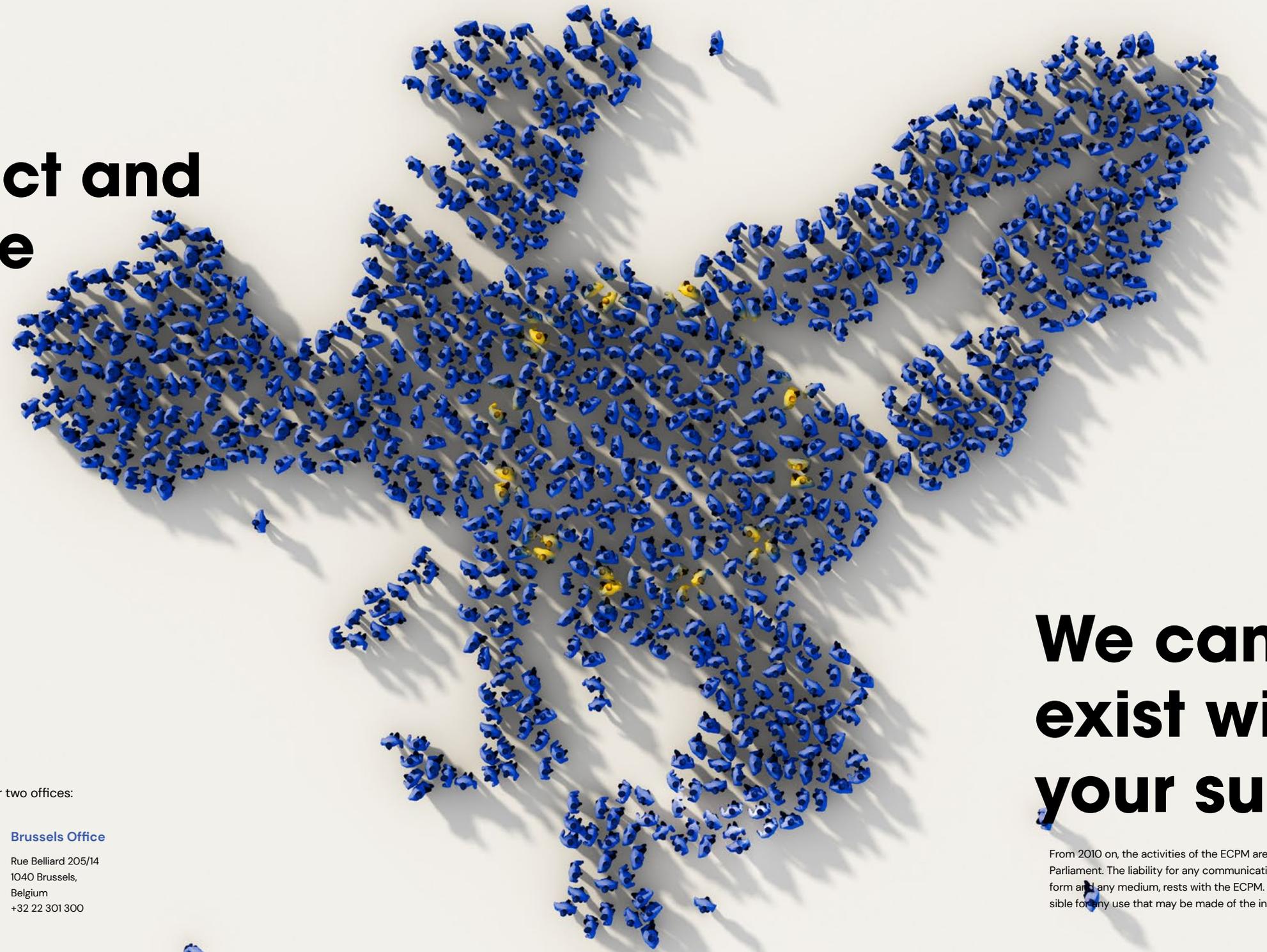


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