

**20** YEARS



ecpp

**Standing firm,  
moving forward.**  
2025 Yearbook

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A year in review



# About us

**The European Christian Political Party (ECPP) 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.

ECPP 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 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

3

About us

8

Foreword by the  
ECPP President

10

Secretary  
General's  
Reflection

6

Our values

- Dignity
- Sustainability
- Freedom
- Abolition
- Reform
- Heritage

12

Introduction

14

Events

- ECPP-ChristenUnie congress: Believe. Dare. Do.
- ECPP Study Days- Kassel Germany
- Human Rights in Syria: Current Situation of Minorities
- Faith, Media & Politics: Hope in an Age of Disinformation and Division
- Fair Solutions for Foreign Currency Loan Victims in Europe
- Discrimination of Christians in Europe. Presentation of the OIAC Europe 2025 Report
- The Adverse Consequences of Surrogacy
- Cornerstone Dinner: Reconciliation in Today's Polarized Environment
- ECPP 20th Anniversary Celebration

34

ECPP  
Roundtable  
Discussions

- Israel-Palestine Roundtable Discussion
- EU-US Relations Roundtable Discussion

36

General  
Assemblies

- 28th General Assembly
- 29th General Assembly

40

ECPYouth

- Introduction
- European Security and Defence: Future or Utopia
- Regional Conference in Paris
- International Summer School – Europe's Role in Today's World: Leading or Lagging?
- Christian Changemakers – Model EU
- ECPYouth General Assemblies

58

ECPP Board

- Valeriu Ghilețchi
- Karin Heepen
- Jacques Bazen
- Helena Hlubocká
- Jean-Frédéric Poisson
- Christian Terheș
- Leon Meijer

48

ECPP MEPs

- Ondřej Dostál
- Niels Geuking
- Reinis Pozņaks
- Bert-Jan Ruissen
- Șerban-Dimitrie Sturdza
- Claudiu-Richard Târziu
- Cristian Terheș

62

Advisory  
Council

- Inga Bite
- Valeriia Petrechkiv
- Branislav Škripek
- Christophe Foltzenlogel

56

ECPP Members

- Members (EU)
- Members (non-EU)
- Associates

64

Staff

- Maarten van de Fliert
- Márton Gyöngyösi
- Lefteris Kaloterakis
- Koen Strijk
- Adriana Rus
- Dominic Potters

66

Contact &  
Donate

# Our values



## Family

We see 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.

ECPP members support national policies which promote parenthood and flexible conditions for child-rearing. We support programs protecting children and youth, preventing addiction and violence, and we condemn all forms of domestic violence.



## 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 by God in His likeness, and is the cornerstone of all the other human rights. Therefore, life should be protected from conception to natural death.

We align ourselves with the principles stated in the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine and recognize that it is the sole competence of EU Member States to legislate on bioethics and healthcare matters.



## Sustainability

ECPP advocates for a relational view of the economy where healthy relationships between people is the end goal of systems, rather than increasing profits.

To that end, we favor SMEs, family-owned business and stakeholder business models. We support innovation as long as it does not violate human dignity and doesn't harm the environment.

Cohesion funds should support regional companies and inclusive business models instead of large multinationals; reducing disparities between EU regions must be a priority. We believe that wise stewardship of the natural resources is a biblical assignment.



## Freedom

Foreign affairs must be rooted in the human dignity principle, that promoting human rights is the best way of countering extremism and violence.

Foreign policy remains the competence of EU Member States. We encourage solidarity among Member States when it comes to migration and border security, and increased collaboration against (cyber)terrorist threats.

We call for a serious assessment of the foreign aid the EU sends to third countries, and we believe countries and regions which respect human rights should be prioritized.



## Abolition

We condemn all forms of modern slavery which reduces people to commodities.

ECPP advocates for due diligence in business practices and for consumers to choose companies vetted for their fair and sustainable practices. We support the Nordic Model as a means of fighting sexual exploitation and encourage Member States to adopt legislation criminalizing the buyers of sex services and the traffickers.

We urge European governments to increase prosecution rates of traffickers, to develop national prevention campaigns, and to work closely with NGOs in implementing exit programs and ensuring legal assistance to victims.



## Reform

ECPP calls for the European Union to reduce its directive role and to act more as a facilitator between strong, sovereign Members States.

We reject uniformity and turning the EU into a superstate; instead, we propose a confederal model, where clusters of Member States increase their cooperation around a common issue or priority.

EU agencies which have no added value and operate outside EU competences should be eliminated. We want more transparency on how the EU budget is spent on projects across the EU. We remain opposed to Turkey joining the EU.



## Heritage

We believe that Christian values such as freedom, truth, solidarity, human dignity, which were at the root of founding the EU, are still relevant today.

We stand for the freedom of religion/ belief of all people, including the right to worship publicly, wear religious symbols, and teach their children in the faith. ECPP stands with the millions of persecuted Christians around the world.

We condemn the rise in discrimination of Christians in Europe, the violations of their freedom of conscience and the lack of reasonable accommodation.

# Foreword by the ECPP President

**As we look back on the past year and gather the work, memories, and achievements recorded in these pages, I am reminded once again how quickly time passes. Seasons of service seem to fly by, yet when we pause to reflect, we see how faithfully God has guided every step. Through challenges and victories alike, we hold on to His promise that we are never alone:**

*“The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.” (Deuteronomy 31:8 NIV)*

**T**his year continued to be a challenging year for Europe. The enduring war in Ukraine, accompanied by escalating Russian aggression, continues to test European unity, resilience, and our commitment to peace and freedom. At the same time, tensions within the transatlantic alliance—touching trade, regulation, security, and broader geopolitical issues—have created uncertainty about long-standing partnerships. In such a shifting landscape, the need for steady, principled, and value-based leadership has become clearer than ever.

For us as a Christian political family, these developments reaffirm our calling. It is precisely in times of instability that we must strengthen our cooperation, deepen our unity, and remain firmly anchored in the values that define us: human dignity, solidarity, responsibility, justice, and faith. Our association is not merely organizational—it is rooted in our faith in God, our shared convictions, and a common vision for Europe.

To reflect better this deepening of our collaboration and our work at European level, we decided at the beginning of the year to adopt a new name: the European Christian Political Party (ECPP). We have long functioned as a political party, not merely

a movement, so we wanted our name to accurately describe that. We will continue this realignment in the coming years by implementing much-needed changes to our by-laws and to the structure of our association. These reforms are designed to make us stronger, more effective, and better equipped to serve our members and represent our values at the European level.

Throughout the year, we organized numerous events in Brussels and across our member states together with our members and partner organizations. These gatherings strengthened friendships, encouraged dialogue, and helped us coordinate our efforts more closely than ever before.

Perhaps most encouragingly, we witnessed tangible growth in our political representation. Our number of Members of the European Parliament increased from four to seven—a historic high for our party. This is not only a numerical success but also a sign that our message resonates with citizens across Europe who seek principled and hopeful leadership.

On a personal note, I would like to thank our members for their continuous support and trust. I am very grateful for being

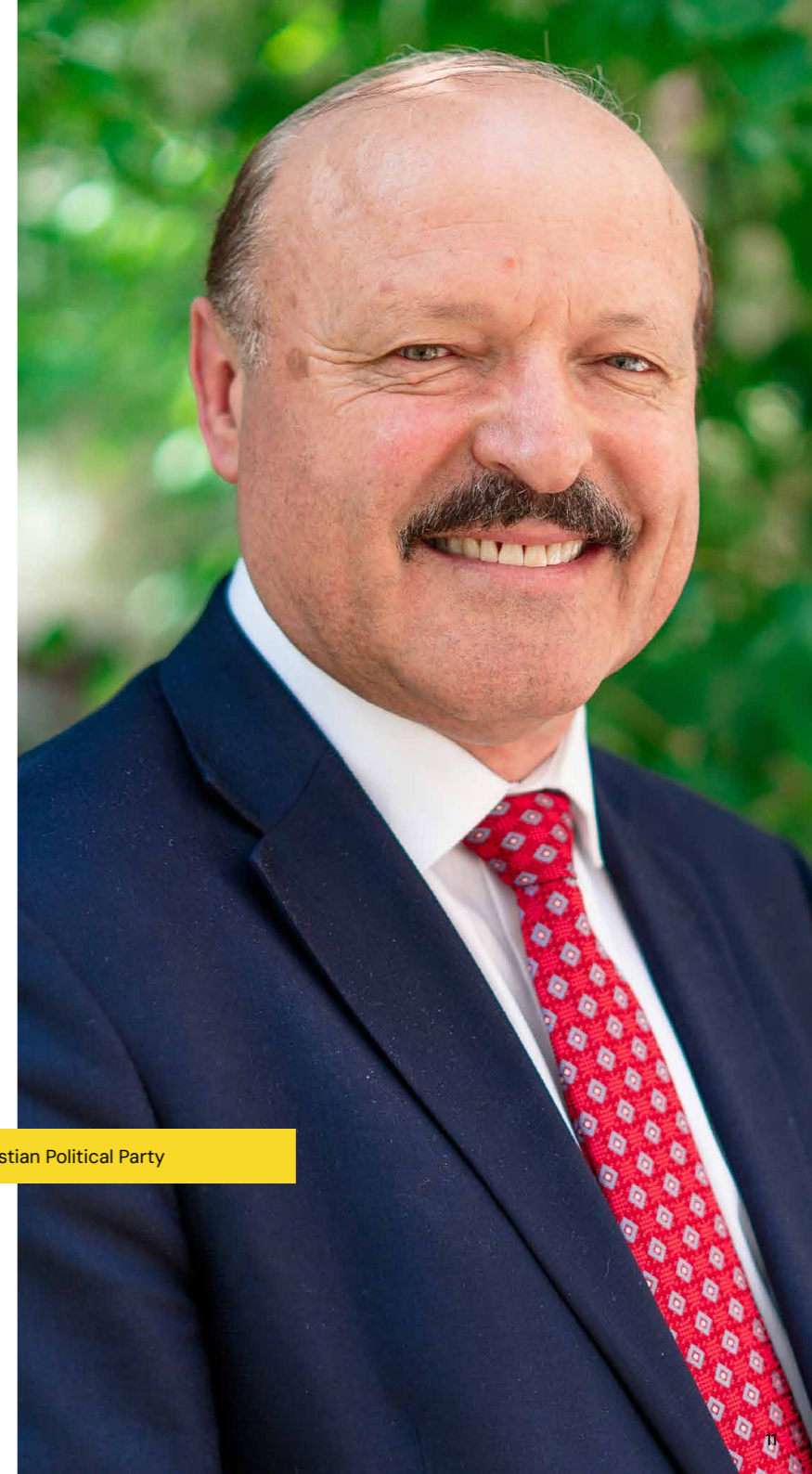
entrusted with a new mandate as President of the ECPP and I will endeavour to serve the association well. I believe that together we can bring ECPP to a new political level increasing significantly our impact in Europe.

Beyond structures, events, and mandates, our true strength lies in our faith. Political realities may change rapidly, but our foundation remains firm. As the prophet Daniel reminds us, there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries and guides history according to His purpose. Even when the future seems uncertain, we trust that our lives rest securely in His hands.

Let us therefore move forward with courage and confidence—serving faithfully, cooperating closely, and standing firmly for the values we cherish. Thank you for your dedication, your prayers, and your tireless work for our shared mission. May God continue to bless our efforts and guide the European Christian Political Party in the years ahead!

**Valeriu Ghilețchi**

President of the European Christian Political Party



# Secretary General's Reflection

## Celebrating Twenty Years of God's Faithfulness

*Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer (stone of help), saying, "Thus far the Lord has helped us." (1 Samuel 7:12 NIV)*

### Calling

At the end of 2025 we celebrated the 20th anniversary of our Christian party; twenty years of hard work and many challenges, but over which we can confidently declare that God has been faithful and has blessed us with His help. I am reminded of Gideon's story in the Book of Judges and his small but mighty army; just like them I am made aware that it is not our numbers or political acumen which brought us here; it is God and His will and might.

Formerly the European Christian Political Movement, it began as an initiative by a handful of Christian politicians in 2002 who dreamed of a Europe where people are free and safe, where human dignity is prioritised in policies, and where governments serve their citizens. The movement was officially registered in The Netherlands in September 2005, the same year its youth branch was also formed (then known as the European Christian Youth Network). It was such a special time to celebrate and reflect on our journey together with current and former MPs, MEPs, with the founders, with party presidents and with our friends from the extended network!

### Commitment

During this anniversary year, we also adjusted the name of the party to signal the transition of our focus and activities from lobbying and networking to policy-making. While the first two decades were focused on growing the network, connecting with each other, and targeting moments and places we could influence, it became evident lately that we needed to move forward and express what we have become: a fully-fledged European party with now seven seats at the European table, with representation in several national and regional parliaments, and even in a regional government. The party registered significant growth in new members, greater visibility in the media, and the highest number of members of European Parliament we ever had. While we remain the only Europarty explicitly promoting Christian values in the political arena, I believe the Christian voice has matured and gotten stronger in Europe.

The political work of ECPM is underpinned by seven guiding principles, anchored in relational thinking, which is based on the teachings of Jesus Christ. Our Lord taught us that we are all one in Him, that the Holy Spirit He sent to the believers at Pentecost binds us together, empowers, encourages, and guides us. The Apostles and the Early Church faced much persecution and danger, more so than we do these days, but they serve as an example of unity, of self-sacrifice, and solidarity: "All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had." (Acts 4:32 NIV)

### Courage

The founders of ECPM back in 2002 and 2005 were courageous to start this project, to answer the calling of being the Christian voice in European politics. Those who have sustained and fought for the movement in the next twenty years were persistent and committed and very courageous as well; the obstacles that ECPM faced were not few.

As the world is changing at an ever growing pace, as wars intensify and drag on, as pressure and instability mounts, we will need to find that God-given courage once again. Reading the news every day, it could be very easy to give in to fear and hopelessness; Midian is wreaking havoc in the country and it feels we are surrounded by danger from every side. At a time such as this, the world, Europe in particular, needs Gideon-like believers. Re-reading his story, I can see he was also intimidated by the enemies, and unsure of the calling God was making him. He asked for several signs from the Lord, and he tried to gather as many people as he could to go fight the Midianites. We can read his fear between the lines, but he obeyed at every step. Despite his fear, he believed God when He promised him victory.

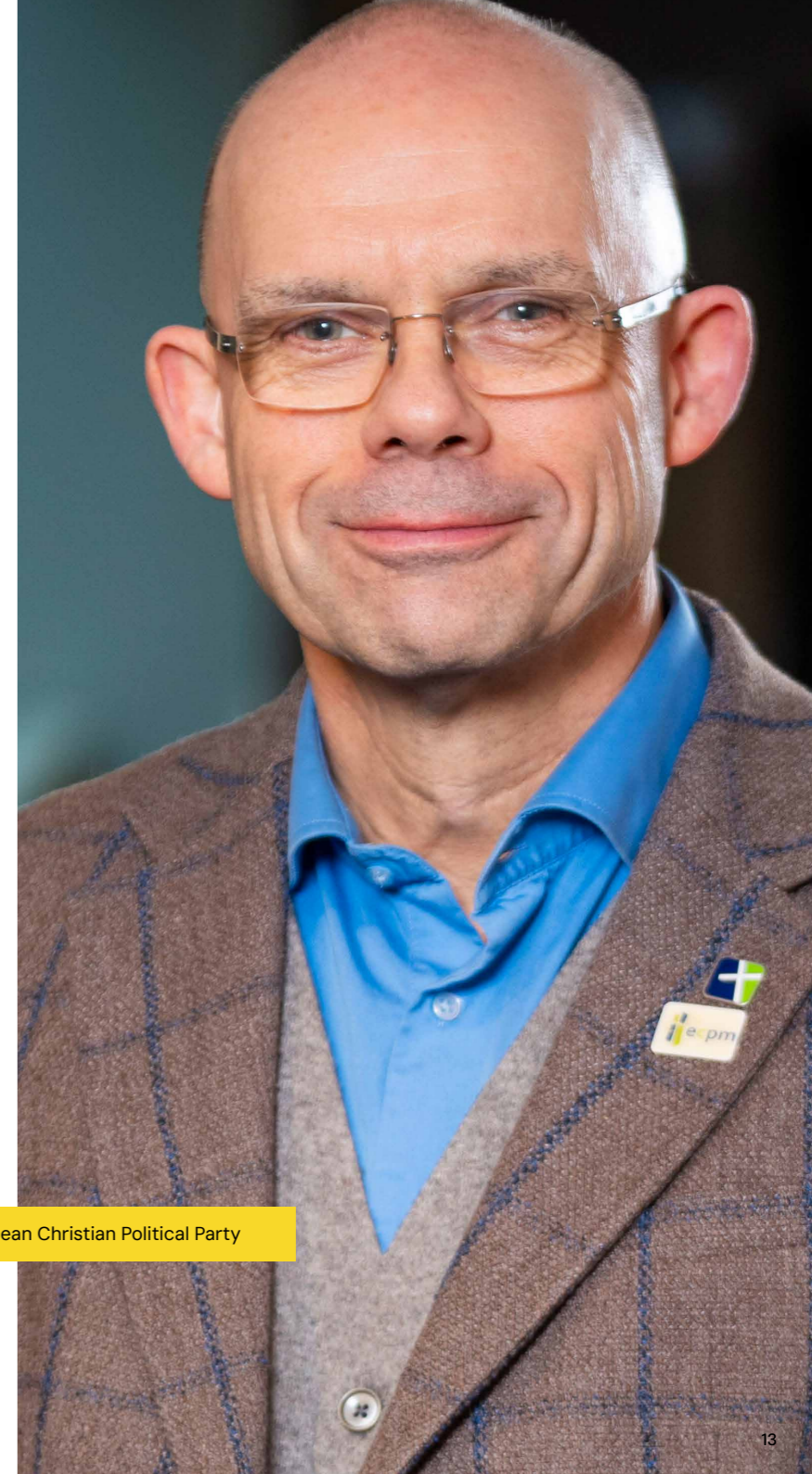
"The Lord is with you, mighty warrior" [...] "Go in the strength you have [...]. Am I not sending you?" [...] "The Lord answered: I will be with you [...]" (Judges 6:12, 14, 16 NIV)

I hope and pray for all of us that we would be obedient to the calling even in the face of adversity – that is true courage. May God lead us, may He give us strength and wisdom to pursue what is good and just in this new season of our party. I am strongly convinced our voice and message needs to be heard in the European institutions, in the Brussels and Strasbourg environments, and in the European capitals.

Thank you for your support in 2025, and may God richly bless you!

## Maarten van de Fliert

Secretary General of the European Christian Political Party



# Introduction

In this yearbook, you will find summaries of the events ECPP organized in 2025, either as sole organizer or in partnership with our party members, members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and non-governmental organizations.

The year 2025 was a year of transition and celebration. In April, our party officially changed its name to the European Christian Political Party (ECP) to clarify and strengthen our status as a Europarty, with the aim of increasing our political involvement and impact. Growth in membership- in particular, the addition of MEPs Reinis Pozņaks from Latvia, and Șerban Dimitrie Sturdza and Claudiu-Richard Târziu from Romania, increasing the number of ECP MEPs to seven- demonstrated this impact. The expansion of political discussion within the party through round-table discussions was also a significant development for ECP.

Celebrating the twentieth anniversary of our party was especially meaningful in a year of transition. Looking back with gratitude and reflecting on our history together with key people from the journey served as a strong reminder of the foundations of ECP and of what we have achieved. The anniversary dinner on 3 December was the highlight of the year. The celebration also reminded us why we engage in politics as ECP: to connect Christian politicians, to learn from one another, to amplify the Christian voices, and to protect human dignity.

*“The ECP is the only European political party that is explicit Christian. That was and remains the core of why we founded the ECP. We did so as we were and are convinced that Europe needs this. Europe needs this as Christ is the solid foundation of human dignity.”*

**Johannes de Jong, Director Sallux**

We continue to work on ECP's message, visibility and purpose, to refine and adapt it in order to accurately describe us and our work. Our dream is to see the voices of European Christians in politics elevated, recognized, and making a difference. What you see in this booklet are ways we empower our members and associates with resources, information and tools, ways we create the space for them to connect and exchange experiences, 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.



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# Events

## ECPP–ChristenUnie congress: Believe. Dare. Do.

4–5 April – Garderen, the Netherlands

MP Mirjam Bikker, ChristenUnie Party Leader  
Ben Tiggelaar, Behavioural scientist  
Valeriu Ghilețchi, ECPP President  
Adriana Rus, ECPP Events Manager  
Maarten van de Fliert, ECPP General Secretary  
Igor Mateski, Marketing and Communication expert

The European Christian Political Party (ECPP) partnered with its member party ChristenUnie to organize a two-day congress ‘Believe. Dare. Do’ aimed at encouraging ChristenUnie politicians and government executives in their roles, informing them about the ECPP and the European Union’s (EU) institutional structure, and training them on how to engage effectively with these institutions. The event, held in Garderen, the Netherlands, gathered around 200 participants.

The congress opened on Friday evening with a welcome by Mayor Andries Bouwman, who emphasized the event as a unique opportunity for networking and exchanging best practices among politicians and office holders across all levels—local, regional, national, and European. He underlined that the congress seeks to provide practical tools for translating the Christian concepts of peace and justice into



policy, and to spread a hopeful message to societies in need of encouragement.

In her keynote address, MP and party leader Mirjam Bikker offered words of encouragement, reminding attendees that Christian faith is the foundation of their public service. She acknowledged the rise of populism, which offers simplistic answers to complex questions, and called for courage to stand for justice and hope. “When you choose connection over the easy answer, you make a difference,” she said. “We are not just Christian policymakers. We are Christians called to govern.” Bikker concluded with a reference to Luke 4 verses 18–19 (NIV):

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”

She urged the audience to stand in prayer and action for those oppressed by regimes that make injustice their policy.

Behavioural scientist, author, and public speaker Ben Tiggelaar shared valuable insights on behavioural change, asserting that the aim of public policy is to influence behaviour. Often, solutions are available, but the challenge lies in implementing them. According to Tiggelaar, behaviour is shaped by three factors: motivation, capacity, and environment. He encouraged adopting a learning-oriented approach, where progress—even without achieving the original goal—is valuable. He warned against focusing solely on performance outcomes and stressed the importance of taking small, realistic steps. “The feeling of progress is essential to achieving big things over time,” he concluded.

ECPP President Valeriu Ghilețchi congratulated ChristenUnie on its 25th anniversary and reminded participants that just two years after its founding, ChristenUnie leaders helped establish what would become the ECPP in Lakitelek, Hungary. In his speech, Ghilețchi officially announced the party’s new name: the European Christian Political Party (ECPP), reflecting its mission more clearly. He praised the longstanding partnership between ECPP and ChristenUnie. Despite electoral challenges, he affirmed ChristenUnie’s influence remains strong, highlighting the party’s valuable role in government as an openly Christian political force. Ghilețchi concluded by asserting the presence of Christians in politics is essential, especially in times when truth and moral values are under pressure. “Europe needs leaders who are not only competent but also deeply rooted in the values that sustain societies: justice, mercy, and freedom,” he said.

On Saturday, the second day of the congress, ECPP Events Manager Adriana Rus led a workshop for ChristenUnie’s local and regional representatives, introducing them to the ECPP,

the EU, its legislative processes, and funding programs. She explained the distinction between European political parties and parliamentary groups. She emphasized the coalition nature of ECPP, bringing together Christian parties from various nations and denominations, noting that ECPP MEPs represent ChristenUnie even if ChristenUnie has no direct MEP at the time. At its core, the “C” for Christian remains central. ECPP’s seven focus areas include: human dignity, healthy families, relational economics, freedom, security and stability, honouring the Christian roots of the EU, and reforming the EU. Its motto ‘Elevate. Empower. Engage.’ reflects the mission of ECPP to elevate the voices of its members because Christian voices are often set aside at the EU level, and to empower them to have an impact. “As a small party, we need to stick together and learn from each other to make that impact,” she asserted.

Rus provided an overview of the EU institutions—the European Commission, Parliament, and Council—and explained the Ordinary Legislative Procedure, where the Commission proposes legislation and both Parliament and the Council act as co-legislators. She stressed the relevance of EU decisions for national and local governments, especially regarding laws and funding.

To illustrate the European Parliament’s impact, ECPP Secretary General Maarten van de Fliert recounted his experience with former ChristenUnie MEP Peter van Dalen. He shared how Van Dalen’s resolution to free Asia Bibi, a Pakistani Christian facing a death sentence, gained traction and ultimately influenced international diplomacy. The resolution process in the Parliament, Van de Fliert explained, is complex. Negotiating on the content and wording of resolutions and finding majorities among the political groups in the European Parliament are challenging aspects of the procedure, but the outcome can be powerful. Once passed, such resolutions can exert pressure on governments and prompt real-world change.

Rus concluded the workshop by discussing EU funding programs such as NextGenerationEU and Horizon Europe, which support policy areas like innovation, the environment, and social cohesion. She explained how local governments can apply for these programs and submit proposals. The session offered practical tools to help bridge the gap between EU institutions and local policymakers.

Another workshop led by marketing and communication expert Igor Mateski explored how Christians can communicate effectively in politics without compromising their values. He



emphasized the importance of strategy—aligning timing, tone, and context to deliver impactful, redemptive messages that win hearts, not just arguments. Using the Gospel as a model for the hero’s journey, he showed how storytelling can connect deeply with audiences. He introduced key tools like AIDA and PASTA to structure messages, and stressed understanding both your audience and your own identity to create message-to-market fit.

Mateski highlighted the emotional process people go through when accepting new ideas, and the need to adapt messages accordingly. He urged constant testing and feedback, warning against common communication pitfalls like being irrelevant or overconfident. The core message: combine strategy with soul—speak wisely, listen well, and always communicate with purpose and empathy.

# ECPP Study Days- Kassel Germany

10-11 May – Kassel, Germany

Adriana Rus, ECPP Event Manager

Joshua and Juliana Heinrichs, Founders of the Consul Group

Klariska ten Napel, City Councilor Zwolle (NL) and trainer at School voor Spreekvaardigheid

The European Christian Political Party (ECPP) has launched this year Party Study Days with its member party Familien Partei- an initiative dedicated to strengthening party development, volunteer engagement, and to community-building, with the aim of training member parties for long-term growth and stability. The programme focused on equipping participants with practical insights and strategic tools to develop resilient, value-driven political movements.

The study days opened with a presentation by Adriana Rus, ECPP Events Manager, who introduced ECPP and explained its role within European politics. She outlined the legal statute of a European political party and clarified the distinction between Europarties and political groups in the European Parliament. Ms. Rus underlined that Familien Partei is part of a broader European network of parties and individuals motivated by Christian values. She presented the Study Days as a commitment by ECPP to invest in the development of its member parties, emphasising the importance of organisational stability—both financial and human—in order



to achieve sustained electoral success and increased political representation over time.

Juliana Heinrichs followed with a presentation on the role of community and community-building in party development and member engagement. She stressed that political parties operate with limited resources, particularly time and volunteers, making volunteer engagement essential for long-term success. Ms. Heinrichs highlighted that volunteers are often the most effective carriers of a party's vision and values. Investing in volunteers is therefore an investment in the future leadership of the party, ensuring continuity and resilience beyond its founding figures. She also emphasised the importance of mutual respect between party leadership and volunteers, including listening to their concerns, keeping them informed, expressing appreciation, and fostering a culture of trust and belonging.

The programme continued with a session led by Joshua Heinrichs, consultant in business, politics, and leadership, who presented an analysis of the current state of volunteer engagement. He began by reflecting on the definition of volunteering as service without financial compensation and noted that political parties cannot function without committed volunteers. Framing politics as a form of public service, he argued that those already serving voluntarily are often best equipped to attract new volunteers. Participants were encouraged to reflect on their party's identity, the motivations of their volunteers, long-term involvement, and leadership development. Joshua highlighted the importance of understanding why people join, how they grow within the party, and how faith, values, and learning shape their engagement over time.

Mr. Heinrichs also addressed the importance of nurturing a strong community through both formal and informal interactions, such as rallies, conferences, and personal relationships beyond official party moments. He encouraged reflection on barriers to participation and how to improve volunteer engagement, quality, and retention. Emphasis was placed on the need for training volunteers, clearly communicating the party's mission, vision, and values, and offering varied opportunities for involvement based on individual capacities and motivations. He introduced the concept of an engagement journey, distinguishing between voters, party members, volunteers, and community allies, and highlighted the importance of offering clear and accessible pathways for deeper involvement in the party.

The second day featured Klariska ten Napel, city councillor in Zwolle for ChristenUnie (NL), former president of ECPYouth and public speaker trainer, who shared insights from the experience of ChristenUnie as a Christian political party with strong national, regional, and local representation. She explained how ChristenUnie built a strong volunteer base by maintaining a clear identity rooted in its foundational principles, achieving



and communicating tangible political results, and prioritising relationships within the party. Ms. Ten Napel emphasised that clarity about values and identity provides both direction and recognition for members, while visible results demonstrate impact and attract broader support.

Ms. Ten Napel also highlighted the central role people play in party growth, noting that political engagement should be marked by positivity, authenticity, and genuine relationships. Active members, she stressed, are the party's most valuable ambassadors, as people are drawn to people rather than abstract structures. She underlined the importance of strong local networks, particularly in contexts where media exposure is limited, and encouraged participants to identify their party's core regions, potential growth areas, and existing networks. By mapping these connections and understanding the hopes and concerns of different groups, parties can more effectively connect identity, impact, and community in their outreach and engagement.

The study days concluded with reflections on practical next steps, including inviting new people into the party, appreciating

and supporting volunteers, offering regular trainings and meetings, and maintaining engagement with both active and inactive members. Overall, the programme reinforced the importance of investing in people, strengthening community, and building sustainable party structures rooted in clear values and shared purpose.

# Human Rights in Syria: Current Situation of Minorities

20 June – Enschede, the Netherlands

MEP Bert-Jan Ruissen, ECPP/SGP

MP Isa Kahraman, NSC

Aziz Beth Aho, Chair of the Aramaic Movement for Human Rights

Meltem Halaceli, writer and member of the Association for Human Rights in Syria

Márton Gyöngyösi, ECPP Director for Political Relations

On Friday 20 June, the European Christian Political Party (ECP) hosted a public information event in Enschede focused on the human rights situation in Syria. Attended by members of the Dutch-Aramaic community, parliamentarians, human rights advocates and concerned citizens, the event gave voice to persecuted minorities and shed light on the deepening repression faced by Christians, Alawites, and other vulnerable communities in Syria.

The evening was opened by Aziz Beth Aho, Chair of the Aramaic Movement for Human Rights and a leading Dutch-Aramaic activist. Beth Aho, who fled Syria due to persecution, spoke movingly about the historic and ongoing suffering of Aramaic Christians. “We still live with trauma. Aramaic Christians were murdered during the Armenian genocide because of who they were. Now we see history repeating itself: the rise of a regime of hatred, the erasure of cultural heritage, and the silencing of minorities. The international community talks about human rights but remains silent in action.”

Beth Aho warned of the transformation of Syria into a Sharia-based state, lacking basic rights and protections for ethnic and religious minorities. “What happens in Syria today can happen elsewhere. These are universal values—we must act in solidarity.”

Political Responses from The Netherlands and the EU

Dutch MEP Bert-Jan Ruissen (ECP/SGP), co-chair of the European Parliament Intergroup on Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB), underlined the importance of raising awareness in Brussels. “There are many negative developments in Syria, including mass rapes, forced abductions and the radicalisation of schoolbooks. Syrian education now teaches children to ‘keep Jews and Christians away.’ That is completely unacceptable.”

He criticised the rehabilitation of Syria’s de facto new leader, Ahmed al-Sharaa, who has recently presented himself to the international community as a moderate reformer. “A suit and tie don’t change the facts. Sanctions were lifted too hastily by the West. Together with MEP Sander Smit, I’ve submitted a written question to the Commission. If the situation does not improve,



sanctions must be reimposed.”

Ruissen also committed to organising a conference in the European Parliament on the rights of religious minorities in Syria.

Dutch MP Isa Kahraman (NSC), himself from the Aramaic community, noted that Christians and other minorities are often ignored in Western media and politics. “We are not here by choice—we fled persecution. The previous regime under Assad committed horrible crimes, but this new regime is no better. Militias drive through towns saying: ‘Convert to Islam or suffer.’ Sanctions are the very least we can do.” Kahraman called for EU member states to retain unanimity on sanction policy and warned of the dangerous presence of foreign jihadist fighters from Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan within Syria.

Civil Society Voices: Alawites and Human Rights Advocacy

Meltem Halaceli, writer and member of the Association for

Human Rights in Syria, shared her personal story and reflected on the systematic persecution of Alawites. “There are no civil courts in Syria for Assad-era crimes, and now minorities are again being killed. Ethnic cleansing is taking place. Alawites, Aramaic Christians, Kurdish and Yezidi women are in urgent need of protection.”

Halaceli noted the importance of documentation for international prosecution. Her organization is currently collecting evidence for submission to the International Criminal Court, under the guidance of Dr. Jens Kreinath.

ECP: Defending Human Dignity and Religious Freedom

Márton Gyöngyösi, ECPP Director for Political Relations, reaffirmed the party’s unwavering commitment to human dignity and religious freedom. “The ECP exists to be a political voice for those who are vulnerable and often forgotten. We stand up for religious minorities—both in Europe and globally. Our Christian values demand it.”

Gyöngyösi cited ECP’s advocacy through the Intergroup on FoRB, its call for the reappointment of the EU Special Envoy on Freedom of Religion or Belief, and its ongoing work through MEPs and partner NGOs to raise awareness and push for political action. “Freedom of religion is a fundamental right enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is not optional—it is essential.”

The event concluded with a Q&A session, in which MEP Ruissen emphasized the need for all stakeholders—civil society, national governments, and EU institutions—to join forces to protect Syria’s vulnerable minority communities.

# Faith, Media & Politics: Hope in an Age of Disinformation and Division

29 October–2 November – Crikvenica, Croatia

Márton Gyöngyösi, ECPP Director for Political Relations

Rachel Ruvarac, ROM Assistant Director

Prof. Dr. James Kennedy, Professor of History at Utrecht University (NL)

Igor Mateski, Marketing and Communication expert

Dr. Noemi Mena Montes, Assistant Professor Radboud University Nijmegen (NL)

Julia Bicknell, Director of World Watch Monitor, former BBC Journalist

Kimberly Hart, author, humanitarian law expert

Marius Radu, Artist

Adriana Rus, ECPP Events Manager

The European Christian Political Party (ECPP), in collaboration with Renewing Our Minds (ROM) organization, organized a five-day conference titled “Faith, Media & Politics”, which took place from 29 October to 2 November in Crikvenica, Croatia. The conference aimed to counter the growing division, polarization, and disinformation seen in public life today, as well as the tendency among people of faith either to withdraw from public life or to seek power through politics. It sought to challenge prevailing assumptions and dominant narratives about the role of religion in politics and to encourage students, political activists, and professionals from across Europe to engage thoughtfully and actively in the debates shaping our societies.

Adriana Rus, ECPP Events Manager, introduced the ECPP to participants, explaining the role of a European political party and its place within the European political landscape: “The ECPP is the only party explicitly promoting Christian values in the European Parliament.” She highlighted the coalition nature of the ECPP, bringing together Christian parties from various nations and denominations. ECPP’s seven focus areas include human dignity, healthy families, relational economics, freedom, security and stability, honouring the Christian roots of the EU, and reforming the EU. Its motto “Elevate. Empower. Engage.” reflects ECPP’s mission to amplify the voices of its members, whose perspectives are often sidelined at the EU level, and to empower them to make an impact.

ROM Assistant Director Rachel Ruvarac opened the first day by introducing principles for disagreeing well. An anonymous participant survey confirmed the ideological and political diversity of the group. Because the sessions were designed to spark thoughtful disagreement, the event intentionally set aside time to practice disagreeing with humility and to affirm the dignity of those we engage with.

Professor James Kennedy then provided a historical overview of the rise of nationalism since WWII, with a particular focus on religious nationalism. He emphasized how religious communities can facilitate dialogue.

A panel on “Nationalism, Patriotism, Protest and Dissent” explored the distinction between nationalism and patriotism and examined how nationalism manifests today in Serbia, Romania, the UK, and the US. Panellists shared personal perspectives on navigating these dynamics as people of faith.

Igor Mateski led a workshop on how social media algorithms exploit human emotions and how political messaging is crafted to trigger those emotions. He warned against decision-making driven by algorithmic manipulation and drew a parallel to the serpent in the Garden of Eden, communicating with malicious intent. Mateski urged participants not to engage with such manipulative messaging and instead to assume good intentions, to distinguish between positive and negative communication, and to always consider the humanity of those we disagree with.

The first day closed with an evening session titled “Pro-Life, Pro-Choice, Pro-Conversation,” where the panel modelled the principles of disagreeing well introduced earlier. The discussion challenged simplistic narratives and binary framing, seeking common ground and shared values within the abortion debate.

On the second day, Dr. Noemi Mena Montes spoke about info entertainment, which she defined as a blend of news and entertainment, focused on emotion, personality, and drama. She explained that it is appealing because of emotional engagement, it’s easy to consume, there is a personal



connection, and instant rewards. However, she showed how dangerous it can be because it trivializes complexity, relies on emotion over evidence, polarizes audiences, and erodes trust.

Julia Bicknell reflected on the evolution of the media landscape since her early days at the BBC in the 1980s, highlighting the challenge of reclaiming shared truth today. She offered practical advice on responsible media consumption and how to identify false information.

A panel on “What Is Truth?” built on the morning’s lectures, exploring social media, AI, and disinformation, and underscoring the importance of developing critical thinking skills.

The day ended with a group activity in which participants created proposals for AI regulation. This exercise prompted them to think through the impact of AI on privacy, education, intellectual property, cybersecurity, the environment, medicine, and more, sparking animated debate and many promising ideas.

The third day began with a presentation by Kimberly Hart, who invited participants to examine their own roles in today’s polarization. She argued that healthy political systems depend on healthy communities, and that politics and culture currently reinforce each other in a negative loop. To break this cycle, she encouraged participants to reflect on who they listen to and follow, who shapes their thinking, and to be willing to question their own beliefs.

ECPP Director for Political Relations and former MEP Márton Gyöngyösi spoke about hope: “For people who care about the truth, hope is not naïve. It is an act of resistance and defiance, a source of strength, and a deliberate choice.” He challenged the idea that people of faith should either withdraw from or dominate politics, instead calling for engagement as servants and truth-tellers.

The final plenary session was a panel on hope and politics, exploring the difference between hope and optimism and how hope can be manipulated. Panellists emphasized that hope is active, not passive.



One panellist pointed to the American civil rights movement as an example: “Hope is a path through suffering, but also a path of action. It is not about predicting the future, nor a recipe for domination, but a belief in God’s goodness.”

Outside the main sessions, participants visited “Awakening,” an art exhibit by Romanian artist Marius Radu, and attended workshops on art, psychology, burnout, implicit bias, and more. Ample free time allowed for continued conversation and reflection.

Participants returned home with a clearer understanding of the forces dividing societies today and the manipulation of truth in public life, but also with new tools, renewed motivation, and a more active sense of hope.

# Fair Solutions for Foreign Currency Loan Victims in Europe

15 November – Budapest, Hungary

MP Dr. Koloman Brenner, Vice President of Jobbik

MP Dániel Z. Kárpát, Vice President of Jobbik

Jacques Bazen, ECPP Treasurer and Senior Lecturer in International Economics and Innovative Entrepreneurship at Saxion University in Enschede (NL)

Dr. László Marczingós, legal expert and leading Hungarian specialist on foreign currency loan cases

Together with its member party Jobbik Movement for a Better Hungary, the European Christian Political Party (ECPP) hosted the conference “Fair Solutions for Foreign Currency Loan Victims in Europe” in Budapest, Hungary. The conference aimed to present the long-term social and economic consequences of foreign currency loans across Central and Eastern Europe.

Dr. László Marczingós explained how several important rulings of the European Court of Justice, following court cases against the Hungarian OTP Bank, have shaped consumer protection and financial case law across Europe. However, he noted that several Member States, including Hungary, have failed to implement these rulings or have actively circumvented them. He criticised the European Commission for allegedly striking a deal with the Hungarian government that reduced pressure for compliance with the Court’s decisions, as well as the lack of attention given to the issue by the ruling parties and other national political actors. According to Dr. Marczingós, the government, banks, and judiciary appear to cooperate within a system that neglects EU law and systematically disadvantages consumers. He concluded by highlighting the broader implications for the rule of law in Hungary, stating: “We are a crippled society. The legal system is undermined, and the lack of the rule of law means a restriction of all rights. Hungarian citizens do not enjoy the same rights as German, Dutch, or other European citizens.”

Jacques Bazen introduced the European Christian Political Party, of which Jobbik is a member. He noted that ECPP is the only European political party that explicitly promotes Christian values in European politics and presented its spearheads, its Members of the European Parliament, and its network of political parties across Europe. He explained that the topic of the conference closely relates to relational economics, one of ECPP’s core principles. Relational economics views the economy not merely as a system driven by land, labour, capital, and entrepreneurship with profit maximisation as its primary goal, but as a network of human relationships shaped by social, cultural, and political contexts. It emphasises trust,



cooperation, and local and regional networks, and recognises that economic relations are dynamic rather than static. Strong human networks can foster innovation, reduce unemployment, and enhance quality of life, while their absence can lead to exclusion, lock-in effects, or the externalisation of social and environmental costs.

Applying this perspective to the issue of foreign currency loans, Bazen highlighted the need for greater attention to long-term consequences, fairness, and risk-sharing between lenders and borrowers. He warned that the pursuit of short-term profits often leads to systemic problems, such as economic bubbles and social harm. From this perspective, Bazen stated that ECPP believes in necessary government intervention to establish fair market conditions and protect consumers, recognising that ordinary citizens cannot be expected to fully understand complex financial mechanisms such as exchange-rate spreads or contract amendments. ECPP therefore supports a combination of top-down (such as strong consumer protection rules to prevent harmful loan practices) and bottom-up approaches that empower citizens through education and consumer protection organisations.

Bazen further explained that the practice of issuing loans in foreign currencies such as the euro and Swiss franc was not unique to Hungary, but also widespread in Poland, Croatia, Greece, Slovenia, and Romania. While Hungary addressed the crisis swiftly from a macroeconomic perspective, significant microeconomic concerns remain unresolved. He argued that national court cases against banks have increasingly created more favourable conditions

for consumers and that the foreign currency loan crisis has resulted in new EU-level consumer protection legislation, offering at least a positive legacy from a deeply harmful practice. He emphasised that without the rule of law, a country will inevitably decline. He therefore called on European institutions to pressure the Hungarian government to comply with EU law, ensure that rule-of-law mechanisms function properly, and strengthen the principle of subsidiarity.

Member of Parliament Dániel Z. Kárpát highlighted the civil struggle of victims of foreign currency loans. He urged policymakers to listen to experts with the necessary knowledge and expertise rather than relying solely on political considerations. According to Kárpát, the Hungarian government has failed to take responsibility for addressing the issue, leaving initiatives largely to civil society and other actors. He described how Jobbik and Dr. Marczingós established a non-governmental organisation to support victims of the foreign currency loan crisis. Kárpát underlined the ongoing efforts to raise awareness, despite what he described as active indifference from media and authorities. He also referred to a recent demonstration organised by Jobbik with 5,000 participants that received almost no media coverage, stating: “We are being ignored in the heart of Europe, even though we have the means to solve the problem.”

In the panel discussion that followed, Dr. László Marczingós argued that Hungary has failed to fulfil its commitments under the Copenhagen criteria. He stated that Hungarian courts are largely unable to apply EU law and frequently deliver judgments that contradict it, claiming that “Hungary has returned to socialist law.” He emphasised that failure to comply with EU law



constitutes a criminal offence and that judges and prosecutors must be held accountable in order to resolve the crisis. He warned that the current situation has pushed Hungary to the periphery of the European Union, making it “closer to Moscow than to Brussels.” He advocated for Hungary to return to its European path, to become receptive to assistance from other Member States, and to invest more strongly in education in European law.

Dr. Koloman Brenner concluded the event by reaffirming the commitment of Jobbik and ECPP to ensure that the call for help from European consumers is heard across Europe and by pledging continued efforts to achieve the necessary reforms.

# Discrimination of Christians in Europe. Presentation of the OIDAC Europe 2025 Report

18 November – Brussels, Belgium

MEP Bert-Jan Ruissen, ECPP/SGP  
 Valeriu Ghilețchi, ECPP President  
 Anja Tang-Hoffman, director of OIDAC Europe  
 Alessandro Calcagno, jurist COMECE

The European Christian Political Party (ECP) and MEP Bert-Jan Ruissen, co-chair of the Intergroup on Freedom of Religion, Belief and Conscience (FoRB), organized a conference in the European Parliament to address the rising violence and discrimination against Christians in Europe.

MEP Bert-Jan Ruissen welcomed the speakers and the audience and underlined the relevance of the discussion: “The European Union is founded on Christian values, and Christianity is deeply rooted in European countries.” He stated that the rise in hatred against Christians is widely ignored and that Christians are increasingly marginalised at both national and European level. This marginalisation, he argued, harms the public role of Churches and Christian education and leads to hesitancy and fear among individual believers to express their faith.

ECP President Valeriu Ghilețchi expressed his appreciation



for the OIDAC report and pointed in particular to the many instances of restrictions on the freedom of religion or belief of Christians. “ECP stands with anyone persecuted for his or her beliefs. In particular, we stand for the right to worship publicly, wear religious symbols, and teach children their faith,” he said. Ghilețchi recalled a resolution and report for which he was rapporteur in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on Tackling Intolerance and Discrimination in Europe, with a special focus on Christians, which called upon European states “to promote reasonable accommodation so as to enable Christians to fully participate in public life.” He stressed that this resolution remains highly relevant today.

In her presentation of the OIDAC report, Anja Tang-Hoffmann reported approximately 2,200 incidents of anti-Christian hate crimes during the reporting year 2024. Particularly worrying, she noted, was the rise in arson attacks and vandalism against churches, as well as personal attacks against Christians. Tang-Hoffmann underlined that these figures are conservative estimates, as anti-Christian violence often goes unreported due to the lack of data collection by authorities or because victims do not report incidents. She also addressed more subtle legal restrictions placed on Christians that limit their freedom of religion or belief. “We see Christian schools being denied public funding, and arrests or legal persecution of Christians for praying near abortion clinics or for displaying or citing Bible verses in public. These developments lead to self-censorship and hesitancy to express one’s Christian faith,” she explained. Tang-Hoffmann further observed that Christian thought, which places human dignity at the foundation of human rights, increasingly clashes with post-Christian approaches that prioritise unrestricted freedom.

She highlighted the lack of coordination at European level and advocated the implementation of the OSCE/ODIHR guidelines on Understanding Anti-Christian Hate Crimes and Addressing the Security Needs of Christian Communities.

COMECE’s Alessandro Calcagno called for the appointment of an EU Coordinator on anti-Christian hatred, modelled on the existing EU coordinators on antisemitism and anti-Muslim hatred. “It is no longer an option to ignore this phenomenon. Protection must be provided to the faithful regardless of whether they belong to a minority or majority religion,” he stated. Calcagno also warned that strong secularisation and growing religious ignorance contribute to marginalisation. Religious symbols are increasingly portrayed as offensive or oppressive, particularly in public spaces and employment, raising serious concerns for freedom of religion and freedom of expression. Weak protection of religious freedom within the EU, he argued, also undermines the Union’s credibility abroad. Tolerance alone is insufficient to counter anti-Christian hatred; equal treatment of religious communities is essential to prevent marginalisation, social tensions, and risks of radicalisation or violence. Protecting public worship and religious expression is

therefore not only a matter of fundamental rights, but also of societal cohesion and security.

In concluding the event, Valeriu Ghilețchi stressed the need not only to defend but also to actively promote Christian values. MEP Bert-Jan Ruissen reaffirmed his commitment to urge the European Commission to appoint a Coordinator on anti-Christian hatred. Secondly, he announced that he would call on Commissioner Brunner to ask Member States to collect systematic data on anti-Christian violence. Thirdly, he highlighted the need for EU funding for programmes aimed at combating violence and hatred.



# The Adverse Consequences of Surrogacy

18 November – Brussels, Belgium

MEP Bert-Jan Ruissen, ECPP/SGP

Reem Alsalem, United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls

Valeriu Ghilețchi, ECPP President

On Tuesday, 18 November, the European Christian Political Party (ECP), together with MEP Bert-Jan Ruissen, hosted a private dinner to discuss the adverse consequences of surrogacy. The special guest was Reem Alsalem, United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, who published a report in the summer of 2025 calling for the abolition of surrogacy due to its harmful effects on women and children. Numerous European lawmakers attended the dinner to listen to and engage in discussion with the UN Special Rapporteur.

MEP Bert-Jan Ruissen welcomed the attendees and thanked them for participating in the discussion, underlining the importance of addressing surrogacy as a harmful practice that violates human rights and human dignity.

ECP President Valeriu Ghilețchi emphasized the urgency of the topic: "Human dignity is at stake when we talk about surrogacy. As ECP, we are firmly against all forms of surrogacy, as it reduces people to commodities." He shared his experience from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), noting that initiatives calling for a ban on surrogacy were often hijacked and transformed into expressions of support for the practice by fellow politicians. Mr. Ghilețchi opened the dinner with a short devotion based on Psalm 139:14: "Wonderful are Your works, and my soul knows it very well."

Ms. Alsalem began by highlighting that surrogacy and its effects on women and girls remain largely underexplored and insufficiently debated. "Surrogacy has gained momentum in the last five years and is being pushed with cheap and superficial arguments. However, there is no comprehensive human rights analysis of its impact, nor serious parliamentary or policy debates on the issue," she stated. She explained that, as a Special Rapporteur, she deliberately chose to address topics that are normalized yet insufficiently scrutinized. Central to her report, she stressed, were the voices of victims. Accessing these testimonies proved difficult, however, as surrogate mothers are often contractually prohibited from speaking out, under threat of severe financial penalties. Many women involved in surrogacy are in vulnerable economic or social situations, leaving them fearful, legally insecure, and effectively silenced.



The UN Special Rapporteur called for a ban on all forms of surrogacy characterizing it as an exploitative practice that violates the rights and dignity of women and children by commodifying both the female body and the child. She emphasized that surrogate mothers surrender control over their pregnancies to commissioning parents or clinics, which may dictate key decisions at any stage of the pregnancy. In some systems, this includes the imposition of abortion decisions based on preference rather than medical necessity. "Mothers and children are very, very vulnerable," Ms. Alsalem stated.

Ms. Alsalem further warned of the hidden and underground nature of the surrogacy industry. She described disturbing cases in which women are confined and forced into surrogacy arrangements under bondage or slavery-like conditions, particularly in cross-border contexts. The large financial interests of clinics and intermediaries, she noted, contribute to the lack of transparency and oversight. The Special Rapporteur also criticized the academic and medical literature frequently used to justify surrogacy, explaining that weak and methodologically flawed studies are repeatedly cited and recycled to downplay harms. When examined closely, much of this research does not withstand scrutiny, yet it continues to shape policy debates.

Children born through surrogacy are likewise exposed to risks. They are often separated from the woman who carried and gave birth to them immediately after birth, frequently without skin-to-skin contact, disrupting early bonding and potentially affecting their physical and emotional development. Ms. Alsalem pointed to research indicating poorer health

outcomes for some children born through surrogacy. Moreover, testimonies from individuals born through surrogacy reveal experiences of identity confusion, emotional distress, and a persistent sense of dislocation, even when raised in legally stable families. The Special Rapporteur stressed that the best interests of the child are frequently subordinated to contractual obligations and consumer demand. Cross-border surrogacy arrangements further expose children to risks of trafficking, legal uncertainty, and weak protection of their rights.

The distinction between altruistic and commercial surrogacy is largely artificial, she said. Hidden forms of remuneration are common, and the number of women willing to act as surrogate mothers without payment is extremely small. Countries that legalize altruistic surrogacy, she warned, merely create the appearance of an ethical solution while exporting the problem abroad, as commissioning parents seek jurisdictions where supply exists. She called for greater international cooperation, cross-border dialogue, and the exploration of global legal instruments to address surrogacy as a systemic human rights issue.

Ms. Alsalem drew explicit parallels between surrogacy and systems of prostitution and trafficking, highlighting similar patterns of demand-driven exploitation, commodification, and involvement of criminal networks. Despite these profound human rights implications, surrogacy is not treated as a standing issue in international forums dealing with women's rights, children's rights, trafficking, or exploitation, nor is there sufficient data collection to capture the scale of the problem.



# Cornerstone Dinner: Reconciliation in Today's Polarized Environment

3 December – Brussels, Belgium

Camilla Bocăniălă, Founder and Programme Director of Polylogos Association

Julia Doxat Purser, Socio-Political Representative of the European Evangelical Alliance (EEA)

Jan-Piet De Visser, Youth With a Mission

Jonathan de Goeijer, ECPYouth Board Member

Organised by the European Christian Political Party (E CPP) and the Cornerstone Network of Young Professionals, the annual Cornerstone Dinner brought together professionals working for or with the European Institutions, as well as those aspiring to contribute to society through their Christian faith. The event focused on reconciliation in today's polarised society and aimed to connect and encourage young professionals who integrate their Christian beliefs into their work and daily lives, while also familiarising participants with the values and vision of E CPP.

Board member of ECPYouth, Jonathan de Koeijer, welcomed the audience on behalf of E CPP. He presented E CPP as one of the 12 European political parties and introduced its Members of the European Parliament. "E CPP is the only European political party that explicitly promotes Christian values and conducts politics based on the teachings of Jesus," he said. De Koeijer highlighted reconciliation as closely connected to relational thinking, a fundamental principle of E CPP's political vision. As God is trinitarian and therefore relational, human beings are likewise called to have just and right relationships with one another, with businesses, and with the environment. Healthy relationships between people is the underlying theme and ultimate goal of political and economic systems, making reconciliation of paramount importance to achieving this vision.

Furthermore, De Koeijer stressed the need for Christians to engage in politics and highlighted how E CPP and ECPYouth seek "to equip, inspire, and empower Christian voices in politics across the European Union," providing Christian politicians and young people with the knowledge and resources to engage in their societies.

Camilla Bocăniălă, founder and programme director of the Polylogos Association, reflected on reconciliation as a deliberate and ongoing process rooted in forgiveness. She described it as a voluntary and mutual movement towards restoring relationships, requiring commitment from all parties involved. Bocăniălă highlighted several barriers to reconciliation, including power imbalances, a lack of mutual willingness, and the tendency of wealthy communities to overlook those who



are marginalised or left behind. She stressed that reconciliation matters precisely because conflict is so prevalent yet often avoided. "We prefer to be peacekeepers rather than peacemakers," she noted, emphasising that peace-making requires stepping into conflict rather than retreating from it. Drawing on the example of Jesus, she encouraged participants to move beyond their comfort zones, listen deeply, and be willing to change perspectives through genuine encounter.

Julia Doxat Purser, Socio-Political Representative of the European Evangelical Alliance (EEA), approached reconciliation through the lens of Christian vocation. She described reconciliation as "making things bright where there is tension" and reminded the audience that Jesus' ministry was fundamentally about restoring broken relationships. Doxat Purser noted that reconciliation does not require agreement, but rather recognition of the shared dignity of all people made in the image of God. Drawing on her experience as a lobbyist, she spoke candidly about facing hostility and backlash, recalling Jesus' call to "love your enemies" as a guiding principle. She also reflected on the polarisation revealed by the Brexit referendum in the United Kingdom, stressing the importance of seeking to understand why people make the choices they do, even when their reasoning differs sharply from one's own.

In discussing reconciliation at the community level, Doxat Purser emphasised humility and the spirit of the Beatitudes as essential foundation. She argued that reconciliation becomes impossible when we approach others with a

sense of superiority or certainty that we have nothing to learn. Sharing a personal encounter with a Palestinian father who had lost his child, she illustrated the importance of presence, compassion, and shared grief, even when words are inadequate. True reconciliation, she concluded, often begins with listening, grieving with others, and walking humbly alongside them.

Jan-Piet De Visser of Youth With a Mission reflected on the challenge of reconciliation, emphasising that the Beatitudes can serve as a moral compass by placing the poor and marginalised at the heart of society, as Jesus did in a deeply countercultural way. Genuine reconciliation requires approaching others as equals, with humility and a willingness to listen and learn, especially in encounters with people from conflict-affected regions such as Afghanistan, Yemen, and Palestine. Rather than seeking to impose solutions, De Visser stressed the importance of solidarity, being present in times of suffering, and "mourning with those who mourn." Drawing on the example of Jesus, who took years of preparation before beginning His ministry, De Visser underlined the need for patience, respect, and genuine relationship-building in efforts toward peace and understanding.



# ECPP 20th Anniversary Celebration

3 December – Belgium, Brussels

- Valeriu Ghilețchi, ECPP President
- Gerard Geijtenbeek, ECP(M)P founder
- Peeter Vösu, former ECPP President
- Branislav Skripek, former ECPP President
- Auke Minnema, former ECPP Secretary General
- Leo van Doesburg, former ECPP Director for European Affairs
- Johannes de Jong, Sallux Director
- Bojan Ruvarac, Renewing Our Minds Director
- Adina Portaru, ADF lawyer
- Teresa Gerns, FAFCE Secretary General

The European Christian Political Party (ECPP) celebrated its 20th anniversary with a festive dinner in the European Parliament, bringing together members, current and former politicians, affiliates, and key figures from its history. The evening focused on remembering the party's origins, giving thanks for its journey from its founding, meeting the requirements for registration as a European political party, and its continuous growth in network, members and influence, while also looking ahead with commitment to further growth.

ECPP President Valeriu Ghilețchi opened the evening with a word of welcome and prayer. The first part of the program focused on the early years of ECPP and how the movement



first was established. Gerard Geijtenbeek explained that the foundations for the party were laid already in the 1990s, when a group of Christian politicians in Western Europe sought to connect with fellow Christians in Central and Eastern Europe after the Cold War. Peeter Vösu, the first ECPM President, recalled how the Christians for Europe Conference in Lakitelek, Hungary (2002) marked an important step toward founding the movement, which was formalised in 2005. Longtime ECPP contributor and current Sallux Director Johannes de Jong, emphasised that the core value that inspired ECPP's founding is still relevant in Europe today: human dignity grounded in Jesus Christ. "We need a relational understanding of our economy, as we need a family-friendly economy. We need a foreign policy that protects fundamental freedoms. We need an EU that respects life in all its facets, born and unborn. We need an EU that respects its diversity and does not replace it with technocracy. And most of all, we need Christians in the EU to work together based on their Christian principles for a better future."

Former ECPP President Branislav Skripek (2016–2020), former General Director Auke Minnema (2018–2022), and former Director for European Affairs Leo van Doesburg (2006–2022) reflected on the growth of the network and shared memories of significant milestones. Van Doesburg spoke about building partnerships with parties in the Balkans and Eastern Europe, recalling numerous visits that shaped the network and forged lasting friendships. He and Auke Minnema also spoke about the challenge posed by new rules on European political parties, and how, despite the difficulty, ECPP successfully met the requirements: "Through intense effort, commitment, and—I truly believe—God opening the right doors, we managed to

preserve ECPM's status as a European political party after the European Parliament changed its rules."

Furthermore, Leo van Doesburg stated that it is "encouraging and inspiring to see that ECPP now counts seven members of the European Parliament," highlighting the party's steady growth and stability.

Skripek, Minnema, and Van Doesburg also recounted stories of their work in the European Parliament, including initiating the Working Group on Human Dignity with MEP Bas Belder, later continued by MEP Bert-Jan Ruissen, and their involvement in the Council of Europe, where they cooperated with current ECPP President Valeriu Ghilețchi on reports concerning surrogacy and discrimination against Christians.

Three representatives of partner organisations with long-standing cooperation with ECPP also addressed the audience: Bojan Ruvarac, Adina Portaru, and Teresa Gerns. Ruvarac highlighted how the partnership between Renew Our Minds (ROM) and ECPP has helped educate young people in the Balkans on politics while bringing them together in a spirit of

reconciliation. Portaru (ADF) and Gerns (FAFCE) expressed their appreciation for the cooperation with ECPP on various political issues. Gerns especially remembered Anna Záborská, former MEP and ECPP member from Slovakia, who passed away in the summer of 2025.

The celebration of 20 years of ECPP brought back cherished memories and strengthened the bonds between old and new friends. We are grateful for the journey ECPP has been able to walk so far, and we look to the future with hope and faith.



# ECPP Roundtable Discussions

## Israel–Palestine Roundtable Discussion

13 May – Brussels, Belgium

The European Christian Political Party (ECPP) members gathered in La Hulpe, Belgium, for a private party conference to discuss the Israel–Palestine conflict. Expert speakers Martin Witteveen, Attorney General at the Dutch Public Prosecution Service specialising in war crimes and human trafficking; Dr. Matthijs de Blois, law lecturer at Utrecht University specialising in international law; Erik Ader, former diplomat in the Middle East; and Johannes de Jong, Director of Sallux, addressed the conflict from their respective perspectives and areas of expertise. Following their contributions, attendees had the opportunity to share their views and listen to one another.



## EU–US Relations Roundtable Discussion

12 June – Prague, Czechia

The European Christian Political Party (ECPP) members gathered in Prague for a private party discussion on current and future EU–US relations and the challenges they present. Following the re-election of U.S. President Donald Trump and the implementation of his MAGA policy agenda (including a new strategy vis-à-vis Europe), ECPP, as a Europarty, seeks to better understand (and prepare for) the new realities affecting trade, energy supply, finance, foreign policy, and defense.

The objective of the meeting was to contribute to the development of ECPP member parties' responses to these challenges at both national and European levels. As an alliance of parties, ECPP also aims to refine and deepen its understanding of the complexity of the policy areas impacted by these new realities, fostering exchange and discussion among member parties in order to hear diverse perspectives, learn from one another, and inform the future evolution of the party's programme.



# 28th General Assembly

13 June – Prague, Czechia

The European Christian Political Party (ECP) held its 28th General Assembly in Prague, Czechia, on 13 June. Representatives from member parties, together with the Board, individual and associate members, and staff, were in attendance.

Amendments to the statutes concerning voting procedures and Board terms were presented and adopted by the Assembly. The Board informed the Assembly of the appointment of Helena Hlubocká, who replaced Milan Krajniak due to his increased workload as a Board member. Ms. Hlubocká will serve the remainder of the term originally held by Krajniak, who had himself replaced the late Michal Považan.

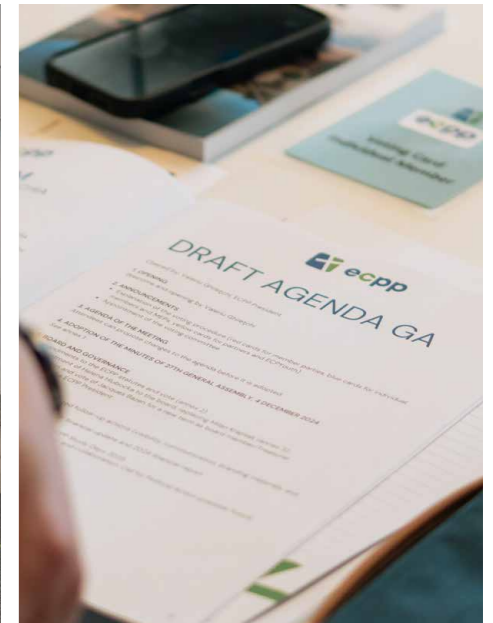
As the terms of Treasurer Jacques Bazen and President Valeriu Ghilețchi concluded, both positions were subject to re-election. Both Jacques Bazen and Valeriu Ghilețchi were re-elected for new terms in their respective roles. "I am grateful for the confidence the members have placed in me to continue as ECPP President for the coming years. It is both a great motivation and a serious responsibility to represent our party and promote Christian values in European politics, particularly by increasing our visibility and political activity," said President Ghilețchi in reaction to his re-election.

Treasurer Jacques Bazen presented the 2024 financial report, which was adopted following a brief discussion.

Director for Political Relations Márton Gyöngyösi introduced new initiatives aimed at increasing member participation and collaboration, which were subsequently discussed by the Assembly.

Finally, Secretary General Maarten van de Fliert announced the termination of several memberships.

# General Assemblies



# 29th General Assembly

3 December – Brussels, Belgium

On 3 December, the European Christian Political Party (ECP) convened its 29th General Assembly, bringing together ECP leadership, Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), member parties, individual members and associates, and staff.

During the meeting, ECP President Valeriu Ghilețchi informed the Assembly about developments in party membership and welcomed new MEPs Șerban Dimitrie Sturdza and Claudiu-Richard Târziu (Romania), Reinis Pozņaks (Latvia), as well as ACT – Acțiunea Conservatoare (Conservative Action Party), the party of MEPs Sturdza and Târziu. The present MEPs shared updates on their work and activities in the European Parliament.

The Board announced that it is in the process of rewriting the ECP Statutes in their entirety, as the current statutes are outdated and no longer meet the requirements for a European political party.

The Assembly re-elected two Board members for new terms: Helena Hlubocká and Leon Meijer.

“It is a privilege to receive a new mandate, and I am grateful for the trust and continued support. I will work for an ECP that is united, mission-driven, and boldly present in the public square—to be salt and light in Europe’s public life,” reacted Helena Hlubocká.

“In a time when Christian values are under pressure, it is all the more important to build a strong presence for ECP in the European Parliament. I am honoured to have been re-elected to the Board of ECP to continue building the organisation,” Leon Meijer said following his re-election.



Finally, ECP staff presented plans for the festive activities marking ECP’s 20th anniversary and informed the Assembly about upcoming events and activities for 2026, a new briefing on EU policies and Strasbourg plenary sessions, and enhanced coordination of voting lists in cooperation with ECP MEPs.



# ECPYouth

## Introduction

**T**wo thousand twenty five has been a fruitful year for ECPYouth, marked by growing confidence, a sharper political profile, and continued investment in the next generation of Christian changemakers committed to shaping Europe's future. This year's theme was European Security and Defence, guiding ECPYouth's activities and framing discussions on Europe's responsibility in an increasingly unstable world.

Throughout the year, ECPYouth translated this theme into concrete action. Regional conferences in Rome, Paris, and Brussels, alongside the International Summer School in Lisbon, brought together young leaders, policymakers, academics, and practitioners to explore questions on defence cooperation, geopolitical responsibility, democratic resilience, and Europe's global role. These conversations fed directly into the second edition of the Model EU simulation in Brussels, where participants debated the European Union's approach to artificial intelligence and its role in defence and security. The Brussels Breakdown podcast, working groups, and our other projects carried those discussions further, turning reflection into public discourse and practical political action.

This year also marked the completion of ECPYouth's rebranding process. With a renewed visual identity, updated communication tools, and a new website, ECPYouth has grown in determination and capacity to ensure that the voices of young people, their Christian values, and political priorities are communicated clearly and consistently across Europe.



## European Security and Defence: Future or Utopia

6–9 March – Rome, Italy

Prof. Teuta Vodo, NATO–advisor, former Deputy Minister of Justice in Albania, and Professor at SciencePo University in Paris (FR)

Prof. Kenneth Lasoen, Professor of Intelligence Studies at the University of Antwerp (BE)

Ostap Kryvdyk, Advisor to Secretary of the National Defence and Security Council of Ukraine

Francois–Xavier Gicquel, expert on European defence industry  
Alarico Lazzaro, expert in International Relations

ECPYouth organized an international conference in Rome, Italy, centred around the annual theme “European Defence and Security.” This theme served as a guiding framework for the entire program and allowed us to bring together a diverse and high–level group of participants and speakers from across Europe. The conference was attended by youth and young professionals from all over Europe which greatly enriched the discussions and exchange of perspectives.

Keynote speaker Teuta Vodo, NATO advisor, former Deputy Minister of Justice of Albania, and professor at Sciences Po Paris, delivered a lecture on security and defence, focusing on the transatlantic relationship between European countries and the United States and Canada. She provided an in–depth overview of NATO’s establishment after the Second World



War, the evolution of its role over time, and how the Alliance is repositioning itself in response to a rapidly changing geopolitical environment with profound implications for global security. Her lecture offered valuable insights into NATO’s strategic challenges, internal dynamics, and future outlook, including issues of collective defence, burden–sharing among Allies, and decision–making within the Alliance, while highlighting the importance of political cohesion and strategic unity in addressing emerging security threats.

Professor of Intelligence Studies at the University of Antwerp Kenneth Lasoen spoke about the critical role of intelligence within the broader defence framework. His presentation provided an in–depth analysis of how intelligence shapes strategic decision–making, operational planning, and real–time battlefield outcomes. Focusing particularly on the war in Ukraine, Professor Lasoen highlighted how intelligence gathering, analysis, and inter–agency coordination have become decisive factors in modern warfare, influencing both defensive and offensive operations, and ultimately determining the effectiveness of military responses in a rapidly evolving conflict environment.

Ostap Kryvdyk, advisor to the Ukrainian Secretary of the National Defence and Security Council and active member of the Ukrainian armed forces, joined the conference online to elaborate on the realities of defence. In his contribution, he discussed the current war in Ukraine and how it has developed over time. Kryvdyk shared insights into the considerations of the Ukrainians to advance their defensive efforts. He delivered a powerful message about the human cost of war: the atrocities committed by Russian aggressors and the

fighting on the frontline have caused widespread suffering and the enormous loss of life of men and women fighting for their freedom. His testimony provided a stark and sobering insight into the harsh realities of war in Ukraine, leaving a strong impression on the participants of the event.

Furthermore, Alarico Lazzaro, an International Relations expert, provided a historical analysis of contemporary conflicts, tracing the origins of today’s geopolitical tensions and placing current events within a broader historical and ideological context to help participants better understand the roots of ongoing instability in Europe and beyond. In addition, François–Xavier Gicquel, a defence industry expert, offered an industry–focused perspective, explaining the current European defence landscape, technological developments, and the interaction between policy, industry, and security needs in Europe today.

Beyond the keynote lectures, the conference featured a historical session on European international relations, exchanges with politically active Christian youth from Italy, and workshops on debating and social media campaigning to enhance practical political skills. It also included a cultural and spiritual dimension, with a lecture on the Vatican’s role in international affairs and a visit to Saint Peter’s Basilica, highlighting Europe’s Christian heritage and its relevance to contemporary political and security debates.

## Regional Conference in Paris

11 April – Paris, France

Valeriia Petrechiv, President of ECPYouth

Alexandre Pesey, Executive Director at the Institut de Formation Politique

Brice Hamard, Head of European Programs at The Tocqueville Fellowship, Allied Lawyer of ADF International

On 11 April, ECPYouth organized its regional conference in Paris, France, as a side event to its General Assembly. The conference aimed to bring together ECPYouth members to network and connect, discuss ongoing activities, facilitate new joint initiatives, and share best practices.

Alexandre Pesey, Executive Director of the Institut de Formation Politique, and Brice Hamard, Head of European Programs at the Tocqueville Fellowship, delivered lectures on the French civil society landscape, particularly within the Christian–conservative sphere. They explained how their organisations sustain their political and educational projects and events, sharing best practices in fundraising, organisation, and structure. Pesey and Hamard also expressed their openness to future joint projects.

A visit to the city of Paris was also included in the programme,

during which photos and videos were taken for use as promotional material.

## International Summer School – Europe’s Role in Today’s World: Leading or Lagging?

8–10 August – Lisbon, Portugal

Arjen Klein, Advisor at Dutch Department of Defence

Valeriia Petrechiv, President of ECPYouth

Jonathan de Koeijer, Board Member Politics of ECPYouth

Victoria Meller, Vice–President & Treasurer of ECPYouth

From 8–10 August 2025, ECPYouth held its International Summer School in Lisbon, Portugal, bringing together young leaders from around the world. Under the summer school’s theme, “Europe’s role in today’s world: leading or lagging?”, participants explored the challenges and opportunities facing Europe in a time of global fragmentation and growing security concerns.

The program included lectures and workshops to provide both intellectual and practical tools and skills to the participants. Daily Bible studies led by Victoria Meller, Vice–President and Treasurer of ECPYouth, were integral part of the Summer School to integrate spiritual reflection and explore Christian perspectives on leadership, responsibility, and global impact.

Arjen Klein, advisor to the Dutch Ministry of Defence, contributed a lecture on current international geopolitical conflicts and defence cooperation. He shed light on the complexities of modern security policy and delved into Europe’s strategic position on the world stage. Drawing from his experience at the Dutch Ministry of Defence, he shared about how national governments shape their policies in response to the current geopolitical conflicts. Klein’s contribution also included a reflection on the NATO Summit in The Hague which had taken place two months prior to the Summer School.

ECPYouth President Valeriia Petrechiv spoke about the world of diplomacy. Drawing from her experience at the Ukrainian Embassy in Paris and her studies in Politics and Public Policy at Sciences Po University in Paris, she explained how diplomacy is conducted between states and provided insights into specific diplomatic protocols.

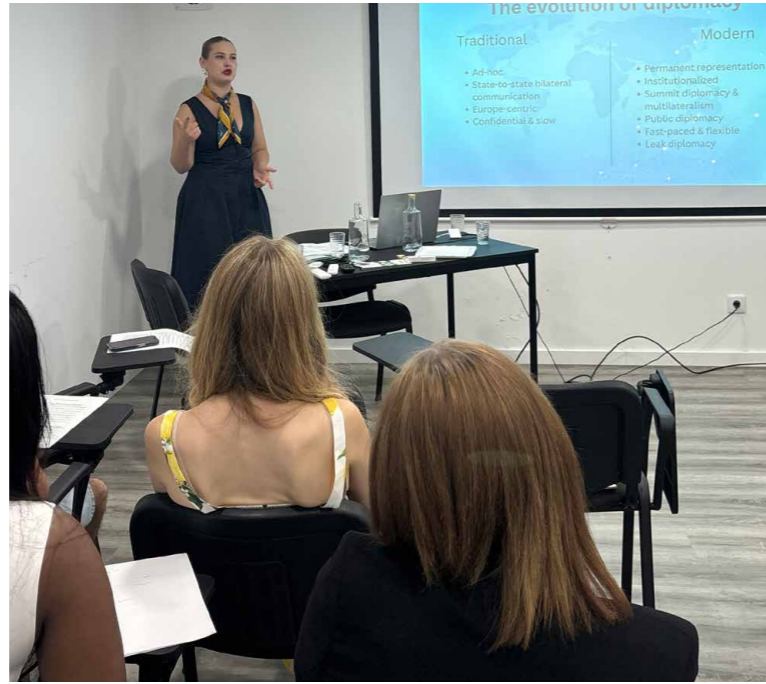
A highlight of the programme was the press conference reenactment, where participants were challenged to step into real–life political scenarios. ECPYouth Board Member Jonathan de Koeijer led the training session. After the training, participants had the opportunity to put what they had learned into practice in a press conference simulation, with ECPYouth



board members acting as journalists and asking questions.

In partnership with JeVP (Switzerland), ECPYouth organized the “One Case Too Many” campaign to mark the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons which is observed on the 30th of July every year. Through an online awareness campaign, street action in Lisbon, and drafting of resolutions, ECPYouth aimed to shed light on the harsh realities of human trafficking and its devastating impact on vulnerable individuals. By spreading information through distributing flyers and encouraging people to recognize the warning signs, the campaign contributed a small but meaningful part in raising awareness about human trafficking and in supporting its victims.

The International Summer School in Lisbon proved to be an opportunity to learn and grow in faith and skills of advocacy and community building. It was a reminder that young people can play an active role in shaping Europe’s future and standing up for human dignity.



## Christian Changemakers – Model EU

3-7 December – Brussels, Belgium

- MEP Niels Geuking, ECPP/Familien Partei
- Karin Heepen, Vice-President of ECPP
- Márton Gyöngyösi, ECPP Director for Political Relations
- Johannes de Jong, Director of Sallux
- Joshua Heinrichs and Juliana Heinrichs, Founders of the Consul Group
- Maurits Verhoeven, Vice-President of SGP Youth
- Valeriia Petrechuk, President of ECPYouth
- Victoria Meller, Vice-President & Treasurer of ECPYouth
- Jonathan de Koeijer, Board Member Politics of ECPYouth

ECPYouth organized a multi-day Christian Changemakers conference in Brussels, Belgium. The CCM programme aims to equip young Christians with the intellectual, practical, spiritual, and relational tools needed to promote the Christian democratic values upon which the European Union is founded. Through direct engagement with leading policymakers, thinkers, and institutions, participants were introduced to the structure of the EU, its legislative processes, and the practical realities of political leadership. The programme mainly revolved around the topic of European policy on Artificial Intelligence (AI).

ECPP Director for Political Relations and former MEP Márton Gyöngyösi gave an extensive lecture on the design of the European Union, presenting its main institutions: the European Commission, European Parliament, Council, and the Court of Justice. Drawing from his experience as an MEP, Mr Gyöngyösi explained the EU’s Ordinary Legislative Procedure: The European Commission initiates legislation, which is then reviewed, amended, and approved by both the European Parliament and the Council of the EU. In Parliament, proposals are first examined and amended in relevant committees before being voted on in plenary sessions, while the Council prepares its position through working groups and COREPER before ministers adopt the final text.

In a panel discussion, MEP Niels Geuking and ECPP Vice-President Karin Heepen explored what it means to be a Christian in politics and how to put one’s faith in practice in a political environment. MEP Geuking also shared insights from his work in the European Parliament, giving participants a practical perspective on the life of a MEP.

Johannes de Jong, Director of Sallux, gave a lecture on AI from

the perspective of human dignity, highlighting the ethical aspects of the technology and its use. Taking a relational thinking perspective, he emphasized that AI should be designed and applied in ways that foster healthy relationships between people and their environments.

Under the guidance of Joshua Heinrichs and Juliana Heinrichs, workshops on media training and debating helped participants develop skills in public speaking, negotiation, and strategic communication.

Building on the lectures, the core of the programme was the simulation of the legislative process in the European Parliament. Participants were divided into political groups and tasked with negotiating an AI Resolution. Amendments were drafted and debated in committee settings before being voted on in a plenary session presided over by Márton Gyöngyösi.

The programme also integrated community-building through participation in the European Prayer Breakfast, Ukrainian Prayer Breakfast, and the Cornerstone Dinner, as well as guided tours of the European Parliament and the House of European History.





Daily Bible studies and reflections emphasized the spiritual dimension of Christian leadership throughout the event.

The CCM-Model EU conference provided the participants an opportunity to better understand the EU institutions and legislative processes, and to improve their skills of debating, policy drafting, and negotiating. The conference also was a useful opportunity to connect and network with peers, trainers, and the ECPYouth leadership.

## ECPYouth General Assemblies

12 April – Paris, France

ECPYouth held its Annual Financial General Assembly in Paris, France. During the assembly, the Financial Report of 2024 and the budget for 2025 were presented, discussed and formally adopted by the membership. The leadership of ECPYouth also informed the attendees of current and upcoming events and projects.

7 December – Brussels, Belgium

ECPYouth held its General Assembly in Brussels, Belgium, dedicated to thanking and saying goodbye to members of its leadership and electing a new board. During the meeting, outgoing President Valeriia Petrechiv and Board Member for Politics Jonathan de Koeijer were thanked for their years of commitment. The Assembly elected Dominic Potters as the new ECPYouth President; Hillary Baddoo as new Board Member for Events; and Malte Benda as new Board Member for Politics. Vice-President and Treasurer Victoria Meller, Secretary Marguerite-Marie du Pontavice, and Board Member for Communications Ivana Stojanovska were re-elected for a new term in their respective roles.

During the meeting, the annual report was adopted, and the board presented the rebranding of the organization.

Three youth organizations attended the meeting as observers.



# ECPP MEPs



## Ondřej Dostál

Political Party: Independent  
Country: Czechia

Ondřej Dostál was elected to the European Parliament in the European elections in June 2024 and serves as a non-inscrit (non-attached) member. He is a member of the Parliamentary Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) and of the delegation for relations with the countries of Southeast Asia (DASE).

For more than twenty years, MEP Dostál has been a leading voice calling for solidarity in access to healthcare in Czechia and an advocate for patients' rights, informed consent and the implementation of the Oviedo Convention. His expertise as a lawyer includes health policy, bioethics, patients' rights and medical law.



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## Niels Geuking

Political Party: Familien Partei Deutschlands  
Country: Germany

Mr. Geuking is MEP for Germany for the 2024–2029 EP mandate. He is a member of the Committees on Development (DEVE) and on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL) and a substitute on the Delegation for Relations with Iran (D–IR).

Niels Geuking became a member of the Billerbeck city council in 2020 and of the Coesfeld district council in 2021, serving also as the chair of the Family Working Group in the same district council.

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

He lives in Billerbeck, Germany with his wife and children.



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## Reinis Pozņaks

Political Party: Independent  
Country: Latvia

Reinis Pozņaks is a Latvian MEP for the 2024–2029 mandate, serving his first term in the European Parliament. He is a member of the Committee on Security and Defense (SEDE), where he is one of the coordinators, and the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO). He is a substitute member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET) and a full member of the Delegation to the EU–Ukrainian Parliamentary Association Committee (D–UA) and the Delegation to the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly (DEPA).

Mr. Pozņaks is a car mechanic by training and worked in public relations and consulting. In 2022, he co-founded the Twitter Convoy, a Latvian initiative to donate cars to the Ukrainian people following Russia's war of aggression. For this initiative, he was awarded the Order of the Three Stars, Latvia's highest state decoration.

In 2024, he was elected to the European Parliament where he continues his support and advocacy for the Ukrainian people and for others who suffer from injustice. Mr. Pozņaks is also strongly involved in strengthening Europe's security and defense through his work in the SEDE Committee.

Mr. Pozņaks is married and lives with his wife and children in Riga.



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## Bert-Jan Ruissen

Political Party: SGP  
Country: The Netherlands  
Website: <https://eurofractie.sgp.nl/home>

Bert-Jan Ruissen is a Dutch MEP for the 2024–2029 mandate, his second term. He serves on the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI), on the Committee on Fisheries (PECH) and on the Delegation for relations with Israel (D-IL).

Ruissen has worked 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.

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.

Mr. Ruissen is married, has 4 children, and enjoys playing the organ in his spare time.



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## Șerban-Dimitrie Sturdza

Political Party: [Acțiunea Conservatoare \(ACT\)](#)  
Country: Romania  
Website: <https://actiuneaconservatoare.ro/>

Șerban-Dimitrie Sturdza is a Romanian MEP for the 2024–2029 mandate, serving his first term in the European Parliament. He is a member of the Committee on Regional Development (REGI) and a substitute member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET) and the Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT). He chairs the Delegation for relations with the countries of South Asia (DSAS) and is a member of the Delegation for relations with the Maghreb countries and the Arab Maghreb Union (DMAG), the Delegation for relations with the Federative Republic of Brazil (D-BR), and the Delegation to the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly (DLAT).

Furthermore, Mr. Sturdza is Vice-Chair of the European Parliamentary Intergroup on Christians in the Middle East, which aims to raise awareness of and advocate for the rights and welfare of Christian communities in the region.

During his youth, Mr. Sturdza, a descendant of the noble Sturdza family that once ruled the historical Romanian province of Moldova, opposed and protested against the Communist regime in Romania from his exile in France. Later, he became an entrepreneur and has been serving as Honorary Consul of North Macedonia in Romania since 2016.

Mr. Sturdza is married and the father of two children.



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## Claudiu-Richard Târziu

Political Party: [Acțiunea Conservatoare \(ACT\)](#)

Country: [Romania](#)

Website: <https://actiuneaconservatoare.ro/>

Claudiu-Richard Târziu is a Romanian MEP for the 2024–2029 mandate, serving his first term in the European Parliament. He is a member of the Committee on the Environment, Climate and Food Safety (ENVI), and serves as a substitute member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET), the Committee on Security and Defense (SEDE), the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI), and the Special Committee on the European Democracy Shield (EUDS). He also sits in the Delegation to the EU–Türkiye Joint Parliamentary Committee (D-TR) and the Delegation to the EU–Moldova Parliamentary Association Committee (D-MD).

Mr. Târziu is an author and publicist and has been involved in several civic initiatives and NGOs promoting Christian heritage, family life, and social conservatism.

He served in the Romanian Senate for the 2020–2024 term. In May 2025, he founded ACT – Acțiunea Conservatoare (Conservative Action Party).

Mr. Târziu is married, has two children, and lives in Bucharest.



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## Cristian Terheș

Political Party: [Partidul Național Conservator Roman \(PNCR\)](#)

Country: [Romania](#)

Website: <https://pn-cr.ro/>

Mr. Terheș is a Romanian MEP for the 2024–2029 mandate, his second European Parliament mandate. He is vice-chair of the Committee on Budgetary Control, and a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee (AFET). He also serves on the Delegation for EU–Albania Stabilization and Association Parliamentary Committee, and on the Delegation for relations with South Africa.

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 Terheș 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 in diaspora and strengthen relations between Romania and US, with an emphasis on religious liberty, the rule of law, and fighting corruption in Romania.

Cristian Terheș founded and leads the Romanian National Conservative Party since 2023, a party which focuses on defending traditional, Conservative values, and on strengthening Romania's sovereignty and rule of law.

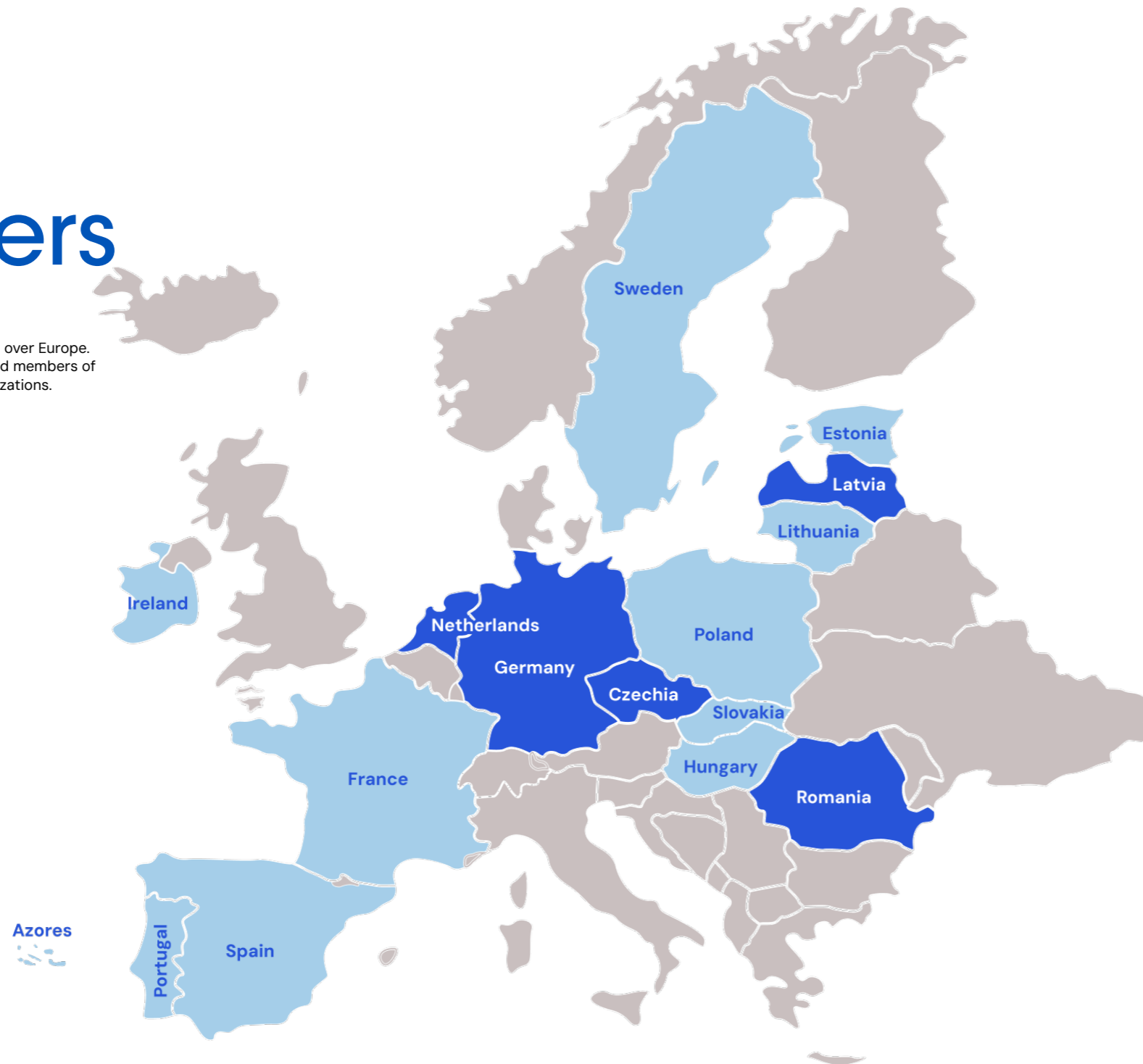


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# ECPP Members

ECPP has members and associates from all over Europe. Members are registered political parties and members of national parliaments. Associates are organizations.



- ECPP Members of European Parliament
- ECPP Parties and Individual Members

## Members (EU)

Country	Political party
France	VIA   Parti Chrétien-Démocrate
Germany	Bündnis C – Christen für Deutschland Familien-Partei Deutschlands
Hungary	Jobbik
Ireland	Human Dignity Alliance (Comhaontas Dhínit an Duine)
Lithuania	Lietuvos krikščioniškosios demokratijos partija Krikščionių sąjunga
The Netherlands	ChristenUnie Staatkundig Gereformeerde Partij
Poland	Prawica Rzeczypospolitej Unia Polityki Realnej
Portugal	Partido Popular Monárquico
Romania	Acțiunea Conservatoare Uniunea Democrată a Slovacilor & Cehilor din România Partidul Național Conservator Român
Slovakia	Kresťanská únia
Spain	Valores
Sweden	Kristna Vardepartiet

## Members (non-EU)

Switzerland	Evangelische Volkspartei der Schweiz (Parti Evangélique Suisse)
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## Associates

/	ECPYouth
Belgium	C'Axent
Moldova	Political Academy for Integrity in Leadership
The Netherlands	SGP-International Foundation for International Christian Democratic Development

# ECPP Board

The board is responsible for protecting the best interests of the organization in several ways: establishing ECPP's mission and purpose; hiring, monitoring, and evaluating the General Director/ Chief Executive; overseeing the financials and managing resources responsibly; ensuring legal compliance and ethical integrity; enhancing ECPP's visibility and public standing. The ECPP board is made up of seven members, who meet at least five times per year.





**Valeriu  
Ghilețchi**

| President



**Helena  
Hlubocká**

| Board Member



**Christian  
Terheș**

| Board Member



**Karin  
Heepen**

| Vice President



**Jacques  
Bazen**

| Treasurer



**Jean-Frédéric  
Poisson**

| Board Member



**Leon  
Meijer**

| Board Member

# Advisory Council

The role of the Advisory Council is to provide guidance to ECPP board & members and financial oversight. The members of the Council may also propose discussion topics for the General Assembly, may check and amend program and statutes. It usually meets at least two times per year.



**Inga Bite**

| President  
| Latvia



**Branislav Škripek**

| Slovakia



**Valeriia Petrechiv**

| Ukraine



**Christophe Foltzenlogel**

| France

# Staff

The ECPP Staff carry out the daily operations of the party, implement the board's decisions, and facilitate communication between members and stakeholders, ensuring effective project implementation.



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# Contact & Donate

Since 2010, the activities of ECPP are partly subsidized by the European Parliament.

However, in order to carry out significant work and to reach our audiences all across Europe, we need to independently raise 10% of the budget.

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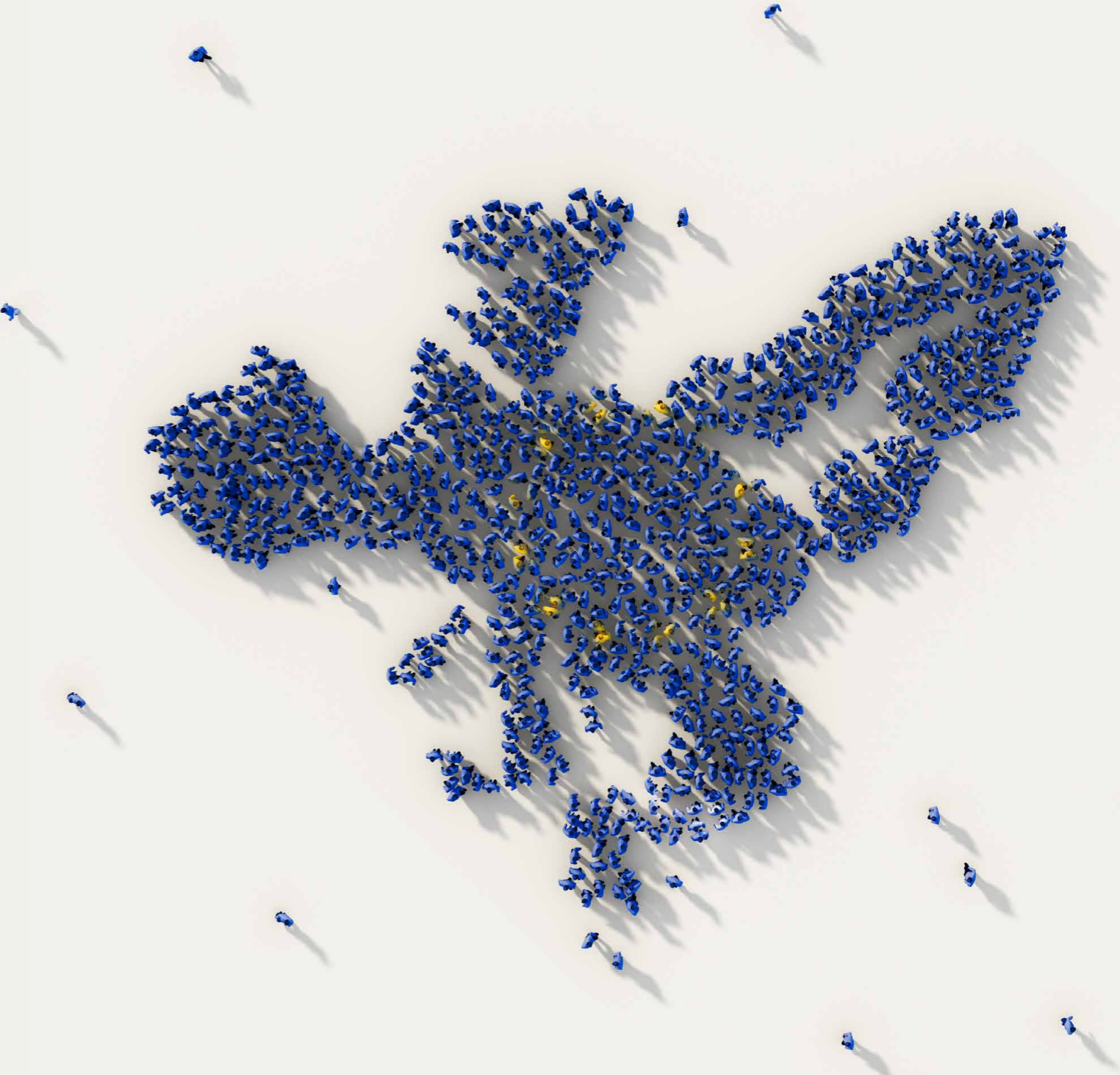


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