

## EPP

### **European People's Party**

#### History

The EPP was founded in 1953, although its roots trace back to the 1920s when a series of conferences of European Christian Democratic Parties were held in Paris. Their goal was to foster cooperation among European conservative parties until the project came to a halt in the wake of WW2. In the post-war period, cooperation reappeared and paved the road for an official organization in 1953 under the name of the 'Christian Democrat Group'.

#### Political Positions

The EPP strives for a "democratic, transparent and efficient Europe." At the same time, the EPP notes that the Social Market Economy it is heavily supporting is rooted in Europe's "philosophical and religious heritage"; the objective of this highly competitive

Social Market Economy had been set in the Lisbon Treaty back in 2007 and aims for full employment and social progress. Moreover, it is based on personal choice, fair competition and private property rights, while being supported by coherent social and environmental laws. The EPP highlights that legal certainty, subsidiarity and personal responsibility increase confidence and emphasize the importance of solidarity. In turn, Social Market Economy is supposed to put the economy at the service of society and thus should not be geared entirely towards performance. Primarily, it should be geared toward human dignity free from unjustified control. This implies that monopolies, cartels, price-rigging and distorting competition comes at an expense of the agreements in the Lisbon Treaty. The EPP considers social cohesion to be of paramount importance for the functioning of the USE. For this to be guaranteed, the EPP notes that labour laws should ensure equal treatment of workers and respect the free movement of goods and



persons while preventing a downward pressure on social standards and excessive inequalities which would undermine the mentioned cohesion. Similarly, the party group strives to address youth unemployment across the continent. To tackle this pressing issue, the EPP urges the Union to focus its education policy on the employability of young people. In addition, it believes that opportunities to gain practical experiences in the course of secondary or higher education should be increased. The EPP advocates the promotion of family values by means of improving education and health. Likewise, the EPP considers Gender equality to be one of the core values of the USE and highlights that discrimination against women has no place in Europe. Moreover, it emphasizes the need to define a common USE-wide energy policy.

#### Wings of the EPP

Like All parties, the EPP also consists of multiple ideologies, or wings, with different degrees of influence. The Christian conservative wing of the party focuses heavily on tradition and family values, whilst the more socially moderate wing would like to see more cooperation with Renew and the S&D. The party also contains some more far-right members, who advocate for closer alignment with the ID, as well as some, socially conservative greens, who wish to combat climate change, but don't condone the Green/EFA's socially left stances.