

## ID

### **Identity and Democracy**

#### Historical roots:

The identity and democracy party was born out of the alliance of all the significant far-right parties of European nations. Most of those parties, although they often had a longer heritage, became significant in the 2010s, when their rise throughout Europe gave them a larger share of the vote and many representatives in the EU Parliament. This rise is often attributed to their anti-immigration stance in times of major migratory movements to Europe. It is also during this decade that the European far-right parties tried to sanitize their public image, for example banning openly racist figures from their ranks in a largely successful move to become more acceptable parties for a wider electoral base. Some of them also abandoned their most radical ideas, like that of exiting the EU and the Euro, although not all of them. Many characterize them as populists, meaning they present themselves as parties fighting for the people against the elite.

#### Core ideas:

All the members of ID are united against a federal Europe and completely reject the concept of a “European Nation” built on shared history and cultural heritage. They merely advocate for a Europe of cooperating but fully sovereign nations, which doesn’t necessarily mean dissolving the EU completely. ID is opposed to any transfer of powers from the nations to a supra-national body, including the EU. They all support action to protect European cultures against perceived external threats, often pointing to the spread of Islam in Europe as a danger to their countries’ Christian histories. According to them, every European nation should be able to regulate immigration without EU interference. The theme of immigration is often intertwined



with that of security, the lack thereof they partly blame on dangerous individuals immigrating to their countries. The members of ID are mostly socially conservative, although there are strong variations depending on specific countries.

#### Internal tensions:

Although they find common ground in their national sovereignty and anti-immigration ideas, there are areas where members of ID struggle to have a united voice. Many social questions, like the legalisation of abortion, are points of tension. The ID here clearly divides into a strong ultra-conservative wing and a much more radical, right-wing populist wing, which can be reminiscent of fascism-era politics and rhetoric. Another major weak point of the ID group is that members tend to put national interest above cooperation within the group, and sometimes struggle to act together when those interests diverge. This can be the case during hard negotiations when other parties try to weaken them by negotiating with national members directly. Lastly, not all members of ID agree on how frugal Europe should be in its economic policies.