

## Authority for European Political Parties and European Political Foundations

# Annual Activity Report 2022



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# **Table of Contents**

| Abbreviations   | 4  |
|---|----|
| Foreword by the Director  | 5  |
| Executive Summary   | 6  |
| 1. THE AUTHORITY FOR EUROPEAN POLITICAL PARTIES<br>AND EUROPEAN POLITICAL FOUNDATIONS                     | 7  |
| <ul><li>1.1. Introduction</li><li>1.2. Mission of the Authority</li></ul>                                 |    |
| 2. EUROPEAN POLITICAL PARTIES AND FOUNDATIONS   |    |
| 3.THE CURRENT LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK   |    |
| 3.1.Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014   |    |
| 3.2.Amending Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/673  |    |
| 3.3.Amending Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2019/493  | 11 |
| 4.STANDARD OPERATIONS AT THE AUTHORITY  | 12 |
| 4.1. Registration/ Verification   |    |
| 4.1.1. Conditions   |    |
| 4.1.2. Implementation in 2022   |    |
| <ul><li>4.1.3. Union values</li><li>4.2. Compliance controls</li></ul>                                    |    |
| 4.2.1. Background   |    |
| 4.2.2. Implementation in 2022   |    |
| 4.3. Transparency services  | 18 |
| 4.3.1. Website  |    |
| 4.3.2. Register of European political parties and European political foundations .<br>4.3.3. Social media |    |
| 5. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY AHEAD OF THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS  |    |
| 5.1. Preventing and countering electoral interference   |    |
| 5.2. Supervising non-EU relations of European political parties   |    |
| and foundations   | 21 |
| 6. INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION  | 23 |
| 6.1. Human resources  |    |
| 6.2. Budget   | 24 |
| 7. DECLARATION OF THE DIRECTOR  | 25 |
| 8. CONCLUSION AND OUTLOOK   | 26 |
| 9. APPENDIXES   | 27 |
| APPENDIX 1: LIST OF MEMBER PARTIES  | 28 |
| APPENDIX 2: LIST OF NON-EU POLITICAL FORMATIONS RELATED TO EU<br>POLITICAL PARTIES                        | 20 |
| APPENDIX 3: LIST OF NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS   |    |
|   |    |

# **Abbreviations**

| Extensive descriptions  | Abbreviations                              |
|---|--|
| Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014 of the European<br>Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the<br>statute and funding of European political parties and<br>European political foundations   | Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014      |
| Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/673 of the European<br>Parliament and of the Council of 3 May 2018 amending<br>Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014 on the statute<br>and funding of European political parties and European<br>political foundations  | Amending Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/673 |
| Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2019/493 of the European<br>Parliament and of the Council of 25 March 2019 amending<br>Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014 regarding a<br>verification procedure related to infringements of rules on<br>the protection of personal data in the context of elections<br>to the European Parliament | Amending Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2019/493 |
| Authority for European Political Parties and European<br>Political Foundations  | Authority                                  |
| Public funding from the general budget of the European<br>Union   | Union funding                              |

# **Foreword by the Director**



Pascal SCHONARD

The year 2022 was overshadowed by the Russian war of aggression on Ukraine. Multiple cyberattacks on IT systems in the European Union, including on the European Parliament's website, have been another feature of the year past. Malign foreign interference in democratic life is unfortunately a reality.

At the same time, European Union democracy has received attention and care. Citizens take pride in European democratic life and have ambitions for its future. The contributions to the Conference on the Future of Europe show this. It is therefore also a message of resilience of our Union's values which resonates from 2022.

In this wider context the recast of the Regulation on the statute and funding of European political parties and European political foundations proposed by the European Commission on 25 November 2021 gave rise to an intense and important inter-institutional debate on finding the right balance between two notions: defining a framework for political cooperation with parties and foundations that share our values in a limited set of non-EU countries, on one hand, while preventing illegitimate interferences in our democratic processes, on the other. This discussion is still ongoing at the time of writing.

Meanwhile, this Report will be the occasion to recall the administrative experience under current rules. Protecting integrity of European Union democracy, including against attempts to manipulate it from outside, has formed part of the DNA of the Authority since its inception. The Regulation we currently apply contains safeguards already: A prohibition for European political parties and European political foundations to accept donations from third countries, structural limitations on non-EU relations, and the ability to defend European elections against abuse of data breaches.

But this is no time for complacency. The European Union needs to act fast and decisively to address new challenges to democratic integrity by the time of the next European elections. This also raises resources questions. It is indeed key for the Authority's ability to fully discharge its existing mandate in light of evolving threats, as well as to shoulder any legislative additions to that mandate, that a limited number of additional staff members can be recruited and are effectively present by the time of the elections.

Enjoy reading the Report!

# **Executive Summary**

This Annual Activity Report describes the tasks performed and the challenges tackled by the Authority during 2022, by summarising the work streams handled, methods applied and experience gained in the year of reference. It also provides an outlook on the activities planned by the Authority until the 2024 European elections.

Given the complexity of the subject matter at hand, it is appropriate to begin with an introduction to the concept of European political parties and European political foundations as well as an overview of the administrative and legal framework (Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014 and its amendments). This provides readers, in particular those not familiar with the details of the rules applicable to European political parties and European political foundations, with the necessary background regarding the sections dedicated to the Authority's activities.

An overview of the Authority's standard operations follows, which focuses on the main areas falling within the remit of the Authority: registration and verification of European political parties and European political foundations, control of their compliance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014 and transparency services, with the Authority's website offering the citizens an insight in European political parties and European political foundations, their structure, governance and financing.

Special emphasis in this Report is placed on the protection of the European Union's democracy against foreign interference under current rules.

The Report further offers a brief description of the Authority's internal administration, by setting out the situation regarding human resources, including constraints the Authority is facing, and budget.

The Report ends with an outlook of the Authority's preparatory work towards the European elections 2024.

6

# 1. THE AUTHORITY FOR EUROPEAN POLITICAL PARTIES AND EUROPEAN POLITICAL FOUNDATIONS

## 1.1. Introduction

Democratic integrity, and a level playing field for European political parties and foundations, are essential for the functioning and the credibility of the European Union. The Authority, an independent body of the European Union, is part of this effort since it was established on 1 September 2016 and became fully operational on 1 January 2017.

The legislator assigned to the Authority the tasks of registering, controlling compliance and imposing sanctions, where necessary, on European political parties and European political foundations in line with Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014<sup>1</sup> as amended <sup>2</sup>. Moreover, the Authority is providing key transparency services to the citizens.

## 1.2. Mission of the Authority

The Authority protects the integrity of European democracy by ensuring compliance of European political parties and European political foundations with Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014 in full respect of procedural rights.

The Authority also contributes to political awareness at European level by providing transparency services to the citizens of the Union by publishing key information on European political parties and European political foundations, which includes structural information on membership and governance, lists of donations and contributions received, and political programmes of European political parties.

Comprehensive information on European political parties and European political foundations is contained in the Register of European political parties and European political foundations, and publications are made in accordance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014.



<sup>1</sup> OJ L 317, 4.11.2014, p. 1–27

<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/673, OJ L 114I, 4.5.2018, p. 1; Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2019/493, OJ L 85I, 27.3.2019, p. 7.

The Authority's director and team conduct this mission independently and in respect of political pluralism in the EU. In close cooperation with the European Parliament, other Union institutions, bodies and agencies, as well as national authorities, we build a strong "Team democratic integrity" for the European Union.

# 2. EUROPEAN POLITICAL PARTIES AND FOUNDATIONS

European political parties have begun to appear in advance of the first direct European elections of 1979 and have since gradually developed in number and as regards their activities.

Formally recognised by the Treaty of Maastricht<sup>3</sup>, the role of the European political parties is set out in Article 10(4) of the Treaty on European Union<sup>4</sup> and in Article 12(2) of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union<sup>5</sup>. This role is more than a cooperation of existing political families across borders: Indeed, according to these Treaty provisions, European political parties *"contribute to forming European political awareness and to expressing the will of citizens of the Union"*. European political parties are therefore the recognised manifestation of a political transmission mechanism directly between the citizens and their European Union.

Financial support by the Union's budget, as well as conditions and prohibitions relating thereto, were initially governed by Regulation (EC) No 2004/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 November 2003 on the regulations governing political parties at European level and the rules regarding their funding <sup>6</sup>. The rules on the statute and financing of European political parties are currently provided for in Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014 based on Article 224 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union<sup>7</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> OJ C 191, 29.7.1992, p. 1-112.

<sup>4</sup> OJ C 326, 26.10.2012, p. 13–390.

<sup>5</sup> OJ C 326, 26.10.2012, p. 391–407.

<sup>6</sup> OJ L 297, 15.11.2003, p. 1–4, based on Article 191 of the Treaty establishing the European Community as amended by the Treaty of Nice amending the Treaty on European Union, the Treaties establishing the European Communities and certain related acts, OJ C 80, 10.3.2001, p1–87.

# 3. THE CURRENT LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK



## 3.1. Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014

Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014 has set up a new legal framework on the statute and funding of European political parties and their affiliated European political foundations requiring European political parties and European political foundations to provide a strong link between citizens of the Union and European democracy, with particular focus on integrity and transparency. Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014 established the Authority and introduced a series of rights and obligations for European political parties and European political foundations.

Following a registration procedure with the Authority, European political parties and foundations obtain a fully-fledged European legal personality and can apply for Union funding. At the same time, they must respect conditions and obligations, in particular those related to donations and contributions they receive, their activities and the key requirement to observe the values upon which the Union is founded.

The rules on the statute and financing of European political parties and European political foundations have already been amended twice since the adoption of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014. In 2018, Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014 was amended by Amending Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/673 to avoid undesirable consequences of multi-party membership and to modify financing rules, and in 2019 it was amended by Amending Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2019/493 to strengthen the protection of personal data ahead of the 2019 European elections. The European Parliament called to amend Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014, in its resolution of 26 November 2020 on stocktaking of European elections (2020/2088(INI))<sup>8</sup> and in its resolution of 11 November 2021 on the application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014 on the statute and funding of European political parties and European political foundations (2021/2018(INI))<sup>9</sup>. Following European Parliament's calls, and the European democracy action plan<sup>10</sup> (2020), the European Commission presented a new legislative proposal on 25 November 2021<sup>11</sup>.

<sup>8</sup> OJ C 425, 20.10.2021, p. 98–106.

<sup>9</sup> OJ C 205, 20.5.2022, p. 37–43.

<sup>10 &</sup>lt;u>European Democracy Action Plan</u> (https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/ priorities-2019-2024/new-push-european-democracy/european-democracy-action-plan\_en)

<sup>11</sup> Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the statute and funding of European political parties and European political foundations (recast), COM(2021)734 final, 2021/0375 (COD), 25.11.2021.

#### 3.2. Amending Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/673

Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/673 was the result of the first amendment of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014. Amending Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/673<sup>12</sup> has, among other things, tightened the conditions for registration as a European political party. This led to the removal of two European political parties and one affiliated European political foundation from the Register of European political parties and European political foundations. Consequently, these three entities were no longer eligible to receive the contributions and grants from the general budget of the European Union. The amendment also refined the regulatory powers conferred upon the Authority and modified the notion of National Contact Point(s), the entities/ persons designated at national level to exchange information in the context of the application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014.

#### 3.3. Amending Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2019/493

In March 2019, the European Parliament and the Council adopted Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2019/493<sup>13</sup> which amended Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014 as regards a verification procedure related to infringements of rules on the protection of personal data in the context of elections to the European Parliament.

The specific verification procedure which it introduced aims at enabling the Authority to sanction European political parties and/or European political foundations that deliberately influence, or attempt to influence, the outcome of European elections by taking advantage of an infringement by a natural or legal person of the applicable rules on the protection of personal data. This verification procedure can only be triggered after a decision of the national supervisory authority, and depends in practice additionally on the Authority being informed of this decision. It is therefore essential that the communication between national authorities and the Authority takes place smoothly and without any delay. The Authority therefore invested considerable effort in raising awareness among competent authorities at European Union level and in the Member States throughout 2022.

<sup>12</sup> OJ L 114I , 4.5.2018, p. 1–6.

<sup>13</sup> OJ L 85I , 27.3.2019, p. 7–10.

# 4. STANDARD OPERATIONS AT THE AUTHORITY

### 4.1. Registration/Verification

#### 4.1.1. Conditions

There are several conditions for a European political party to be registered, *inter alia*:

- A European political party must at all times be composed of member parties in at least a quarter of Member States. These parties must be represented by an elected mandate-holder at either European, national or regional level.
- A European political party must have its seat in a Member State and this must be indicated in its statutes. The statutes must follow all the provisions set out by Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014. The Member State of the seat can impose additional requirements for the statutes which have to be consistent with the Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014.
- A European political party must observe the values on which the Union is founded, comply with the rule of law and respect for human rights and they cannot seek profits in their functioning.

There are several conditions for a European political foundation to be registered, *inter alia*:

- A European political foundation must be affiliated with European political party already registered with the Authority and comply with the governance provisions set out by Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014.
- A European political foundation must have its seat in a Member State and this must be indicated in its statutes. The statutes must follow all the provisions set out by Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014. The Member State of the seat can impose additional requirements for the statutes which have to be consistent with the Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014.
- A European political foundation must observe the values on which the Union is founded, comply with the rule of law and respect for human rights and they cannot seek profits in their functioning.

#### 4.1.2. Implementation in 2022

The Authority regularly verifies whether the registration conditions continue to be complied with by the European political parties and the European political foundations. In 2022, the Authority carried out several verification exercises.

These verifications took place at several instances:

- in a regular cycle of verifications regarding structure and governance of the European political parties and European political foundations;
- following relevant elections in Member States;
- in the context of evolving administrative set-ups of certain European political parties and European political foundations;
- in the context of the funding applications to the European Parliament for budgetary year 2023, in particular verification of the number of Members of the European Parliament to be counted to each European political party as at 30 September 2022.

New templates have been made available to European political parties and foundations to increase process efficiency and to reduce red tape.

The Authority sent several preventive compliance recommendations to European political parties and European political foundations to address foreseeable compliance risks in light of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014, especially regarding governance provisions and internal structures. Upon individual requests to the Authority, European political parties and European political foundations have been provided with individualised guidance.

In the course of this work, the Authority identified a number of risk factors and corresponding action points. The Authority continuously monitors that these are respected in practice.

| EXAMPLES OF RISK FACTORS   | CORRESPONDING ACTION POINTS   |  |
|--|---|--|
| Governance interaction<br>between European<br>political parties and their<br>affiliated foundation           | <ul> <li>While European political parties and their affiliated foundation are formally bound to each other (see Article 2(4) of the Regulation) and hence may cooperate intensely, their decision-making processes and finances cannot be merged. More particularly, the respective day-to-day managements, governing structures and financial accounts of European political parties and their affiliated European political foundation must remain separate (Article 3(3) of the Regulation). Consequently, they:</li> <li>shall ensure effective separation, where necessary by avoidance of double office holders and/or, depending on the individual case, by ascertaining in a legally reliable form that double office holder(s) cannot impose on behalf of the party of foundation a course of action on the respective other entity;</li> <li>additionally take appropriate statutory measures to clarify the separation.</li> </ul> |  |
| Notification of<br>incomplete list of<br>member parties<br>represented by member<br>of (European) parliament | While European political parties are required to<br>demonstrate having member parties fulfilling the<br>representativeness criterion in only ¼ of Member States<br>(currently seven), they are strongly encouraged, if possible,<br>to notify more member parties fulfilling the criterion to<br>avoid sudden compliance issues if one of the notified<br>parties ceases to be a genuine member or loses its political<br>representativeness.   |  |

At the end of 2022, 10 European political parties and 10 affiliated European political foundations continued to be registered with the Authority. The Authority did not register any new applicant for registration and no deregistration occurred. Currently registered European political parties are listed in Appendix 1, along with their full member parties and respective affiliated European political foundations.

#### 4.1.3. Union values

The Authority's mandate includes the verification of respect of the values on which the Union is founded, as expressed in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union. A specific procedure is foreseen for assessing whether European political parties and European political foundations comply with the set of values as listed in Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014. Should any of the registered entities be found, in accordance with the procedure foreseen in the Regulation upon request of the European Parliament, the Council or the Commission, to be in manifest and serious breach of the obligation to observe Union values, this would result in the Authority's decision to de-register the registered entity concerned.

The procedure also involves an advisory opinion of the Committee of Independent Eminent Persons, established by Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014. The European Parliament and the Council have appointed, respectively, two members to the committee for the current legislative term<sup>14</sup>.



#### 4.2. Compliance controls

#### 4.2.1. Background

The Authority controls compliance by European political parties and European political foundations with their obligations under Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014 in cooperation with the Authorising Officer of the European Parliament and the competent Member States' authorities. In line with its mandate, the Authority controls compliance of the donations and contributions accepted by European political parties and European political foundations as well as the use of funding, irrespective of whether it originates from own resources or the Union budget, and taking into consideration the prohibitions laid down in Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014.

The controls are conducted independently and within the limits of the Authority's mandate: the Authority conducts its checks of democratic integrity pursuant to Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014 even if Union funding is not involved. The Authorising Officer of the European Parliament controls compliance by European political parties and European political

14 Currently appointed members of the Committee of Independent Eminent Persons (https://www. appf.europa.eu/appf/en/other-information/committees-appf) foundations with the obligations relating to Union funding in accordance with the Financial Regulation<sup>15</sup>. For matters not regulated by Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014, the Member State of the European political parties' and foundations' seat, and of the place of their activities, respectively, remains competent to apply national law.

The following table summarises some key substantive rules of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014, for which the Authority is competent to check compliance:

| DONATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| Principle   | Non-compliant  |  |
|   | <ul> <li>donations exceeding EUR 18 000 per year<br/>and per donor</li> </ul>  |  |
|   | <ul> <li>anonymous donations or contributions</li> </ul>   |  |
| European political parties and European<br>political foundations may accept<br>donations from natural or legal persons of<br>up to a value of EUR 18 000 per year<br>and per donor. | <ul> <li>donations from the budgets of political<br/>groups in the European Parliament</li> </ul>  |  |
|   | <ul> <li>donations from any public authority from<br/>a Member State or a third country</li> </ul>   |  |
|   | <ul> <li>donations from any private entities or<br/>individuals (not having the right to vote in<br/>the European elections) based in a third<br/>country</li> </ul> |  |

| ACTIVITIES  |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| EUROPEAN POLITICAL PARTIES  |   |  |
| Principle   | Non-compliant   |  |
| The funding of European political parties<br>from the general budget of the European<br>Union or from any other source may be<br>used to finance campaigns conducted by<br>the European political parties in the<br>context of elections to the European<br>Parliament in which they or their members<br>participate. | <ul> <li>The funding of European political parties from the general budget of the European Union or from any other source cannot be used for the following:</li> <li>direct or indirect funding of other political parties, and in particular national parties or candidates</li> <li>referendum campaigns</li> </ul> |  |
| ACTIVITIES  |   |  |
|   |   |  |

| EUROPEAN POLITICAL FOUNDATIONS  |  |
|---|--|
| Principle   | Non-compliant  |
| The funding of European political<br>foundations from the general budget of<br>the European Union shall be used for<br>financing their tasks as listed in point (4)<br>of Article 2 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No<br>1141/2014 and to meet expenditure | <ul> <li>The funding of European political foundations from the general budget of the European Union or from any other source cannot be used for the following:</li> <li>direct or indirect funding of elections, political parties, or candidates or other</li> </ul> |
| directly linked to the objectives set out in  | foundations  |
| their statutes.   | referendum campaigns   |

15

Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1-222.

#### 4.2.2. Implementation in 2022

During 2022, the Authority's compliance team carried out compliance controls in the context of the annual submissions of European political parties' and European political foundations' financial documentation concerning the year 2021. In addition to this regular annual process, the Authority also carried out ad hoc compliance controls, such as in cases of advance notifications of donations exceeding EUR 12 000 or when the Authority became aware of other potential instances of non-compliance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014.

In addition to the strong relations with the European Parliament which were further enhanced, relations with existing contact points in the Member States<sup>16</sup> have proven to be of great practical use in this context. To ensure the lasting fluidity of this cooperation, in 2022 the Authority was preparing a first annual conference of the Authority's national contact points, in the presence also of the services of the European Parliament, to deepen mutual understanding and exchange best practices (the conference took place in January 2023 with a high level of attendance). To increase efficiency and the effectiveness of its controls, the Authority has further optimised its internal work process.

The aim of the Authority's compliance control activities is to prevent and, where necessary, sanction infringements of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014. Thus the Authority sent several preventive compliance recommendations to European political parties and European political foundations, enabling them to better assess their internal processes in the area of donations, contributions and the activities they plan to organise. Upon individual requests to the Authority, European political parties and European political foundations were provided with individualised guidance as well.

Where the Authority identified horizontal compliance risks, corresponding action points were communicated to the European political parties and foundations accordingly. In order to ensure compliance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014, the Authority also published extensive guidance on its website referring to the most commonly identified risk areas.

| EXAMPLES OF RISK FACTORS                              | CORRESPONDING ACTION POINTS  |  |
|---|--|--|
| Uncertainties about<br>donor entities                 | "Know your donor" principle: European political parties and<br>foundations may accept donations within the limits of Article<br>20 of the Regulation. A deadline of 30 days is provided by the<br>Regulation for returning incoming payments that are not<br>compliant with the prohibitions of the text. This means that<br>European political parties and foundations need to develop an<br>understanding of their donor entities in good time, in particular<br>to identify the effective donor (which is not necessarily identical<br>to the paying entity), country of origin (which is not necessarily<br>identical to that of the bank account) and potential public<br>control over the donor entity.          |  |
| Unclear funding<br>modalities for a joint<br>activity | "Payer in the driver seat" principle: While European political<br>parties and foundations may co-organise activities with<br>partner organisations, they cannot provide funding directly or<br>indirectly to the entities referred to in Article 22 of the<br>Regulation, most notably their own member parties or<br>organisations, or candidates.<br>European political parties and foundations therefore have to<br>ensure by their project financing structure that their co-<br>financing share for an activity together with a local partner<br>organisation covered by Article 22 of the Regulation remains<br>proportionate to their visibility and content influence in<br>relation to the concrete activity. |  |

In cases of potential infringements, before the Authority imposes a sanction, Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014 requires that an opportunity to take corrective measures be given<sup>17</sup>.

Corrective measures typically comprise a financial and a structural element. Indeed, corrective measures are not designed as a mere opportunity for late implementation of an obligation which would have had to be complied with before. Therefore, the Authority considers sufficient a corrective measure only if it is not limited to belated compliance with a pre-existing requirement (e.g. by payment of an amount that would have had to be disbursed or reimbursed at an earlier date), but additionally also contains structural measures that prevent future re-occurrence (this can be pedagogical measures internal to the staff, rescinding of contracts, communication to member parties etc.).

In 2022, the Authority has given European political parties and European political foundations a right to be heard as well as the opportunity for corrective measures in 9 cases. These were cases relating to reporting requirements, rules concerning revenue and joint activities. Early scrutiny indicates that the immediately relevant corrective measures were implemented by the European political parties and foundations concerned in all these cases. The Authority continues to monitor that corrective measures with long-term effect will ensure sustained compliance in the areas concerned.

No sanctions were adopted in 2022.

#### 4.3. Transparency services



#### 4.3.1. Website

One key task of the Authority is transparency, by supplying public information about European political parties and European political foundations such as the decisions to register them, the names and statutes of all registered European political parties and European political foundations, along with the documents submitted as part of their applications for registration and detailed information about donations and contributions received by European political parties and European political foundations.

The Authority's website thus enables citizens to access structural and financial information of European political parties and European political foundations and in this regard, the Authority has - in 2022 - published summary political programmes provided by European political parties. For better visibility, the political programmes are displayed directly with the respective European political party's logo and next to each other.

Based on case-law and the Authority's administrative experience acquired over time, the Authority has also continuously extended its offer of publicly accessible guidance on its website. Guidance with regards to compliance controls and guidance for the applicants to be registered with the Authority has been added to the Authority's website.

The Authority dedicated specific focus time to transparency after completion of the core compliance controls. In this context, the Authority has been restructuring the documentation already published in a clearer and concise manner, in all Union languages.

Tables of donations and contributions containing data for financial year 2021 were published on the Authority's website, now also in open data format.

As regards its website, the Authority is also continuing to take part in a website accessibility benchmarking exercise, by reference to internationally recognised standards. Results so far are highly encouraging.

# **4.3.2.** Register of European political parties and European political foundations

In addition to the enhanced transparency services provided to the public via its website on the basis of Article 32 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014, the Authority provided transparency services upon request related to the Register of European political parties and European political foundations held by the Authority. The Register contains mainly information and documents submitted in the process of registration as a European political party or European political

foundation and any subsequent updates thereto<sup>18</sup>. Its objectives are to provide transparency to third parties as well as traceability in relation to the European political parties and European political foundations registered by the Authority. Given these objectives, some information from the Register is directly available on the Authority's website in accordance with Article 32 of the Regulation.

#### 4.3.3. Social media

The Authority set up a social media account in July 2022. The latter serves as a means to further increase the visibility of European political parties and European political foundations and to raise awareness and knowledge of the citizens.

Among other, the social media account is the channel through which the Authority raises additional awareness on its own activities, news on the availability of updated information on its website, information about the ongoing legislative procedure, and other information that expand the knowledge of the citizens about the work and mandate of the Authority.

See Article 1 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2015/2401 of 2 October 2015 on the content and functioning of the Register of European political parties and foundations, OJ L 333, 19.2.2016, p.50.

# 5. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY AHEAD OF THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

### 5.1. Preventing and countering electoral interference

Pursuant to Article 10a of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014, preventing threats of foreign interference in European Union democracy is a key task of the Authority in the run-up to the 2024 European Parliament elections, in close cooperation with national competent authorities as required by legislation.

Threats falling within the scope of this provision are not hypothetical: data thefts, data dumps or deep fakes weaponised for electoral purposes, including by foreign powers or State-sponsored cybercriminals, count among them.

After notification of a decision by a national authority finding a relevant infringement of data protection rules, the Authority is required to seek the opinion of the Committee of Independent Eminent Persons, which it would then take into account in its decision on a sanction.

To ensure effectiveness of this procedure, the Authority has been proactively reaching out and raising awareness among a network of bodies and institutions relevant to the common defence of European democracy. In particular, the Authority worked with the European Parliament, which provides the secretariat of the Committee of Independent Eminent Persons, and the Commission, to maximise procedural efficiency<sup>19</sup>. Cooperation on the operational aspects was strengthened with the European External Action Service, the European Data Protection Board and the European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats. The Authority also set up a dedicated task force for these matters in its cabinet team.

In preparation for the 2024 European elections year, the Authority is actively enhancing cooperation networks by exploring further partnerships in defence of democratic integrity. As the feedback was consistently positive, the Authority will continue to build upon this "Team democratic integrity".

<sup>19</sup> The European Parliament and the Council have appointed, respectively, two members to the committee for the current legislative term: <u>https://www.appf.europa.eu/appf/en/other-information/committees-appf.</u>

#### Supervising non-EU relations of European political parties and 5.2. foundations

While parties in non-EU countries are not recognised as "Member parties" within the meaning of Article 2 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014 because they are not composed of citizens of the Union<sup>20</sup>, it is not excluded for European political parties and foundations to have structured relations with political formations or foundations in non-EU countries. And indeed, many European political parties and foundations have developed stable links with non-EU political formations or foundations.

Depending on the exact nature of such links, they however may raise risks. The Authority therefore controls in particular that:

- i. structural limitations for non-EU influence on the European political parties' and foundations' governance structures are respected (this is a matter of regular verifications under Article 10 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014 - see section 4.1.), and
- ii.financial flows remain compliant with Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014 (this is a matter of compliance controls in accordance with Article 24 of the Regulation - see section 4.2.).

Regarding (i) structural limitations, European political parties and foundations must not allow that non-EU political formations generate individually or collectively - majorities or blocking minorities in the governing bodies against the members from within the European Union. This is a consequence of the EU Treaties, and more particularly the provision whereby European political parties relate to the citizens of the Union (Article 10(4) of the Treaty on European Union), which is binding for the interpretation of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014.

Additionally, the Authority continues to ensure transparency. The currently known list of structured links of European political parties to non-EU political formations is attached for ease of reference (Appendix 2).

As to (ii) financial flows, the Authority controls that European political parties and foundations accept<sup>21</sup> no donations from non-EU countries. Also, for European political parties, contributions to European political parties cannot originate in non-EU countries<sup>22</sup>. This means that the Authority has to check - irrespective of the originator being a political formation or not - whether an "economic advantage" and thus a prohibited donation has arisen for European political parties from non-EU countries. In this regard, income generated by own economic activity within the limits of the not-for-profit nature of European political parties, such as fees for participation in a party congress, can be a regulatory and practical challenge<sup>23</sup>. The Authority calls on the co-legislators to reflect upon specific conditions and limitations, and to ensure distinct transparency in this respect.

<sup>21</sup> The Regulation distinguishes "receiving" a donation from "accepting" a donation, since payment is by unilateral act of the donor - therefore an infringement of the Regulation only materialises if, after receiving a donation that cannot be accepted in accordance with Article 20(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014, the European political party or foundation does not return the payment or, if impossible, pay it to the EU budget, in accordance with Article 20(6) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014.

<sup>22</sup> Judgment of the General Court of 25 November 2020, ACRE v Parliament, T-107/19, para 162. This Judgment does not refer to European political foundations.

<sup>23</sup> See also the explanatory memorandum accompanying the Commission's legislative proposal of 25 November 2021, COM(2021)734 final; Section 5, p. 9.

# 6. INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION

#### 6.1. Human resources

As at 31 December 2022, eight staff members were working at the Authority including the Director. Selection procedures were launched within the limits of the current allocation of posts.

The Authority is facing constrained human resources. Except for team leaders, colleagues had to be assigned to two teams simultaneously, to carry out for instance both registration/verification and compliance control tasks. This creates multiple human, managerial and procedural challenges since the corresponding work cycles are partially overlapping, especially whenever off-cycle information or procedural requests are notified to the Authority.

This issue is expected to become more pressing due to the evolving challenges in the run-up to the 2024 European Parliament elections, including in particular the need to protect democratic integrity against novel forms of foreign interference, as well as the necessary administrative implementation of any new tasks that would arise for the Authority from the ongoing negotiations on a recast of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014.

Further information is set out in the Authority's draft budgetary plan 2024 as published on the Authority's website<sup>24</sup>.

Given that the Authority is an independent body, it is necessary to distinguish staff-related appropriations between the European Parliament and the Authority transparently. The Authority therefore welcomes that a separate indication of posts and appropriations for salaries of staff working for the Authority is foreseen in the budgetary documentation<sup>25</sup>. However, the Authority's staff is still comprised in the section of the Union's general budget for the European Parliament.

<sup>24</sup> https://www.appf.europa.eu/cmsdata/260633/APPF%20draft%20budgetary%20plan%202024. pdf

<sup>25</sup> Parliament's resolution of 19 October 2022 on the Council position on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2023 - 12108/2022 – C9-0306/2022 – 2022/0212(BUD), point 73.

## 6.2. Budget

The European Parliament plays a key role in the Authority's setup in practice, by providing standard administrative support facilities other than human resources, in accordance with Article 6(4) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014. This administrative support materialises in areas as diverse as postage, duty travel, documentation or translation. Where necessary, administrative support facilities have been further specified in agreements between the Authority and competent services of the European Parliament's administration, as foreseen in Article 6(6) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014. As part of this process, in addition to earlier agreements on offices, staff management and training, the Authority concluded in 2022 an agreement with the Internal Audit Service of the European Parliament and finalised talks on an agreement concerning IT services (the latter agreement was signed into force in January 2023).

Beyond administrative support services supplied by the European Parliament, Article 6(7) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014 sets out that the appropriations for the expenditure of the Authority are provided under a separate Title in the Section for the European Parliament in the general budget of the European Union. According to that provision, those appropriations must be sufficient to ensure the full and independent operation of the Authority.

In 2022, the Authority carried over to 2023 EUR 77 414,65 for a conference with Member State contact points, EUR 15 000 for a commissioned study and EUR 1174,32 for office supplies.



# 7. DECLARATION OF THE DIRECTOR

- I, Pascal Schonard, declare having reasonable assurance that:
- a. the information contained in this Report presents a true and fair view;
- **b.** the resources assigned to the activities described in this Report have been used for their intended purpose and in accordance with the principle of sound financial management; and
- **c.** the control procedures put in place give the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions.

# 8. CONCLUSION AND OUTLOOK

The Authority contributes to the European Union's common efforts to defend against increasing autocratic attempts to undermine democracy. These attempts might come in different shapes and forms. They may range from cyberattacks to data theft and deep fakes. They could be of a financial nature. Some attempts may go unnoticed at first, or even fail. Others might seem harmless when considered in isolation. Yet they all deserve our full, collective attention.

The Authority has initiated a systematic analysis of the threat factors facing EU democracy, including tools, techniques and procedures. This exercise will help to further calibrate the toolbox in response, within the limits of the Authority's competences but in close cooperation with other relevant actors whose competences can usefully add to a common approach.

Indeed, 2023 is key to ensure the networked protection of the 2024 European elections from interference. While working to further enhance the flexible network of institutional players in "Team democratic integrity", the Authority has begun and plans to continue organising a number of preparatory events, notably with specialised organisations at EU level and competent authorities of the Member States. The aim is to contribute to coordination and effectiveness in the application of the integrity protection layers available at EU and national levels, within the partner authorities' respective competences, in particular the European Parliament, the European Data Protection Board as well as national contact points of the Authority.

In this context, the Authority looks forward to the timely continuation of the legislative work that may further specify the scope of its tasks. The entire team remains available to the co-legislators for any technical information or advice.

26

# 9. APPENDIXES

APPENDIX 1: LIST OF MEMBER PARTIES

APPENDIX 2: LIST OF NON-EU POLITICAL FORMATIONS RELATED TO EU POLITICAL PARTIES

APPENDIX 3: LIST OF NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS

# **APPENDIX 1: LIST OF MEMBER PARTIES**

Please note that the list of full member parties contained herein is indicative of the current<sup>26</sup> political reality of the European political parties across the EU and does not purport to correspond to the member parties that may be claimed specifically as a matter of the representation criterion of Article 3(1) (b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014. The more restricted number of member parties that are taken into account by the Authority, after verification, specifically as regards the latter criterion can be found on the website www.appf.europa.eu.

#### **EPP - European People's Party**



**European People's Party** Seat: Belgium



#### **Affiliated EU foundation**

Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies ("WMCES") Seat: Belgium

| Full member parties of the European political party           | Member State   |
|---|----------------|
| Die neue Volkspartei (ÖVP)                                    | Austria        |
| Les Engagés   | Belgium        |
| Christen-Democratisch en Vlaams                               | Belgium        |
| Demokrati za silna Bălgarija                                  | Bulgaria       |
| Dvizhenie "Bulgariya na grazhdanite"                          | Bulgaria       |
| GERB  | Bulgaria       |
| Sayuz na demokratichnite sili                                 | Bulgaria       |
| Hrvatska demokratska zajednica                                | Croatia        |
| Dimokratikós Sinagermós                                       | Cyprus         |
| TOP 09  | Czech Republic |
| Křesťanská a demokratická unie – Československá strana lidová | Czech Republic |
| Det Konservative Folkeparti                                   | Denmark        |
| KristenDemokraterne   | Denmark        |
| Pro Patra - Isamaa  | Estonia        |
| Suomen Kristillisdemokraatit                                  | Finland        |
| Kansallinen Kokoomus  | Finland        |
| Les Républicains  | France         |
| Christlich Demokratische Union Deutschlands                   | Germany        |

| Full member parties of the European political party                          | Member State |
|--|--------------|
| Christlich-Soziale Union in Bayern   | Germany      |
| Nea Demokratia   | Greece       |
| Kereszténydemokrata Néppárt  | Hungary      |
| Fine Gael  | Ireland      |
| Partito Autonomista Trentino Tirolese  | Italy        |
| Alternativa Popolare   | Italy        |
| Unione di Centro   | Italy        |
| Forza Italia   | Italy        |
| Popolari per l'Italia  | Italy        |
| Südtiroler Volkspartei   | Italy        |
| Vienotība  | Latvia       |
| Tėvynės sąjunga – Lietuvos krikščionys demokratai                            | Lithuania    |
| Chrëschtlech Sozial Vollekspartei  | Luxembourg   |
| Partit Nazzjonalista   | Malta        |
| Christen-Democratisch Appèl  | Netherlands  |
| Polskie Stronnictwo Ludowe   | Poland       |
| Platforma Obywatelska  | Poland       |
| Centro Democrático e Social - Partido Popular                                | Portugal     |
| Partido Social Demócrata   | Portugal     |
| Romániai Magyar Demokrata Szövetség / Uniunea Democrată Maghiară din România | Romania      |
| Partidul Național Liberal  | Romania      |
| Partidul Mișcarea Populară   | Romania      |
| SPOLU – občianska demokracia   | Slovakia     |
| Szövetség - Aliancia   | Slovakia     |
| Kresťanskodemokratické hnutie  | Slovakia     |
| OBYČAJNÍ ĽUDIA a nezávislé osobnosti   | Slovakia     |
| Slovenska Ljudska Stranka  | Slovenia     |
| Nova Slovenija krščanski demokrati   | Slovenia     |
| Slovenska demokratska stranka  | Slovenia     |
| Partido Popular  | Spain        |
| Kristdemokraterna  | Sweden       |
| Moderata samlingspartiet   | Sweden       |

# PES - Party of European Socialists



#### Party of European Socialists

Seat: Belgium

#### Affiliated EU foundation

Foundation for European Progressive Studies ("FEPS") Seat: Belgium

| Full member parties of the European political party | Member State   |
|---|----------------|
| Sozialdemokratische Partei Österreichs              | Austria        |
| Parti Socialiste                                    | Belgium        |
| Vooruit (formerly Socialistische Partij Anders)     | Belgium        |
| Bulgarska Sotsialisticheska Partiya                 | Bulgaria       |
| Socijaldemokratska Partija Hrvatske                 | Croatia        |
| Kinima Sosialdimokraton - EDEK                      | Cyprus         |
| Ceská strana sociálne demokratická                  | Czech Republic |
| Socialdemokratiet                                   | Denmark        |
| Sotsiaaldemokraatlik Erakond                        | Estonia        |
| Suomen Sosialidemokraattinen Puolue                 | Finland        |
| Parti Socialiste                                    | France         |
| Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands             | Germany        |
| Panellinio Sosialistiko Kinima                      | Greece         |
| Magyar Szocialista Párt                             | Hungary        |
| The Labour Party                                    | Ireland        |
| Partito Socialista Italiano                         | Italy          |
| Partito Democratico                                 | Italy          |
| Sociāldemokrātiskā Partija "Saskaņa"                | Latvia         |
| Lietuvos socialdemokratų partija                    | Lithuania      |
| Lëtzebuerger Sozialistesch Aarbechterpartei         | Luxembourg     |
| Partit Laburista                                    | Malta          |
| Partij van de Arbeid                                | Netherlands    |
| Nowa Lewica   | Poland         |
| Partido Socialista                                  | Portugal       |
| Partidul Social Democrat                            | Romania        |
| SMER-sociálna demokracia                            | Slovakia       |
| Socialni Demokrati                                  | Slovenia       |
| Partido Socialista Obrero Español                   | Spain          |
| Sveriges Socialdemokratiska Arbetareparti           | Sweden         |

## ALDE- Alliance of Liberals and Democrats For Europe Party



#### **Alliance of Liberals and Democrats For Europe Party** Seat: Belgium



#### Affiliated EU foundation

**European Liberal Forum ("ELF")** Seat: Belgium

| Full member parties of the European political party | Member State   |
|---|----------------|
| NEOS  | Austria        |
| Mouvement Réformateur                               | Belgium        |
| Open Vlaamse Liberalen en Democraten                | Belgium        |
| Dvizhenie za prava i svobodi                        | Bulgaria       |
| Centar  | Croatia        |
| Istarski demokratski sabor                          | Croatia        |
| Enomeni Dimokrates                                  | Cyprus         |
| Dimokratiki Parataxi                                | Cyprus         |
| ANO   | Czech Republic |
| Det Radikale Venstre                                | Denmark        |
| Venstre Danmarks Liberale Parti                     | Denmark        |
| Eesti Keskerakond                                   | Estonia        |
| Eesti Reformierakond                                | Estonia        |
| Suomen Keskusta                                     | Finland        |
| Svenska Folkpartiet                                 | Finland        |
| Parti radical                                       | France         |
| Union des Démocrates et Indépendants                | France         |
| Freie Demokratische Partei                          | Germany        |
| Momentum Mozgalom                                   | Hungary        |
| Liberálisok-Magyar Liberális Párt                   | Hungary        |
| Fianna Fáil-An Páirtí Poblachtánach                 | Ireland        |
| Più Europa / +Europa                                | Italy          |
| Radicali Italiani                                   | Italy          |
| Kustība Par!  | Latvia         |
| Latvijas Attīstībai                                 | Latvia         |
| Lietuvos Respublikos liberalų sąjūdis               | Lithuania      |
| Laisvės Partija                                     | Lithuania      |
| Demokratesch Partei / Parti Démocratique            | Luxembourg     |
| Democraten 66                                       | Netherlands    |
| Volkspartij voor Vrijheid en Democratie             | Netherlands    |
| Iniciativa Liberal                                  | Portugal       |
| Uniunea Salvați România                             | Romania        |
| Progresívne Slovensko                               | Slovakia       |
| Ciudadanos-Partido de la Ciudadanía                 | Spain          |
| Centerpartiet                                       | Sweden         |
| Liberalerna   | Sweden         |

## EDP - European Democratic Party



#### European Democratic Party

Seat: Belgium

#### **Affiliated EU foundation**

Institute of European Democrats ("IED") Seat: Belgium

| Full member parties of the European political party | Member State   |
|---|----------------|
| Narodne stranke-Reformisti                          | Croatia        |
| SENÁTOR 21  | Czech Republic |
| Mouvement Démocrate                                 | France         |
| Freie Wähler  | Germany        |
| Enosi Kentroon                                      | Greece         |
| Új Kezdet   | Hungary        |
| Italia Viva   | Italy          |
| Azione  | Italy          |
| Stronnictwo Demokratyczne                           | Poland         |
| Juntos pelo Povo                                    | Portugal       |
| Demokratična stranka upokojencev Slovenije          | Slovenia       |
| Coalición Canaria                                   | Spain          |
| Compromiso por Galicia                              | Spain          |
| Euzko Alderdi Jeltzalea                             | Spain          |

# EGP - European Green Party



#### **European Green Party** Seat: Belgium



#### Affiliated EU foundation

**Green European Foundation ("GEF")** Seat: Luxembourg

| Full member parties of the European political party | Member State   |
|---|----------------|
| Die Grünen  | Austria        |
| Ecolo   | Belgium        |
| Groen   | Belgium        |
| Zeleno Dvizhenie                                    | Bulgaria       |
| Movement of Ecologists-Citizens' Cooperation        | Cyprus         |
| Zelení  | Czech Republic |
| Socialistisk Folkeparti                             | Denmark        |
| Eestimaa Erakond Rohelised                          | Estonia        |
| Vihreät-De Gröna                                    | Finland        |
| Europe Écologie-Les Verts                           | France         |
| Bündnis 90/Die Grünen                               | Germany        |
| Oikologoi-Prasinoi                                  | Greece         |
| Magyarország Zöld Pártja                            | Hungary        |
| Comhaontas Glas                                     | Ireland        |
| Europa Verde-Verdi                                  | Italy          |
| Verdi-Grüne-Vërc                                    | Italy          |
| déi gréng   | Luxembourg     |
| Alternattiva Demokratika                            | Malta          |
| GroenLinks  | Netherlands    |
| Partia Zieloni                                      | Poland         |
| Partido Ecologista–Os Verdes                        | Portugal       |
| Partidul Verde                                      | Romania        |
| SMS Zeleni Evrope                                   | Slovenia       |
| Verdes EQUO   | Spain          |
| Esquerra Verda                                      | Spain          |
| Miljöpartiet de gröna                               | Sweden         |
|   |                |

## EFA - European Free Alliance



## European Free Alliance

Seat: Belgium



#### Affiliated EU foundation

**Coppieters Foundation** \*(*formerly Centre Maurits Coppieters*) Seat: Belgium

| Enotna Lista A  | Austria        |
|---|----------------|
|   |                |
| Nieuw-Vlaamse Alliantie E                             | Belgium        |
| Omo Ilinden Pirin B                                   | Bulgaria       |
| Lista za Rijeku-Lista per Fiume C                     | Croatia        |
| Moravské zemské hnutí C                               | Czech Republic |
| Schleswigsche Partei                                  | Denmark        |
| Ålands Framtid F                                      | Finland        |
| Union Démocratique Bretonne F                         | rance          |
| Partit Occitan (PÒc) F                                | France         |
| Unser Land F  | rance          |
| Femu a Corsica F                                      | rance          |
| Partitu di a Nazione Corsa F                          | France         |
| Unitat Catalana F                                     | rance          |
| Mouvement Région Savoie F                             | France         |
| Bayernpartei  | Germany        |
| Südschleswigscher Wählerverband G                     | Germany        |
| Lausitzer Allianz 0                                   | Germany        |
| Dostluk Eşitlik ve Barış Partisi                      | Greece         |
| Slovenska Skupnost                                    | taly           |
| Süd-Tiroler Freiheit                                  | taly           |
| Comitato Libertà Toscana It                           | taly           |
| Patto per l'Autonomia la                              | taly           |
| Alliance valdôtaine                                   | taly           |
| Fryske Nasjonale Partij                               | Netherlands    |
| Erdélyi Magyar Néppárt F                              | Romania        |
| Oljka Party S   | Slovenia       |
| Bloque Nacionalista Galego S                          | Spain          |
| Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya S                   | Spain          |
| Eusko Alkartasuna S                                   | Spain          |
| Més-Compromís S                                       | Spain          |
| Nueva Canarias S                                      | Spain          |
| Partit Socialista de Mallorca - Entesa Nacionalista S | Spain          |
| Andalucía Por SÍ S                                    | Spain          |

## IDP/ID Party - Identité et Démocratie Parti



Identité et Démocratie Parti \*(formerly Mouvement pour une Europe des Nations et des Libertés) Seat: France

#### **Affiliated EU foundation**



Association pour l'Identité et Démocratie Fondation ("IDF"/"ID Foundation") \*(formerly Fondation pour une Europe des Nations et des Libertés) Seat: France

| Full member parties of the European political party | Member State   |
|---|----------------|
| Freiheitliche Partei Österreichs                    | Austria        |
| Vlaams Belang                                       | Belgium        |
| Svoboda a přímá demokracie                          | Czech Republic |
| Eesti Konservatiivne Rahvaerakond                   | Estonia        |
| Rassemblement National                              | France         |
| Nea Dexia   | Greece         |
| Lega Nord   | Italy          |
| Lega per Salvini Premier                            | Italy          |
| Partij voor de Vrijheid                             | Netherlands    |
| Chega   | Portugal       |
| SME Rodina  | Slovakia       |

## European Left - Party of the European Left



#### Party of the European Left

Seat: Belgium



Affiliated EU foundation Transform Europe ("TE") Seat: Belgium

| Full member parties of the European political party | Member State   |
|---|----------------|
| Kommunistische Partei Österreichs                   | Austria        |
| Communistes de Wallonie-Bruxelles                   | Belgium        |
| Bălgarskata levitsa                                 | Bulgaria       |
| Radnička fronta                                     | Croatia        |
| Levice  | Czech Republic |
| Enhedslisten-De Rød-Grønne                          | Denmark        |
| Eestimaa Ühendatud Vasakpartei                      | Estonia        |
| Suomen Kommunistinen Puolue                         | Finland        |
| Parti communiste français                           | France         |
| Die Linke   | Germany        |
| Synaspismós Rizospastikís Aristerás-SYRIZA          | Greece         |
| Magyarországi Munkáspárt 2006-Európai Baloldal      | Hungary        |
| Partito della Rifondazione Comunista                | Italy          |
| Déi Lénk  | Luxembourg     |
| Bloco Esquerda                                      | Portugal       |
| Partidul Socialist Român                            | Romania        |
| Levica  | Slovenia       |
| Partido Comunista de España                         | Spain          |
| Esquerda Unida i Alternativa                        | Spain          |
| Izquierda Unida                                     | Spain          |

## ECRP/ECR Party - European Conservatives and Reformists Party



**European Conservatives and Reformists Party** \*(formerly Alliance of Conservatives and Reformists in Europe) Seat: Belgium

#### **Affiliated EU foundation**



New Direction – The Foundation for European Reform ("New Direction") Seat: Belgium

| Full member parties of the European political party              | Member State   |
|--|----------------|
| Bulgarsko Natsionalno Dvizhenie                                  | Bulgaria       |
| Croatian Sovereignist Party Hrvatski suverenisti                 | Croatia        |
| Občanská demokratická strana                                     | Czech Republic |
| Liberal-Konservativen Reformer                                   | Germany        |
| Fratelli d'Italia  | Italy          |
| Nacionālā apvienība "Visu Latvijai!" – "Tēvzemei un Brīvībai     | Latvia         |
| Akcja Wyborcza Polaków na Litwie-Związek Chrześcijańskich Rodzin | Lithuania      |
| Alternativ Demokratesch Reformpartei                             | Luxembourg     |
| Prawo i Sprawiedliwosc   | Poland         |
| Alternativa Dreaptă  | Romania        |
| Sloboda a Solidarita   | Slovakia       |
| VOX  | Spain          |
| Sverigedemokraterna  | Sweden         |

## ECPM - European Christian Political Movement



## **European Christian Political Movement** Seat: Netherlands

#### **Affiliated EU foundation**

**Sallux** Seat: Netherlands

| Full member parties of the European political party     | Member State |
|---|--------------|
| Christliche Partei Österreichs                          | Austria      |
| La voie du peuple                                       | France       |
| Familienpartei Deutschlands                             | Germany      |
| Bündnis C-Christen für Deutschland                      | Germany      |
| Comhaontas Dhínit an Duine                              | Ireland      |
| Identità e Azione                                       | Italy        |
| Lietuvos krikščionių demokratų partija                  | Lithuania    |
| ChristenUnie  | Netherlands  |
| Staatkundig Gereformeerde Partij                        | Netherlands  |
| Prawica Rzeczypospolitej                                | Poland       |
| Unia Polityki Realnej                                   | Poland       |
| Partido Popular Monárquico                              | Portugal     |
| Partidul Național Țărănesc Creștin Democrat             | Romania      |
| Uniunea Democratica a Slovacilor si Cehilor din Romania | Romania      |
| Kresťanska únia   | Slovakia     |
| Contigo Más   | Spain        |

# APPENDIX 2: LIST OF NON-EU POLITICAL FORMATIONS RELATED TO EU POLITICAL PARTIES

Please note that non-EU formations are not "member parties" within the meaning of Article 2 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014. The Authority hereinafter nonetheless presents the current<sup>27</sup> political reality of these relations for transparency purposes, to the extent known on the basis of material available to the Authority.



## **EPP - European People's Party**

**European People's Party** Seat: Belgium

| NON-EU POLITICAL FORMATIONS RELATED TO THE EUROPEAN POLITICAL PARTY |  |                  |
|---|--|------------------|
| COUNTRY   | POLITICAL ENTITY   | TYPE OF RELATION |
| Armenia   | Republican Party of Armenia - REP P                          | Observer Member  |
| Armenia   | Heritage Party Armenia - HER                                 | Observer Member  |
| Belarus   | United Civic Party of Belarus - UCP                          | Observer Member  |
| Belarus   | Belarusian Christian Democracy - BCD                         | Observer Member  |
| Belarus   | The Movement For Freedom - MFF                               | Observer Member  |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina  | Stranka Demokratske Akcije - SDA                             | Observer Member  |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina  | Croatian Democratic Union of Bosnia and Herzegovina<br>- HDZ | Observer Member  |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina  | HDZ 1990   | Observer Member  |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina  | Partija Demokratskog Progresa - PDP                          | Observer Member  |

| COUNTRY         | POLITICAL ENTITY  | TYPE OF RELATION |
|-----------------|---|------------------|
| Georgia         | United National Movement - UNM  | Observer Member  |
| Georgia         | European Georgia – Movement for Liberty   | Observer Member  |
| Kosovo          | Democratic League of Kosovo - LDK   | Observer Member  |
| Moldova         | Partidul Liberal Democrat Din Moldova - PLDM  | Observer Member  |
| Moldova         | Party of Action and Solidarity  | Observer Member  |
| Moldova         | Platforma Demnitate și Adevăr / Platforma DA  | Observer Member  |
| Norway          | Kristelig Folkeparti - KrF  | Observer Member  |
| San Marino      | Partito Democratico Cristiano Sammarinese   | Observer Member  |
| Ukraine         | Batkivschyna - Motherland Party - BATK  | Observer Member  |
| Ukraine         | Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reforms - UDAR  | Observer Member  |
| Ukraine         | Samopomich Union - Self-Reliance  | Observer Member  |
| Ukraine         | European Solidarity - ES  | Observer Member  |
| Lebanon         | Lebanese Forces Party   | Partner          |
| Lebanon         | The Kataeb Party – Lebanese Social Democratic Party<br>(LSDP)   | Partner          |
| Morocco         | Istiqlal Party  | Partner          |
| Morocco         | Rassemblement National des Indépendants - RNI   | Partner          |
| Albania         | Partia Demokratike e Shqipërisë - PDSH  | Associate Member |
| Montenegro      | Bošnjačka stranka - BS  | Associate Member |
| Norway          | Hoyre - Conservative Party  | Associate Member |
| North Macedonia | Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization / Democratic<br>Party for Macedonian National Unity - VMRO-DPMNE | Associate Member |
| Serbia          | Alliance of Hungarians in Vojvodina   | Associate Member |
| Serbia          | Serbian Progressive Party - SNS   | Associate Member |
| Switzerland     | Die Mitte / Le Centre / Alleanza del Centro / Allianza dal<br>Center  | Associate Member |
|                 |   | -                |



# Party of European Socialists

Seat: Belgium

| NON-EU POLITICAL FORMATIONS RELATED TO THE EUROPEAN POLITICAL PARTY |  |                  |
|---|--|------------------|
| COUNTRY   | POLITICAL ENTITY                               | TYPE OF RELATION |
| Norway  | Det Norske Arbeiderparti                       | Full rights      |
| United Kingdom  | Labour Party                                   | Full rights      |
| United Kingdom  | Social Democratic and Labour Party             | Full rights      |
| Albania   | Partia Socialiste e Shqipërisë                 | Associate Member |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina  | Socijaldemokratska Partija Bosne i Hercegovine | Associate Member |
| Iceland   | Samfylkingin                                   | Associate Member |
| Moldova   | Partidul democrat din Moldova                  | Associate Member |
| Montenegro  | Socijaldemokratska Partija Crne Gore           | Associate Member |
| Montenegro  | Demokratska Partija Socijalista Crne Gore      | Associate Member |
| North Macedonia   | Socijaldemokratski Sojuz na Makedonija         | Associate Member |
| Serbia  | Demokratska stranka                            | Associate Member |
| Switzerland   | Parti Socialiste Suisse                        | Associate Member |
| Türkiye   | Cumhuriyet Halk Partisi                        | Associate Member |
| Türkiye   | Halklarin Demokratik Partis                    | Associate Member |
| Andorra   | Partit Socialdemòcrata                         | Observer Member  |
| Armenia   | Armenian Revolutionary Federation              | Observer Member  |
| Egypt   | Egyptian Social Democratic Party               | Observer Member  |
| Georgia   | Georgian Dream                                 | Observer Member  |

| NON-EU POLITICAL FORMATIONS RELATED TO THE EUROPEAN POLITICAL PARTY |  |                  |
|---|--|------------------|
| COUNTRY   | POLITICAL ENTITY                                   | TYPE OF RELATION |
| Israel  | Meretz   | Observer Member  |
| Israel  | Avodah   | Observer Member  |
| Morocco   | Socialist Union of Popular Forces                  | Observer Member  |
| Palestine   | Fatah  | Observer Member  |
| San Marino  | Partito dei Socialisti e dei Democratici           | Observer Member  |
| Tunisia   | Forum Démocratique pour le Travail et les Libertés | Observer Member  |



# ALDE- Alliance of Liberals and Democrats For Europe Party

**Alliance of Liberals and Democrats For Europe Party** Seat: Belgium

| NON-EU POLITICAL FORMATIONS RELATED TO THE EUROPEAN POLITICAL PARTY |   |                  |
|---|---|------------------|
| COUNTRY   | POLITICAL ENTITY                            | TYPE OF RELATION |
| Andorra   | Partit Liberal d'Andorra                    | Full rights      |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina  | Naša Stranka                                | Full rights      |
| Georgia   | Lelo for Georgia                            | Full rights      |
| Georgia   | Strategy Aghmashenebeli                     | Full rights      |
| Iceland   | Viðreisn                                    | Full rights      |
| Козоvо  | Aleanca Kosova E Re                         | Full rights      |
| Kosovo  | Partia Demokratike E Kosovës                | Full rights      |
| Montenegro  | Liberalna Partija Crne Gore                 | Full rights      |
| North Macedonia   | Liberalno-Demokratska Partija               | Full rights      |
| Norway  | Venstre                                     | Full rights      |
| Russia  | YABLOKO                                     | Full rights      |
| Serbia  | Pokret Slobodnih Građana                    | Full rights      |
| Switzerland   | Freisinnig-Demokratische Partei der Schweiz | Full rights      |
| Switzerland   | Grünliberale Schweiz                        | Full rights      |
| Ukraine   | European Party of Ukraine                   | Full rights      |
| Ukraine   | GOLOS                                       | Full rights      |
| Ukraine   | Sluga Narodu                                | Full rights      |
| United Kingdom  | Liberal Democrats                           | Full rights      |

| COUNTRY        | POLITICAL ENTITY                   | TYPE OF RELATION |
|----------------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Andorra        | Acció Per Andorra                  | Affiliate member |
| Armenia        | Armenian National Congress         | Affiliate Member |
| Armenia        | Bright Armenia                     | Affiliate Member |
| Azerbaijan     | Musavat Party                      | Affiliate Member |
| Georgia        | Free Democrats                     | Affiliate Member |
| Georgia        | Republican Party of Georgia        | Affiliate Member |
| Georgia        | Girchi-More Freedom                | Affiliate Member |
| Gibraltar      | Liberal Party of Gibraltar         | Affiliate Member |
| Moldova        | Partidul Liberal                   | Affiliate Member |
| Russia         | Partiya Narodnoy Svobody           | Affiliate Member |
| Ukraine        | Civic Position                     | Affiliate Member |
| Ukraine        | Syla Lyudey                        | Affiliate Member |
| United Kingdom | Alliance Party of Northern Ireland | Affiliate Member |



# EDP - European Democratic Party

## **European Democratic Party** Seat: Belgium

| Y TYPE OF RELATION |
|--------------------|
| a Observer Member  |
|                    |



**European Green Party** Seat: Belgium

| NON-EU POLITICAL FORMATIONS RELATED TO THE EUROPEAN POLITICAL PARTY |  |                  |
|---|--|------------------|
| COUNTRY   | POLITICAL ENTITY                       | TYPE OF RELATION |
| Albania   | Partia e Gjelber "Te Gjelbrit"         | Full rights      |
| Georgia   | Sak'art'velos mtsvanet'a partia        | Full rights      |
| Moldova   | Partidul Verde Ecologist               | Full rights      |
| Montenegro  | Građanski Pokret URA                   | Full rights      |
| North Macedonia   | Demokratska Obnova na Makedonija / DOM | Full rights      |
| Norway  | Miljøpartiet De Grønne                 | Full rights      |
| Switzerland   | Grüne / Les Vert.e.s                   | Full rights      |
| Ukraine   | Partija Zelenykh Ukrainy / PZU         | Full rights      |
| United Kingdom  | Green Party of England and Wales       | Full rights      |
| United Kingdom  | Scottish Green Party                   | Full rights      |
| Azerbaijan  | Azərbaycan Yaşıllar Partiyası          | Associate Member |
| Belarus   | Bielaruskaja Partyja "Zialonye"        | Associate Member |
| Russia  | Зеленая Россия / Green Russia          | Associate Member |
| Türkiye   | Yeşil Sol Parti                        | Candidate Member |



## European Free Alliance

Seat: Belgium

| COUNTRY        | POLITICAL ENTITY                      | TYPE OF RELATION |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Azerbaijan     | Democratic Party of Artsakh – DPA     | Full rights      |
| Serbia         | Liga Socijaldemokrata Vojvodine – LSV | Full rights      |
| United Kingdom | Mebyon Kernow – MK                    | Full rights      |
| United Kingdom | Plaid Cymru                           | Full rights      |
| United Kingdom | Scottish National Party – SNP         | Full rights      |
| United Kingdom | Yorkshire Party – YP                  | Full rights      |



## IDP/ID Party - Identité et Démocratie Parti

### Identité et Démocratie Parti

\*(formerly Mouvement pour une Europe des Nations et des Libertés) Seat: France

#### NON-EU POLITICAL FORMATIONS RELATED TO THE EUROPEAN POLITICAL PARTY

COUNTRY

POLITICAL ENTITY

**TYPE OF RELATION** 

IDP has not notified any relations to non-EU formations.



## ECRP/ECR Party - European Conservatives and Reformists Party

**European Conservatives and Reformists Party** \*(formerly Alliance of Conservatives and Reformists in Europe) Seat: Belgium

| COUNTRY                  | POLITICAL ENTITY                               | TYPE OF RELATION                    |
|--------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Albania                  | Republican Party of Albania                    | Participation without voting rights |
| Belarus                  | Popular Front Party                            | Participation without voting rights |
| Israel                   | Likud Movement                                 | Participation without voting rights |
| North Macedonia          | Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation | Participation without voting rights |
| Serbia                   | Enough is Enough                               | Participation without voting rights |
| United Kingdom           | Ulster Unionist Party                          | Participation without voting rights |
| United States of America | Republican Party                               | Participation without voting rights |



## Party of the European Left

Seat: Belgium

| NON-EU POLITICAL FORMATIONS RELATED TO THE EUROPEAN POLITICAL PARTY |   |                  |  |
|---|---|------------------|--|
| COUNTRY   | POLITICAL ENTITY                          | TYPE OF RELATION |  |
| Belarus   | Belarusian Party of the Left "Fair World" | Full rights      |  |
| Moldova   | Communist Party of Moldova                | Full rights      |  |
| Switzerland   | Labour Party of Switzerland               | Full rights      |  |
| Türkiye   | SOL Parti                                 | Full rights      |  |
| United Kingdom  | Left Unity                                | Full rights      |  |
| Serbia  | Solidarnost                               | Partner          |  |
| United Kingdom  | Socialists for Independence, Scotland     | Partner          |  |
| United Kingdom  | Democratic Left of Scotland               | Partner          |  |



## **European Christian Political Movement** Seat: Netherlands

| NON-EU POLITICAL FORMATIONS RELATED TO THE EUROPEAN POLITICAL PARTY |   |                  |  |
|---|---|------------------|--|
| COUNTRY   | POLITICAL ENTITY                                  | TYPE OF RELATION |  |
| North Macedonia   | INTEGRA - Macedonian Conservative Party (ИНТЕГРА) | Full rights      |  |
| Switzerland   | Evangelical People's Party                        | Full rights      |  |
| United Kingdom  | Christian Peoples Alliance                        | Full rights      |  |

# **APPENDIX 3: LIST OF NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS**

| Member State   | General National Contact Points in<br>accordance with Article 2(10) of Regulation<br>(EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014 | National Contact Points communicated<br>in the context of Article 10a of<br>Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014              |
|----------------|---|--|
| Austria        | Bundeskanzleramt (Federal Chancellery)  | Austrian Data Protection Authority and<br>Federal Ministry of the Interior, Unit<br>Cybersecurity and Technical Infrastructure |
| Belgium        | SPF Affaires étrangères/FOD Buitenlandse<br>Zaken   | Autorité de protection des données Centre pour la Cyber sécurité   |
| Bulgaria       |   | Commission for Personal Data Protection  |
| Croatia        | Ministry of Public Administration   | Croatian Personal Data Protection Agency   |
| Cyprus         | Ministry of Interior  | Office of The Commissioner for Personal<br>Data Protection   |
| Czech Republic | Ministry of Finance   | The Office for Personal Data Protection  |
| Denmark        | The Ministry of the Interior and Housing  | The Danish Data Protection Agency  |
| Estonia        | Ministry of Justice (Public Law Department)   | Estonian Data Protection Inspectorate  |
| Finland        | Ministry of Justice (Department for<br>Democracy and Public Law)  | Office of the Data Protection Ombudsman  |
| France         | Commission Nationale des Comptes de<br>Campagne et des Financements Politiques                                  | Commission Nationale de l'Informatique et des Libertés   |
| Germany        | Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community  | The Federal Commissioner for Data<br>Protection and Freedom of Information   |

| Member State | General National Contact Points in<br>accordance with Article 2(10) of Regulation<br>(EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014  | National Contact Points communicated<br>in the context of Article 10a of<br>Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014                 |
|--------------|--|---|
| Greece       | Ministry of Interior   | Hellenic Data Protection Authority  |
| Hungary      |  |   |
| Italy        | Commissione di garanzia degli statuti e per la<br>trasparenza e il controllo dei rendiconti dei<br>partiti politici  | Agency for National Cyber security  |
| Ireland      | Department of Housing, Planning and Local<br>Government  | Data Protection Commission Ireland  |
| Latvia       | Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau   | Data State Inspectorate of the Republic of<br>Latvia - Prevention Division  |
| Lithuania    | Central Electoral Commission of the Republic<br>of Lithuania (Political Parties and Political<br>Campaigns Funding Control Unit)                                 | State Data Protection Inspectorate<br>(Supervisory Division)  |
| Luxembourg   | Ministère d'État   | Commission nationale pour la protection des données   |
| Malta        | Office of the Electoral Commission (Electoral Office)  | Information and Data Protection<br>Commissioner   |
| Netherlands  | Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations<br>(Directorate Democracy Governance)   | Dutch Data Protection Authority   |
| Poland       | National Election Committee  | Personal Data Protection Office (UODO)  |
| Portugal     | Entitade das Contas e Financiamentos<br>Politícos – Tribunal Constitucional(Entity for<br>Political Financing and Accounts – Portuguese<br>Constitutional Court) | Comissão Nacional de Proteção de Dados;<br>Centro Nacional de Cibersegurança  |
| Romania      | Permanent Electoral Authority  | National Supervisory Authority for the<br>Processing of Personal Data; National<br>Computer Emergency Response Team of<br>Romania |
| Slovenia     | Agencija Republike Slovenije za javnopravne<br>evidence in storitve(Agency of the Republic of<br>Slovenia for Public Legal Records and Related<br>Services)      | Information Commissioner of the Republic of Slovenia  |

| Member State | General National Contact Points in<br>accordance with Article 2(10) of Regulation<br>(EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014 | National Contact Points communicated<br>in the context of Article 10a of<br>Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014       |
|--------------|---|---|
| Slovakia     | Ministry of Interior  | Office for Personal Data Protection of the<br>Slovak Republic (Úrad na ochranu<br>osobných údajov Slovenskej republiky) |
| Spain        | El Tribunal De Cuentas De España<br>(Department of Political Parties in the Spanish<br>Court of Audit)          | Agencia Española de Protección De Datos<br>(Spanish Data Protection Agency)   |
| Sweden       | Kammarkollegiet (The Legal, Financial and Administrative Services Agency)                                       | Datainspektionen (The Swedish Data<br>Protection Authority)   |