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(NOTE: UNOFFICIAL DOCUMENT FOR MEDIA USE)

The Authority for European Political Parties and European Political Foundations adopted a sanction decision concerning the European political party “Identité et Démocratie Parti” (“ID Party”) for intentionally providing incorrect information about its board composition to the public.

A fine of 5% of its annual budget is imposed on ID Party. It amounts to EUR 47 020,54.

The Director of the Authority explains: “*The legislator mandated the Authority to control and, in case of infringements, to sanction European political parties and European political foundations, and thus to contribute to a resilient democracy at European level. In this case, the Authority applied a key provision of EU legislation which requires a sanction to be imposed on European political parties that intentionally provide incorrect information. EU law thereby protects the rules-based, level playing field for democratic political debate.*”

Summary of facts and procedure:

ID Party informed the Authority in March 2022 that its board composition had changed. One of the persons that was no longer on the board as notified to the Authority however continued to be described as a board member in publications of ID Party, both on its website, and on social media posts.

Having identified in the course of its regular verifications inconsistencies between ID Party’s notifications and its publications, the Authority in March and April 2023 put a series of questions to ID Party about the board composition of ID Party, and more specifically about the history on the board of the person in question. ID Party reasserted that the person was no longer a board member, but that for technical reasons changes to its website were currently impossible due to ended contractual relations with the website service provider.

On 14 June 2023, the Authority informed ID Party of the opening of an investigation in relation to inaccurate information being provided by ID Party on the matter of its board composition since March 2022, and provided a provisional legal assessment whereby this was conduct subject to sanction. As required by Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014, ID Party was however first given the opportunity to comment and to adopt corrective measures.

In its reply of 13 July 2023, ID Party reconfirmed that the person in question was not a board member, and that it had removed website and the social media posts in question. The Authority however established that this allegation of removal was inaccurate as regards the social media posts, which continued to be online.

By letter of 11 September 2023 to ID Party, the Authority therefore provisionally concluded that an infringement subject to sanction had occurred, and that the measures taken did not remedy the situation, because the inaccurate social media publications were neither removed nor corrected. In accordance with applicable procedural rights, the Authority gave ID Party the opportunity to comment or provide further elements.

By letter of 28 September 2023, ID Party informed the Authority that it decided to keep the social media posts in question online, even though these publications inaccurately refer to the person in question as board member.

Since this latter element indicated that incorrect information was being provided intentionally, the Authority therefore, by letter of 11 October 2023, gave ID Party a complementary right to be heard indicating the potential new basis for sanction.

Having considered also ID Party's latest submissions in reply thereto, the Authority issued the sanction decision of 25 October 2023, in which it finds that ID Party intentionally provided incorrect information. The Authority recalls in particular that the requirement to provide accurate and complete information on facts of structure and finances serves the citizens, and that, irrespective of whether the Authority is itself deceived, intentionally providing incorrect information, including to the public, is subject to sanction.

Background:

In accordance with Article 10(4) of the Treaty on European Union, **European political parties contribute to forming European political awareness and to expressing the will of citizens of the Union**. European political parties are political alliances which pursue political objectives, composed of political parties at national level and citizens of the European Union, and registered by the Authority European Political Parties and European Political Foundations.

The Authority has been established by Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014 as an independent body of the European Union with a mandate consisting of three main aspects:

- It registers European political parties and European political foundations if they fulfil the conditions and requirements provided in the Regulation, which is a pre-condition to obtain funding from the European Parliament. The Authority also conducts regular **verifications** to ensure that all European political parties and European political foundations still fulfil the criteria on the basis of which they were registered. Currently, 10 European political parties and 10 European political foundations are registered by the Authority.
- Furthermore, 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 certain rules on the use of funding. In exercising its compliance controls, the Authority identifies potential infringements of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014 by a European political party or foundation and, subject to the opportunity to adopt corrective measures and the right to be heard, imposes a sanction on them, where the Regulation so provides.
- Taking into account its findings in the verification and compliance control processes, the Authority also provides **transparency services** to the citizens of the Union by publishing key sets of information on European political parties and European political foundations, in particular on structure of, as well as contributions and donations accepted by, European political parties and European political foundations.

Disclaimer: Please note that this press release is an unofficial document prepared for media use, which is not binding for the Authority for European Political Parties and European Political Foundations. The details of and reasons for the decision are published [here](#). Questions of the press can be addressed in writing to contact@appf.europa.eu.