The Benedictine Vision: A Charter for Conservative Values

At a time when the European cultural identity is being challenged by the increasing imposition of liberal progressive ideologies, expressed via "woke" narratives and "gender" theories, the ECR Group recognises the need to underscore the enduring principles that have shaped European values throughout history. We gather in Subiaco, a sacred place marked by the spirit of Saint Benedict, the Saint Patron of Europe, to articulate via a Charter of Values the core tenets that define conservatism, reinforcing our commitment to fostering a stable, just, and harmonious community.

1. **Europe is above all a historical and cultural concept. Upholding the teachings of Saint Benedict, we emphasize the importance of preserving our cultural heritage and traditional values. We share a common identity with deep roots in the Hellenistic, Roman and Christian tradition.**

2. **We do not accept the fake choice between more Europe and no Europe. Instead we believe that, while valuing cooperation among European nations, limiting any undue interference is essential for maintaining the unique cultural and historical identities of our Member States and guaranteeing national sovereignty.**

3. **We acknowledge the significance of humility in recognising the wisdom of those who came before us. Our commitment to tradition is not a rejection of progress but a recognition that enduring values are foundational to a stable and flourishing society.**

4. **We advocate for a society that embrace diversity of thought. We firmly oppose an EU intended as a tool for the realisation of a globalist agenda aiming to impose progressive single thinking and ethical relativism. Instead, we encourage open dialogue and respectful exchange of ideas, recognising the richness that comes from a variety of perspectives.**

5. **We stress the urgent need to align our progress with ethical considerations. By fostering a harmonious relationship between innovation and moral principles, we aim to build a society that not only thrives economically but also upholds the timeless values that contribute to the moral strength and resilience of our shared heritage.**

6. **We acknowledge the role of faith and morality in shaping a just and compassionate society. While respecting diverse beliefs, we recognise the positive influence that proper integration and shared moral principles can have on our communities.**

7. **Conservatism inherently embodies the essence of environmentalism, rooted in the etymology of the term "ecology" which underscores our unwavering commitment to safeguarding the balance of our ecosystems. Contrary to the mainstream green agenda, we believe human beings are integral to this balance, and we strive for the development of pragmatic, science-based policies that recognise the central role of people in balancing environmental sustainability and economic growth.**

8. **Nations must protect the right to life by finding increasingly effective ways to prevent conflicts and resolve them by peaceful means. We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.**

9. **Our continent is experiencing a profound demographic crisis that threatens its very existence. We advocate for measures that support birth rates and encourage families in their noble pursuit of parenthood. A stable and nurturing family environment provides the foundation for the well-being of individuals and the community at large.**

10. **We uphold the traditional family as the bedrock of society, cherishing its crucial role in nurturing future generations with love, stability and moral guidance. We stand firm against attempts to deconstruct the inherent distinctions between male and female, recognising that such ideologies erode the very fabric of our societal foundations. In promoting the preservation of traditional family values, we affirm our commitment to fostering communities grounded in the timeless virtues of respect, love and unity.**

11. **We champion an education system focused on excellence and meritocracy, where individuals are empowered to achieve their highest potential. This entails rejecting the imposition of ideological agendas in educational institutions and fostering an environment that encourages critical thinking.**

12. **Recognising the distraction posed by superficial divisive and fleeting trends (such as 'wokism' and gender theories), we underscore the importance of refocusing our vision for Europe on essential issues that truly affect our communities. We strive to build a society that is grounded in enduring values, fostering stability, harmony, and the well-being of all its members.**

Signed in Subiaco on 21 March 2024

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Co-Chairman Nicola Procaccini
On behalf of the ECR Group in the European Parliament