

Brussels, 22 October 2015

EPP Group archives policy

1. The EPP Group archives represent a priceless heritage which tells the story of the Group since it was established in 1953, the spiritual roots of its construction and its evolution through its activities in the European Parliament.

The EPP Group has always recognised the importance of disseminating its Christian democratic values and the historic role of its activities by entrusting the archiving of its documents to the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) in 1981. Under this agreement, all original documents (minutes of meetings, letters, notes, etc.) were automatically sent to the KAS at the end of each parliamentary term, with the Group retaining ownership of them.

2. **In 2008**, the Group developed a project related to the archiving of original documents by reorganising its archives to make them more visible and accessible to the public.

To that end, an Archives Service was set up with the assistance of an expert university archivist, Mr Godfried Kwanten, Director of Archives at KADOC-K.U., Leuven.

Initially, the service began rebuilding the archives in Brussels (using copies of the originals stored at the KAS) and classifying the material on paper on the basis of a scientific study. This material is kept in Room ASP 04H166, in which a 'Compactus' system has been installed.

Likewise, the books from the EPP Group Library (in Room ASP 04H146) have been catalogued and indexed.

3. **In 2009**, to meet the new challenges of the Internet world, following the birth of what is known as Web 2.0 – which revolutionised communication in general – it was decided to take a more modern approach and implement a radical change in archives management by enabling more direct access to information and faster consultation.

To do this, with the help of the Group's IT services, a project was developed for the creation of a website exclusively dedicated to the historical memory of the life of the EPP Group. Specific archives software (ADLIB-NL) was purchased by the Group to meet the new needs related to online archiving and consultation of documents. A solid database of archives, publications, photos, videos and sound recordings was set up, together with a consistent system of reference for digital documents and a Web crawler.

We then scanned, classified and digitised documents such as copies of originals received by the KAS from 1953 to 1999 and other documents already archived, in addition to a whole series of photos from 1949 onwards, to facilitate consultation on the Internet.

To complete the Group archives, we hope to be able to gain access to the documentation that the KAS received in the past from our former officials, which is highly likely to contain valuable documents related to the life and activities of the Group in its early years.

It is a unique project because the EPP Group is the only group in Parliament to have set up an archives centre, in keeping with the evolution of our group – the largest political group in the European Parliament.

This website, <http://eppgrouparchives.ep.parl.union.eu> , thanks to a simple or advanced search engine, enables visitors to insert key words and search for digital documents and photos, books, e-books, interviews, videos and MP3 recordings, which bear witness to the work done by our Group over more than half a century.

4. **In 2012** we officially launched the website to the Members and staff of the EPP Group in the European Parliament.

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The site was officially opened in July 2014 to certain foundations (set out below) which share our spiritual and political values, have a high scientific value and to whom we propose our collaboration by offering a cutting-edge interactive research service that will be vital in the digital world of the future:

- Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS)
- European University Institute (EUI) in Florence
- Cardoc, Historical Archives of the European Parliament
- Kadoc, Centre for Documentation and Research of the University of Leuven (KU Leuven)

The Archives Service is always available to carry out customised research and inform people of anything new related to their research.

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