



“Solidarity in the policy of the European institutions”

Meeting with Andrey Novakov, Bulgarian representative in the European Parliament

At the end of all discussions, in our opinion, it was important for delegates to be able to comment with a representative of the European Parliament the summary closing the meeting on the topics of the project. That is why we, as hosts, chose to invite Andrey Novakov — one of the seventeen Bulgarian representatives to the European Parliament, for a discussion on all current topics about Europe and the Union. 6

Andrey Novakov is a member of the European Parliament for a second consecutive term. For the past five years, he has been part of the European Parliament’s negotiating team for the annual budgets of the European Union. In addition to his work on the General Regulation on the management of EU funds, he is the REACT-EU rapporteur on measures to address the consequences of the COVID-19 crisis. Novakov is the EPP coordinator in the Committee on Regional Development (REGI) and participates in three other parliamentary committees — the Committee on Budgets (BUDG), the Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN), the Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT).

The discussion was really fruitful. Questions were raised related to the lifting of Bulgaria’s veto towards North Macedonia, the possibility of making an operational decision in the EU, cohesion policy, etc. The system for decision-making in response to crises in the EU is cumbersome and lazy. We saw this with COVID, now we see it in the situation of the measures imposed on Russia. We need an effective, adequate and fast crisis decision-making system”, said the Bulgarian representative in the European Parliament — Andrey Novakov. “It is important that the EU preserves the Cohesion Policy, because every euro brings benefits and added value,” Novakov said. He gave as an example infrastructure in Bulgaria that generates gross domestic product, including for countries in other parts of the Union. The current challenges facing Europe were discussed, of course the situations in Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans. Participants expressed concerns and concerns about whether the Union’s policies will withstand the pressure of economic indicators, the situation in Ukraine, the Union’s expansion. Other topical topics were commented, and the main conclusion was that as long as we respect the principles of peace, solidarity and mutual assistance, we will be a strong Union and we will overcome all obstacles in our way.