



INVITATION TO TENDER – ECR Party for period 2020/2021

European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) Party is Europe's leading Conservative movement. Since our foundation in 2009, we have become one of Europe's most important political movements. With more than 40 political parties and active representation in the European Parliament, Council of Europe, Committee of Regions and NATO Parliamentary Assembly.

We are united by our centre-right values, as expressed in the Reykjavik Declaration. The ECR Party is dedicated to individual liberty, national sovereignty, parliamentary democracy, private property, limited government, free trade, family values and the devolution of power. These values underpin our politics, including our vision for a reformed European Union.

Europe today stands at a crossroads, with the recent health crisis disrupting the ways and means political activities are held, therefore the ECR Party's agenda for reform has never been more. The ECR Party contributes to forming European political awareness and expresses the political will of citizens of the Union, through its overall political activity and especially these times of profound disruption through its successful and established online communication platform – *The Conservative*.

TheConservative.eu launched in 2016, is a standalone open access website serving as a platform for articles, interviews, presentations and other relevant submissions that inform and educate on the issues of the day.

Articles 11 and 12 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union state that the right to freedom of association at all levels, for example in political and civic matters, and the right to freedom of expression, which includes the freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers, are fundamental rights of every citizen of the Union. European citizens should be enabled to use those rights in order to participate fully in the democratic life of the Union. In light of the recent developments it is imperative that we do not put our activities on halt rather we improve our efforts and means to communicate effectively with European Citizens.

In the coming months and to counter the restrictions around physical political activity, the ECR is seeking to increase its communication efforts on a number of European public policy areas and broader ideological issues from a center-right perspective:

- Conservative ideology and political thought
- European Politics
- Eurozone, Finance and the Economy
- Defence, Foreign Policy and Security
- Energy and the Environment
- Immigration, Justice and Social affairs
- Accountability, Transparency and Efficiency
- Transatlantic Relations

We are seeking academic and policy experts, journalists, institutions, think-tanks or entrepreneurs/consultancies, to carry out a targeted communication strategy, informing on key socio-economic, political and cultural developments across Europe from a free-market & center-right perspective. This communication strategy aims to support, develop and grow the ECR Party and its engagement with European Citizens in forming European political awareness and in reflecting and expressing the will of citizens of the Union, by providing a broad, interdisciplinary platform for political analysis and debate.

Description of the services under this tender

The tender comprises of the following services:

- Consultation and preparation of specific articles on a proposed subject outline taken from the list of themes above;
- Provision of consultancy services in the form of regular interactions, discussions and direct consultations with ECR Party staff;
- Participating in regular meetings in Brussels, and when not possible through virtual means;
- Any other related services needed to deliver original articles.

GENERAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE TENDER

The articles aim to serve as a source of information on conservative political thought and current political and policy developments in the mode of (not exclusively):

- Opinion articles and other short communication: Opinion articles shall provide policy expertise, opinions, reflections and recommendations from policy practitioners and experts; should be no shorter than 600 words in length, and should model the tone of journalistic op-eds. They should not include academic footnotes or citations, but we encourage the use of hyperlinks.
- Reviews of books and articles: Book reviews shall offer informed critiques of recently released books and articles that deal with conservative politics, EU and international affairs, in no less than 600 words.
- Interviews: Interviews from experts on a relevant political issue topic or policy development of no longer than 1,500 words. This type of article should typically substitute for two opinion articles/reviews.

- **Research articles:** Research articles and political analysis letters shouldn't normally exceed no longer than 1,500 words. All articles should begin with an abstract, a paragraph of 100 words that summarizes the contribution, and references should be kept to a minimum. This type of article should typically substitute for two opinion articles/reviews.

All created content should be uploaded on the ECR Party's main communications platform – The Conservative and promoted on the ECR Party's main social media platforms.

Authors will also be asked to possibly provide consultancy services in the form of regular interactions and discussions on the subject field with ECR Party staff (amounting to no more than approximately 48 working hours).

Fee – travel and accommodation arrangements

In accordance with the conditions of the contract ECR Party intends to pay a fee no more than - €400 per article and corresponding consultancy services. Please note that ECR Party will similarly consider any service offers on a prorated basis.

In addition, and with respect to any physical meetings in Brussels, travel and accommodation arrangements will be made by the ECR Party.

All prices quoted must be exclusive of VAT, fixed and shall cover all costs borne in performance.

Submission provisions

Submission of a proposal implies that the candidate accepts all the terms and conditions set out in these specifications and in the contract.

AWARD CRITERIA

The ECR Party will select suppliers based on:

1. The overall cost and value for money
2. The ability to meet our required timescale, content and intellectual output
3. Previous experience in similar projects (track record of publishing research, academic, political articles and studies on issues relating to the subject fields) and demonstrable professional standing.
4. Competitive market offer, in more than one official European languages

In the event a candidate is shortlisted for more than one proposal, ECR Party will autonomously determine which proposal(s) will be retained. Candidates will only be awarded a contract to the value of €48,000 maximum, per annum.

Reservations

Withdrawal from Process – ECR Party reserves the right to withdraw from the tender process described in this document for whatever reason, prior to the signing of any Agreement/Contract with any party for the delivery of goods or services described in this document.

Lowest Cost Proposal – The lowest cost proposal, or any proposal, will not necessarily be accepted.

Negotiation – ECR Party reserves the right to negotiate with short-listed tenderers after the nominated closing date for tender submission.

Part Offers – ECR Party reserves the right to accept tenders in relation to some and not all of the scope of activity described, or appoint one, more than one or no organisation on the basis of the tenders received.

Costs - All costs incurred in the preparation of the proposal are the supplier's responsibility and ECR Party is not obliged to award a contract for these services and reserves the right to withdraw from the procurement process at any stage.

Conflicts of Interest Declaration

Tenderers (including their officers, employees, contractors, partners and consultants) must declare to ECR Party any matter or issue which is, may be perceived to be or may lead to, a conflict of interest regarding their proposal or participation in supply of the services described. Tenderers must describe a strategy so that any possible conflict of interest shall be avoided.

Financial and economic capacity:

By responding to this call, candidates declare on honour that they have the financial and economic capacity to deliver the services.

Publication and copyright issues

ECR Party envisages publishing the articles on its main communications platform – The Conservative. The ECR Party will retain the copyright and ownership of articles but can make them available for cross-posting in other platforms with the correct attributions and with direct link back to the ECRP or The Conservative Online portal, in order to achieve maximum exposure and promotion of the issues, and ideas.

Tender Response Letter & Tender Response Form

Where possible, ECR Party advises that the Tenderer uses both the Tender Response Letter & Tender Response Form template.

Further information

Information of a clarifying nature can be requested solely in writing via email to Themistoklis Asthenidis at t.asthenidis@ecrparty.eu

Tenders should be submitted by post to ECR Party, Rue du Trone 4, Brussels 1000, Belgium by 15 June 2020. ECR Party reserves the right to extend this deadline. The assessment procedure is carried out throughout the year and only successful candidates will be informed. ECR Party reserves the right to request reference information.

This document does not constitute an offer to provide goods and/or services to ECR Party.

ANNEX 1 of 2

[insert LOGO, ADDRESS & RELEVANT DETAILS]

Tender Response Letter

Re: ECR Party 2020 Invitation to Tender - ECRPCOMMS042020

[insert DATE]

Dear ECR Party:

Please find enclosed our response to your Invitation to Tender.

We acknowledge and agree that:

1. We have read and reviewed all parts of the 'Invitation to Tender' and accepts its terms and conditions;
2. Our tender constitutes offers for service(s) tendered;
3. If our tender is successful, a formal contract for the supply of the relevant service(s) will be formed and entered into, and we will provide the service(s) in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in the contract, guided by the Invitation to Tender;
4. ECR Party is not bound to accept the lowest offer it receives, and
5. The information provided in this response is accurate and complete and the person signing this Tender Response Letter is duly authorised to do so.

The contact person for correspondence regarding our tender is:

Name: [REDACTED]

Position: [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

ANNEX 2 of 2

[insert LOGO, ADDRESS & RELEVANT DETAILS]

Tender Response Form

Re: ECR Party 2020 Invitation to Tender - ECRPCOMMS042020

No.	NUMBER OF ARTICLES	SUBJECT AREA	Tendered Value [EURO/Equivalent]
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			

The contact person for correspondence regarding our tender is:

Name:

Position:

Yours sincerely