

Other American Progressive Organizations





YOUR EUROPE, YOUR FREEDOM:

DELIVERING CHANGE FOR YOU

From crisis resolution to delivering positive change for our common future

In the last few years, we have been rudely awakened. The pandemic, Russia's atrocious war against Ukraine and the cost-of-living crisis it triggered has put all of us to the test. It has been a stark reminder that we cannot and should not take our democracies, peace, and economic opportunities for granted.

Despite the social and economic hardship, you, the European citizens have shown impressive resilience and solidarity. Equally, the European Union has demonstrated that it can and does deliver on what really matters, when it really matters. We have come together on core issues previously thought impossible. During the war against Ukraine, we stand united against attacks on democratic values, and we are seeing individuals from across Europe volunteering to fight in the Armed Forces of Ukraine against Russian aggression, supporting and helping our democratic neighbours. During this energy crisis, we stood united to find solutions to support you with the increasing cost of living. During the pandemic, pooling and sharing medical equipment and resources, jointly investing in the development of and purchase of vaccines. It has not always been easy, and there have been bumps along the way. But we have accomplished what was unimaginable five years ago.

It is time to build on this. As Europe's centrist force of liberal and democratic parties, we share the desire and impatience for better, easier times. By moving forward together, we can and will overcome the ongoing threats to our internal and external security, economic challenges, and climate crisis. Europe needs to become less complicated, and this includes strengthening the principle of subsidiarity. We should not associate the EU with over-regulation or bans, but with simple, quick and comprehensible solutions to the challenges of our time. We will fight to make Europe a safe and prosperous place to live. Uncertainty comes with change, but in every change, there is opportunity. We are committed to find a way through science to make sure these changes create jobs, maintain our welfare model, and uphold our world class schools, daycares, and hospitals, and bring open strategic autonomy to key sectors. Our aspiration is that you and future generations have the freedom to choose your own life path.

That is why, as the liberal force in Europe we want to focus on:

- **Keep Europe free, safe and democratic:** Help Ukraine win the war, enhance our defence capabilities and economic security for Europe's increased independence.
- **Boost economic growth for your freedom:** Invest in your skills, and digital and sustainable technologies to create jobs, reduce our dependencies and decouple growth from the use of natural resources, rising negative climate and health impacts.
- **Earn your trust through action and reform:** Give you a say in how your country and Europe are run and create efficient and transparent institutions, holding accountable those that breach the law.



**KEEP EUROPE FREE,
SAFE AND
DEMOCRATIC**

Keep Europe free, safe and democratic

It is time for us to take action and deliver on our promises to maintain freedom, openness and democracy. Europe must stand on its own feet and act in our own right to guarantee your security and safety, but we must continue collaborating with democratic allies while reducing dependence on single suppliers, especially from authoritarian regimes.


We have witnessed how the war against Ukraine has brought us together as a united continent, demonstrating our commitment to defending democracy and security in a positive and responsive manner. It is vital that we reaffirm our long-term commitment to Ukraine in its quest for stability and progress.



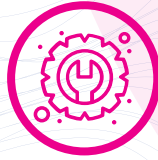
ALDE Party fights for: Make Europe a safe place to live

- While maintaining a balance and avoiding overlapping between EU defence cooperation and NATO, all European countries must invest in pan-European defence capability. It is vital to invest in advanced cooperation in the European Defence Union across land, sea, air, and space as well as research and development to improve the European capacity to act independently, boosting European production capacity and creating the conditions to enable synergies between our countries' militaries, without duplicating or replacing NATO-structures and while acknowledging that NATO remains the primary structure for military cooperation.
- Base and focus a new, revised and enhanced EU defence policy on the speedy and effective development of EU's own military industrial and production capabilities, with Ukraine being an active participant, contributor and partner in the upcoming large-scale investment programmes in the relevant sectors. Establish a European Commissioner for Defence, to ensure a unified approach to EU security and defence policy.
- Set a clear mission to build a European Defence Union in close cooperation with European and NATO partners by 2040, allowing Europe to defend its territory, provide collective security to its citizens, and to counter fragmentation and give an impulse to standardisation between our armed forces to boost safety and cooperation. The European Defence Union will use its considerable means - the triple D of diplomacy, development and defence - to defend European values. It will be prepared to deploy military capacity efficiently and quickly.
- Develop autonomous European strategic military capacity and make it permanently available. Augment the EU pillar within NATO by strengthening our Permanent Structured Cooperation mechanism to create a high level of efficiency, recognising some member states maintain neutrality while actively participating in peacekeeping missions and pursuing a values-based foreign policy.
- Bolster our European defence industry to strengthen our open strategic autonomy.
- Strengthen the EU's role on the global stage by acting as one: shift to qualified majority voting in foreign affairs, defence and security policy, preventing individual countries from obstructing our joint ability to act, enhance the roles of the High Representative and the European External Action Service, and give the EU a seat in the UN Security Council.
- Introduce a military area of free movement to guarantee your security and be able to move our military personnel and weaponry quicker within Europe. Come up with a concrete defence investment plan worth of €100bn, which will be used to bolster Europe's defence industry.
- Establish foundational rules governing states' use of digital technologies in warfare and boost EU joint capacity to act and respond to the evolving digital threats and disinformation, including through public private partnerships and rapid information exchange between countries to safeguard our collective digital infrastructure, ensuring a resilient cyber landscape, and keep investing and prioritising digital technologies so the EU will not fall behind.

- 
- In our strategic geopolitical stance, we stand in unity with Ukraine, pledging increased military assistance until Ukraine's victory, and post-war reconstruction support, including identifying a legal mechanism to utilise frozen Russian assets and ensure accountability. We will create a European Union Special Representative for Ukrainian Military assistance and Reconstruction. We support Ukraine's full membership of NATO and the EU to increase both Ukraine's and Europe's security, with all the security guarantees it entails.
 - Implement Magnitsky-style targeted sanctions on Chinese officials and other members of the Chinese Communist Party who violate human rights in Xinjiang, Tibet and Hong Kong under the National Security Law and protect any resident in Europe from extradition to China.
 - Oppose any attempts by China to challenge Taiwan's right to determine its own future, or to unilaterally change the status quo in the Taiwan straits, especially through the use of force.
 - Step up the fight against foreign interference in all democratic processes in the European Union, including disinformation, as well as political instrumentalisation by third countries.
 - Tackle the rise in drug-related crime in Europe, which has become a prime market for international drug traffickers. Increase collaboration between Europol, Interpol and national law enforcement agencies through enhanced information and data exchange for all serious cross-border and organised crime.



Without peace there is no prosperity. Europe's security needs a serious makeover. The shockwave from Russia's war against Ukraine, the unrelenting menace of terrorism, and the growing security concerns because of China's policies have shown us that our current systems simply are not cutting it anymore. We must strengthen Europe's autonomous capabilities and maintain an open and collaborative approach with like-minded countries to strengthen our global influence and address main challenges. We firmly oppose governments suppressing minorities and violating human rights and commit to safeguarding our own economic and strategic interests and a sustainable and equitable world order.



ALDE Party fights for: Enlargement as a tool for reform and security

- Reaffirm our commitment to an open-door policy for the European countries that fulfil the Copenhagen criteria and make sure that the EU sends strong signals that compliance of the criteria and benchmark achievements brings tangible results. In that sense, our ambition is to ensure that the countries of the Western Balkans, Moldova, Georgia, and Ukraine are ready to meet all accession criteria by 2029. Besides meeting the Copenhagen criteria, EU candidate countries should align themselves with the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP). The EU will seek close cooperation on foreign affairs and security policies with like-minded European countries outside of the EU, like the UK and Norway.
- Invite candidate countries to participate in the next EU elections by offering them observer non-voting status in the European Parliament and other EU institutions until their full membership, as done previously.
- Build on the Windsor Framework Agreement to enable the EU to develop a closer relationship with the United Kingdom.
- Welcome the European Political Community as a forum to bring European countries to the table, though not an alternative to EU membership.
- Invest in core public infrastructure and connectivity, with a special emphasis on improving electrical and transportation systems. Guarantee equal opportunities for educational institutions in all candidate countries, comparable to those associated with the Erasmus+ Programme, and support initiatives in candidate countries and prospective candidates, such as the concept of "Roam like at Home" between the EU and Western Balkans.
- Prepare the EU for further enlargement. Reform the EU decision-making procedure to ensure efficiency also with a larger number of Member States and diverging views. Reform the EU budget so it is ready to absorb financial consequences of enlargement.

EU accession benefits us from the political, economic, and security perspectives. The EU, its values and standards remain the great unifying factor for all the people of the Western Balkans, Moldova, Georgia, and Ukraine. It is crucial to support the development of our sister countries to work their way to candidate status and stabilise the region, push for integration and counter disruptive efforts from Russia, China, and other disruptive countries.



ALDE Party fights for: Enhance Europe's economic security

- Revive the push for EU trade and investment agreements with open, market-based economies such as the US, Australia, Mercosur, selected African partners and the Indo-Pacific region based on international commitments to rule of law, human rights, biodiversity and climate, reciprocity in market access and adherence to existing WTO rules. The EU must conclude ongoing negotiations, start new talks with other partners and speed up the ratification of all trade agreements and investment protection agreements that have already been concluded, with the exception of the investment agreement with China.
- Achieve a trans-Atlantic free trade agreement with the US as the best way to fulfil our shared climate objective and create jobs and growth opportunities, while reducing the negative consequences of the US Inflation Reduction Act on the EU.
- Reduce dependency on regimes that do not share our European values using a de-risking and diversification principle. The Comprehensive Agreement on Investment (CAI) agreed with China can only be revisited once Chinese counter-sanctions on European elected officials and scholars are completely removed, and when the agreement provides real commitments and results from China on human rights, democracy, labour, environment, market access and intellectual property protections for European companies.
- Deliver a bilateral investment agreement between the EU and Taiwan to enhance our open strategic autonomy for our high tech and sustainable industries.
- Explore joining the Trans-Pacific Partnership and establishing an economic security council of like-minded countries.

The cost-of-living crisis, the pandemic and global lockdowns and conflicts have shown that we rely too much on countries that do not share our values. This puts our democracy, economy, and way of life in danger. However, free trade remains key to bring you growth and jobs. It is only by strengthening trade that we can strengthen our economy and ability to act independently, working in your and the EU's best interest while setting standards worldwide. Not to close the EU off to the world but work even more closely with the United States and partners who share our values, economic model, and environmental and climate objectives.



**BOOST ECONOMIC
GROWTH FOR
YOUR FREEDOM**

Boost economic growth for your freedom

Our economic freedom, today and tomorrow's jobs and our ability to tackle climate change depend on the successful shift to a sustainable and digital economy that empowers you. We can turn these major changes into opportunities if we clearly and strictly prioritise and target EU money.

This is not just a question of spending levels, but how we spend it. The EU already has a 1.1 trillion-euro investment capacity until 2027, easily measuring up to our economic competitors. But we are too slow to spend this money, and spread it too thin over too many overlapping programmes. By the end of 2023, only 1/3 of the EU pandemic recovery fund had been used. All EU policies and economic instruments should be spent on and in support of the shift to the sustainable and digital economy.

EU public investments cannot stand on their own. Our businesses' ability to invest in and deliver a sustainable, competitive economy depends equally much on Europe being an attractive and easy place to do business. We must make it easier for businesses to invest, grow and expand within Europe. This means breaking down barriers and cutting red tape for entrepreneurs, small and large businesses in Europe. Keeping our markets open and resilient against hostile activities and malign behaviour and actors encouraging healthy competition and harnessing digitalisation is the only way forward.



ALDE Party fights for: An EU spending compass - sustainable, efficient, digital

- Consolidate the EU's many budgetary programmes, funds, and facilities to simplify spending and clearly prioritise investments and innovation in the sustainable and digital transformation, resilience, and security across Europe, taking into account the real costs and benefits of investments for your future prosperity, resilience and security.
- Shorten time for EU money to reach you and bring benefits in your community. Provide municipalities with more direct access to EU programmes such as the European social funds and open more avenues for direct funding for municipalities, cities, and civil society organisations. For nationally and centrally managed investment programmes, prevent duplication with additional national layers and rules and provide digital, "one-stop" application procedures to ensure Europe achieves the economies of scale of our global competitors.
- Ensure funding programmes, in particular regional and social funds, are robust and flexible enough to adapt to strategic challenges, including security, sustainability, and the digital transformation. These programmes should be capable of being directed for crisis response targeted at communities and citizens, when needed. Rather than creating additional red tape and administrative processes.
- New EU resources from the Emissions Trading System (ETS), the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism and the international tax on multinationals should be fit for purpose and earmarked to the sustainable, resilient and digital transition, not just a way to fill gaps in the general budget.
- Prioritise EU public investments that have a cross-border dimension in order to achieve the economies of scale that the Single Market offers and promote industrial cooperation across the EU. Enforce the EU's State Aid rules and avoid a generalisation of national subsidies that risk fragmenting the Single Market.
- Adapt fiscal rules that promote healthy and prudent fiscal policies and do not open up for Member States to spend beyond their means. New fiscal rules must incentivise countries to reorient public investments towards the sustainable and digital transition. Any flexibility should not create distortions in the Single Market. Pensions and social security policies should ensure fairness to both current and future generations, through reform ensuring long term solvency in light of changing demographics and ageing populations.

Major crises have forced the EU to target and clearly prioritise funds towards strategic challenges: investing in your security and ensuring you benefit from the sustainable and digital transformation. The current inflation and debt accumulated due to the pandemic and energy crisis are challenges that require targeted investment and healthy budgetary management by the EU and Member States. European liberals will deliver a resilient EU economic system through pragmatic and enforceable budgetary policies geared towards smart investments and budgetary discipline.



ALDE Party fights for: A competitive European market for you and businesses to thrive

- An ALDE-led Commission would put the Single Market, which is still the backbone of our competitiveness and ability to create jobs, back on the EU agenda. Advancing and modernising our Single Market is the only way to genuinely enhance Europe's open strategic autonomy; through efficient regulation, increased economic integration and removal of all internal borders and existing barriers for products, services and public procurement, making sure our innovators can access venture capital and investor funds across Europe.
- Deepen both the European Capital Markets Union and the European Banking Union. On the primary capital market, the aim is to create better financing opportunities for private investments. A strong European capital market is needed to finance these investments.
- Prioritise cutting administrative burdens and red tape by following the simple principle of "one market, one rule". Increase European Parliamentary scrutiny on implementation to ensure that, once something has been regulated at the European level, the same rule, not 27 variations of it, applies across our internal market.
- Eliminate the need for European businesses, large and small, to jump through 27 national translations and agencies just to sell their goods and services. Equally, areas such as defence equipment, subsidies, and infrastructure should whenever possible be adapted to fulfil one common standard, rather than separate ones across member states.
- Support industries of all sizes across a wide variety of sectors, by enabling European innovative industries to scale up and go global and by maintaining the EU as an attractive investment destination for foreign businesses. Not by picking the winners and relying on industrial "champions".
- Provide equal opportunities for companies in taxation, while respecting national right to taxation. Member States are competing with each other with fiscal benefits that work for larger companies and undermine public spending. Simplify tax reporting arrangements and administration for workers and businesses operating across borders within the EU, and support the implementation of the Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base (CCCTB), to create a fairer and simpler corporation tax system across Europe.
- Protect the integrity of our internal market by making sure Europe's economic rulebook is fit for purpose to ensure all businesses play by the same rules and focus on better enforcement of EU legislation in all Member States.

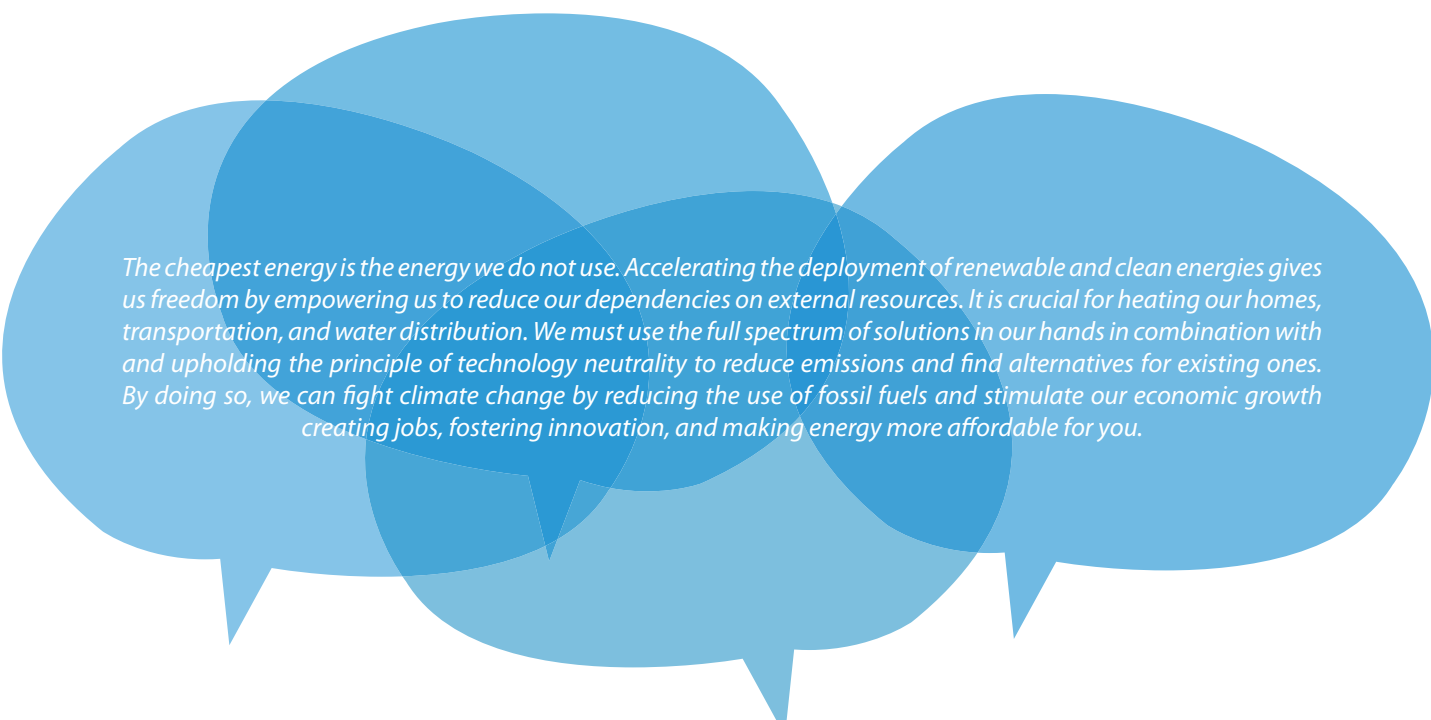
The Single Market is the strongest and most successful part of the European integration and is setting standards worldwide. By creating a strong internal market, we have lowered costs, increased choice, and quality for you as a consumer, and created opportunities for our businesses to grow and create jobs. However, the internal market is still incomplete. We advocate for a frictionless Single Market that ensures an equal and competitive business environment at the EU level, while protecting consumers. Instead of focusing on subsidies for large national companies, the EU should focus on structural competitiveness of the Single Market with special attention to small and medium-sized businesses and entrepreneurs, as they are the main job providers of the economy. The Single Market is Europe's industrial strategy and the road to open strategic autonomy.



ALDE Party fights for: Accelerate energy saving and the deployment of renewable and clean energy

- Prioritise implementation of adopted energy and climate rules to reach our targets, including the 2040 target proposed by the European Commission, and ambitions to ensure you can fully benefit from and adapt to the sustainable transition. Empower the European Environmental Agency to become a fully operational authority ensuring consistent implementation of environmental standards across the EU and supporting the member states on this.
- To effectively manage geopolitical risks, it is imperative to consciously reduce dependence on external resources, especially those from non-democratic countries, notably Russia and China, placing a greater emphasis on this strategic imperative. This approach will enhance the resilience and autonomy of our funding programmes, ensuring they are better aligned with our broader geopolitical and security goals.
- Invest in all types of renewable, carbon-neutral, low-carbon and waste-based energy sources, including nuclear energy, complemented by carbon removal, capture and storage technologies. Increase public and private collaboration and investments in grid capacity and storage. Embrace the use of nuclear power as a tool that can accelerate decarbonisation by reducing reliance on gas, oil and coal power, while strongly rejecting the idea of “green” natural gas.
- Accelerate energy efficiency and savings by empowering you to optimise energy use and insulate and renovate your homes through incentives, digital solutions, and the creation of “one-stop” renovation offices, where you can easily access all the information and services required for your renovations. Governments must lead by example by promoting energy efficiency programmes for public facilities.
- Simplify, shorten, and speed up the digitalisation of licensing and permitting procedures of renewable energy and energy efficiency projects across EU Member States.
- Deepen electricity interconnections between Member States to improve the efficiency and integration of EU electricity markets, increase security of supply and reduce dependency on third-country suppliers. We must ensure that the EU interconnection target of at least 15% by 2030 is reached.
- Expand the scope of the European Emissions Trading System (ETS) to cover all remaining carbon-polluting sectors and develop a technology-neutral certification system for verified negative emissions.

- 
- Develop a European strategy for the bioeconomy, including the sustainable use of biomass incorporating land use considerations.
 - Facilitate intra-European cooperation across sectors, such as a functional pan-European rail network as well as research, innovation, and development and deployment of clean technologies. The European Investment Bank should contribute with investments in critical products and projects within green energy production, technology, and infrastructure, to ensure competitiveness against non-EU manufacturers, and ensure open strategic autonomy for the EU.
 - Enable decarbonisation for all types of transport, whether cargo or passenger, through infrastructure development, including the completion of missing cross-border transport connections, electrification of public transport and charging infrastructure in less densely populated areas, active mobility across national, regional, and local levels as well as using sustainable and innovative technologies to decarbonise the freight and heavy goods transport.




The cheapest energy is the energy we do not use. Accelerating the deployment of renewable and clean energies gives us freedom by empowering us to reduce our dependencies on external resources. It is crucial for heating our homes, transportation, and water distribution. We must use the full spectrum of solutions in our hands in combination with and upholding the principle of technology neutrality to reduce emissions and find alternatives for existing ones. By doing so, we can fight climate change by reducing the use of fossil fuels and stimulate our economic growth creating jobs, fostering innovation, and making energy more affordable for you.



ALDE Party fights for: A digital transformation that empowers citizens and businesses

- Ensure a stable and clear digital rulebook to foster private investment, by focusing on the implementation of recently adopted rules. When new digital legislation is needed to address new consumer protection and potential harm, such regulation should focus on incentives, technological openness, the protection of citizens' data and privacy and the power of innovation to free up space for more investments. Ensure that digital technologies contribute to building democratic, creative, and humanistic public domain and force regulations which support its enlargement.
- Accelerate deployment of secure, resilient, very high-capacity networks using already allocated funds to bridge the connectivity gap, in particular in small cities, rural and remote areas by streamlining approval processes and strengthening public-private partnerships. Support the green transition by ensuring high quality mobile network connectivity, capacity, and latency on railways. Ensure all such critical digital infrastructure complies with European and international security standards and does not create vulnerabilities and exposure to foreign interference from hostile state and non-state actors.
- Embrace the potential of new digital tools such as artificial intelligence to boost our economy and improve our lives. Foster a European-specific vision of artificial intelligence as a human-centric innovation that prevents authoritarian practices through rules to protect our fundamental rights. European digital tools should reflect European values and contribute to tackling climate change, fostering individual freedom and equality of opportunity, and enhancing democratic participation. Create a safe online environment by protecting you from disinformation made by foreign governments, through the enforcement of recent digital rules, the EU Code of Conduct on Disinformation, and a European Digital Watchdog. Ensure that the online environment is a safe space for all users, in particular women and girls, and addresses the increase of cyberbullying.
- Foster vocational programmes to urgently upskill key professions, in areas such as manufacturing, education, cybersecurity, healthcare, and agriculture with digital know-how to accelerate the digital transition and increase competitiveness. Vocational certificates should be recognised throughout Europe.

- 
- Foster digital equality by allocating European Social Fund (ESF), where legally possible, and Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) resources for the development of digital competencies among adults, via employers and workplaces, with a specific focus on targeting vulnerable groups such as the elderly, those with low competencies (early school leavers), individuals with disabilities, and residents of underdeveloped regions. Additionally, enhancing the digital skills of students and teachers in public education is of paramount importance. This can be achieved through the development and implementation of a programme by the EU, which also defines a jointly-agreed minimum level of outcome competencies.
 - Increase European, as well as attract highly skilled professionals to meet the growing demand by the digital sector, with a specific support given to women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), in order for the European digital sector to compete globally. With our societies becoming more digital, we need to increase the digital literacy and skills of all citizens to be safe and secure online.



We support a safe digital environment open to innovation and competitive for our small businesses and entrepreneurs. In the last decade, the EU has made a major push in regulating digital businesses in favour of competition, privacy, and equal opportunities in our Single Market, as well as safety for consumers. These rules are milestones on the global stage, but for the European model to be successful, they need to be fully and correctly implemented. New legislation should prevent over burdening businesses with regulatory contradiction and duplication. In the future it will not be the digital economy, the economy will be digital. We support bold action for a fair and competitive digital transformation.



ALDE Party fights for: A sustainable agriculture system that guarantees food production and safeguards biodiversity

- Reform the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) with the aim of lifting bureaucratic burdens for farmers and supporting a sustainable food production with respect for biodiversity and animal welfare. Streamline the distribution of existing funds and incentivise the adoption of sustainable practices and tools such as crop rotation, biochar to reduce carbon leakage and precision farming. The main purpose of the future CAP should be to compensate farmers for these collective goods that the market does not take into account, and which we expect them to provide. Reduction of bureaucratic burden for small and middle size farmers is of importance especially in some Member States.
- Introduce new rules for genetically-engineered crops to increase productivity and to reduce the amount of pesticides used.
- Actively share data, foster innovation, and invest in breakthrough technologies to make better decisions, manage our resources efficiently, address the effects of climate change, make groundbreaking advancements in agriculture and fisheries and safeguard biodiversity.

We want to foster an environment where you can thrive and seize opportunities, whilst mitigating the challenges of climate change, keeping food affordable, securing our food systems, and promoting rural development. We are committed to supporting and providing opportunities for consumers and farmers to adapt to the sustainable transition while reducing our agricultural sector's climate impact. This significant shift can be done with collective effort and responsibility. Adopting sustainable agriculture and food system is essential for our well-being and to give farmers and fishers - whether small or big - a long-term perspective and predictability while safeguarding biodiversity, ocean, and water systems, preserving natural resources, and fostering economic growth.



ALDE Party fights for: An innovative, diversified and circular economy

- Provide businesses with incentives to invest in and adopt sustainable production to decouple economic growth from use of primary resources, including via diversification, reuse, and repair. Empower you to make informed decisions through carbon footprint transparency on product labels, as well as changing the rules on the date marking of food products.
- Vigorously oppose premature obsolescence across all commercial and industrial sectors, in alignment with our commitment to promoting the reuse and repair of electronic appliances.
- Tackle waste efficiently through innovative product design and packaging. Explore the possibilities of an EU-wide deposit return scheme for packaging and advanced container standards. Promote investments in waste management and recycling facilities within Europe. Encourage food donations and make it easy to avoid food waste.

We are committed to use our resources more efficiently and move to a circular economy, to reduce our dependencies on importing critical raw materials, especially those we need for clean energy and environmental improvements such as electric vehicles, smartphones, or solar panels. The EU is currently using more natural resources than our planet can replace in a year, causing climate change and harming biodiversity, while also making products more expensive and harder to get. We must harness the opportunity of renewables, innovative technologies, and nature-based solutions to move to a circular and sustainable economy. This will not only improve our quality of life, but also secure vital resources for our businesses, make less waste and protect the environment.



ALDE Party fights for: Equip you with the right set of skills for the digital and sustainable transition

- Continuously support the Bologna Process and further develop the European Universities Initiative to ensure a thriving and durable European higher education system; this is vital to promote your lifelong learning and a genuinely mobile labour force, and that is prepared for the digital and green transitions.
- Ensure every European child learns at least one foreign language starting from primary school to enable them to communicate outside their Member State, regardless of their level of education.
- Embrace transformative education strategies that foster opportunities for all children regardless of their background while incorporating a vision that prepares our children for the digital and green transitions ahead.
- Provide apprenticeships for the mid-career and extend the Erasmus+ programmes to students at all educational levels to ensure that everyone is skilled to contribute to our labour force, regardless of age.
- Grant EU-sponsored summer Interrail passes to all young Europeans completing a vocational degree to reward beneficial career choices to the European economy and to make Europe's riches known to the many, not the few.
- Implement fast lanes (EU blue card) to attract highly skilled specialists from outside Europe in key sectors such as engineering, sustainable and digital technologies, and healthcare, but also lower skilled labour. Efforts should be made to facilitate third-country nationals holding national work permits to work in other Member States.
- Facilitate legal pathways for labour migration within and across the EU, by implementing an EU talent pool and simplifying the connection between employers and third-country nationals in areas with labour shortages in Member States.

A dynamic and resilient labour market is essential to ensure you will be able to seize the opportunities from the digital and sustainable transitions. We must build a labour market that is adaptable, inclusive, and capable of supporting you in acquiring the skills and qualifications you need to thrive and have continuous opportunities, whether you live in North, South, East or West, city or countryside.



EARN YOUR TRUST THROUGH ACTION AND REFORM

Earn your trust through action and reform

European Liberals are at the forefront of defending the rule of law, your civic freedoms and your fundamental rights and ensuring your safety. Attacks on democracy are growing, while attraction to authoritarianism, populism, nationalism and identitarianism increases in many Member States. We should not be complacent, but be the first ones fighting against cynicism.

Defending democracy needs ongoing commitment. As liberals, we must remember that democracy is not only about elections. Democracy is about protecting your individual rights, freedom, and rule of law, ensuring the right tools to tackle crime and keep you safe, and empowering you to shape your own destiny and make your voice heard. Achieving strong, stable, democratic, and functional institutions at every political level remains our main goal.

The EU is a unique democratic project, but reforms are needed to earn your trust. We want to build a space where national, local, and European politicians connect with you to create fair, efficient, and transparent institutions, and hold accountable those that breach the rule of law.

A liberal democracy has three basic features: democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law. Only when all three conditions are working we can talk about a functioning democracy.

In such a society everyone can trust that they will enjoy the fruits of their own endeavours, and that authorities are equally bound by the principle that nobody is above the law. In order for the internal market of the EU to work, the rule of law must be respected. By respecting the rule of law, corruption can be fought, and an investment friendly climate is created.



ALDE Party fights for: Institutional reform to strengthen your voice in the EU

- Reform the EU elections. Give you the choice to vote for any European representative who best represents your ideals, also if they have another nationality. ALDE Party continues to fight for transnational voting lists.
- Reform the EU treaties to strengthen your active participation and increase transparency and accountability for the EU to meet your needs and key concerns. Open the European Commission consultation process to encourage more citizen engagement, your engagement, including by better integrating local communities and subnational governments such as local and regional authorities, responsible for executing most EU laws and managing half of the EU's public investment, are crucial for providing feedback on EU operations at the grassroots level.
- Transform the European Commission into a true political leadership body and ensure efficient governance and decision-making by breaking down the siloed approach, which leads to overlapping and contradictory legislation. Implement the "one in, one out" approach where possible, ensuring that with each new regulation introduced, an equivalent existing one is eliminated to avoid redundancy in the same policy area.
- Advocate for a single seat for the European Parliament, with right to initiate legislation and power to cast a no-confidence vote against any member of the European Commission.
- Encourage Member States to celebrate and mark Europe Day by declaring it a national holiday, following the example of Luxembourg.

It is time to develop functional mechanisms that regain your trust and allow for a meaningful involvement. We believe in a Europe where your voice is prominent, and you have a role to play in shaping the decisions that affect your life. It is only by having stronger EU institutions and vital channels of communication that your concerns and aspirations will be adequately represented in the decision-making processes. Through citizen initiatives such as the Conference of the Future of Europe, we have learned what changes you want. Now, it is time to implement and continue fighting for reform to reassure you that your future is in safe hands.



ALDE Party fights for: Defend the rule of law and slash corruption

- Make full use of the conditionality principle in Article 7 and expand the annual rule of law report scope to include all values in Article 2 to protect and promote the rule of law, equality, respect for human rights and rights of minorities, to combat corruption and ensure adherence to our values. No rule of law, no EU money.
- Ensure that the EU effectively guarantees the protection of the rule of law across the Union. Effectively uphold the integrity of institutions and fight against the worrisome erosion of the independence of the judiciary in the Union.
- Remain vigilant on the protection of the rule of law in all Member States. The European Commission should consider the protection of the rule of law and European values as its core task. Any breaches of EU law or values should be followed by infringement procedures.
- Further develop and deploy the EU rule of law mechanism. The next Multiannual framework should have clear conditionalities related to the rule of law.
- Foster professional, reforming, progressive and responsive civil services across all government levels and institutions in Europe and put in place anti-corruption policies including a system of indicators for policy monitoring to ensure impartiality, and to end clientelism and party politicisation, as well as to prevent impunity of corruption.
- Make it conditional to receive EU funding to cooperate with the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO), which should have the ability to enforce sanctions beyond financial penalties. EPPO's powers should be extended to include all serious, cross border crime that cannot be handled by Member States alone.
- Establish an effective anti-corruption sanction regime in Europe and reinforce national anti-corruption agencies with more funding, possibly through EU-level initiatives. Secure the functioning of the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) by ensuring national cooperation and adherence to recommendations.
- Uphold the right to association and assembly to protect civil society organisations, in particular those fighting to protect and promote democracy under threat.

Corruption remains a problem that hurts good government, trust in institutions and even the outcome of elections. Cross-border and organised crime has increased, and some governments are more and more ignoring the supremacy of EU law and EU court rulings, affecting our safety, democratic systems and cooperation. We are committed to tackle crime, slash corruption and address rule of law breaches regardless of the perpetrators, whether governments or individuals, while advocating for targeted sanctions to avoid punishing innocent citizens and businesses.



ALDE Party fights for: Guarantee your individual freedom in an open and tolerant society

- Legalise and recognise same-sex marriage and rainbow families, and ensure their rights, including free movement within the EU, are enshrined in EU legislation. Continue improving LGBTI+ rights and supporting individuals in building their families through paths to recognised parenthood, protecting the rights of children.
- Secure equal and safe access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, such as abortion and other gender-based care. Incorporate the right to abortion into the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and continue striving for affordable contraceptives and menstrual health products. Introduce an EU-wide ban on conversion therapy.
- Combat gender-based violence by calling for the ratification of remaining countries to the Istanbul Convention, a harmonised definition of rape based on the lack of consent, and the implementation of EU-wide restraining orders. Enhance gender equality and combat the anti-gender movement strategically.
- Break down barriers by increasing diversity in all spheres of influence and ensure sufficient access to parental leave across European countries and institutions, including the recognition of parental leave for Members of the European Parliament and the possibility to nominate another Member as substitute, as well as promoting a more balanced distribution of care responsibilities.
- Fast-track the Horizontal Equal Treatment Directive to guarantee robust equal rights for LGBTI+ individuals in every sphere of life.
- Expand the EU Crimes list to include hate speech and hate crime, and include gender, sex, gender identity and sexual orientation and disabilities, alongside racism and xenophobia, as areas in which hate crime can manifest itself.
- Create a European watchdog to protect and promote media freedom and independence across Europe. Effectively prevent and prosecute criminal offences including child abuse, without thereby infringing the citizen's right to privacy through imposing mandatory chat controls that would place every citizen under suspicion and violate end-to-end encryption. Initiate a European fund for independent media, which will help independent media outlets when they are being targeted by Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs).

Every one of us is free to be who we want to be, regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation, race, religion, or any other aspect of our identity. We are free to express ourselves, pursue our goals and make our own choices. As liberals, it is our duty to create a society that cherishes diversity and safeguards your right to live without fear in a free and just society. We will continue fighting against the increased conservative trends that undermine the principles of equality.



ALDE Party fights for: An asylum policy that works

- Reform the Common European Asylum System, aiming to stop the cynical and inhuman business model of smugglers, improve reception standards, share responsibility, and make asylum procedures human rights-based and more efficient.
- Launch a European Action Plan for search and rescue operations in the Mediterranean, prioritising the safety and dignity of individuals in distress. Make sure that there are consequences for pushbacks, mistreatment of migrants, and other violations of the rights of migrants. Make agreements with third countries to halt irregular migration to the EU, while upholding and protecting human rights.
- Simultaneously reduce push and pull factors of migration by developing effective partnership programmes prioritising job creation and climate change mitigation on the one hand, and implementing objective information campaigns about the realities of migration to counter disinformation provided by smugglers, on the other hand.
- Provide specialised legal counselling to protect the rights of LGBTI+ individuals seeking asylum, even if they originate from a country officially-deemed 'safe'.
- Establish EU-managed common facilities outside the EU borders for asylum seekers, responsible for streamlined application processing.
- Reform Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, for effective control of EU external borders with respect for human rights.
- Do away with politically-driven vetoes and fearmongering using migration, and approve full accession to the Schengen Area to all Member States that meet the required criteria. We reaffirm our belief that strong external EU borders and open internal borders boost economic growth, business and transport efficiency, and cross-border employment, all of which serve to speed up the cohesion, economic integration, and stability of our Union.
- Develop effective foreign aid programmes prioritising democracy promotion, job creation, and climate change mitigation.

Migration towards the EU has always existed and will always be part of our societies. We provide shelter to those who are fleeing war or persecution. We need to fight against human traffickers and smugglers, tackle irregular migration and make the return and readmission policy more efficient to address the inhuman consequences for migrants and disruptive effects on our countries. Additionally, with a decreasing and ageing population and worsening labour shortages, the EU must address headstrong the integration of migrants as part of a successful migration policy. We stand against populist anti-migrant rhetoric and policies that violate our liberal values, and worsen our competitiveness in the global labour market.



THE EUROPE WE WANT

Social, democratic, sustainable

PES manifesto
for the 2024
European elections

Adopted at the
2024 PES Election Congress,
2 March, Rome





THE EUROPE WE WANT

Social, democratic, sustainable

PES
SOCIALISTS &
DEMOCRATS

As the Party of European Socialists, the largest progressive force in Europe, we head into the 2024 European elections with continued determination to transform our societies and improve the lives of European citizens.

We want a free, fair and secure democratic Europe. We believe in Europe as the force to guarantee rights for all and with all. We believe in working together to keep our planet liveable, to achieve social justice and to offer new opportunities for everyone. We are building a Europe of sustainability and democracy. A feminist Europe. An inclusive Europe founded on universal human rights. A Europe where social, economic and environmental progress go hand in hand. A Europe supportive of its young people. A Europe that promotes culture in all its diversity. **For us, Europe has always been a project of peace and shared prosperity.** A project of solidarity that allows our countries to overcome challenges that they could not face alone. By joining forces, we are building a Europe that achieves great things we can be proud of.

Successive crises and emerging threats have defined the period since the 2019 European elections. Yet, in difficult circumstances, **we have shown that a Europe that protects its people and provides hope for a better future** is possible. We worked hard to deliver progressive solutions to the rising cost of living; to the climate emergency; to the shift to clean energy; to the Covid-19 pandemic; and to the Russian aggression against Ukraine.

Today, many challenges remain ahead of us. Against a backdrop of war and conflict on our continent and in our neighbourhood, as well as rising authoritarianism worldwide, **Europe must be a guarantor of peace, promote the respect of international law and fair international relations**, and stand up for the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Europe must be ready to ensure its security and defence. The EU must also tackle inequalities within our borders, the loss of purchasing power due to the rising cost of living, the backlash against women's rights, the ever-growing difficulties young people face, and the undermining of democracy and the rule of law. **We want a more united Europe that protects our sovereignty, our welfare states and invests in quality green jobs, sustainable wellbeing and a dynamic economy.**

THE EUROPE WE WANT

Social, democratic, sustainable



The far right is a threat to citizens and to the European project. It is a poison for democracy. Our values are irreconcilable with theirs. The far right wants to pit people against each other, while we want to bring people together. Our political family has a clear red line: we will never cooperate nor form coalitions with the far right. A stronger Socialist & Democratic Group in the European Parliament means more power to deliver respect, justice and a better future. More power to provide citizens with equal opportunities, a sense of security and the quality of life that everyone deserves. To fight the far right, we must be the main progressive pro-European force, mobilising progressive, social, and environmental forces to deliver change.

In this manifesto, **we put forward 20 commitments for our common candidate and our parties**, for a Europe based on:

- **The right to quality jobs with fair wages** by guaranteeing workers' rights, strengthening collective bargaining, democracy at work and supporting the self-employed.
- **A new Green and Social Deal for a just transition** with clean, secure and affordable energy; new quality jobs in a green, carbon-free circular economy; and a liveable planet.
- **Strong democracy**, where the rule of law is respected and defended by all.
- **A strong and competitive European economy** that prepares its industries and SMEs for the future.
- **A protective Europe** that defends people against the high cost of living, defends their jobs from unfair competition, and defends their health and their environment.
- **A feminist Europe** that stands up for equal rights, women's control over their lives and bodies, and for an end to gender-based violence and discrimination.
- **A Europe for young people** that guarantees progress, autonomy, opportunities and eradicates job insecurity.
- **The right to decent and affordable housing for all.**
- **A strategically independent Europe** that defends its freedom, security and territorial integrity.
- **A strong Europe in the world** that promotes peace, security, cooperation, human rights and sustainable development.

THE EUROPE WE WANT

Social, democratic, sustainable

PES

SOCIALISTS &
DEMOCRATS

I. **SOLUTIONS FOR A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE**



THE EUROPE WE WANT

Social, democratic, sustainable



1. SECURING QUALITY JOBS FOR ALL

As employment rates rise in Europe, more jobs must mean better jobs and fair wages. **Salaries must rise and boost workers' purchasing power against inflation and the rising cost of living.** We have fought alongside trade unions for decent minimum wages, pay transparency, the rights of platform workers, and collective bargaining. The world of work is changing. Malaise and discontent are growing, driven by job insecurity, increased precarious work, low pay and unpredictable working time.

- We will act with a **Roadmap for Quality Work and Well-paid Jobs.**
- Our next battles will be to combat in-work poverty, close gender gaps by 2030, regulate AI, limit the pay gap between workers, reach zero deaths at work, ensure the right to disconnect, reduce working time, end labour exploitation and work-related crime, develop job guarantees at local level and add a Social Progress Protocol to the Treaties.
- We remain committed to the adoption and implementation of the Platform Workers' Directive.
- We continue to **fight unemployment, poverty and social exclusion.** No one should be left without an adequate minimum income.
- We will continue to **push for workers' participation,** co-determination and democracy at work with stronger European Works Councils.
- We will continue to fight for the **full implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights.**
- We will always **protect trade union rights,** encourage collective bargaining and social dialogue and make sure that the EU and the Member States respect the autonomy of social partners.
- We want a **strengthened European Labour Authority.**
- To meet the climate challenge and make sure everyone can harness the potential of digitalisation, **we support equipping workers with new skills, the right to training during paid working time,** and new sustainable jobs by strengthening the Just Transition Fund and Social Climate Fund. To guarantee success and social progress, trade unions must be closely associated to this process.

2. A NEW GREEN SOCIAL DEAL FOR A JUST TRANSITION

Social justice and climate justice are interconnected: the most vulnerable are paying the highest price for the climate emergency. Climate neutrality must be a force for social progress. Faced with the increasingly damaging effects of climate change, we must prepare and adapt.

- We will implement **a Green Deal with a red heart**, allying social and ecological policies. In our efforts to reach climate neutrality, no one should be abandoned and there should be no pause.
- We will continue to **invest in renewable energy and energy efficiency, to be climate neutral by 2050** at the latest, by achieving strong EU 2040 climate targets.
- Our ultimate objective is to **reach a completely renewable and clean energy mix**, securing national and European interests.

Today high energy prices hit households. They also hit SMEs, businesses and our economies. **For us a key EU priority must be to secure affordable, and reliable energy supply for all.**

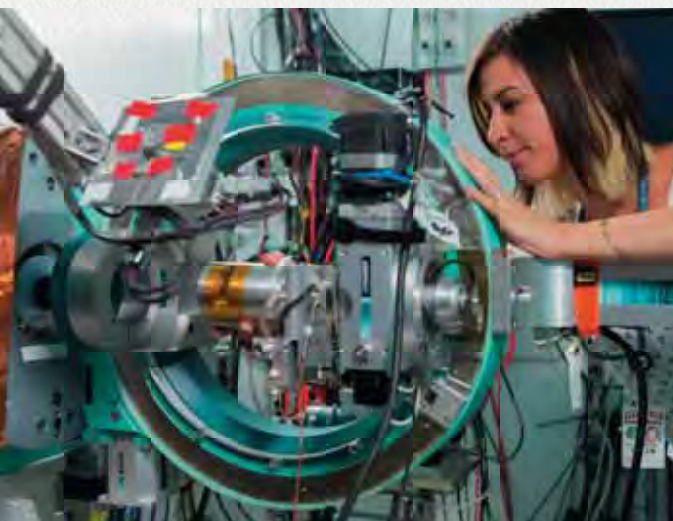
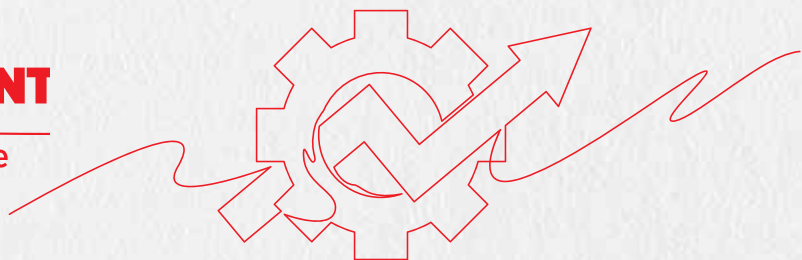
- We will **combat energy poverty** and the burden of high energy prices and will guarantee supply for the most vulnerable.
- We strive for the **reform of the energy market** to guarantee price stability and affordability, to modernise our infrastructures and strengthen Europe's strategic autonomy.





THE EUROPE WE WANT

Social, democratic, sustainable



3. A STRONG AND OPEN EUROPEAN ECONOMY IN THE WORLD

We want to **promote the European model of social market economy**, using public investments at the local, regional, national and EU level to develop a resilient, sustainable, and fair economy that delivers quality jobs.

- We want an **Investment Plan for the Green and Digital Transitions** to create new jobs and to reindustrialise our economy and make it innovative, competitive and circular.
- We want a **“Made in Europe” Strategy** and joint financing for projects of common interest in Europe.
- SMEs, the self-employed, start-ups, cooperatives and social economy enterprises are essential and must be supported, especially female and young entrepreneurs.
- We support a **fair Single Market for goods and services, with clear state aid rules and a new approach to competition policy** that levels the global playing field for European industries.
- We want to **strengthen Europe’s sovereignty** by delivering security of supply in energy, raw materials, technologies, medicines and food through investments and international trade.

We say no to austerity. We say yes to protecting workers from crises; to regulating the financial markets; to combating speculation; to an EU architecture that empowers Member States to invest in a green and social future. During Covid-19 we proved that initiatives like NextGenerationEU, SURE, and other policies secure growth and economic resilience, and reduce inequalities.

- It is time for a **permanent EU investment capacity** and an ambitious European budget.
- In cases of crisis, **the EU should support Member States against unemployment** with a complementary unemployment reinsurance mechanism, learning the lessons from the pandemic.
- **Stricter procurement rules including for EU funds** must ensure recipients of public money respect workers’ rights and collective bargaining.
- Social rights must take precedence over economic interests, reinforcing the social dimension of the European Union.

THE EUROPE WE WANT

Social, democratic, sustainable

PES
SOCIALISTS &
DEMOCRATS

4. TAX JUSTICE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Our commitment to tax justice is a commitment to equal societies.

A fair tax system strengthens our European social model and supports investments in our economies, public services and security.

- **Large corporations, big polluters and the ultra-rich must pay their fair share** in Europe and around the world, through effective taxes on corporations, windfall profits, capital, financial transactions and the wealthiest individuals.
- We fight to **make sure taxes are paid where profits are made**, building on our success in achieving a Global Minimum Corporate Tax Rate.
- We **fight against tax fraud and tax havens** inside and outside the EU and want to move towards the extension of qualified majority voting in specific tax matters.
- Tax systems must be rid of all gender discrimination.

5. THE RIGHT TO QUALITY AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Too many people – often the young, single parents and the vulnerable – struggle to find affordable, quality and energy-efficient housing.

- We will **implement a European Plan for Affordable Housing** with related investments and an **EU Strategy for Combatting Homelessness**.
- To tackle high energy bills and poverty, **we will foster investments in the Renovation Wave** to make public and private buildings more energy efficient.

6. ACCESS TO HEALTH, CARE AND MEDICINE

Universal access to quality health and social care are fundamental rights. Covid-19 showed the essential contribution of the care sector to society, including hospitals, doctors, and nurses, and the importance of European cooperation against health threats.

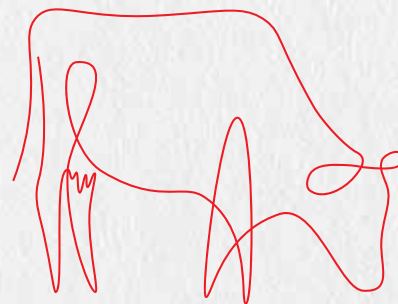
- We will **defend public healthcare** that creates quality jobs.
- We want a **European Health Union** that manages cross-border pandemic responses and supports and respects public health-care at the national level.
- We call for a **strong European Mental Health Strategy**.
- We will implement **fair and transparent medicine pricing to prevent shortages** and support timely access and innovation, including for rare diseases.
- We support **initiatives for common European public research on vaccines**, lifesaving medicines, and antimicrobial resistance.

7. PUBLIC SERVICES AT THE HEART OF OUR SOCIETY

Well-funded public services provide security against the hardships of life, promote wellbeing, and are essential for the functioning of our economy. Everyone's access must be guaranteed, from the youngest to the oldest, from the largest city to the most remote village.

- We will **guarantee quality healthcare, affordable access to energy and water**, inclusive education and lifelong learning opportunities, and efficient public services accessible by all.
- The EU must **fight mobility poverty** and support clean, affordable and **sustainable public transport** in all regions, including a large railway network.
- The **right to knowledge and culture** is a fundamental condition of democracy.





8. SECURING THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

This planet is all we have. Through the Green Deal, we will diminish our environmental footprint; restore and care for our forests; clean our air, water and soil; and protect ecosystems. We will secure our environment, sustainable agriculture, rural development, biodiversity, and people's health.

- We will **fight plastic and chemical pollution**, especially PFAS — “forever chemicals” — and microplastics.
- **Water is a vital resource.** We will develop efficient and sustainable water protection and management.
- The EU must **protect the diversity of species and animal welfare.**

Climate and biodiversity crises are real threats to food security and to the livelihood of farmers. Europe's rural areas are the chain that connects our lands, our communities, our foods and our ecosystems.

- We need to **strengthen the EU's common agricultural policy to support farmers**, especially young, women, and small-scale farmers, and agricultural workers.
- We want to **support farmers' incomes and jobs**, while protecting them from unfair competition from third countries and price speculation and enabling fair prices in the value chain.
- We want to secure that farmers are able to **provide healthy and affordable food for all** and improve food production by embracing sustainable farming and fishing. Our fight for **the Green Deal is also a fight to improve the lives of farmers.**

We fundamentally disagree with the conservatives' approach that sustainability is the enemy of farmers.

- **Farmers must be supported financially and technically** to reach the targets to transition to environmentally friendly farming methods.
- We want to **reduce the use of pesticides** based on national best practices, improve soil management, and protect biodiversity.

9. GUARANTEEING SECURITY

We want to ensure safety and security for all citizens.

- We will **improve police and judicial cooperation** in the fight against terrorism, organised crime, drug and arms trafficking, cyber-crime, money laundering and any form of gender-based crimes.
- Increasing **cooperation among European ports** is needed to effectively reduce the influx of narcotics into Europe.
- We will **fight phone and internet fraud**, which especially targets older people.
- We want to strengthen Europol, the European Public Prosecutor's Office and the future Anti-Money Laundering Authority, aiming for a **truly European investigation authority that supports Member States**.

10. SOLIDARITY AND DEVELOPMENT ACROSS ALL CITIES AND REGIONS

We will keep delivering on **an ambitious Cohesion Policy** across Europe to **improve quality of life in cities, rural areas and remote regions**, and reverse the brain drain.

- We defend the **partnership approach with regional and local authorities** and their crucial role in shaping and implementing Cohesion Policy for **upwards social convergence**, together with civil society.

They have the most direct impact on the lives of citizens and are the drivers of Europe's rich cultural life and diversity.

- To ensure all citizens enjoy the full benefits of EU membership, we insist on our **call for Romania and Bulgaria to be fully and immediately admitted into the Schengen Area**.





THE EUROPE WE WANT

Social, democratic, sustainable

II. SOLUTIONS FOR OPEN AND DEMOCRATIC SOCIETIES

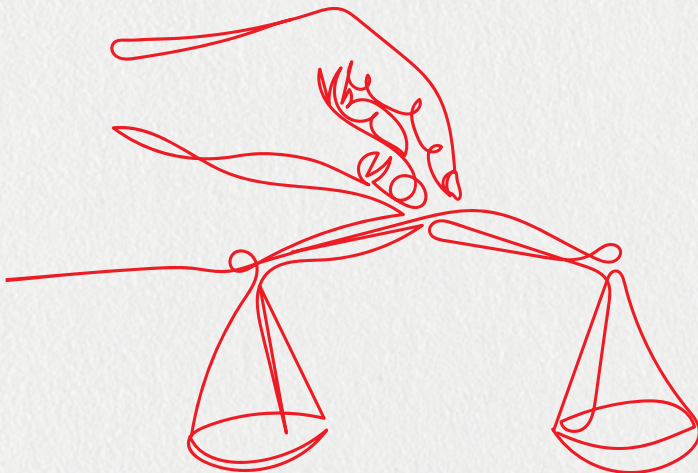
11. DEFEND DEMOCRACY AND THE RULE OF LAW

Democracy and the rule of law protect citizens' rights and ensure everyone is treated equally. They are the best defences against abuses of power.

- We **defend the rule of law at all levels**, with a trustworthy justice system, **efficient anti-corruption measures**, and **media freedom and pluralism**.
- The **crucial role of civil society in fostering democracy** must be supported.

The far right and populist movements threaten our democratic institutions and the rights of women, minorities, vulnerable groups, migrants, trade unions and LGBTI communities. **We condemn conservative and liberal parties that have enabled the far right to access power.** It is an insult to our values and our European history.

- We want **clear rules and sanctions**, using all available tools to **ensure that no EU funding reaches autocratic governments.**





12. A FEMINIST EUROPE

We are the party of feminism. We fight to ensure that women and girls in all their diversity can reach their full potential.

- **Women must be in control of their own lives and bodies** with free and full access to their sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- The fight for gender equality must be reflected in all policies and budgets.
- We want to **close the gender pay, care, and pension gaps** by 2030 with binding measures.
- We want to **increase women's employment** in both quantity and quality and ensure a better work-life balance.
- Following the recent agreement between the European Parliament and the Council, we will push for the swift adoption of the Directive on gender-based violence and make violence against women an EU crime, and we will continue to support the “yes means yes” principle.
- We will introduce legislation that **safeguards women of all ages against sexual harassment and exploitation** and push the EU and all Member States to fully implement the Istanbul Convention.

13. A EUROPE FREE FROM DISCRIMINATION

There is no room for prejudice in Europe. There must be zero tolerance for sexism, racism, antisemitism, Islamophobia, LGBTI-phobia, and all forms of discrimination.

- We will continue and **reinforce the EU's strategies for Gender Equality and for LGBTIQ Equality.**
- We will likewise push for the **adoption of the European Anti-Discrimination Directive** and the implementation of the **EU Strategy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** to strengthen political and social rights for all.



THE EUROPE WE WANT

Social, democratic, sustainable

PES

SOCIALISTS &
DEMOCRATS

14. MANAGING ASYLUM AND MIGRATION

Migration is a part of European history and of our societies. Citizens of migrant backgrounds actively participate in the economic and cultural life of our countries. When properly managed, migration is an opportunity and a strength.

- We strive for a **common and coordinated system for migration and asylum based on solidarity and shared responsibility.**

The Pact on Asylum and Migration finally moves the EU away from crisis management. Its implementation must result in a fair, safe and predictable approach grounded in the **respect of human rights and people's dignity**, following the EU's long history of protecting people in need.

- Europe must offer **fair and respectful procedures**, safe and legal pathways, the right to asylum and protection, and humane and decent reception conditions that respect our values and laws.
- We must especially **protect and support children and minors**, and act in their best interests.
- **Legal assistance** must be accessible throughout the procedure.
- For a well-functioning system, return decisions must be carried out effectively, in a safe and dignified manner.
- We will **fight against traffickers and smugglers.**
- **Sexual violence and exploitation must be severely punished.**
- We will ensure that the **EU's external borders are strengthened**, managed and controlled effectively, while protecting the safety and rights of people.
- We will promote **accountable and transparent partnerships** with countries of origin and transit and stand against any form of EU border externalisation.
- We will **never criminalise humanitarian assistance**, and we **support a European mission for search and rescue** in the Mediterranean.
- We stand for **inclusive labour market policies, support for local authorities** and **stronger inclusion policies.**





15. A EUROPE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

We need **a Europe that works for its young people**. Our political family will continue making future generations a priority.

- We will **empower young people** as decision makers, including as candidates for election.
- We will **promote all initiatives strengthening the democratic participation** of our youngest citizens.
- We support the implementation by Member States of the Young European Socialists' demand to lower the voting age to 16 in the European elections.
- We will keep **building on the European Youth Guarantee** and **strive for full youth employment**.
- We will **ensure that all internships are paid** and exploitative practices prevented, with the adoption of a Directive on Quality Traineeships in the EU, without harming well-functioning national practices.
- We want a **widened Erasmus+ accessible to all** and effective recognition of diplomas.
- We will fight so all young people have access to **free quality education and training, and housing**, including through an **EU plan against the student housing crisis**.
- We want to **eradicate child poverty** in Europe, strengthen child protection and fully **implement the European Child Guarantee**.

16. FOSTERING INTERGENERATIONAL SOLIDARITY

In our aging societies, we will **fight for citizens' rights and participation, autonomy and wellbeing at all ages**.

- We will **defend the rights of seniors** – older workers and pensioners alike – including healthcare, housing, decent pensions without gender bias and age-friendly cities.
- We will **push for an EU Strategy on Age Equality** to effectively promote the equality of all ages and to fight ageism.

17. CONTROLLING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND STRENGTHENING ONLINE RIGHTS

The digital transformation of our societies must respect EU fundamental values.

- We will promote better inclusivity via high-speed internet access and **major investment in digital public infrastructure** and digital education.
- We will ensure **Europe harnesses the power of AI to protect workers and citizens** following the “**human in control**” principle.

Big Tech's pursuit of profit or algorithmic management must never be allowed to undermine democracy and workers' rights.

- We will implement rules to **safeguard our democracies from foreign interference**, tackle disinformation, safeguard privacy and protect everyone from hate speech, online violence and harassment.
- We will ensure that **what is illegal offline is illegal online**.





THE EUROPE WE WANT

Social, democratic, sustainable

III. SOLUTIONS FOR A FAIRER WORLD

18. SECURING EUROPE'S PLACE IN THE WORLD

In an increasingly insecure world, the EU must take greater responsibility for its own security and defence.

- We will implement a **strong European Common Security and Defence Policy** that complements NATO.

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine is a turning point in history. It proves that greater collaboration and deeper solidarity is needed to face the new international environment.

- We support the **development of the European defence industry** through targeted and smarter spending, greater joint procurements of defence products, closer cooperation in intelligence and further collaboration in cybersecurity and the protection of critical infrastructure.

The EU must speak with one voice in foreign policy matters and move towards more majority decisions in certain policy matters. To counter foreign interference, the EU must protect itself against subversive actions from authoritarian regimes.

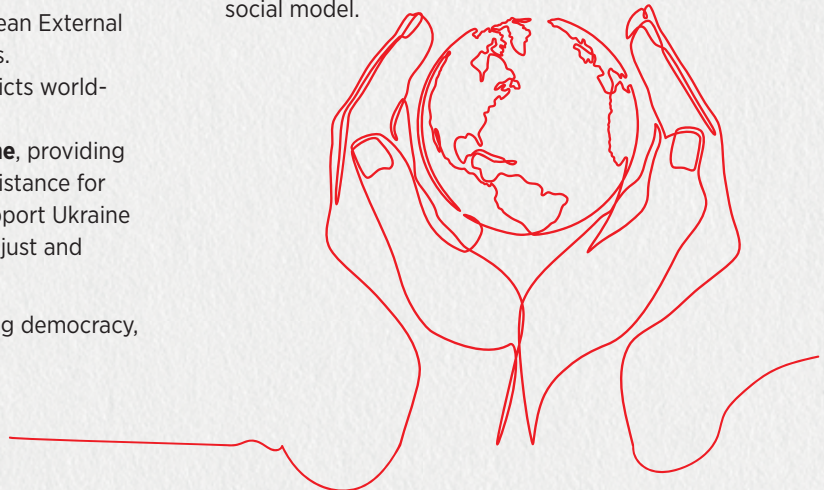
- We need to **strengthen the diplomatic and political role of the EU on the global scene** with a strong European External Action Service to defend EU values and interests.
- The EU must work to resolve longstanding conflicts worldwide and in Europe, including in Cyprus.
- We maintain our **unwavering support for Ukraine**, providing political, humanitarian, financial and military assistance for as long as needed. Our ultimate goals are to support Ukraine in restoring its territorial integrity and achieve a just and sustainable peace.

The EU's enlargement has been a success, bringing democracy, prosperity and security.

- We **welcome the start of EU membership negotiations** with **Ukraine, Moldova, and Bosnia and Herzegovina**, and we support the **European aspirations of Georgia**.
- We regret that the EU accession process of Turkey has stalled for several years because of the Turkish government. In the absence of a drastic change of course, the accession process cannot be resumed in the current circumstances.
- We will implement an **effective enlargement policy, starting with the Western Balkans**, insisting that all candidate countries meet all accession criteria.

Enlargement must go hand in hand with a serious assessment of what reforms of the EU architecture are needed, for a more efficient and democratic Europe that is more transparent and closer to its citizens.

- On this basis, we will use the next parliamentary term to **strengthen the EU's capacity to act in an enlarged Union**, with targeted Treaty changes.
- We need to **empower the European Parliament and the European Commission** with tools to safeguard our democracy, strengthen our economy, protect our environment and our social model.





19. SUPPORTING PEACE AND FUNDAMENTAL VALUES

We believe in the rules-based multilateral order, centred on a reformed United Nations.

- We will continue **promoting the Sustainable Development Goals, peace, democracy, human rights, a feminist foreign policy, and economic and climate justice.**
- We will work to end conflict, instability, and humanitarian tragedies in the Middle East and elsewhere.
- We **support an international peace conference to achieve an equitable two-state solution between Israelis and Palestinians** that respects the rights and duties of the two peoples.
- We support initiatives leading towards a **sustainable ceasefire.**
- We welcome the EU comprehensive approach to **reinitiate the peace process between Israel and Palestine** and to promote peace in the region. Israelis and Palestinians both have the right to live in peace and security.

20. RENEWED INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The first objective of development policies must be to improve people's lives in our partner countries. Europe must support democratic forces, civil society and trade unions in all countries.

- We will further strengthen EU cooperation with the United States and other democratic allies and build a strong partnership with the United Kingdom.
- We will rebalance our relations with China, promoting our values and protecting our interests, and further cooperating to address pressing global issues.
- We will **build a new partnership of equals with the Global South** through a **strong Africa-EU Partnership** on social progress, the economy, green energy, climate change, migration and democracy, a **relaunched Euro-Mediterranean partnership** and a **new EU-Latin America Progressive Agenda.**
- We promote workers' rights globally with a strong **support to the International Labour Organization.**
- We will implement an ambitious and **fair EU trade agenda that promotes binding human rights, social, labour, and environmental standards** and close cooperation based on the Sustainable Development Goals.





THE EUROPE WE WANT

Social, democratic, sustainable

2024 PES Election Congress, 2 March Rome

PES

SOCIALISTS &
DEMOCRATS

PES FULL MEMBER PARTIES, MARCH 2024



Austria SPÖ



Belgium PS



Belgium Vooruit



Bulgaria BSP



Croatia SDP



Cyprus EDEK



Czech Republic
SOC DEM



Denmark SD



Estonia SDE



Finland SDP



France PS



Germany SPD



Greece PASOK



Hungary DK



Hungary MSZP



Ireland Labour



Italy PD



Italy PSI



Latvia Saskaņa



Lithuania LSDP
LSAP



Luxembourg
LSAP



Malta Labour
PvdA



Netherlands
PvdA



N. Ireland SDLP



Norway LP



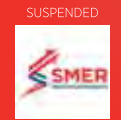
Poland Lewica



Portugal PS



Romania PSD



Slovakia SMER



Slovenia SD



Spain PSOE



Sweden SAP



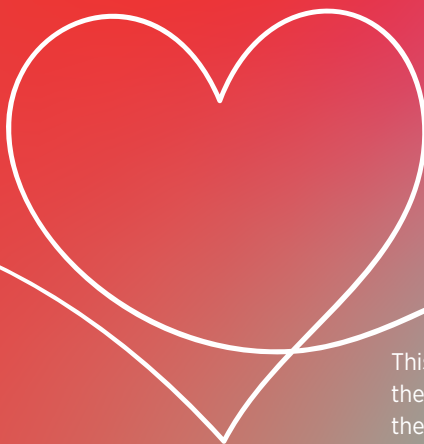
UK Labour

PES

SOCIALISTS &
DEMOCRATS

THE EUROPE WE WANT

Social, democratic, sustainable



This publication received financial support of the European Parliament. Sole liability rests with the author and the European Parliament is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

EGP Priorities '24

as adopted, Lyon, 4 February 2024

The Green and Social Deal for Europe

We will kickstart a massive investment plan worth at least 200 billion euros per year to protect people and the planet. This plan will secure livelihoods for all and build a prosperous economy.

The investment will go towards expanding public transport and reducing ticket prices, putting solar panels on all roofs, and creating millions of good jobs in sectors such as construction, energy and transport.

Investing in renewables and home insulation will mean lower energy bills. Our Energy Guarantee will make sure that energy is affordable, and that no vulnerable household has their energy cut off.

This plan will be financed fairly by taxing workers less and the wealthiest firms and individuals more, eradicating fossil fuel subsidies, and using EU-level funding.

Climate Action! 100% Renewable Energy by 2040

The costs of burning fossil fuels are growing by the day. Europe must lead the way to a fossil-free future. Building a 100% renewable energy system by 2040 will protect the climate and create two million new jobs. It will mean fewer extreme weather events such as heat waves and therefore bring about a more secure future for all.

It makes economic sense too. Renewables are the cheapest form of energy, while expensive fossil fuels caused the cost-of-living crisis. The cost of inaction will only mount. We will stop adding fuel to the fire by phasing out all fossil fuel subsidies from 2025. A climate-neutral EU will be more competitive and no longer hostage to foreign dictators.

Good Jobs and Fair Pay for All

We cannot accept that workers struggle to make ends meet and live in poverty in the world's second-biggest economy. After years of high prices, European workers deserve decent pay and a fair share of the profits. We will fight for an EU-wide minimum income sufficient to keep people out of poverty whether they are in or out of work. We will make European unemployment insurance permanent to protect workers in times of economic crisis.

Trade unions are key to achieving higher wages and better conditions for workers. They are our allies, and we will fight for their rights and their essential democratic role. We will improve working conditions and make sure that the green transition leaves no worker behind. We will fight for the recognition of platform workers as workers and ban unpaid internships.



Restore Nature, Protect Biodiversity

We need to bring back nature and restore the precious ecosystems today under threat. We will stop the extinction of species and protect at least a third of Europe's land and sea, including wetlands, forests, rivers and lakes. We fight for a zero-pollution European Union, with breathable air, clean water and toxic-free consumer goods. We will keep dangerous pesticides such as glyphosate out of our fields.

Ensure Affordable Housing for Everyone

Everyone must have a comfortable home that is warm in winter and cool in summer. We will fight to end the rent explosion, invest in affordable and public housing, and support rent controls where necessary to protect tenants. A large-scale renovation programme will cut energy poverty and protect the most vulnerable.

Young people bear the brunt of high rents and house prices. We must ensure they can make their own start in life with affordable homes and all the necessary conditions for independent living.

Healthy, Pesticide-Free Food for Fair Prices

We want healthy food at fair prices to become a reality in Europe. Millions of Europeans are struggling with soaring food prices, while big agro-business continues to poison our bodies and pollute our soil and water.

We will take the third of the EU budget today spent on industrial agriculture and invest in sustainable farming instead, making healthy food more accessible at fair prices for both consumers and producers. We will end the speculation forcing people to go hungry while traders make record profits.

End Animal Cruelty! Stop Mega Farms and Long-Distance Transport

Animals deserve care and protection. We will fight for animal welfare alongside the millions of Europeans who signed European Citizen Initiatives demanding the end of exploitative practices. We pledge to ban cruel mega-farms, the use of cages in animal farming, and fur farms. We will limit animal transport and put an end to long-distance live animal transports in trucks and ships.

We Pay Our Taxes. Billionaires and Multinationals Must Also Pay Their Fair Share.

A thriving economy puts people and the planet first, not corporations and the ultra-rich. Helping the most vulnerable and investing in climate and environmental protection are emergencies that can no longer be ignored, so our unjust tax system must be reformed.

We will bring in a minimum tax on capital gains and an EU-wide wealth tax, as well as ending tax avoidance by multinationals. We must stop the profiteering driving up prices with windfall taxes and a financial transaction tax.

Fair taxation will reduce the tax burden on workers, so they have more money in their wallets at the end of the month.

A Strong Europe to Protect Democracy, Fundamental Rights and Freedoms

The far-right backlash only makes us more determined: Greens will stand up for European democracy and the rule of law. We will ensure public funds benefit all citizens, not autocrats and their corrupt cronies. Rapid action will be put in place to prevent violations of EU law. We will continue the fight for transparency and integrity and against corruption.

We will continue to tirelessly fight all forms of discrimination and hatred. Everyone in the EU must be safe from hate crime and hate speech. We will defend the right to protest and fight against the criminalisation of activists and civil society organisations.

We will build a humane asylum system that upholds human rights and does not criminalise people on the move. We will welcome people that seek help with humanity and solidarity, not with fear.

A Feminist Europe: Your Body, Your Choice!

We must dismantle patriarchy and build a racially just society. Everyone has the right to make choices about their own body, decide who they love, and express their identity. We will champion self-determination and bodily autonomy by guaranteeing access to legal gender recognition, trans-specific healthcare, and contraception.

We will guarantee access to safe and legal abortion and recognise sexual and reproductive rights as fundamental rights. We fight to end violence against women and girls everywhere and will increase support for victims.

We will make sure that men and women are paid equally for the same work and keep on fighting for full equality between men and women in all areas of employment and public life.

Europe United for Peace and Security

The European Union was born as and must remain a project for peace and security. In times of rising authoritarianism and war, it must speak with one voice. Autocrats can no longer be allowed to hold the EU hostage and prevent it from standing with partners for peace, human rights and multilateralism. National vetoes must end so the EU can work effectively on foreign policy and other key areas.

Ukraine's future is in the European Union and we must continue to support it. The EU needs to be ready to welcome new members and help candidate countries prepare for accession. The EU needs to take responsibility as a peace-building actor. This is more crucial than ever in the Middle East.

The green transition has always also been a question of security. Becoming energy-independent, building a circular economy, and gaining greater control over vital technologies and supply chains will make us independent from autocrats and thus safer.

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS MANIFESTO 2024



PRINCIPLES AND PROPOSALS OF THE EUROPEAN LEFT

The upcoming elections to the European Parliament will take place under extraordinary circumstances. Europe has become the fastest warming continent in the world and the phase-out of fossil fuels must be accelerated. Many European citizens are struggling with a cost-of-living crisis while billions of euros are being spent in the EU on an unprecedented military build-up, and a return to the failed policies of neoliberal austerity is even on the horizon. Finally, the elections are being overshadowed by wars taking place on European soil and in its near vicinity. These elections are therefore not second-order elections. If you want your voices to be heard, we call on all democratic European citizens, who form the social majority, to participate and vote in the European elections for a democratic, peaceful social, and ecological Europe.

The extreme nationalist and neo-fascist right, which is already governing in some countries and is knocking on the doors of power in others, can and must be stopped. Fighting fascism in whatever form it appears is a core element of the programme and history of the Party of the European Left (EL). These ideas must be combated and uprooted from our societies. This struggle can be won if the interests of the people and the desire of Europeans for social justice, ecological security and peace are placed at the heart of political decision-making.

FIGHTING NEO-FASCISM

Our parties are rooted in the fight against fascism and war. We find strength in that fact, and we will also build upon and extend the hard-won victories of today, in Latin America and elsewhere, where the people are mobilising for a different vision of society and defeating hate and fear. Anti-fascist and left forces must build international cooperation to support and popularise this vision – and to reject the growing anticommunism that goes hand-in-hand with the rise of the far right. Less socialism will mean more fascism and more barbarism.

WE PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING INITIATIVES:

- Full implementation of the European Parliament Resolution on the increase in neo-fascist violence and a ban on all neo-fascist and neo-Nazi organisations and foundations;
- Building of a European anti-fascist centre for documentation, scientific research and education;
- Declaration of 25 April as European Day of the Fight against Fascism.



OUR VICTORY IS PEACE!

Now more than ever we need to adopt a broad concept of security that addresses the existential threats we are facing – climate change, poverty, and war.

We condemn Russia's military aggression against Ukraine, which is a crime under international humanitarian law. The immediate steps to stop the war must be a return to the negotiation table, a ceasefire, and a withdrawal of all Russian troops from Ukraine. We are in favour of peace negotiations. We are in favour of sanctions against the Russian military-industrial complex.

We call for sanctions against the US military-industrial complex for supporting the aggression by the government of the state of Israel. Israel must end this barbaric war and the violence in the West Bank. We have condemned the Hamas massacre of 7 October. We call for an immediate ceasefire, the provision of humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza and Israel's immediate withdrawal from all the territories it occupies. Israel must implement the judgement of the International Court of Justice, which obliges it to refrain from any action that could lead to genocide in Gaza. For this reason, the EU must apply effective economic and political sanctions to put pressure on the Israeli government. We stand with the left and progressive forces in Israel in calling for an end to the war. The world can no longer tolerate the systematic oppression of the Palestinians. The Palestinian people must be granted the right to self-determination in an independent, viable state alongside Israel within the 1967 borders.

Alongside the suffering in Ukraine and Palestine, we must not lose sight of the 22 other wars that are being waged around the world: in Yemen, Syria, Sudan, Western Sahara, against the Kurdish people and elsewhere. We are living through a 'world war in instalments', which could rapidly escalate into a worldwide nuclear disaster. Preventing this is the most important task.

We do not want Europe to become the arena of a new Cold War and an arms race. We want Europe to take responsibility for its security autonomously and independently of the USA, based on multilateralism and respect for international law. We are working for a Europe of peace and solidarity, constantly advocating diplomatic solutions for international conflicts. We need a new approach to

security, based on the recognition that no state or community can be secure unless others share the same level of security. Instead of militarising the EU, Europe needs a political agenda for peace, security, and disarmament.

We continue to speak out against the expansion of NATO and the new arms race in Europe.

The 50th anniversary of the 1975 Helsinki Conference on Security and Co-operation (OSCE) is an opportunity to recall and revive the concept of common security in the European house.

Neutrality and non-alignment can become role models for a peaceful European security order.

OUR PROPOSALS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION:

- Include the rejection of war as an instrument for the resolution of international disputes as one of the fundamental principles of the EU;
- End the arms race in Europe: No new nuclear arms in Europe. Make Europe a nuclear weapon free continent!
- Fully implement the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and reduce the percentage of GDP going to military expenditure;
- Respect the 'Irish Clause' (Art. 24 and 42 of the Treaty on European Union): the common security and defence policy of the Union 'shall not prejudice the specific character of the security and defence policy of certain Member States';
- We support the aspirations of the Irish people to reunite their nation divided by British colonialism;
- We call for an end to the Turkish occupation of Cyprus and the reunification of the country according to the UN resolutions and the European Union acquis;
- We call for the demilitarisation of the island, and respect for its nonaligned status.

SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION TOWARDS AN INTEGRAL ECOLOGY

The European Left recognises the climate crisis as an emergency and is committed to transforming the economy away from unlimited growth and dependence on fossil fuels, thus creating the conditions for a just green transition that ensures job creation, fair distribution of wealth, sound and universal public services and public ownership of the commons.

We need to undergo significant social and economic transformations to reach the Paris Agreement targets and thus guarantee that the next generation will still have the right to a sustainable future on a healthy planet. We need to promote a new green social contract based on justice and respect. Justice is about the inalienable right of every citizen to live in a clean and healthy environment. Respect is about our minimum duty towards nature and towards future generations. Wars and the global arms race are key factors influencing the environmental crisis. Peace is therefore key to this socio-ecological and eco-social transformation.

The European Left have a clear concept of this ecological, energy, and industrial transformation. While technology will play an important role, this transition relates above all to a societal transformation of how we produce and consume, adapted to the real needs of the population and to the limits of the planet. Radical environmental change goes hand-in-hand with the fight for social justice and the fight to combat market domination for a just transition towards green economies. The creative capacities of the working classes are the key to tackling the ecological and social crisis. We support the trade unions' concepts of a democratically conceived just transition to a new digitalised and ecological economy that leaves no-one behind.

No worker should end up unemployed because of the ecological and energy transition which, alongside a reduction in environmentally harmful jobs, must bring the expansion of other, green forms of employment. We therefore demand massive European investment plans so that companies and public services can create new jobs and train the people for them. Achieving the Paris climate goals is imperative.

The European Commission's 'European Green Deal' has set the target for counteracting climate change and initiating an ecological turnaround. Nevertheless, it remains stuck in a framework of reconciliation with the capitalist system of production that must be overcome. A stronger momentum and a different perspective are needed. The European Left aims to contribute to the emergence of a progressive movement with the primary vocation of overcoming neoliberalism and a capitalist system that exploits nature, women, and men.

We are seeking to change the EU's Common Agricultural Policy with the aim of gradually abolishing the system of allocating funds according to area and redirecting them towards environmentally friendly, sustainable agriculture. Sustainable agriculture should contribute to the attractiveness of rural areas, while labour-intensive agriculture must directly benefit those who work the land, promoting a model of small, sustainable farms and healthy food in which products have a short commercial circuit.

Public control and ownership of common goods and services with democratic and participatory planning of the economy are essential to save humanity and the planet and to end social inequality. Women's empowerment and leadership, together with their access to decision-making on equal terms, is an essential key factor in a just transition.



OUR PROPOSALS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION:

- Increase the European Union's target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from 55% to 65% by 2030 and bring forward the date for the European Union's climate neutrality from 2050 to 2035;
- Establish public control and ownership of common goods such as water, sanitation, and the companies that provide them; of hydrocarbons and other energy sources; and of energy production, transmission and distribution services. Reversal of the current energy union model in favour of a model based on public ownership of resources, opening up a funding channel for municipalities to achieve energy sovereignty;
- Incorporate criteria of economic rationality into water management, considering cost recovery, including environmental costs and scarcity value, and taking into account social, environmental and economic impacts, as well as geographical and climatic conditions;
- Establish an agro-ecological policy model for the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) based on an environmentally sustainable agriculture, ensuring fair incomes for farmers and providing quality food, soil protection, and food sovereignty as well as mitigating climate change;
- Implement the Sustainable Mobility Directive for sustainable spatial planning, emphasising public transport and resisting privatisation;
- Create a European Fund for public services, financed at 0% by the ECB, with democratic governance, for investment, massive recruitment and training, particularly in transport (freight and passengers), healthcare, and education;
- For the ecological and social transition of firms' production: change the banking policy of the ECB: low rate (0%, or less) for bank loans for investments that reduce carbon emissions and create good jobs; high rates, even penalty rates, for loans that cut jobs, relocate or increase polluting emissions (CO₂, etc.);
- Dismantle the SUV economy through regulations that ensure carbon-neutral, efficient, and road user-friendly car production. Impose equal taxes on aircraft and car fuels, eliminating CO₂ exemptions. Ban private flights, prioritise trains for journeys under two and a half hours, revive night trains, and expand networks as needed. Enforce reduction and oversight of cruises;
- Integrate biodiversity into all sectoral policies, in particular energy, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, transport, tourism and land-use planning, as a key cross-cutting element that should be taken into action when it becomes threatened.

FIGHT POVERTY, NOT THE POOR!

We will not resign ourselves to the increase in poverty in Europe. We call for the adoption of an integrated anti-poverty strategy that tackles the multidimensional problem of poverty and social exclusion.

The rise of gentrification and the rapid expansion of the platform economy in real estate and tourism deprive citizens, and especially young people, of their right to decent and affordable housing. Moreover, the current number of homeless people is alarmingly high, while thousands of buildings stand vacant, particularly in metropolitan areas. Decent, affordable, and climate friendly housing must become a right and not be viewed as a commodity. Social protection cover for health, pensions, and unemployment must be universal for all people in the EU, wherever they come from.

We advocate universal and free access to health care and the strengthening of public health systems to reduce social inequalities. Public resources should be used only to create and strengthen public health systems. We call for basic energy security, that is, the legal right of all people to have free access to the amount of energy they need for heating and household purposes. This is a human right.

Feminist economics and gender equality are fundamental to a human economy; they are a core component of the new, fairer, human economy we want to achieve. It is now time to address and fully recognise the role of unpaid and underpaid care work. Society must invest in public care systems and address the disproportionate responsibility for care work borne by women and girls, supporting its defamilialisation and tackling women's poverty.

We want to build modern public services that are sufficiently staffed, de-bureaucratized, democratically and transparently managed and responsive to citizens' needs. The EU must promote investments in free and accessible healthcare, education, transport, and telecommunications.

OUR PROPOSALS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION:

- Enshrine the right to affordable, decent housing for all people in Europe in EU primary law;
- Implement national and European investment plans for public housing and reconstruction of the public infrastructure; financing of social housing projects by national or local authorities, non-profit developers and cooperatives through the European Investment Bank (EIB) at 0% interest;
- Adopt an EU directive obliging Member States to introduce legal rent caps and prohibit fixed-term tenancies and forced evictions from primary residences; strengthening of tenants' rights in apartments owned by housing investors. These investment companies and their activities must be limited so that they do not pose an undue risk to housing markets;
- Exempt public housing funding from internal market and competition rules;
- Create quality care structures for children, the elderly and the disabled in order to enhance the sustainability of reproduction in an equitable manner;
- Adopt an EU directive that caps rents and obliges local authorities to provide housing for students and learners; a regulatory framework for short-term rental platforms in major urban areas coupled with public expenditure and European funds for the development of new homes;
- Adopt an EU directive against social inequalities and discrimination in education based on class, gender, sexual orientation and gender identity or expression, nationality, residence status, and religious belief;
- Halt the privatisation of education, higher education, and research; only public funding for public institutions;
- Reserve 7% of EU GDP for education, research, and innovation;
- Abolish admission tests and tuition fees (including for non-EU and non-European students);
- The allocation of European study and research grants should be based on social criteria promoting European exchanges in training courses from secondary to university level;
- Ensure universal and free access to care and public health systems, including contraceptive services and safe abortion throughout the EU, guaranteed by EU primary law;
- Create a European public pharmaceutical/medical hub;
- 2% of EU GDP to be allocated to supporting culture;
- Adopt a basic European statute for intermittent artists.

MONEY AND FUNDS FOR PEOPLE AND THE PLANET!

In order to safeguard and develop public services and enable a just transition to a digitalised and green economy, we must first prevent the reintroduction of austerity. Our priority is a massive investment spending plan for the creation of green jobs, based on the revitalisation of SMEs and essential public services, the care economy, and the transformation of industry, transport and energy in line with the needs of the population and the limits of the planet. This requires mobilising financial resources that exceed the EU budget and the NextGenerationEU development fund many times over. These funds could be made available if we manage to form a willing, progressive majority within European institutions.

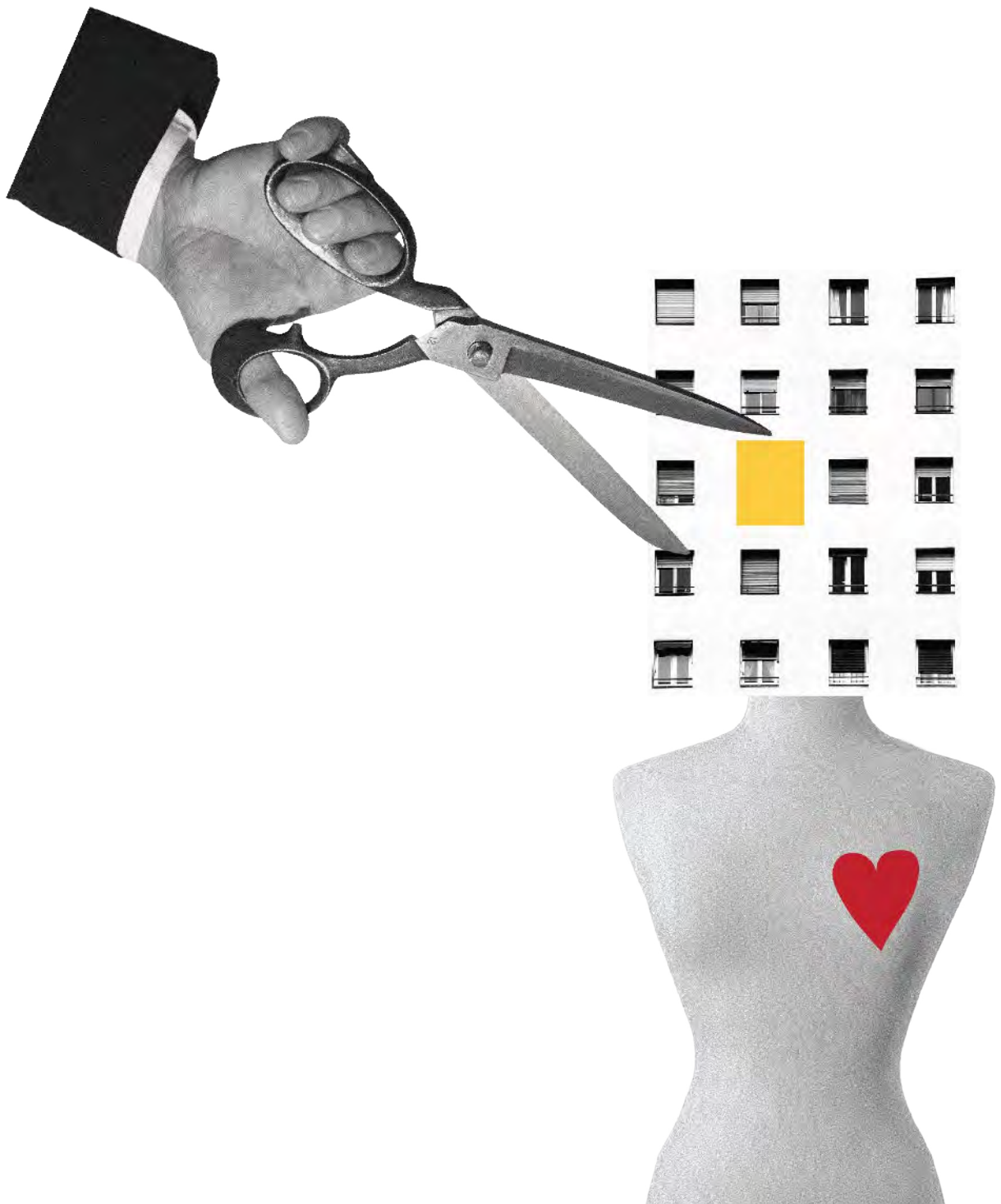
Public budgets must be freed from the stranglehold of the financial markets. We call for the redistribution of a large part of the 460 billion euros that Europe today spends on armaments towards projects for social and ecological transformation.

The energy companies have reaped huge profits from the price increases due to the war in Ukraine, and these need to be given back to society. We call for the abolition of tax havens in the EU and the establishment of a common minimum level of taxation of profits and large assets in the EU.

OUR PROPOSALS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION:

- Abolish the Stability and Growth Pact and replace it with a new pact focusing on social and environmental restructuring, allowing for expansionary and counter-cyclical policies;
- Transform the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) into a permanent EU mechanism to reduce inequalities and promote sustainable economic growth, with a focus on supporting and modernising SMEs;
- Bring in a European tax on the wealthy to fund essential investment for poverty reduction and environmental and social transitions. Impose a windfall tax on excessive profits in the energy and war-related industries, such as banks and the arms sector. Introduce a progressive cloud tax on digital platform revenues, covering expenditure by corporations and political parties on social media;

- Make the ECB an instrument that provides direct financing to the states to strengthen public institutions and bodies in meeting the needs of public rights and services and ecological transformation. Create a European Fund for public services, financed at 0% by the ECB, with democratic governance, for investment, massive recruitment and training, particularly in transport (freight and passengers), health and education, research and for financial advances in social protection;
- Change the banking policy of the ECB: low interest rates (down to 0% or less) for bank loans for company investments that reduce carbon emissions and create good jobs; high interest rates, even penalty rates, for loans that cut jobs, relocate, increase polluting emissions (CO₂, etc.) or are dedicated to speculation;
- Approve a debt restructuring programme that includes the monetisation of public debt acquired by the ECB, with retrocession of interest in exchange for social conditionality so that the additional flows resulting from the restructuring are used to improve the social cohesion and welfare indicators of the population and to promote sustainable development policies. Moreover, the financing of public spending programmes and the creation of good jobs should form part of the ECB's objectives;
- Tax financial transactions and combat tax evasion and fraud by drawing up an accurate list of tax havens, including those within the EU, and introducing a withholding tax on the profits of multinationals and banks. We must put an end to tax havens within the European Union!
- Create a European Fund for social housing, public services and employment needs, financed by the ECB's money creation, and lending to states, municipalities, cooperatives and non-profit institutions at zero or very low interest rates. The fund must be managed with transparency and guaranteed through the involvement of civil society, especially trade unions, women's associations, tenants' associations and ecological movements.



TRANSFORMING LABOUR

We want to build a united left and progressive front in Europe capable of changing the current power relations by empowering workers and trade unions to shape the future EU. We want a new green social contract that meets the challenges of the 21st century and aims to reduce inequalities. Together with left trade unionists, we have drawn up 16 demands that form a basis for common action. Our political goal is to use the huge increase in global labour productivity to improve people's lives by reducing working hours without loss of pay, and to redirect production towards social and environmental needs.

The EU must address the cost-of-living crisis by increasing wages and pensions above the rate of inflation, with particular emphasis on eliminating inequalities. The EU needs to increase wages and close the gender pay gap. This requires strong trade unions. We support the universal right to organise, to bargain collectively and to take industrial action, including strikes, at European level. Wage earners, workers and the working class must be empowered to become protagonists in building the new socially just and ecologically responsible Europe through the creation of new rights. Economic democracy is the key to enabling working people to intervene in what and how they produce.

Together with the trade unions, we are fighting for a just transition to human-centred digitalisation. We need to address the challenges of artificial intelligence (AI) in a socially just way. Workers have the right to be involved in defining the social and environmental goals of companies and public services. Workers in the platform economy must be identified as workers. We fight against precarious work and for the right of every worker to a stable, permanent contract and a full-time job. The majority of workers in the care economy are women. The Party of the European Left is committed to fighting, together with the trade unions and the feminist movement, for socially and financially decent work for women.

OUR PROPOSALS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION:

- No more working poor! A European Basic Income Directive that obliges Member States to legally guarantee everyone a minimum income that covers the basic needs for a decent life (food, housing, energy, access to culture, funds for emergencies, etc.);
- Approval of a Guaranteed Employment Plan in the European Union, which would focus on programmes for reforestation and environmental protection, housing renovation and energy efficiency, promotion of care, training/employment for the unemployed and social economy initiatives that create jobs. It would be financed by the European Stability Mechanism (ESM) and conditionality would be linked only to the creation of quality public jobs;
- An EU legal framework for a just transition in the world of work through the anticipation and management of change based on collective bargaining and trade union involvement;
- An EU regulation guaranteeing the legal right to permanent contracts and full-time work and banning unpaid internships. Social rights and labour rights must be fully enforced in platform work and telework;
- Migrant workers should be welcomed on equal terms and working conditions;
- The EU must establish a Social Progress Protocol in primary law, giving priority to workers' and social rights over the freedom of the single market;
- Amend the Working Time Directive with the aim of reducing working hours for the same wage.

EMPOWERING DEMOCRACY IN AI AND INNOVATION

We welcome the European Parliament's attempt to regulate the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and support the ban on biometric surveillance, emotion recognition and predictive policing by AI systems. However, the EP's draft focuses on market-based regulation and thus misses the essential issue: the need for transparency and accountability (democratic and societal control) of technological innovation with regard to its social and environmental impacts.

OUR PROPOSALS:

- Effective regulation of AI with the humans-in-control principle must be incorporated into EU law;
- Any regulation of AI by the EU must take into account the impact of AI on the world of work and social systems, and exclude possible discriminatory uses of AI or racially-biased systems;
- The introduction of AI in high-risk areas and mega-data transactions must be identified and prohibited;
- The use of AI in weapons systems must be prohibited;
- The controlled introduction of digital technology in education must respect and enhance the work and status of teachers, avoid exacerbating social inequalities, and limit negative impacts on the environment;
- Public and private services are rapidly being digitalised. The whole population cannot keep up with this rapid development and there is a risk of digital exclusion. The elderly, people with disabilities and all those in need must be guaranteed adequate user support and access to the necessary equipment to prevent exclusion.



THE FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE. WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS.

The Party of the European Left considers feminism fundamental to building a Europe of peace, self-determination, freedom, and equality, free from violence against women. In war, we see the most extreme expression of patriarchal violence. The feminist ideal is therefore the logical antithesis to any kind of militarism and armament.

Left feminism offers a profound critique of capitalist and patriarchal society by proposing an alternative to the economy based on the exploitation of human beings and nature, namely an economy based on life. The European Left demands equal opportunities for women. It wants to put an end to the inequality that women suffer in Europe simply because they are working women.

We denounce the persistent gender pay and pension gap and fight for the recognition and redistribution of care work, which still falls almost exclusively on women's shoulders. We demand the promotion of public care systems. We oppose all forms of oppression based on class, gender, ethnicity, colour, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, disability and age. It is this emancipatory perspective that distinguishes it from the liberal feminism currently dominant in the European institutions.

The European Left defends the right of women to make autonomous decisions about motherhood and their bodies. It demands that the right to universally accessible contraceptive services and safe abortion be guaranteed by the European Treaties throughout Europe. Together with feminist movements, we fight against the sexist violence and machismo that women suffer throughout their lives and demand a comprehensive legal and political framework to deal with gender-based violence in all its forms.

The Party of the European Left wants to make a feminist perspective the criterion for the EU's economic, environmental and social policies, as well as in health, education and culture.



OUR PROPOSALS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION INCLUDE DEMANDING:

- EU accession to the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence; there is a need for a comprehensive EU policy framework to eliminate all gender-based violence in all European countries;
- Recognition of the term ‘femicide’ in EU and Member State legislation and adoption of a common definition of rape in the EU;
- Guaranteed decent work for women - targeted policies to ensure equal opportunities for men and women;
- Immediate transposition of the EU Equal Pay Directive into national law in all Member States;
- Increased and guaranteed pensions for women;
- An EU Directive requiring EU Member States to provide access to antenatal and maternal health services, voluntary family planning and free, safe and legal abortion.

FOR AN END TO DISCRIMINATION AND FOR THE FULL INCLUSION OF LGBTQIA+ PEOPLE:

- We campaign for the fundamental rights to marriage and parenthood for all couples, and to ensure that the rights of same-sex couples and their children are recognised across the EU;
- We advocate for the depathologisation of trans identities and gender self-determination, as well as a guarantee of recognition of these identities and access to treatment for the free development of these identities throughout the EU;
- Legal recognition of LGBTQIA+ identities must be included as a ground for asylum;
- Anti-discrimination laws need to be promoted and hate speech defined in order to be effectively addressed.

CO-DEVELOPMENT, NOT COLONIAL DOMINATION AND HEGEMONY

Today's globalised world shows that national antagonisms and European isolationism are illusions. The Covid-19 pandemic, with 6 million deaths worldwide, has highlighted the importance of international action in the face of today's crises. The European Left, together with governments of the Global South, trade unions, NGOs and church organisations, has called for global cooperation in the fight against pandemics and for vaccines to be declared a common good of humanity. The European Union must define its place in the emerging multipolar world and promote the non-use of force in international relations. It must promote cooperation between sovereign states based on equality and the renunciation of hegemony. We want the EU to work for the democratisation of international institutions: the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and, above all, the United Nations, which must be re-founded in order to abandon the current model, which is a response to the Cold War of the 21st century, and make way for a multilateral model which, among other things, extends the powers of the General Assembly to the benefit of the majority of states, allows for greater participation by civil society and strengthens the agencies of the UN by enhancing the powers of the General Assembly in the interest of the majority of states. EU trade policy must reject the neoliberal system of free trade agreements and the privatisation of services.

We call on the EU to break with its neocolonial style of domination and relaunch its trade and financial relations with the Global South on a new basis; specifically, we propose that relations with Latin America abandon the neoliberal logic and obscurantism of FTAs in order to establish a cooperation among equals that is transparent, sustainable and, above all, of mutual benefit. We want the EU to oppose the misuse of the international financial system as a weapon in the new Cold War and instead uphold multilateralism in the EU's economic and trade relations, supporting the de-dollarisation of international trade and the creation of a common world currency to put an end to the unilateral domination of the US dollar and a transformation of the IMF.

Fortress Europe has been waging a war against migrants and refugees for decades, causing violence, suffering and torture, with thousands of victims in the Mediterranean and along the Balkan route, and thousands of deportations. We want to stop Frontex, the externalisation of borders, the relocation of detention centres to non-EU countries, the funding of bloodthirsty regimes, and the administrative detention of those deemed unfit to remain in the EU. The New Pact on Migration and Asylum, signed on 20 December 2023, must be cancelled because it condemns refugees to detention and, in most cases, deportation. We are working for a Europe without cages and barbed wire, one that acts not as a wall but as a bridge to other continents and the people who live there.

We call on the EU to base its international policy exclusively on the UN Charter and UN resolutions instead of building up military capacities for worldwide interventions following NATO's instructions and resolutions.

The EU's migration policy must respect international law. We support the creation of safe, legal and regular migration channels and improved protection, rights and assistance for migrants and asylum seekers. If the EU wants to reduce the number of refugees and migrants then it needs to promote peace, stability and sustainable development in the Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia instead of participating in military interventions, fuelling civil wars and exploiting natural resources.

OUR PROPOSALS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION:

- We call for a break with ‘Fortress Europe’ – we stand for legal and safe migration routes and oppose the policy of illegal pushbacks. The EU must develop and implement a truly European migration and asylum policy, based on co-responsibility and obligatory solidarity between all Member States. A migration policy defined by the creation of safe, legal passages, in order to combat the extensive trafficking in human beings and stop human losses in the Mediterranean. An asylum policy that respects the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Geneva Convention on the Status of Refugees. We demand the abrogation of all agreements and declarations on migration and refugees that violate these fundamental rights, including agreements on the externalisation of European borders, and their replacement with a common reception system in the European Union based on criteria of inter-territorial solidarity and respect for the rights of migrants and refugees;
- We call for a Council Directive on implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation;
- We demand the abolition of the Dublin Agreement, and the dissolution of Frontex;
- We demand the cancellation of the EU’s Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with the countries of the Global South and their replacement with new international agreements, trade control and investment treaties for co-development and public goods that respect industrial and agricultural sovereignty, fair trade and social and environmental development, promoting the consumption of locally produced goods and short distribution channels. This must be done in an independent manner, without subordinating these relations to the geopolitical interests of the USA and NATO;
- We call on EU Member States to cancel the Covid debt of countries in the Global South. A general public audit of illegitimate, coerced debt should be introduced;
- A European Fund for ecological and social co-development, financed by the ECB, must be set up to establish new relations with the countries of the South. Workers’ representatives from the countries concerned must be able to participate;
- We call on the EU to commit to an immediate and massive multiannual issue of SDRs (Special Drawing Rights) for the ecological transition and the response to the social crisis, allocated according to the needs of each country, and to an overhaul of voting rights within the IMF, based both on a country’s GDP and on the weight of its population in the world;

- The world must recognise the danger threatening the Armenian people. We demand the cancellation of the gas contract between the EU and Azerbaijan. The energy argument must not be an argument against the basic human rights of the Armenian people;
- In line with the annual vote of the UN General Assembly for the past 30 years, we call on the EU to take action against the USA's economic, financial, and trade embargo against Cuba, and its extraterritorial application, as well as its immediate removal from the list of countries promoting terrorism;
- The EU must call on the repressive regime of Turkey to stop its aggression against the Kurdish people. It should condemn Morocco's occupation of Western Sahara, its attacks and human rights violations against the Saharawi people and its military aggressions against the territories liberated by the Polisario Front and the Saharawi refugee camps in Tindouf, and support a referendum on self-determination for the Saharawi people in line with UN resolutions;
- The Euro-Turkish negotiations for the revision of the Customs Union must be used as a means of placing pressure on Turkey for a joint appeal on the part of Greece and Turkey to the International Court of Justice on issues of the continental shelf and the EEZ.

LET'S DARE TO DO DEMOCRACY!

We are in favour of a thorough public debate on the future of the EU, involving national parliaments, the European Parliament and civil society. The recent 'Conference on the Future of Europe' concluded its work with a call for a revision of the European Treaty in the direction of democratic participation, transparency, accountability and social cohesion.

We are fighting for a new EU that prioritises an ecologically sustainable economy, employment, and the welfare state, overcoming economic and social disparities between Europe's regions and advocating equality between men and women – instead of the single market and so-called 'monetary stability'. We continue our struggle to overcome the crisis of the EU and to build a truly democratic union of the European people. Although we are fighting for reforms within the legal framework of the EU, we believe that it is the current EU treaties that stand in the way of radical social and ecological transformation and the effective and democratic sovereignty of the people. We therefore call for an independent, solidarity-based, participatory and democratic re-founding of the EU.

The rule of law, women's rights and democracy are values that must be applied and enforced throughout the EU. We likewise defend the right of the parliaments and governments of Member States to reject anti-social, neoliberal measures when they are imposed.

The new EU must respect the sovereign self-determination of the European peoples, who cooperate with each other as equals. Policy areas of shared competence must be democratised, with the directly-elected European Parliament and the national parliaments playing the central role. We also recognize the existence and the rights of peoples without states.

Europe is more than the EU. European security and cooperation require the strengthening of pan-european institutions such as the Council of Europe and the OSCE.

The EU has set clear criteria for its enlargement policy, which must not be watered down: States can only become members of the EU if they respect human rights, the rule of law and the social and political rights of their populations, including minorities. Enlargement must not be an instrument

for deepening rifts within Europe and increasing military tensions. It must not assign the accession countries the role of suppliers of cheap raw materials, agricultural products, and cheap labour as it is doing already now. This is good neither for the working people of the accession countries nor for those of Member States. In contrast, it must focus on safeguarding democracy and the rule of law and boosting social cohesion in candidate and Member States.

We believe that the right of universal suffrage can enable immigrants to actively participate in the commons, and the right to vote from 16 years of age would be a good first step towards strengthening democracy and participation.

OUR POSITIONS:

- The new treaties must define anti-fascist and anti-Nazi values as the foundations of the Union;
- The directly-elected European Parliament must have the right to initiate legislation, to propose laws, to elect the European Commission, to propose and decide on the EU budget and to control the activities of the European Central Bank;
- While the European Parliament has no competence in Common Foreign and Security Policy, we reject the abolition of the unanimity principle in the European Council in these matters;
- We support the aspirations of the Irish people to reunite their nation divided by British colonialism.

OUR PARTY HAS THE AMBITION TO BE AN INSTRUMENT FOR A NEW UNITY OF THE LEFT IN EUROPE ACROSS PARTY LINES, WORKING FOR THE CONVERGENCE AND COMMON ACTION OF ALL PROGRESSIVE AND GREEN FORCES.

WE OFFER OUR ELECTION MANIFESTO FOR DISCUSSION AND DEBATE TO ALL THOSE WHO WANT TO WORK FOR A DEMOCRATIC, JUST, FEMINIST AND ECOLOGICAL EUROPE BASED ON A NEW PARADIGM OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

VOTE FOR THE MEMBER, OBSERVER AND PARTNER PARTIES OF THE EL!



