

EPP Group MODERNISATION AGENDA



A EUROPE THAT
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epp
group
in the european parliament

EUROPEAN WAY OF LIFE



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MODERNISATION AGENDA



People's lives have changed radically in the last years. The pandemic obliged people to stay home and completely change their lifestyle, restricting social contacts and using digital technologies more and more to stay in touch with family and friends. The growing consequences of climate change urge us to find innovative and common solutions to tackle it. The migration crisis poses a significant challenge to the cohesion of our Member States. In addition, war is back on the European continent. We are witnessing the most serious nuclear threat from Russia the world has seen since the Cold War. At the same time, the Russian war of aggression has negatively affected global supply chains and undermined global food security, has created economic uncertainty and led to a spike in energy prices with a detrimental impact on the competitiveness of our industry. Over the past five years, the crises have shown that people not only expect a strategic and autonomous Europe that creates opportunities, but also a fair and strong Europe that protects.

The last decades have seen the world growing more interconnected: while it has brought great benefits and prosperity to the citizens of Europe, making it the best continent in the world to live in, it has also created new challenges and drastic changes for many. People feel more isolated, perpetually losing control over their lives. The speed of globalisation has also created a world often detached from peoples' real needs and concerns. While the left wing, liberal cosmopolitans pursue social changes at all costs and dream of unrooted

“global citizens”, and the radical right shuts all doors to the world and looks for salvation in national egoism, the EPP wants to live the European way of life. Regional roots, national identity and European commonality belong together, complement each other and are mutually dependent. Europe is not a tool for hyper-globalisation, but a place where everyone belongs, bound by values and traditions, where everyone can thrive, with human dignity at the core. Europe protects minorities. After all, our identity, rooted in our diversity, is our strength.

Our Christian democratic thinking, which includes conservative, liberal and Christian social roots makes the EPP Group the best-placed political force to build a value based modern Europe. We know how important it is to reconcile differences and build bridges to face the difficult challenges: we want to unite, not divide, to be constructive, not destructive, and to find common solutions through dialogue. This has been our approach throughout the history of our Union and it will continue to be. We are the party of the European way of life: we are proud of our democracy, freedom, rule of law, pluralism, equality between men and women and Christian heritage. We support and promote a family-friendly society, which invests in children and their parents, while taking effective measures to tackle the demographic challenge. We believe in a sustainable and social Europe based on personal freedom, lively communities that are active parts of society, social fairness, geographic cohesion, entrepreneurial freedom and intergenerational solidarity. In a Europe where fighting poverty is a key priority, human rights are respected and where there





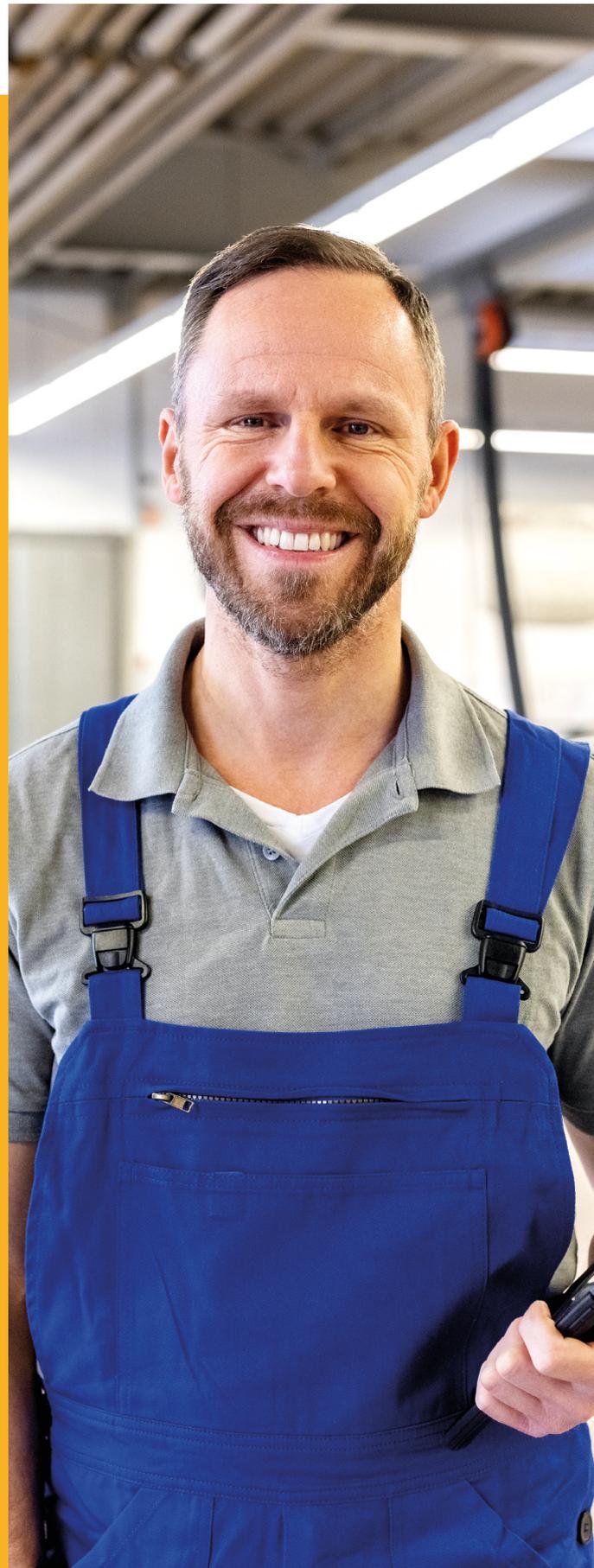
are laws that prevent and combat violence against women, men and children, in its physical or digital form. We shape policies that leave no one behind, especially our middle class and the poorest in our society, and does not exclude or marginalise groups in our society, including rural areas. Europe will only truly flourish when all parts can flourish: each family, each region, and each Member State. We stand by the principle of subsidiarity. We need a European Union that, according to the notion that not every problem in Europe is a problem for Europe, concentrates on the tasks better fulfilled at the European level than at Member States or municipalities' level. We support a close cooperation between the local and the European level.

In a complex world, we want to make things easier for people: European politics, in word and action, should aim at simplifying people's lives and making Europe relevant, understandable and accessible to its citizens, providing an environment where everyone can realize their full potential and is fully involved in decision-making. This is crucial to our democracy. European democracy is the best answer to an unsafe world, ensuring that Europeans can determine their own future. For the EU and its institutions to withstand the great challenges of our time and effectively protect our citizens, we must strengthen our democratic resilience. And we, as center-right know that, in times of crisis, what counts is not to make the most popular decisions, but to focus on what really matters to people. Our Europe is built on and for the people like farmers, fishers, craftsmen, nurses, doctors, teachers, students, workers, entrepreneurs, employees, engineers, builders, civil servants, inventors,

the young and the elderly. Europe cares and belongs to everyone. We want to reconnect European traditions with the potential of the future.

For us, change is not a threat if it is embedded in the European way of life. Change is part of the DNA of the EPP Group and we harness it to ensure we can deliver policies accordingly. That is why we aim to address demographic change by building, today, the policies we need for the future. Since the collapse of authoritarian and totalitarian communism, we have experienced a proliferation of individual freedom. Freedom is the key promise of the European way of life. However, it must be balanced with other human needs and rights such as safety, identity, security and responsibility.

We know the next big project of our generation will be to build a Europe of Security. This goes hand-in-hand with investing in our geopolitical security, making Europe stronger against an aggressive Russia and the new international scenario. Standing by our Ukrainian friends remains a priority for the EPP Group: the victory of the brave Ukrainian people is the only way to re-establish long-lasting peace in Europe. This also includes a forward-looking enlargement strategy for Ukraine, Moldova and the Western Balkans evaluating each candidate country individually, based on concrete results, while safeguarding our Union as a community of values that must find its limit to work effectively. To achieve all of these ambitious goals, Europe needs a policy based on reconciliation instead of division, unity instead of egoism, and ambition instead of hesitation.





For us, human dignity always has to be at the centre of our political actions. In fact, we have advocated for a Europe of innovation that is people-centred, especially when it comes to artificial intelligence and its impact on people's lives. We have made important choices for a sustainable Europe. We have made significant steps in combatting climate change, in improving Europeans' health with research and technology and made Europe a better place to live in. We want to strengthen the principles of a social market economy, with a strong social dialogue that works for all, provides opportunities for everyone, protects our workers and supports the most vulnerable. We put the competitiveness of our entrepreneurs, our industry and business at the forefront, as they are the ones ensuring our prosperity and providing jobs. In particular, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are the backbone of the European economy so we must continue creating opportunities and removing obstacles for our SMEs to grow and prosper. We must keep the rising prices under control, especially when it comes to energy. This goes hand-in-hand with reinforcing Europe's strategic autonomy, to ensure that, while we invest in mutually beneficial relations with like-minded partners, we are not reliant on anyone in our most important needs. We, therefore, also want to continue supporting our farmers and fishers, as they are key to a secure food supply, reducing our dependency from imports. We fight to empower our youth. We believe intergenerational fairness is key to ensure a better future for Europe: we must create opportunities for them with the best possible education,

quality jobs, encourage entrepreneurship and stop the brain drain. We shall develop reasonable and fact-based policies, rather than policies that are entirely based on ideology, hate or fake news.

What we envision for the future is a Europe that protects its people, a competitive Europe that shapes the future, a Europe that delivers on what really matters to people and that brings people together in solidarity.

In times of crisis, Europe is the best solution to our challenges, the strongest platform from which to speak out, and the safest security shield for our citizens. We developed and distributed a high quality vaccine in record time and we are united in our response to Putin's criminal attack and our unwavering support for Ukraine. The European Union is the anchor and safeguard of our unique European way of life. We, as the only real European people's party that puts people of all ages, their families and communities at the centre, have shaped Europe from its very beginning and we are ready to be ambitious just as our founding fathers in the aftermath of World War II. We want to keep working for a strong European Union that leaves no one behind. The European elections in 2024 will be crucial in determining the future of our continent. If we work together, if we are united, we can deal with the challenges of tomorrow with renewed energy, greater security, higher quality and stronger solidarity among Europeans. We stand ready to take our responsibility.



SECURITY

A European security pact

In a world in turmoil, faced with wars, pandemics, increased criminality and cyber-threats, we call for a European Security Pact for a Europe that protects its citizens. We know what needs to be done; now, it is time to deliver. We need a true common European Defence, compatible with NATO, and to invest in the defence technologies of the future. We have to better protect our external borders and better manage migration flows, but also to ensure our internal security when it comes to fighting terrorism, organised crime as well as space and cyber threats. Faced with a new geopolitical order, Europe must also protect our interests by understanding and reinforcing our role in the world, speaking with one voice on the global stage. In the next legislative term, we want a European Security Pact to protect all Europeans.

We stand for

Protecting

- 1** Our **external borders** with **FRONTEX** as fully-fledged coast and border guard, equipped with **implementation powers**. We defend and promote the New Pact on Migration and Asylum to fight human traffickers, stop illegal migration, and address the root causes of migration through common European solutions, such as physical infrastructures, and **agreements with neighbouring countries like Tunisia or Morocco**.
- 2** Our **strategic industries from unfair competition** as well as our **critical infrastructure against foreign take-overs** and illegitimate pressures from autocratic countries. This includes the design of a **European Ports' Strategy** to protect maritime ports.
- 3** Our **children in the digital space**, by creating a safe online environment with a **European Action Plan against cyberbullying and child abuse**. Bullying in the online space should be considered a criminal offence all over Europe.
- 4** Our girls and women, by **criminalising violence against women** everywhere in Europe and applying the **same standards to punish perpetrators**.
- 5** Our rule of law, with a **new Rule of Law instrument for Europe in the hands of the Court of Justice** of the EU (CJEU): the CJEU would be tasked with a regular review of the state of play within Member States and the power to impose sanctions, including financial sanctions, if necessary. We must avoid the rule of law to be politically misused or ignored by any Member State.

Creating

6

The momentum for the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) to be deepened in order **to work towards a European Defence Union with integrated European forces** on land, sea and air by 2030 complementing national military forces, aligned with NATO's new force model, with a rapid deployment capacity of a permanent and immediately available force. This force should be gradually extended towards a European Corps by assigning additional troops and force elements coming from the Member States, deepening their operational links and interoperability. We should promote the Common Security and Defence Policy and revive Europe's military industry, ensure military mobility across the EU and step up Member States' national spending on defence and new joint investments.

7

A true **European Defence Union** with a dedicated and increased budget, a **European Defence Commissioner**, and a Defence Formation in the Council of the EU.

8

A **European Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)** to boost and promote research in innovations and technologies of the future for defence purposes. At the same time, we want to **remove obstacles to finance European defence companies** and achieve the **goal of 35% joint procurement of defence equipment**.

9

A **joint civil-military headquarter** on European level that combines the civil and military instruments in order to make full use of the EU's integrated approach in crisis management right from strategic planning to the actual conduct of the mission or operation.

10

A fully operational **European Cyber-brigade** to fight cyber-attacks, and new forms of hybrid warfare from terrorists, organised crime, foreign interference and disinformation, protecting our critical infrastructure, media freedom and the independence of judiciary.

11

A long-term, forward-looking **EU Security Strategy towards China**, the **Mediterranean** and **Africa**. Europe must proactively define its role in the world and assert its interests, especially when it comes to uncontrolled migration, energy and supply of raw materials, and tackling the rise of authoritarianism, developing its resilience and effective early warnings before conflicts arise. A **European Security Council**, comprised of Member State Ministers responsible for internal and external security, should be created to swiftly respond to emergencies and develop an integrated approach to conflict and crisis.

Strengthening

12

Europol to become "**Eurocops**": a fully **operational police agency** with **enforcement powers** when it comes to fighting terrorism, child abuse, corruption, and combat cross-border organised crime, including human trafficking and smuggling of drugs and weapons. We support the principle of free movement, but there should be no free movement for criminals. We also want to improve the protection of victims of terrorism and strengthen the **European Arrest Warrant**.

13

Our **democracy**, defending it against disinformation and foreign interference, safeguarding the independence of our judicial systems, media freedom and the functioning of our democratic institutions. Europe must remain at the forefront of global democracy support and - together with NATO - create a **Centre for Democratic Resilience**.

14

EU diplomacy bringing it to the 21st century: we want to establish an **EU Foreign Minister**, give the External Action Service a stronger role, promote an EU common seat within the multilateral United Nations' system and other multilateral institutions and move from unanimity to **qualified majority in Foreign and Security Policy** decisions.

15

Our citizens with a **European Civil Contingencies Resilience Plan**, to enhance the resilience of Europeans in the event of crises, such as COVID-19, and to make sure local and state authorities can react faster and in a targeted way to emergencies.

16

Ukraine and our eastern neighbours against the Russian war of aggression. We want to reach **sustainable peace** with a **robust strategy towards Russia** and a **joint EU-NATO European Security Shield**. A forward-looking **European enlargement strategy** for Ukraine, Moldova and the Western Balkans that evaluates each candidate country individually based on concrete results while safeguarding the necessary integration capacity of the Union.

ENERGY, JOBS AND COMPETITIVENESS

A Europe that shapes the future

Europeans not only expect a Europe that protects, but also an ambitious Europe that takes the lead, shaping today's world. The EPP has led Europe from the beginning: now we want to take Europe into the future. Our social market economy allows Europe to run fast without leaving anyone behind. From coal to cargo ships to data, we have built our success by breaking down the barriers that were blocking us. We know Europe can be the continent of the next digital wave and the global hub for technological innovation. This potential gives us a huge responsibility: we must create quality jobs, strengthen our partnerships with democracies around the world, and protect our independence. We must unleash Europe's potential to shape our future.

We stand for Protecting

- 17 **Existing jobs and social standards** against unfair competition, such as social dumping, and creating a business-friendly environment that facilitates entrepreneurship with a **Competitiveness Strategy for Europe**.
- 18 **European energy security and affordability** with a **true Energy Union**, with more domestic energy, a strategic import strategy and greater investments in cross-border energy infrastructure such as a European hydrogen backbone and a sufficient European-wide electricity grid, improving the design of the electricity market to ensure stable prices and consumer protection.
- 19 Our **business environment**, adopting an **Action Plan to reduce regulatory burden by 1/3 in all sectors** to allow our companies to flourish.
- 20 Our **climate** by supporting and providing finance for businesses, including SMEs, that can transition to more sustainable practices and accompanying them in reducing emissions.
- 21 **European interests across the world** with **smart trade agreements** in line with our European interests, values and standards, such as with Mercosur, Australia and Africa, with a focus on critical raw materials and a closer cooperation with like-minded partners in a **Union of Democracies**.
- 22 Our fundamental rights in the digital world by enforcing the Digital Market and Services Acts to make the internet a safer, more transparent and fairer marketplace, and by **updating the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights** in light of the digital revolution.

Creating

- 23 **New quality jobs for Europeans making green the new gold:** we want to unlock public and private investment in innovation for clean technologies with an **Investment plan for European jobs**, calling for Member States to reach a combined investment of 4% of GDP in research and development.
- 24 A **Small and Medium Enterprises' (SMEs) Envoy** with a direct mandate to oversee the application of the SME Test to all EU legislation and create a Start-Up and SMEs-friendly environment.
- 25 **Opportunities for women to become entrepreneurs** and self-employed, including pursuing careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). While making up half of the EU population, only about 35% of the EU self-employed and 30% of start-up owners are woman. Creating a business environment with more women entrepreneurs is also crucial to European competitiveness and innovation power.
- 26 A European **Critical Raw Materials' Initiative** with strategic mapping of global supply chains. The EU needs and a plan to increase Europe's self-sufficiency, especially to produce clean technologies such as electric vehicles.
- 27 A comprehensive industrial strategy to incite the reshoring of strategic value chains inside the EU and leading to **European reindustrialisation**.
- 28 The new **"CERN" for Artificial Intelligence** as a decentralised institute that would pool European resources and expertise to make Europe the new hub for the ethical and human-centred development of AI and digital innovation.
- 29 A **European Digital Network**, rolling out next generation secure digital infrastructure and hardware across every European region, including 5G and 6G, and setting binding targets for Member States to comply with.
- 30 A **European Convention** to adapt the EU to today's challenges and needs. The EU should deliver when its added value really counts, while leaving to the Members States matters that are best managed at national, regional or local level, according to the principle of subsidiarity.

Strengthening

- 31 Our firms' competitiveness with a **EU competitiveness check** of all new EU policy initiatives to assess the cumulative impact of legislation on businesses and their environment and establish a **European Advisory Competitiveness Body** to put forward proposals that actively improve EU's competitive environment.
- 32 Our **Single Market by bringing it to the 21st century**, tearing down remaining barriers, advancing digitalisation, completing the single market for services and deepening the energy market. We will also push for more harmonized rules among the Member States, a fully integrated energy market and a harmonized telecommunication market.
- 33 And completing the **Digital Single Market**, fostering digital innovation, with technology-neutral approach and without over-regulation, to be competitive in the digital world.
- 34 And accelerating the **integration of EU capital markets** to allow our SMEs, households and citizens to benefit from better access to loans and more investment's options, including the integration of the retail market for consumers. This will be instrumental for achieving our green and digital transition.
- 35 Our economy with transparent, limited and accessible **legal pathways for migration** benefiting Europe as well as the countries of origin. We should improve EU migration policy to attract the best talents from across the world, address labour shortages and boost economic growth.
- 36 Our European and Monetary Union: we stand for responsible budgeting, sustainable fiscal policies, intergenerational fairness and a strong and stable Euro. This also means bringing the **Stability and Growth Pact to the post-crisis years**, to ensure monetary and financial stability.
- 37 **Europeans through Artificial Intelligence:** we must work to ensure that AI lives up to ethical standards, while supporting innovation and new technologies and harnessing the power of AI to **create quality jobs and a better** life for our people.

QUALITY

A Europe that matters to people

Our Europe is a place built by and for everyone. In difficult times, we must deliver on what really matters to its citizens. We want Europe to make a real difference for people. We want to ensure that everyone, no matter where he or she lives, has access to good health-care. We want an ambitious climate policy that brings all citizens on board and leaves a better planet for future generations. We want the best innovations and the most effective market-mechanisms to make sure that Europe develops ideas, tools and products that make a difference for the whole world. Europe must not go alone: only with our partners can we meet our global climate targets. Our capacity to innovate and our social market economy are our best resource to achieve this goal. Europe must be the place where business and research together make people's lives better. At the same time, we support our businesses, farmers, and fishers, ensuring their competitiveness, providing the conditions to create quality jobs and secure access to affordable food for all Europeans. We want to build a Europe that delivers on what truly matters: people's well-being, a sustainable future, and boundless opportunities.

We stand for Protecting

38

Our **farmers, rural communities**, and **fishers** as key strategic sectors to the quality and affordability of food to all Europeans and to the preservation of our countryside, rural areas and waters. For this, an ambitious **CAP reform** combined with an increased budget to achieve sustainable transition will be crucial. We are the political force that delivers for high quality food and lively rural areas and provides farmers with a credible perspective.

39

Our environment, achieving the 55% Co2 emissions' reduction target, while being even more ambitious and reaching **climate neutrality by 2050 at the latest**.

40

Europe's resilience against droughts that jeopardise our farmers' jobs and our food security with a **European plan for water use, reuse, and storage** and intelligent sharing so that Member states can support each other when one is in need. We must make the EU water smart.

41

Access to high quality education for all Europeans by **strengthening the European Education Area**, ensuring a more consistent recognition of professional and educational qualifications across the EU, enabling secondary school students to easily attend school in another Member States, greatly expanding the Erasmus+ program and developing DiscoverEU.

42

Our European way of life by **strengthening the cultural and creative sectors** with a **Digital Museum of European Culture**, connecting all main museums around Europe, and by creating museums of European history in different parts of Europe.

43

The **quality of EU decision-making**, ensuring **transparency** of decisions and the **sound management** of European funds.

Creating

44

A true **European Health Union** to deal with cross-border threats, improve the resilience of health systems, prevent medicine and medical devices shortages, becoming the world leader in pharmaceutical innovation, improve childcare, and to make sure that Europe is ready to deal with the next pandemic. We want see the **European Beating Cancer Plan** fully implemented, keep jointly investing in **research and innovation**, and develop a true **European Health Data Space**. We want to ensure the same quality of healthcare for all EU citizens, no matter where they live in the EU.

45

A **European Cardiovascular Health Plan**, with concrete objectives, timetable, benchmarks and funding, including a specialised **European Knowledge Centre**, to reduce cardiovascular disease, the number one killer in the EU, which kills twice as many women as every single cancer combined and it is the biggest killer of infants under the age of 1.

46

An **EU research-computing centre** to simplify the exchange of findings and data across Europe, while realising the European Research Area (ERA) to unleash the research potential and economies of scale of European cooperation, including the harmonization of legal standards in the field of research.

47

A **stand-alone portfolio on fisheries** in the next European Commission. Fishery is a key sector for European food supply and it is crucial to reduce our dependency from imports.

48

A **'sunset clause'** in EU legislation, where appropriate, so that a law ceases to exist unless further action is taken to ensure that the legislation remains up-to-date. The European Commission should also periodically check that existing legislation is not in contradiction with each other.

49

A **new competence catalogue/check** for institutions, identifying main common goals, while also considering competences that can be transferred back to Member States.

Strengthening

50

Our climate and environmental policy by making the **European Union responsible for negotiating and concluding international environmental agreements** with third countries.

51

Our **farmers to ensure quality and affordable food** for all Europeans by investing in agriculture as a high tech sector with a **European moon-shot for precision farming, integrated pest management and robotics** that would optimise productivity while reducing inputs, costs and emissions. We also want to ensure that the agricultural and fisheries sectors remain attractive for next generations of young farmers and fishers.

52

Europeans' well-being with high living standards, quality of life and equal opportunities with a strategy for **Sustainable economic growth**.

53

Our European democracy by giving the **European Parliament the right to initiate EU legislation** and elect the President of the European Commission, similarly to the right of other national parliament in Member States. The President and European Commissioners should pledge to respect a coalition agreement before receiving the EP's confidence.

54

The voice of Europeans by letting them chose the **European Council President by direct election**. This will provide a direct link between citizens and the EU institutions strengthening European democracy.

55

The EU power to deliver with a **"right to step in"** of the **European Union**, in clearly defined areas that fall under its competence, to assure Europe delivers when necessary.

SOLIDARITY

A Europe that brings people together

We envision a Europe with a renewed spirit of solidarity among its peoples and that brings this vision beyond its borders. We want a Europe that cares for everyone and protects the most vulnerable in our society. Our unique EPP approach combines the drive for competitiveness and economic opportunities with a strong sense of social solidarity and responsibility. Solidarity is not an obstacle, but an engine for growth: neither is possible without the other. We believe in a Europe that works together, includes everyone, offers the best conditions for raising a family, creates jobs, empowers our youth, women and families, and provides the best possible working environment for business while asking everyone to contribute their fair share. We want a Europe that turns different interests into bridges and conflicts into solidarity.

We stand for Protecting

56

Our **European social model** as defined in the European pillar of social rights, safeguarding our Social market economy, financial stability, and functioning welfare state that accompanies demographic changes and that links economic growth to social solidarity.

57

The most vulnerable in our society and those who look after them informed by a **European Care Strategy**, both to support carers and to ensure those who receive care or are in need of support are best provided for.

58

Fairness in our Union with a **fair Digital Single Market**, where tech giants who profit from European consumers also pay their share with a **digital tax** to be used as part of Europe's own resources.

59

Our children's health: all must have access to the best treatments and the highest quality medicines, no matter where they live in Europe. We want to empower our researchers to create the most effective treatments, ensuring right incentives for the development of orphan and paediatric drugs by creating a true **European Paediatric Clinical Trials Network**. By working together, we can save children's lives.

60

Our youth and children's future by establishing a **"Youth and Children Test"** for all EU legislation to ensure European laws respect the interest of young people and children's rights as well as promoting the wellbeing of our youngest citizens. (14)

61

With the **European Disability Card** that, once approved, will recognise the disability status with a common European definition, providing equal rights to persons with disabilities across the EU.

Creating

62

A **New Pact for Intergenerational fairness**, including a **Youth and Elderly proof check** of all EU legislation. We want to safeguard our elderly and support healthy aging, for seniors to remain active members of society, while empowering our youth to have a bright future. To ensure the wellbeing of senior citizens, we want to establish enhanced networks and innovative structures that provide the best care, but also combat social exclusion.

63

A **Joint initiative for demographic policies** through common guidelines supporting Member States' to **fight the brain drain** and bringing brains back home, focusing on youth and tackling labour shortages.

64

An **EU Action Plan for Mental Health** to make sure all European citizens are aware and are able to take advantage of psychological support, especially in the difficult times we live in.

65

A true **Civil Protection Union force** linked to strategic reserves of food, medicines and medical equipment, in a spirit of solidarity to prevent and help face disasters in Member States. (15) In this framework, we want to create an operational **European Firefighters' force**, to be swiftly activated whenever a Member State is in need.

66

New **EU own resources** to finance the next big European projects and to ensure the Recovery Fund repayment does not lead to cuts in EU programmes and fall on our youth. Only with a robust and flexible, EU budget, can we support people's needs and be able to adjust to current and future challenges.

67

A fully **European Postal Service** limiting the cost of deliveries all around Europe. For citizens and our businesses, it should be as easy to send a parcel to any EU Member State as it is at national level.

Strengthening

68

Our workers' rights in the digital age, with a **European Workers' Guarantee for the Digital Market**, to strengthen our welfare states, empower trade unions, and ensure quality jobs all over Europe.

69

European **fight against unemployment** by building upon the lessons of the COVID-19 pandemic with a readiness to reactivate SURE under similar crisis. Also reinforcing the European Social fund and the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced workers.

70

European families with policies that help young couples to start their lives together, allow parents to find the right balance between their professional careers and family duties with affordable childcare, and ensure children spend enough quality time with their parents.

71

Solidarity in the climate transition by extending the Just Transition Fund to help our regions to support citizens to realize necessary investments in the isolation of their home, the modification of their means of transport and their consumption habits.

72

European cohesion policy: there should be no first and second-class citizens. Hence, we want to strengthen regional investments through the EU budget to close economic, social and territorial disparities. We also want to promote a **European plan for rural areas**.

73

Our **Common European Asylum System** (CEAS) with greater **fair sharing of responsibilities** among EU Member States, particularly regarding the reception and redistribution of asylum seekers and refugees in order to alleviate the pressure from states of first entry.

74

Our partnership with the African continent with a mutually beneficial **EU-Africa Strategy** to boost trade, investments, job creation, respond to the environmental challenge, ensure food security, tackle root causes of migration, ensure efficiency of aid, and facilitate lasting peace and security.

EUROPEAN WAY OF LIFE





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