

Draft proposals for WG on EU in the World

Taking account of discussions in WG and written contributions received

Preliminary Note:

The following integrates (into the previous preliminary draft) most of the written proposals received and verbal comments made in debates, but not all of them:

- some overlapped, or were similar
- some were contradictory to others, and we have taken what the debates so far show as being the likely prevailing view in the WG
- some sought to delete points. For facility of discussion, we have left those points in, otherwise they would be invisible (as would amendments to them), when the matter is discussed. Also, they were in because of prior support from the citizens component. WG members can of course propose deletions orally if they so wish.
- some addressed points that have never been discussed in the WG or plenary before, or were excessively detailed.

In addition, it should be noted that several members of the WG advocate that some proposals (or parts of them) should be sent to (or at least co-ordinated with) other WGs:

- Proposal 1 (or parts of it) to the WG on a stronger economy, social justice and jobs
- Proposals 2 and the first three indents of 3a should go to the WG on climate change & the environment
- Proposals 5 to the WG on Education & culture

Mr Aldecoa has proposed that the cluster headings should be re-ordered as follows: V, III, I and IV, with II going to WG on climate change.

Finally, the Co-chairs have just agreed a standard format for WG proposals with titles, objectives and measures. Ours can easily be re-formatted afterwards to that, as we more or less follow it anyway.

I. Reducing dependency of EU from foreign actors

1. We propose that the EU take measures to strengthen its autonomy in key strategic sectors such as agricultural products, strategic economic goods, semiconductors, medical products, innovative digital and environmental technologies and energy, through:
 - boosting research, development and innovation activities and collaboration on that between public and private partners
 - maintaining an ambitious trade negotiation agenda that can contribute to building resilience and diversification of supply chains, in particular for, raw materials, while also sharing the benefits of trade more equally and with more partners, thereby limiting our exposure and dependency on a small number of potentially risky suppliers.¹
 - increasing the resilience of EU supply chains through strengthening strategic sectors in the EU, stockpiling critical productions and devices and diversifying the supply sources of critical raw materials;
 - investing further in the completion of the internal market, creating a level-playing field to make it more attractive to produce and buy these items in the European Union.
 - support to keep such products available and affordable to European consumers and reduce dependencies from outside, using structural and regional policies, tax breaks, subsidies, infrastructure and research investments, boosting the competitiveness of SMEs as well as education programmes to keep related qualifications and jobs in Europe that are relevant to secure basic needs.²
 - a European-wide programme to support small local producers from strategic sectors across all Member States,³ making greater use of the European Fund for Strategic Investment

¹ From debates in Working Group and Plenary

² See Recommendation 1 from ECP4, Recommendation 2 from NCP Germany, Panel 1 "EU in the World"

³ See Recommendation 4 from ECP4

- better cooperation between Member States to handle the management of supply chain risks⁴
2. We propose that the EU reach more autonomy in the field of energy production and supply, in the context of the ongoing green transition by:
- adopting a strategy to be more autonomous in its energy production. A European body should integrate the existing European energy agencies and should coordinate the development of renewable energies and promote knowledge sharing⁵
 - actively supporting public transport and energy efficiency projects, a Europe wide high-speed rail and freight network, the expansion of clean and renewable energy provision (in particular in solar and wind) and alternative technologies (such as hydrogen or waste-to-energy), as well as cultural change from the individual car towards public transport, e-car sharing and biking.⁶
 - supporting in particular vulnerable citizens, who face the greatest challenges in transitioning towards climate neutrality and who are already suffering from increasing energy prices because of energy dependency and the recent tripling of energy prices.
 - increased collaboration around the assessment of the use of nuclear energy in the ongoing green transition in Europe, examining the collective issues that it could solve or create, given that it is already being used by many member states.⁷
 - engaging with international partners to committing them in attaining more ambitious goals to address climate change at different international fora, including G7 and G20.
 - Linking foreign trade with climate policy measures (e.g. by launching an investment package for climate-friendly technologies and innovations, including funding programmes⁸
 - pursuing common purchases of imported energy

II. Defining standards within and outside the EU

3. We propose that the EU strengthen the ethical dimension of its trade and investment relations through:
- EU legislation to ensure that decent work standards are fully applied along the global value chains, including all EU production and supply processes and that goods which are imported comply with qualitative ethical standards, sustainable development, and human rights standards including workers' and trade union rights, offering certification for products abiding by this law⁹ and develop an EU wide dialogue process that seeks to inform and educate on the environmental and ethical effects of policy changes in international trade
 - restrictions on the import and sale of products from countries that allow forced and child labour, a periodically updated blacklist of companies, and promoting consumer awareness on child labour through information made by official EU channels¹⁰.
 - enforceable Trade Sustainable Development chapters (TSD) in EU Free Trade Agreements (FTA) including the possibility of a sanctions-based mechanism as a last resort.
 - reforming the EU's Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) to include strong conditionality provisions and effective monitoring, reporting and dialogue processes in order to improve the impact GSP can have on trade, human rights and development in partner countries with trade preferences to be withdrawn in case of non-compliance

⁴ See Digital Platform

⁵ See Recommendation 14 from ECP4

⁶ See Recommendation 2 from ECP4

⁷ See Recommendation 17 from ECP4

⁸ See Recommendation 1 NCP Germany, Panel 1 "EU in the World"

⁹ See Recommendation 3 from ECP4

¹⁰ See Recommendation 11 from ECP4

3a. We propose that the EU strengthen the environmental dimension of its trade relations through:

- introducing a mandatory eco-score to be displayed on all products that can be bought by the consumer. The eco-score would be calculated according to emissions from production and transportation, as well as harmful content, based on a list of hazardous products. The eco-score should be managed and monitored by an EU authority¹¹.
- strengthen environmental standards for the export of waste and more stringent controls and sanctions to stop illegal exports. The EU should incentivise the Member States to recycle their own waste and use it for energy production¹².
- setting a goal of eliminating polluting packaging by promoting less packaging or more environmentally-friendly packaging¹³. establishing partnerships with developing countries, supporting their infrastructure and with mutually favourable trade deals to aid them in the transition towards green energy sources¹⁴.
- rewarding countries that apply high sustainability standards by offering them further access to the EU market for their sustainable goods and services, either unilaterally through the General System of Preferences GSP+, bilaterally through negotiated trade agreements, or multilaterally through initiatives in the World Trade Organisation

III. Decision making and cohesion within the Union

4. We propose that the EU improve its capacity to take decisions in Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) speaking with one voice and acting as a truly global player, projecting a positive role in the world and making a difference in response to any crisis, notably through:
- in particular in the area of the CFSP, issues that are currently decided by way of unanimity to be changed, normally to be decided by way of a qualified majority, with the only exceptions possibly being the admission of new members to the EU and changes to the fundamental principles of the EU as stated in Art. 2 of the Lisbon Treaty and the Charter of Fundamental Rights¹⁵.
 - basing cooperation in security and defense policy on the recently endorsed Strategic Compass and making use of the European Peace Facility¹⁶
 - strengthening the role of the High Representative to ensure that the EU speaks with one voice.¹⁷
 - agreeing on a strong vision and a common strategy in order to consolidate the the unity and decision taking capacity of the EU before allowing the accession of other countries¹⁸.
 - ratifying recently concluded trade agreements more promptly

IV. Transparency of the EU and its relations with the citizens

5. We propose that the EU, in particular in its actions at the international level, improve its accessibility for citizens through better information, education, citizen participation, and transparency of its action, notably by:
- strengthening links with citizens and local institutions to improve transparency, reach the citizens and communicate and consult better with them about concrete EU initiatives and at the regional and international level¹⁹.

¹¹ See Recommendation 13 from ECP4

¹² See Recommendation 15 from ECP4

¹³ See Recommendation 16 from ECP4

¹⁴ See Recommendation 12 from ECP4

¹⁵ See Recommendation 21 from ECP4

¹⁶ See Digital Platform

¹⁷ See Digital Platform

¹⁸ See Recommendation 26 from ECP4

¹⁹ See Recommendation 18 from ECP4

- stronger citizen participation in EU politics and direct citizens' involvement events, similar to the Conference on the Future of Europe, organised on a national, local and European level²⁰ and with the active participation of organised civil society²¹.
- full support by all relevant stakeholders to citizens who choose to get involved in organised civil society organisations, as they did with COVID-19 and Ukraine.
- Allocating a specific budget to develop educational programmes on the functioning of the EU and its values that it could propose to the Member States that wish, so that they can integrate them into their curricula (primary, secondary schools, and universities). In addition, a specific course on the EU and its functioning could be offered to students wishing to study in another European country through the Erasmus programme. Students choosing this course would be given priority in the allocation of said Erasmus programmes.
- improving its media strategy by strengthening its visibility on social media and actively promote its content as well as continuing to organise conferences such as Conference on the Future of Europe on an annual in person basis, including citizens involved in organised civil society and encouraging innovation by promoting an accessible European social media.²²

V. The EU as a strong actor on the world scene

6. We propose that the EU continue to act to promote and guarantee peace and a rules-based international order,²³ strengthening multilateralism and building on long standing EU peace initiatives which contributed to its award of the Nobel Prize in 2012, while strengthening its common security through²⁴:

- Playing a leading role in building the world security order after the war in Ukraine
- Its Joint Armed Forces that shall be used for self-defence purposes and preclude aggressive military action of any kind, with a capacity to provide support in times of crises including natural catastrophes. Outside European borders it could be deployed in exceptional circumstances preferably under a legal mandate from the UN Security Council and thus in compliance with international law²⁵, and without competing with or duplicating NATO and respecting different national relationships with NATO.
- Appointing a European Commissioner for Defence and Security²⁶.
- Protecting its strategic research in priority sectors such as the space sector, cybersecurity, the medical sector and the environment²⁷.
- Better protection of external borders²⁸
- Rendering operational the mutual assistance clause of Art. 42.7 of the Treaty on European Union, providing EU protection to any member state under attack by a third country.
- Countering disinformation and propaganda

7. We propose that the EU should, in its relations with third countries:

- make greater use of its collective political and economic weight, speaking with one voice and acting in a unified way, preventing certain Member States from dividing the Union through bilateral responses²⁹.
- strengthen its ability to sanction States, governments, entities, groups or organisations as well as individuals that do not comply with its fundamental principles, agreements

²⁰ See Recommendation 19 from ECP4

²¹ See Recommendation 19 from ECP4

²² See Recommendation 25 from ECP4

²³ From debate in Working Group and Plenary

²⁴ See Change 2 from the French national panel/events

²⁵ See Recommendation 20 from ECP4

²⁶ See Change 2 from French National Citizens' Panel

²⁷ See Change 2 from French National Citizens' Panel

²⁸ See Change 2 from French National Citizens' Panel

²⁹ See Recommendation 24 from ECP4

and laws and ensuring that sanctions that already exist are quickly implemented and enforced. Sanctions against third countries should be proportional to the action that triggered them and be effective and applied in due time³⁰.

- promote sustainable and rules-based trade while opening new trade and investment opportunities for European companies. While bilateral trade and investment agreements are key to promote European competitiveness, standards and rules are needed to ensure a level playing field. The EU needs to remain an active and reliable partner by negotiating, concluding and implementing trade agreements that also set high sustainability standards
- conclude major international cooperation agreements as the EU rather than as individual countries³¹.
- reform EU trade and investment policy to relaunch global multilateralism with as objectives the creation of decent jobs and the protection of fundamental human rights, including workers' and trade union rights; the preservation of the environment and biodiversity and the conformity with the Paris Agreement on climate change; the safeguarding of high-quality public services; and the strengthening of Europe's industrial basis. The EU should contribute to a relaunch of global multilateralism, through a profound reform based on democracy and peace, solidarity and respect for human, social and environmental rights and a reinforced role for the ILO.
- include in cooperation and investment agreement with third countries the fight against human trafficking and illegal immigration and cooperation with reference to any appropriate repatriations.
- establish partnerships with developing countries, supporting their infrastructure and with mutually favourable trade deals to aid them in the transition towards green energy sources³²
- develop a more effective and unified policy towards autocratic regimes
- offer a credible accession perspective in particular for the Western Balkan countries to foster peace and stability in Europe³³ and offer an intermediate status (privileged partnership) with full access to the internal market and eligibility for structural and investment funds even before full membership.

³⁰ See Recommendation 22 from ECP4

³¹ See Recommendation 1 on EU in World from Dutch National Citizens' Panel

³² See Digital Platform and Plenary Debates

³³ See Digital Platform