

## GREENS/EFA PRIORITIES FOR PROSPERITY IN THE 2024-2029 MANDATE

The Greens/EFA Group is committed to building a fairer, more prosperous European Union that protects people, the planet and our common democracy. In the face of an emboldened radical far right in Europe and autocratic regimes conspiring to undermine peace and democracy on our shared continent, Europe is facing an existential test. We stand determined to work together with democratic forces, to stop the far right, to take rapid action to protect our democracy and to create prosperity and good jobs through a Green and Social Deal.

The next European Commission mandate should focus on a Green and Social Deal for a just transition; promoting democracy, rule of law and fundamental rights in the European Union as well as defending peace, security and human rights globally.

### 1. A GREEN & SOCIAL DEAL

The European Union should lead the world in a just transition to sustainable societies. **Our Green and Social Deal proposals will fight the cost-of-living crisis** by investing in the essentials we all need and the public services we all deserve, while tackling the climate crisis. Greening our economy is an historic opportunity to create jobs and improve our quality of life while making sure no one is left behind. This is why this Commission should not backtrack on the Green Deal and should implement all previous legislation to ensure predictability and keep up the ambitions for the next mandate.

#### Securing a safe climate and environment

The climate crisis, destruction of nature and overuse of resources threaten the foundations of our well-being and wealth – even our security. **The damage to lives and livelihoods – the homes flooded and farms bankrupted – caused by the climate crisis increases each year.** The European Union needs to lead the way on climate action, making the Paris Agreement as well as the EU target for climate neutrality a reality. That's why a climate target for 2040 is needed of at least 90% and up to 95% including sub-targets. To reach those targets the EU has to commit to phase out fossil fuels, setting an example for COP30 in Brazil.

Climate change affects us all. Floods and droughts are becoming more and more frequent also in the European Union. **Climate Adaptation** needs to be at the centre of our action with special attention to **Water Resilience** to protect critical water supplies and ensure equitable access, end excessive and unsustainable abstraction and protect/restore natural “sponge” landscapes..

To protect our valuable nature, we need a **Pact for Oceans, seas, rivers and the blue economy. A dedicated EU Fund for Nature** will be key to accelerate the implementation of the global biodiversity targets and implement the **target of at least 30% of land & marine protected areas by 2030.**

## Leading on a Green Industrial Law

The green transition is the greatest challenge of our generation, and a race Europe cannot afford to lose. It will not be achieved without a forward looking industrial policy. Greening industries through investment in Europe is a huge opportunity for jobs, competitiveness and climate neutrality. We call for a **Green Industrial Investment Plan** to be launched within the first 100 days. It should include a plan to decarbonise key industrial sectors such as energy intensive industries (steel, cement, aluminium...) to future-proof European industry, rebuild our manufacturing capacity and make European companies leaders. This strategy should include measures to **boost the local production of key renewable technologies (heat pumps, batteries, solar PVs or windmills), which** should be funded by re-allocating EU & national fossil fuels subsidies.

We need reinforced EU coordination and strategic decision-making on industrial strategies, investments and infrastructure development, through a **new Transnational Industry Planning framework (TEN-I)** as well as support for digital infrastructures. In addition, an **EU Buy Sustainable Act and a revision of the public procurement directive** will create lead markets for renewable technologies and green products.

This new Commission should present **new targets for renewable energy and energy efficiency post-2030** to accelerate the transition towards a fully renewable-based and highly efficient economy by 2040 that will create jobs and cut energy costs.

Mobility is crucial to everyone, every day, for people and for our businesses. We want to **build a sustainable transport system for everyone, based on public transport and rail, which includes a shift in transport modes. A Single Digital Booking and Ticketing Regulation**, would ensure easier cross-border train travel for millions of Europeans with the purchasing of one single ticket on one single platform. Decarbonising the transport sector also means accelerating the electrification of road transport.

## Investments - mobilising public and private investment to meet the needs of the green, digital and industrial transitions

Meeting the geopolitical, social and climate challenges currently faced will require considerable amounts of both public and private investment. To avoid greater social and economic costs in the future, the Commission should create a **Green and Social Transition Fund of at least 1% EU GDP**. This would be funded by joint borrowing similar to NextGenEU to ensure no country gets left behind in meeting our climate targets in a socially responsible way.

In addition, the European Union should **complete the Capital Markets Union** with a common supervisor for cross-border entities and the removal of barriers to cross-border financing and investment in expanding the sustainable economy. This should come together with a **revival of the sustainable finance agenda**.

The European Union needs **fair taxation** and a **minimum effective taxation of capital gains**. This should come together with a concerted shift in taxation from wages to polluters, large corporations and wealthy people.

## Healthier, sustainable and prosperous farms for a better agriculture

The way we produce and consume food makes a big difference to our health, environment and the livelihoods of farmers. We want to reform Europe's common agricultural policy to move away from an agro-industrial agriculture model towards sustainable forms of farming, such as organic and agro-ecological solutions. Recent farmer protests clearly showed that we need a **new Deal for Farmers to ensure they get a decent revenue, make EU agriculture more resilient** to climate change and biodiversity loss and to ensure **small farmers get their fair share of EU agriculture subsidies**. Such reform should include a **cap of CAP funding** and should **guarantee no resale at loss**.

We advocate for a **new EU Sustainable Food Systems Law** so people can know what their food contains, where it is coming from and how it has been produced, thus incentivising healthy and sustainable diets while ensuring dignified working conditions and a fair income for all workers. The Commission should present a **new proposal on pesticides**. The new Commission should complete the animal welfare package, particularly to End the Cage Age for animals.

## Promote health for all in Europe

A European Health Union should guarantee affordable and universal health coverage and promote a One Health Approach. The COVID-19 pandemic confirmed the need for **investments in healthcare workforce training, healthcare facilities, medical supplies, and public health surveillance** to protect public health and promote well-being. Such funds should go to the public health care system, which is best placed to meet the needs of all, not only to those who can afford it.

The implementation of the "polluter-pays principle" can be achieved with an **ambitious revision of the Environmental Liability Directive**. Setting tighter limits on pollution protects the air we breathe and banning dangerous chemicals helps prevent health problems. This is why we need a **revision of the REACH legislation** in line with the commitments of the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability. We call for a **regulation to phase out PFAS**, allowing for time-limited exemptions only where strictly necessary.

## Social Policy - delivering on the European Pillar of Social Rights

Social policy so far has focused mainly on people as participants in labour markets and not enough on **ensuring access for all to basic goods and services**. This requires a solid action plan to converge on a decent minimum standard of social services and protections for all. This should certainly comprise a **European Housing Crisis Response** to secure access to decent housing.

The European Commission should present an **EU Just Transition Framework directive**. We want to ensure an EU-wide approach to maximising the benefits and minimising the burdens of the transition in order to decrease inequalities.

The EU needs legislation and investment to reduce poverty in line with the EU poverty strategy. In addition, a **minimum income directive** as part of European Pillar of Social

Rights action plan 2025 would contribute to the goal of reducing poverty by at least half in all Member States by 2030.

Throughout the transformation of the EU's economy it is essential to strengthen workers' voices through collective bargaining and meaningful consultation and also to ensure that **firms receiving public money** meet the highest social as well as environmental standards.

The European Union needs an **EU Care Deal**, including ratification of ILO conventions on domestic workers, nursing personnel and violence and harassment.

### Improving sustainability and consumer protection in the (digital) Single Market

We advocate for clear **rules against the use of addictive practices and an end to price personalisation**: prices online need to be transparent and fair, consumers should not receive prices based on their device set-up, their address or other personal data. **There is also a need to tackle manipulative practices** online via a Digital Fairness Act.

## 2. DEMOCRACY, RULE OF LAW AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

### Take rapid action for democracy and the rule of law

One of the biggest blows to European progress in recent years has been the development of authoritarian tendencies in the heart of Europe. We must ensure that EU funds do not disappear into the pockets of autocrats and their friends. We need to **trigger Article 7(2) TEU procedure in the case of Hungary**. The Commission should commit to **trigger infringement procedures** as regards EU values, including monetary fines following legal judgments and ensure the application of the **Rule of Law Conditionality Regulation**.

A **Convention** to start negotiations on the **Treaty changes** should be set up, as proposed by the citizens, with a view to improve the Union, enhance its capacity to act and strengthen the say of citizens, democracy and accountability.

EU legislation must work for young people: we call on the EU to prioritise and mainstream youth in EU policies and institutionalise **dialogues with youth representative organisations** and youth citizens' agora and strengthen the Erasmus programme.

### Enable a strong and dynamic civic space

Civil society organisations are at the heart of every democracy. We call for an EU **Directive on minimum standards for the protection of Civil Society Organisations in all Member States**, to protect civil society, activists, and defenders from all forms of attacks, discrimination, and harassment.

We need an **EU framework to prevent media concentration and monopoly** and enable journalists to work freely and safely. We call for measures that protect the **security of citizens** which are necessary and proportionate and fully **respect fundamental rights**, in line with the case-law of the Court of Justice, in particular on **data retention**.

## Union of equality 2.0 - racial justice, gender equality, equal rights and freedom for all

Racism in Europe is a structural and systemic challenge that must be addressed as such. Racial justice and gender equality should be mainstreamed in all EU policies. We call for the adoption of the **Anti-discrimination Directive**, an ambitious EU **action plan on anti-racism beyond 2025** and **legislation to counter racism and discrimination by law enforcement and AI**, such as the revision of the **Framework Decision on combating certain forms and expressions of Racism and xenophobia** by means of criminal law. The EU should foster cultural and linguistic diversity.

We need **Commission guidelines on the implementation of the gender based violence directive** to ensure a high level of standard in its implementation, in full compliance with the **Istanbul Convention**. A **renewed LGBTQIA+ Equality Strategy** should close legislative gaps in the areas of non-discrimination and hate crime. In the face of the ongoing backlash against bodily autonomy and women's rights we demand reproductive justice for everyone. **Sexual and reproductive health and rights, including the right to safe abortion, are fundamental rights**. They should be included in the **Charter of Fundamental Rights**. Safe and legal abortion must be available in all EU member states.

### Migration: ensure human rights compliance

We uphold a fair asylum and migration system that defends human rights and dignity, based on solidarity and responsibility sharing. We will closely monitor the implementation of the migration pact. The EU must ensure that fundamental rights are upheld at Europe's borders and we call on the Commission to step up its enforcement actions through **infringement procedures** and systematic **fundamental rights monitoring**.

## 3. PEACE, SECURITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The EU needs to do more to ensure peace, especially in our neighbourhood.

We stand by Ukraine and express our undivided solidarity with the people of Ukraine. The EU and its partners must **provide Ukraine with all the necessary political, military, economic, infrastructural, financial and humanitarian support**. Member States need to substantially increase their military aid, and the European Peace Facility needs a solid multi-annual budget for that, while the speed of deliveries need to increase significantly, with those with the largest defence industrial capacities taking the biggest share.

The surest way to ensure peace in our neighbourhood, however, is the EU's enlargement policy. We need to **use the current momentum to finally advance on enlargement**.

In the context of a **pro-active EU policy for the Middle East**, we call for a renewed commitment to the two-state solution and an EU peace initiative in order to restore a political horizon for a fair, comprehensive, long-lasting peace between Israel and Palestine.

At the same time, the war in Ukraine is challenging our idea of security and forcing us to think of it in a more comprehensive way. The EU must therefore rethink its security and defence policy and make it crisis-proof. We call for the establishment of an off-budget facility

**pooling parts of national defence budgets** for the full life cycle of military capabilities. By the end of the next term, **joint military research, development and procurement must be the rule** and must not remain the exception. In parallel, the EU also needs a **responsible Arms Export Policy at EU level**.

We need to stand up to the extreme right, illiberal and reactionary forces and authoritarianism globally. They pose an existential threat to our freedom, security and prosperity. We need to start at home and **take decisions on foreign policy by qualified majority, moving away from unanimity**.

We advocate for a coherent **strategy to support democracy and human rights defenders** worldwide, including **facilitated access to EU visas and temporary shelter for human rights defenders and journalists** at risk, as well as an EU mandate for the negotiation of the **UN binding instrument on business and human rights**.

We also need to **make sure the EU's trade and investment policies "do no harm" and do not come at the cost of human rights**, aligning them with the Sustainable Development Goals and in particular social, environmental and climate protection.

The Global South will be increasingly relevant, and we need to engage more with these countries, on eye level. We want to fully implement **policy coherence for development**, especially on trade and finance, agriculture, fishery, energy and climate policy and migration.

We advocate for a **new strategy for EU-Africa relations**, based on equal partnership, anchored in anticolonial struggles and ready to support local population and civil society in their call for better governance, peace and respect of natural resources and the environment.

We stand for a **feminist foreign and development policy** for the EU.