









Standing up for Europe

PES Presidency Declaration on the U.S. - adopted on 18 December 2025

The Transatlantic partnership with the United States (U.S.) has always been based on trustworthy relations, with consistent cooperation across security, trade, and diplomacy, and firmly grounded in democratic values and support to the rules-based international order and multilateralism. For decades, the transatlantic alliance has been instrumental in promoting peace and security, prosperity, shaping global norms, and supporting democracy and freedom while addressing common challenges, from peacekeeping efforts to economic integration. However, President Trump's administration has signalled a re-assessment of our alliance through different policies and statements such as the new U.S. National Security Strategy. The document represents an unprecedented attack on Europe, which is portrayed in tones of suspicion and hostility as a declining secondary actor rather than as a strategic ally. These actions promote a strategy aimed at weakening the EU as an economic force and political project by influencing our domestic debates, forcing disproportionate tariffs, circulating manipulative narratives, and empowering far-right forces. We will never accept attempts to weaken Europe from any head of state or president.

Europe is not "weakening", it is delivering. Our strength does not lie in culture-war slogans but in tangible achievements: a unique social model, universal public healthcare, robust consumer protection against abuses by large corporations and oligarchic interests, genuine institutional counter-powers, and freedom of expression guaranteed by law rather than by the whims of any president. These facts define Europe's community of values, and we take pride in them.

Moreover, the EU's commitment to human rights, gender equality, LGBTQ+ rights and non-discrimination is a core value of the Union, while Trump and his far right agenda are cracking down diversity and inclusion policies as well as attacking sexual and reproductive rights in the United States and beyond. In Europe, EU treaties, the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU and European courts constitute a strong safeguard to protect the hard-won rights of women, LGBTQ+ people, and minorities, and we remain firmly committed to defending them.

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The ruthless stance of the Republican party under the leadership of Trump is a wake-up call for Europe. It confirms that Europe needs to rebalance the relationship with the U.S. to a genuine partnership between equals. We remain close partners with the American people, the Democratic party, and all socialist and democratic forces that want to and will continue upholding the foundations of the transatlantic partnership as described above. In this context, the Party of European Socialists (PES) and its member organisations will continue to engage with progressive US federal states and cities, and their organisations to address common challenges, including global justice.

We will continue to defend our values and the principles that founded the EU. We will not allow Europe's democracy and sovereignty, its institutions, policies, information space, or industrial, territorial and political integrity to be attacked and undermined by external actors, deliberately misleading narratives or private companies. Cooperation among global partners must remain based on respect for principles of international law and democratic institutions. We stand for a sovereign Europe that protects its citizens.

In this regard, the EU's legislative framework is one of our decisive tools for defending our people and economy since it enforces high quality standards and ensures the respect of workers' rights, health and environmental standards as well as fair competition. Our position is non-negotiable: Europe will not remodel its policies, nor lower its standards to fit the demands of the US new foreign policy strategy. The rules governing our single market are legally binding for everyone and must be applied to all partners, without exception. EU laws such as the Digital Services Act (DSA), the Digital Market Act (DMA), the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Act and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), serve as key examples of our commitment to digital sovereignty and capacity, and the protection of individuals and we will remain vigilant about the influence of social media platforms in our political life.

Echoing the words of the President of the European Council, Antonio Costa: "allies do not interfere in the domestic political life of their allies. We respect them. We respect each other's sovereignty." The Trump administration's support to extreme right-wing narratives constitute a direct threat to our democratic traditions, social cohesion, and cultural diversity. The notion that Europe is undemocratic and requires salvation from civilisational erasure from external actors is not only a baseless fabrication but also illustrates the systemic support that the Trump Administration is giving to far-right and nationalist forces in Europe. They all have the same goal: undermine European values, unity, and sovereignty.

We are appalled by the Trump administration's open threat to directly interfere in the democratic life of our societies by using far-right forces in Europe as willing henchmen. This showcases once more that there cannot be any political cooperation between Europe's democratic political parties and parliamentary groups and these very same far-right forces.

We condemn and oppose this foreign interference and information manipulation (FIMI) strategy. We will work united, across Member States and at EU level, to counter these actions and narratives through effective implementation of digital regulations, and the protection of civil society and democratic participation. Democracy in Europe will prevail and we will not let President Trump or any external actors interfere in EU politics.

We stand determined to seize this opportunity to strengthen Europe as a global actor by developing strategic partnerships and reinforcing our strategic autonomy. To reduce dependencies, protect our farmers and industries from unfair competition, and safeguard our industrial and food sovereignty, we must engage with more partners, and trade is a vital tool to achieve this. In addition, strategic autonomy is essential for the EU to articulate its own vision of global security instead of reacting to a worldview built on force, economic self-interest, and cultural confrontation. Our strength lies in upholding and reforming international law, rebuilding our industrial and social foundations, and addressing the real sources of instability, such as climate change, inequality, wars in our neighbourhood, and the power of global oligarchies that distort democracy.

More than ever, Europe has to continue improving Europeans' lives, strengthening its industry, digitalisation, security and defence, keeping its leadership on the climate agenda and energy transition, and working with reliable partners, particularly like-minded partners in Latin America, Africa and Asia-Pacific, to uphold the rules-based international order. We want the U.S. to remain our partner but this must never come at the expense of our principles, values, or European sovereignty. We remind the U.S. Administration of its significance in upholding the international order and strongly condemn the attacks and threats by the Trump Administration against the International Criminal Court (ICC), including the targeting of its judges and prosecutors through sanctions and intimidation.

We remain committed in our support of Ukraine to defend itself and its territorial integrity against Russia's brutal and illegal war of aggression. Russia is an existential threat to peace in Europe. We will continue fighting for a just and lasting peace for Ukraine that respects Ukraine's vital interests and the principles of international law and that guarantees security for Ukraine and for the entire European continent.

When it comes to the Middle East, the Trump Administration has been supporting the continuous illegal and deplorable actions of the far-right Netanyahu government in Gaza and in the West Bank. We call on all parties to adhere to the provisions of the Gaza ceasefire agreement and to refrain from undermining the possibility of a long-lasting solution. We remain committed to restoring justice and the two-state solution for Israel and Palestine.

We will continue to act collectively and resolutely defend the values, integrity, and unity of Europe and the UN Charter.