



Brussels, 21 January 2026

**Antonio Costa**

**President of the European Council**

**Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 175**

**B-1048 Bruxelles / Brussel**

### **Proposal for Real Strategic Sovereignty in view of the transatlantic breakup**

The undersigned - members, promoters and friends of the relaunched Monnet's **Action Committee for the United States of Europe** - moved by our shared responsibility toward the European project, address you at a moment we consider of existential urgency for the Union.

The past year has evidenced a fundamental shift in the transatlantic relationship. What were once commercial disputes or diplomatic divergences transformed, under the current US administration, into a systematic policy of coercion, in constant violation of international law. The pressure on the territorial integrity of a Member State in the Arctic, and elsewhere, the unilateral imposition of arbitrary tariffs, and the threat to withdraw critical defence assets are not isolated events, but clear signals that the model of security based on external dependency has been exhausted.

We believe that the strategy of appeasement followed thus far has failed to safeguard European interests. Therefore, we urge the European Council to lead a change of course based on the following pillars of European sovereignty and independence:

1. **Indefinite suspension of the Turnberry Agreement:** The European Union must not implement the said agreement of July 2025 (non-reciprocal 15 per cent US tariffs on EU products). We cannot sacrifice our commercial sovereignty or accept an unequal trade relationship where our goods are taxed while American exports enjoy total freedom, particularly when Trump is threatening to annex Greenland to the US.
2. **Operationalization of the €93 billion Countermeasures under the Enforcement Regulation** prepared in response to the escalation of April 2025.
3. Immediate **activation of the Anti-Coercion Instrument** to counter these discriminatory measures. We cannot sacrifice our commercial sovereignty or accept an unequal trade relationship.



4. **Territorial Integrity in the Arctic:** The security of Greenland is a European responsibility. We propose the organization of the current deployment of European troops under EU command, to ensure that our territory is not subject to illegal annexation campaigns or foreign real estate transactions, if requested by Denmark and Greenland.
5. **European Strategic Responsibility and Closing the Capability Gap:** We must accept that the survival of Ukraine and our own security depend on Europe. This requires a massive investment to replace the "irreplaceable" strategic assets that Washington is already withdrawing or throttling—specifically in satellite capabilities, intelligence feeds, strategic airlift, and high-end electronic warfare.
6. **Activation of Common Defence:** We urge the activation of the Common Defence provisions of the Lisbon Treaty under article 42.2 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU), at least for those States willing to proceed as a pioneer group/European Security Council (Article 42.6 TEU and/or ad hoc Treaty), to create an independent European Defence System in charge of our territorial defence.
7. **Ending Paralysis by Unanimity:** The rule of the veto in the Council is a strategic vulnerability. We urge the immediate activation of *passerelles* alongside risk reduction and risk sharing in the monetary union.
8. **A Sovereign European Union:** Finally, we propose initiating the process of Treaty reform based on Parliament's 2023 proposal in accordance with article 48 TEU and with full involvement of an interparliamentary assembly, and civil society – and citizens through innovative deliberative mechanisms. Only a federal union with an empowered Parliament controlling a strong Executive - can guarantee our sovereignty and our way of life.

Mr. President, as Hölderlin wrote: "But where the danger is, also grows the saving power." That power is our unity. Trump should be above all Europe's opportunity to achieve political unity. When it comes to security, Europe can no longer remain a fragmented protectorate; it must become a sovereign power.

Kind regards,

**Domenec Ruiz Devesa**, President of the Union of European Federalists, former MEP, Co-Founder Europa Power Initiative

**Guy Verhofstadt**, President of European Movement International and former Prime Minister of Belgium

**Gabriele Bischoff**, President of the Spinelli Group, Member of the European Parliament

**Robert Menasse**, Writer, Co-Founder Europa Power Initiative



**Josep Borrell Fontelles**, former High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and former President of the European Parliament

**Othmar Karas**, former First Vice President of the European Parliament, former MP Austria

**Rosen Plevneliev**, former President of the Republic of Bulgaria

**Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz**, former Prime Minister of Poland and former MEP

**Petre Roman**, former Prime Minister of Romania

**Daniel Cohn-Bendit**, writer and former Member of the European Parliament

**Javi López**, Vice President of the European Parliament

**Nicolas Schmit**, former Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, former Minister, Co-Chair Europa Power Initiative

**László Andor**, former Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

**Enrique Barón Crespo**, former President of the European Parliament and former Minister

**Mercedes Bresso**, former President of the European Committee of the Regions and former MEP, Co-Founder Europa Power Initiative

**Monica Frassoni**, President of the European Center for Electoral Support, former MEP

**Elmar Brok**, former Chair of AFET Committee of the European Parliament, former co-chair of the Spinelli Group

**Raphaël Glucksmann**, Member of the European Parliament

**José Manuel García-Margallo**, former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain and former MEP

**Sandro Gozi**, Member of the European Parliament, former Spinelli Group President

**Daniel Freund**, Member of the European Parliament, former Spinelli Group President

**Erato Kozakou-Marcoullis**, former Cyprus Minister of Foreign Affairs, and former Minister for Communications and Works

**Reinier van Lanschot**, Member of the European Parliament, Co-Founder Volt Europa

**Petras Austrevicius**, Member of the European Parliament

**Pierre Larrousurou**, former Member of the European Parliament



**Luca Visentini**, former President of the European Trade Union Confederation

**Jo Leinen**, former President of the European Movement International, former MEP, Co-Founder Europa Power Initiative

**Brando Benifei**, Member of the European Parliament, former Spinelli Group President

**Andrew Duff**, former President of the Union of European Federalists, former MEP

**Francesca Ratti**, former Vice-Secretary-General of the European Parliament

**Guillaume Klossa**, Writer, President of EuropaNova, Chairman of Conclave, Co-Chair Europa Power Initiative

**Francisco Aldecoa**, Professor and President European Movement Spain

**Philippe Laurette**, President of Jean Monnet Association

**José Ignacio Torreblanca**, Distinguished Policy Fellow, European Council on Foreign Relations

**Alessia Centioni**, President of Civico Europa

**Moritz Hergl**, President of the Young European Federalists

**Miguel Ángel Martín Ramos**, Vice-President of the Jean Monnet Association, Former President of the Cooperation Network of the European Routes of Emperor Charles V

**Lieven Taillie**, Honorary President Association of European Journalists

**Roberto Castaldi**, Political Philosopher, Director of the International Centre for European and global governance and of Euractiv Italy

**José Antonio Sanahuja**, Professor of International Relations

**Mathilde Baudouin**, Secretary General of the UEF

**Michele Fiorillo**, Philosopher, Coordinator of Civico Europa and Citizens Take Over Europe, Co-Founder Europa Power Initiative

**Slavoj Žižek**, Philosopher, Co-Chair Europa Power Initiative