

1 **Time to renew the promise of Europe**

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3 A vote for the Greens is a vote for change. It is a vote to not let go of Europe, but to make it into
4 what it was promised to be: a union not of selfish interests, but of shared responsibility. A union not
5 for financial gains for the few, but economic and social progress for all. A union that leads the
6 world by protecting people and the planet.

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8 Now is the time to fulfil that promise. Now is the time for change.

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10 We are a truly European movement united by our vision, mission and passion. From Ireland to
11 Turkey, from Norway to Malta, we fight for human dignity, sustainability, equality, peace and
12 solidarity. We do it in the parliaments and we do it on the streets.

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14 But today powerful forces are trying to steer us back. On one side, new groups are using aggressive
15 tactics and the temptation of hatred to trick and force their way to power. On the other, status quo
16 politicians are failing to enact real change in a time that calls for ambitious action.

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18 The UK has decided to leave the Union, and other forces want to weaken it. Authoritarianism,
19 racism, neoliberalism, terrorism and wars in our neighbourhood – all in different ways – have
20 eroded the sense of security for many Europeans.

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22 The financial crisis and austerity policies left millions in poverty, while big multinational
23 corporations avoid taxes. The so-called refugee crisis exposed governments unwilling to help
24 people fleeing war, while Europe as a whole is wealthier than ever. The climate crisis threatens to
25 rapidly undo the very foundations of our civilisation.

26
27 Europe's future is at jeopardy. Now is the time for change.

28
29 Now, more than ever, we need to act. We need to build a democratic and inclusive Europe that is
30 socially just and environmentally sustainable. We need an economy that serves both current and
31 future generations. We need a Europe that bears its global responsibility and leaves no one behind.

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33 In today's globalised world, no country is big enough to tackle problems alone. We can only take
34 back control by working together and looking to the future – not by building walls and retreating
35 into the past. We are guided by the Sustainable Development Goals, providing a roadmap for all
36 countries.

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38 The European Union is far from perfect, but it can be a powerful force for good. We can build on
39 what has been achieved – and change what has not worked. By working together, Europe can
40 reduce poverty and create jobs, tackle the climate crisis and restore our nature, fight discrimination
41 and defend freedom.

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43 We know that building this Europe will not be easy. Old mainstream parties have long resisted calls
44 for progressive reforms. But we are committed to working hard every day with people,
45 organisations and movements fighting for change across the continent, supported by a growing
46 number of Europeans. The future is Green.

47
48 Over the years, our persistent work has delivered many successes. With the Greens playing a
49 leading role, Europe has taken important steps to invest in renewable energy, secure people's
50 privacy online, improve recycling, and ban harmful pesticides. Thanks to Green leaders, we are

51 moving towards protecting whistleblowers who expose information in the public interest, taking
52 action against authoritarian governments, banning useless plastics, and fighting tax evasion by big
53 corporations – just to give a few examples.

54
55 A vote for the Greens makes a real difference. But much work remains to be done.

56
57 We want a Europe where young people no longer have to struggle to find decent jobs; women are
58 not discriminated against at work; and small business owners do not suffer from unfair tax
59 competition by big corporations. Where parents do not have to worry about their children being
60 exposed to harmful chemicals; journalists about getting silenced by powerful interests; and trans
61 people about facing violence on the streets. Where the elderly do not live in abject poverty and
62 people drown in the Mediterranean. Where animals are no longer abused in industries and old-
63 growth forests logged for short-term profit.

64
65 But we cannot do this alone. Join us to share our passion for a just and sustainable future.

66
67 It is time to renew the promise of Europe.

68
69 **Letting children inherit a clean and safe planet**

70
71 *We want Europe to lead the world in a just transition to sustainable societies. Greening our*
72 *economy is an historic opportunity to create jobs and improve our quality of life while making sure*
73 *no one is left behind. Climate crisis, destruction of nature and overuse of resources threaten the*
74 *foundations of our well-being and wealth – even our security. Human progress can only take place*
75 *within planetary boundaries.*

76
77 Environmental sustainability is not a luxury, it is a necessity. With declining biodiversity, polluted
78 air and accelerating climate crisis, Europe must do much more, much faster across all policy areas.
79 We have an obligation to preserve the environment – for both the people today and our children
80 tomorrow.

81
82 **Climate action.** Europe has to lead the way on climate action, making the Paris Agreement a reality
83 and limiting warming to 1.5 degrees. We are calling for a European climate law, with binding
84 carbon budgets reducing emissions by at least 55% by 2030 and building a net-zero emissions
85 economy by 2040. This must include restoring natural carbon sinks in forests and soils.

86
87 To show leadership, Europe needs to increase international climate funding. If key countries outside
88 the EU refuse to limit emissions, border-tax adjustments may be introduced to ensure a level
89 playing field for European workers and companies.

90
91 **Energy.** Not a single euro from tax payers should finance fossil fuels. Funds divested from fossil
92 energy can be reinvested in sustainable solutions, such as renewable energy, cross-border trains and
93 sustainable farming.

94
95 To reach climate goals, Europe must phase out coal by 2030 and other fossil fuels as soon as
96 possible thereafter. While fossil gas may replace coal in the short term, there is no place for it in the
97 long term. Nuclear power and fracking have no role to play in the clean energy future.

98
99 We want to make energy efficiency and saving energy the first priority, while tackling energy
100 poverty. Carried out correctly, the energy transition to 100% renewable energy will cut pollution,

101 create jobs and increase our energy independence – while empowering citizens to play a more
102 active role.

103
104 **Transport.** Building a sustainable transport system requires investing in railways, connecting
105 European countries and regions with fast and night trains. Parts of freight transport can be moved to
106 rails or electrified. Travellers must be able to book all train tickets from one service online.

107
108 Funding for sustainable transport can be redirected from subsidies for air travel and the introduction
109 of a European flight tax, with lower tax rates for countries with fewer options. Taxing flights would
110 level the playing field between transport modes as aviation is currently exempt from many taxes.

111
112 No new fossil-fuel cars should be sold in Europe after 2030. The Union should support the creation
113 of low-emission zones in towns and cities across Europe. To play a role, biofuels must have a low
114 carbon footprint and must not compete with food production or cause biodiversity loss.

115
116 **Environment and nature protection.** Determined action on the environment can improve the lives
117 of millions of Europeans. Today, air pollution alone causes more than 400,000 early deaths every
118 year – and weakens the quality of life for millions more.

119
120 Setting tighter limits on pollution protects the air we breathe. Moving to sustainable farming makes
121 the water we drink cleaner. Banning dangerous chemicals helps prevent health problems. Clean
122 solutions have a fast-growing global market, providing jobs and income.

123
124 To preserve our valuable nature, we want to expand protected areas significantly, ensure they cover
125 key ecosystems, and guarantee that the protection really works. Greater ambition must be coupled
126 with more funding. Infrastructure and other projects supported with European public money should
127 not endanger biodiversity, but rather should help save and restore it.

128
129 We call for unsustainable and illegal logging to be tracked down better and sanctioned harder. The
130 EU needs stronger tools to address deforestation related to imported food and other products. And
131 Europe's soils must be protected from degradation and restored, also to increase their capacity to
132 retain scarce water.

133
134 We want to increase marine protected areas to 20% of our seas. Controls of sulphur emissions from
135 shipping must be extended to all coasts and heavy fuel oil banned in the Arctic.

136
137 **Circular economy.** Our current economy is based on taking resources from nature, making
138 products, using them and then throwing them away. This linear model must be replaced with a
139 circular economy, creating more value and using fewer resources, while making sure this does not
140 lead to more hazardous substances. Instead of continuously consuming more resources, we need to
141 consume smarter and in moderation.

142
143 We want products to last longer and make fixing them easier by requiring them to be repairable and
144 increasing the duration of warranties. Companies should be stopped from throwing away edible
145 food as waste. Non-recyclable plastics must be taxed or banned, sustainable alternatives developed,
146 and recycling and reuse targets raised. We are also calling for strict limits on exporting waste.

147
148 **Farming, food and animals.** The way we produce and consume food makes a big difference to our
149 health, environment and animals. We want to reform Europe's common agricultural policy to move
150 from industrial agriculture and genetically manipulated organisms (GMOs) to sustainable forms of

151 farming, such as organic and agroecological solutions. Sustainable agriculture helps cut emissions,
152 save bees, revitalise rural areas and keep our food safe.

153
154 We want to redirect agricultural subsidies to sustainable farming, based on fair and results-based
155 conditions. Harmful pesticides such as glyphosate should be banned. Trade agreements can never
156 be allowed to weaken standards on food safety and quality. To make informed choices, people need
157 to know what their food contains, where it is coming from and how it has been produced. We want
158 to reduce meat consumption in favour of healthier, more sustainable plant-based diets.

159
160 Fishing in Europe needs to take place within sustainable limits, allowing fish stocks to recover.
161 Illegal fishing must be stopped and imported fish required to meet European conservation standards.
162 We want to end deep-sea bottom-trawling, a particularly destructive form of industrial fishing.

163
164 Animals have the right to live free from abuse. That is why we call for a ban on fur farming,
165 transporting live animals long distances and animal testing as soon as feasible. Animals on farms
166 should be guaranteed the right to natural behaviour. No public money should go to industrial animal
167 farming.

168
169 **Environmental justice.** A foundation for action on sustainability is strengthening environmental
170 law and better enforcing it at all levels – including taking legal action against those who break it.
171 The right to information must be guaranteed and access to justice improved for citizens and civil
172 society organisations. The EU needs to produce a new and ambitious environment action
173 programme. We also call for establishing an environmental court to address the most
174 serious violations of international environmental law.

175
176 Preserving the environment is also a social issue. Environmental damage often hits
177 disproportionately hard those who are already struggling, such as low-income communities and
178 poor countries – not to mention future generations. We stand for environmental justice.

179
180 The transition to a green economy will not happen overnight and it will not always be easy.
181 Workers and regions need a just transition to sustainable livelihoods. A special European scheme
182 should be set up to finance retraining and moving to new jobs, providing social security and
183 alleviating fears.

184
185 **Shared prosperity in a fair economy and a union of solidarity**

186
187 *We want to build a social Europe with a sustainable economy and tax justice. Everyone in Europe*
188 *should have the right to decent income and basic public services. We need to reform the economic*
189 *system so that it works for the people and respects planetary boundaries. A Green New Deal would*
190 *channel billions to sustainable investments and innovation. By sharing the benefits of the economy,*
191 *we can keep everyone on board.*

192
193 Decades of European cooperation have succeeded in building an economic union. Now we need to
194 take the next step and make the EU serve all people. We need to make sure that social justice is put
195 at the heart of our union; we need to build a truly social Europe.

196
197 **Poverty.** Today, one in four people in Europe live at risk of poverty and social exclusion –
198 including 25 million children. This is unacceptable. When Europe as a whole is wealthier than ever
199 before, everybody deserves a decent standard of living.

200

201 Reducing poverty must be a cornerstone of all economic and social policies. We reject austerity
202 measures that have resulted in increasing poverty and deteriorating public services.

203
204 **Social rights.** To make the European Pillar of Social Rights a reality, we call for introducing
205 European legislation to secure minimum income in all European countries. This basic level of social
206 support would be provided by member states to people without other sources of income. It would
207 reflect local living standards and respect differences in national systems. We also believe bold
208 visions are needed, which could be supported by studies and trials on a universal basic income.

209
210 Europe needs to secure for everyone essential social rights, such as access to healthcare, housing
211 and clean water. Public investments in social, affordable and energy-efficient housing should be
212 supported with European funds.

213
214 **Health.** The EU should drive member states to achieve universal health coverage, reduce health
215 inequalities and ensure access to medicines. We want more focus on preventing both physical and
216 mental health problems, not just treating them.

217
218 Drug policy needs to be based on evidence, not prejudice. European countries should reform drug
219 policies to help – not punish – the people suffering from substance abuse.

220
221 **Inclusion and cohesion.** Europe should not leave anyone behind – be it remote regions or
222 vulnerable groups of people. We want to strengthen territorial cohesion by reducing regional
223 disparities both within and between member states, providing people with equal opportunities
224 regardless of where they are born or live.

225
226 Europe needs to take a leading role in implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons
227 with Disabilities, both internally and worldwide. We want to make infrastructure, transport and
228 communications accessible. Persons with disabilities must be included in decisions which concern
229 them, including having full access to voting.

230
231 **Work.** Work can provide income, community and purpose. To create quality jobs and prepare job-
232 seekers for them, a wide range of measures is needed from both businesses and society, from
233 retraining and upskilling to supporting social entrepreneurship and setting up small businesses.

234
235 Labour rights for all are a cornerstone of a prosperous and inclusive society. We support the right of
236 workers to organise in trade unions as well as collective bargaining, social dialogue and worker
237 participation.

238
239 Europe must enable and protect the cross-border movement of workers so that people do not fall
240 through nationally fragmented social systems. A European social security number and better
241 recognition of professions would facilitate working in other countries. We want to protect the rights
242 of migrant workers and combat all forms of labour exploitation and forced labour in Europe.

243
244 About one in ten people with a job is at risk of poverty in Europe. We want to update labour rules
245 and welfare regimes so that they recognise the changing nature of work, protecting also self-
246 employed people and workers in the gig and platform economy. In the medium term, one solution
247 could be a European unemployment insurance that guarantees basic coverage for all Europeans,
248 supplemented by national unemployment benefits.

249

250 Work life must be safe, healthy and fair. Work-related stress is one of the main causes of lost
251 working days and the ill-being of workers. That is why we call for addressing psychosocial health
252 risks better in EU legislation. Reducing and redistributing working hours should be made easier
253 when workers so desire – for instance, when parents return to work from parental leave. We also
254 want all countries to secure paid sick leave for workers.
255

256 **Education, research and culture.** Education is a tool for people to improve their lives, understand
257 the world and engage in society. It is also an investment in the future as educated and skilled people
258 are the foundation of both a vibrant economy and functioning democracy.
259

260 Our long-term vision is free and accessible education for all to reduce education inequality.
261 Education should equip people to develop the skills needed in the green information economy.
262 Everyone should have the opportunity for life-long learning and career changes.
263

264 Europe needs to build on knowledge and science. We want to increase funding for research and
265 innovation considerably to meet big societal challenges, following the success of the Horizon 2020
266 programme.
267

268 We also call for multiplying European funding for student exchange. The Erasmus+ exchange must
269 be broadened and strengthened to really enable people from all backgrounds to work, train or study
270 in another country.
271

272 Vibrant arts and culture are important both in their own right as well as sources of jobs, income and
273 wellbeing. We support cultural diversity, artistic freedom and access to culture for everyone.
274

275 **Youth.** Years after the financial crisis, young Europeans continue to face a number of challenges. In
276 some countries, youth unemployment is still as high as 40%. Many feel understandable anxiety
277 about the future, witnessing the inaction by mainstream politicians.
278

279 We stand with young people, building societies where they have full access to social protection and
280 rights, such as housing, education and political participation. Our proposal on minimum income
281 would guarantee better social security also for young people. We call for quality jobs, a ban on
282 discriminatory youth wages and proper pay for internships.
283

284 The European Youth Guarantee, promising a young person employment within four months after
285 finishing education, should be made mandatory in all member states and implemented much more
286 effectively. The European Solidarity Corps is another promising tool, giving young people an
287 opportunity to broaden their horizons and gain skills by volunteering in another country.
288

289 **Elderly.** The proportion of older people is rising rapidly. With the right enabling framework, senior
290 Europeans have a lot to offer, from passing on experience at work to volunteering in civil society.
291 No one should need to live in poverty because of retiring.
292

293 Senior workers must also have the right to lifelong learning. People should be allowed to retire
294 flexibly, for example by combining reduced working hours with part-time pensions. We need to
295 fight prejudice and discrimination against ageing workers.
296

297 **Economy.** To meet the needs of everyone while remaining within planetary environmental
298 boundaries, we need to update our economic system. Moving towards a truly circular zero-emission
299 economy provides significant opportunities both for people and the environment.

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Seizing the opportunities of digitisation, artificial intelligence and robotisation – while addressing their challenges and risks – can strengthen the European economy. Workers facing this transition should be supported to adjust to the evolving situation.

There is also large potential in the fair, social, collaborative and care economy. New forms of economy can combine profitability with social inclusion and democratic governance. European regulation should enable alternative tool, such as cooperatives, crowdfunding and social entrepreneurship.

Everyone should have access to shared resources – also known as ‘commons’ – such as water, the internet or knowledge. We want to encourage communities across Europe to develop sustainable and accessible alternatives to the current dominant roles of the state and market in the economy.

Gross domestic product alone is an inadequate measure of economic progress. We want to complement it with alternative metrics that reflect social and environmental concerns.

Industry and markets. Manufacturing is a key economic driver in the EU, providing over 100 million direct and indirect jobs. Green industrial policy is aimed at innovation and smart solutions, making products and processes more energy- and resource-efficient.

Completing the single market can bring jobs and prosperity, when they are coupled with ambitious common rules to protect labour standards, consumer rights and public services. There is particularly large untapped potential in digital and other services.

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) form the backbone of European economy. We strive to encourage more people to become entrepreneurs and provide support to existing ones, in particular female entrepreneurs, family businesses and migrants. Smarter regulation should guarantee SMEs a fair playing field with big companies and competition regulation must be reformed accordingly. It is also important that the EU protects European jobs and business against unfair dumping imports. Foreign direct investment from outside the EU must not be allowed to undermine security and public order.

More sustainable public procurement can be a driving force to green the economy. We want a more systematic use of social, environmental and fair trade criteria when public bodies buy products and services.

Trade. The trade treaties proposed so far – such as CETA, TTIP and TISA – are seriously flawed. Negotiated in secrecy, they have neglected concerns about social rights, public services and the environment. We reject privileged dispute settlement rights for investors which undermine democracy.

We will continue to work for free and fair trade, based on international rules and transparent processes. Trade agreements need to enhance – not endanger – the rights of workers, farmers and consumers, animal welfare and the protection of health and the environment. The Paris Agreement, international labour standards rules and Sustainable Development Goals must form the foundation of trade treaties.

Europe needs to make sure that companies meet high standards both inside and outside the EU. The Union and member states must introduce rules to implement the UN Guiding Principles on

350 Business and Human Rights – and guarantee people access to justice when companies break these
351 rules. Countries should also work towards a strong international treaty to the same effect. Investors
352 should be required to exercise due sustainability diligence.
353

354 **Taxes.** Taxation can be a powerful tool for fairness and sustainability. We are advocating for an
355 ecological tax reform: taxing more what we want less of (resource use and pollution) and taxing less
356 what we want more of (jobs). Europe should require member states to raise taxes on fossil fuels and
357 consider environmental taxes at the European level, for example on flights and plastics.
358

359 All too often, poor people have to pay proportionally higher taxes than the wealthy and small
360 business owners more than big corporations. Europe must close the loopholes that allow the well-
361 off to avoid taxes, levelling the playing field and helping to finance much-needed public
362 investments.
363

364 It is particularly important to tackle tax fraud and money laundering which help to finance
365 organised crime. We call for improving anti-money-laundering rules and strengthening European
366 investigation powers.
367

368 To establish tax justice, Europe must take stronger measures to close tax havens and fight tax
369 evasion both outside and inside the Union. More harmonisation on what is taxed and how, such as a
370 stronger common consolidated corporate tax base for large companies and a minimum tax rate,
371 would reduce harmful competition between member states. Requirements for multinational
372 companies to report where they pay taxes must be strengthened.
373

374 Taxation must be fit for our globalised economy. We must introduce stronger measures to combat
375 market manipulation, abusive speculation and insider trading and improve transparency on the
376 financial markets. We propose a financial transaction tax to limit speculation and to finance
377 sustainable investments. Europe also needs to find a fair and functional way to tax digital services
378 and manage cryptocurrencies.
379

380 **Financial markets and investments.** To ensure financial stability and prevent future crises, we
381 must address systemic risks and stop financial institutions getting too big to fail. Banks need higher
382 capital requirements and banking crucial to the real economy must be separated from trading.
383 Europe needs stronger financial regulation to ensure that the financial sector fully contributes to a
384 resilient and sustainable economy.
385

386 European economic rules must encourage, not hinder, responsible social investments. Improving
387 childcare, basic education, worker training and affordable housing will all help to increase
388 employment and reduce social inequality. Everyone should be guaranteed access to basic financial
389 services.
390

391 Making the necessary transition to a sustainable economy will require large investments. We
392 propose a sizeable Green New Deal to finance and leverage investments into areas such as cross-
393 border train connections, renewable energy, sustainable innovation and just transition, particularly
394 in the poorer member states.
395

396 **People power and respect for each other in a diverse and feminist Europe**

397
398 *Europe is a union built on shared values. The EU must fight for equal rights for all and against any*
399 *discrimination. Everyone should have the right to be, and believe in, what they want. We want to*

400 *build a feminist and inclusive Union that champions gender equality, human rights, democracy and*
401 *diversity. Europe needs to be a strong global voice for solidarity, human development and peace.*
402

403 Democracy, the rule of law and human rights have been increasingly challenged both within Europe
404 and internationally. In these troubled times, Europe can be a beacon of hope. The Union must play a
405 stronger role in defending and deepening the foundations of open societies. We want a vibrant
406 democracy on all levels: from local to regional, national, European and international.
407

408 **Democracy and civic rights.** We want to support civil society in defending and deepening
409 democracy, the rule of law and human rights. Europe also needs to ramp up its capacity to defend
410 against outside interference, such as attempts to influence elections, spread disinformation and fuel
411 hatred. However, such measures should not lead to weakening other rights.
412

413 Democracy can only function when it is supported by free speech and an independent media. We
414 want to increase support for investigative journalism and defend journalists under threat.
415 Whistleblowers – people exposing information in the public interest – must be vigorously protected.
416

417 In an increasingly digital world, protecting freedom and human rights online is of growing
418 importance. We defend net neutrality – the principle that all data must be treated equally – as a
419 foundation of the open internet. The recently introduced European data protection rules must be
420 fully implemented. As important decisions about our lives are delegated to algorithms, they must be
421 open to public scrutiny – and Europe needs to play a bigger role in shaping international rules.
422

423 We propose setting the age of voting and candidacy at 16 years in the European elections. This
424 would give youth a stronger voice in making decisions that shape our common future. We also call
425 for improving civic education both in and outside of schools.
426

427 **Feminism and gender equality.** With the current pace of achieving gender equality in Europe, it
428 would still take 70 years to reach equal pay, 40 years until domestic work is equally shared and 20
429 years to achieve equal representation in politics. We are not willing to wait this long.
430

431 Gender equality is at the heart of Green policies. We want strong laws on equal pay for equal work.
432 Because women in Europe still do around two-thirds of unpaid work at home, parental leave must
433 be lengthened and distributed more equally between parents.
434

435 Gender quotas on the boards of big companies and parity in the executive committees of EU
436 institutions would help to better represent women in decision-making. To achieve equality in
437 Europe, people of different genders must benefit equally from the EU budget.
438

439 We fight for women's self-determination. Europeans still have appallingly unequal access to sexual
440 and reproductive health and rights. We want to make contraception and related services free and
441 accessible for all. Women's right to decide on abortion needs to be strengthened – especially where
442 it is particularly limited. Information about contraception and abortion should be readily available in
443 all countries.
444

445 Europe must fight gender-based violence with determination. All European countries must
446 implement the Istanbul Convention as a matter of priority.
447

448 **Diversity.** Intersecting identities in matters such as – but not limited to – gender, class, ethnicity,
449 ability and age can be a source of pride, but discrimination can limit the potential of many people.

450 We want all policies and services to recognise the true diversity of Europeans and their families –
451 and the contribution they make to our societies.

452
453 People belonging to sexual and gender minorities should enjoy equal rights across Europe.
454 Relationships of same-sex couples need to be recognised equally. People should have the right to
455 determine their gender identity and expression, including having access to legal gender recognition.
456 We strongly reject the forced sterilisation of trans people.

457
458 **Migration and refugees.** People have always migrated for various reasons – and always will.
459 Building walls is not an option, nor is allowing the Mediterranean to become a mass grave. If
460 newly-arrived migrants find a place in our societies, they can contribute both to our economy and
461 culture.

462
463 There is an urgent need to find a fair alternative to the current Dublin system, which leaves border
464 member states responsible for refugees. We are working for a common and comprehensive solution
465 that shares responsibility equitably across countries, in the spirit of solidarity. Asylum seekers'
466 family ties and other meaningful links to a member state need to be taken into account. We also
467 want to introduce resettlement and humanitarian visas for refugees in third countries.

468
469 We want the Union to support countries, regions and cities welcoming a large share of refugees or
470 migrants. Helping migrants should never be criminalised – instead, the EU should support rescue
471 actions. Children and families do not belong in prison simply for seeking asylum. Asylum seekers
472 should be guaranteed access to legal help.

473
474 Europe must establish legal and safe channels for migration. We also need to do a better job at
475 providing opportunities for newly-arrived people. Recognising skills learnt in the country of origin,
476 providing language training and fighting racism can all help to integrate newcomers to the labour
477 market. Underlying all action is respect for diversity, different cultures and languages.

478
479 **International solidarity.** Europe has always upheld multilateralism and will continue to do so. We
480 have a responsibility to stand up for our values internationally. A natural platform for this is the
481 United Nations. Europe should both defend the UN against attacks and advocate for reforms,
482 including enhancing transparency, accountability and effectiveness.

483
484 Europe needs to increase funding for international development and humanitarian action. Member
485 states should allocate at least 0.7% of their economy to supporting people in need abroad, with a
486 strong emphasis on the poorest countries and most vulnerable people.

487
488 The Sustainable Development Goals provide a good blueprint for EU activities also abroad. We
489 want to coordinate international development work better between the EU and member states,
490 avoiding duplication and reducing waste of resources.

491
492 Currently, many EU policies undermine the good work the Union is doing on international
493 development. Instead, policies on, for example, trade, fisheries and migration need to support
494 development and sustainability goals, often referred to as policy coherence.

495
496 Europe has a particular interest and responsibility in our neighbourhood. We are working to make
497 the accession of Western Balkan countries possible and a success as well as to deepen co-operation
498 with eastern partners. For us, promoting high standards of democracy, the rule of law and human
499 rights is a priority for cooperation and financial aid.

500

501 **Peace and security.** European Union has been at its heart a peace project. Helping to maintain
502 peace is a natural role for Europe in the world.

503

504 Europe needs to be much more active in finding peaceful solutions to armed conflicts both in our
505 neighbourhood and beyond. We want to invest heavily in civilian conflict-prevention, mediation,
506 reconciliation and peacekeeping. Addressing the root causes of conflict is easier, cheaper and more
507 humane than dealing with the aftermath. We oppose redirecting European funds towards military
508 purposes. Lasting security and stability cannot be built with weapons.

509

510 We call for stopping arms exports to dictators and warring parties. Europe should actively work for
511 international disarmament, including banning nuclear weapons and robots programmed to kill.

512

513 EU countries have an obligation to aid and assist those member states which are victims of armed
514 aggression. To maintain peace, Europe also needs a common security and defence policy. Defence
515 can be both more effective and cheaper when pooling and sharing resources as well as coordinating
516 the efforts of member states at the European level.

517

518 Europe needs to react strongly to crimes against humanity. However, military interventions can
519 only ever be the last resort. Any joint military action must be based on a long-term political
520 strategy, comply with international law and have European Parliament approval.

521

522 Freedom from violence is also a basic right within Europe. The EU and national authorities need to
523 work harder and better together to prevent and combat terrorism. The Union can provide funding to
524 fight radicalisation in prisons, while stricter rules on weapons and ammunition can reduce gun
525 violence.

526

527 Human security is much broader than the absence of violence. Europe needs to address the diverse
528 security challenges we face, from disinformation by and energy reliance on hostile countries to
529 organised crime and extreme weather fuelled by climate change. Reducing inequalities, protecting
530 the environment and strengthening democracy are sustainable ways to address the root causes of
531 violent threats and build resilient societies.

532

533 **Ever closer union: reforming the EU to prepare for the future**

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535 *The European Union needs an update. We strive to make the EU more transparent, democratic,*
536 *effective and efficient. We work to reform institutions and structures to build a more robust Union*
537 *that can reconnect with citizens. We want to build a stronger Europe that meets its full potential to*
538 *improve the lives of people and deal with all the challenges the future might bring.*

539

540 **Future of Europe.** The EU must be developed into a full supranational democracy in which public
541 decisions are taken transparently by elected and politically accountable representatives. Opposition
542 from a handful of member states should not prevent the vast majority moving forward. This is why
543 the unanimity requirement should be replaced by normal legislative procedure and simplified
544 enhanced cooperation. The European Parliament must have the power to initiate legislation and to
545 use its co-decision and scrutiny rights in all areas.

546

547 We are convinced the EU should be kept together within the same framework. EU institutions
548 should not be subdivided or replicated. We oppose the creation of new eurozone-only institutions
549 and support instead establishing a special eurozone committee in the European Parliament.

550

551 Further steps have to be taken towards “an ever-closer Union”. We support either a parliamentary
552 convention open to contributions from civil society or an elected constituent assembly, with a
553 mandate co-decided by the European Parliament and member-state representatives acting by
554 qualified majority. The final decision to make treaty changes should be taken through a Union-wide
555 referendum of European citizens. We do not want the vetoes of individual member states to block
556 such a decision.

557

558 We support a federal future for Europe. Federalism is a way to ensure that regional and national
559 specificities are represented on an equal footing with the EU’s general interest. For this reason, we
560 call for a system in which the European Parliament, representing EU citizens as a whole and elected
561 partially on transnational lists, co-legislates with a chamber representing member states. Regions
562 are represented in a strengthened committee of the regions.

563

564 **Transparency and participation.** We want to radically increase transparency in European
565 institutions, including the European Central Bank. Citizens have the right to know how decisions
566 are made and how their money is spent. All positions taken by member states in the Council should
567 be made public. We want meetings between European politicians and lobbyists to be disclosed as
568 well as rules against revolving doors between politics and big business strengthened. Decisions
569 must be based on best available evidence and genuine consultation with stakeholders.

570

571 The European Citizens’ Initiative is a welcome mechanism to engage people in European decision-
572 making. However, its promise has not fully materialised due to bureaucratic hurdles and poor
573 political support from the European Commission. The procedures should be simplified and it should
574 be possible for citizens to propose reforming the EU treaties. The rules must also be enhanced so
575 that initiatives get a response and lead to concrete action.

576

577 **Budget and monetary policy.** The EU needs a substantially more ambitious budget to fulfil its
578 tasks, co-decided by the European Parliament. The increase should be funded largely by own
579 resources such as taxes on pollution and resource use, relieving the pressure on member states. The
580 budget must also be complemented with bonds to finance projects of general interest. The Union
581 could also explore participatory budgeting, allowing people to have a direct say in how a part of
582 their money is used.

583

584 After Brexit, the eurozone will represent close to four-fifths of EU citizens and more than four-
585 fifths of the economy. Our proposals for the future of the monetary union apply to the eurozone+:
586 countries which have already adopted the euro as well as those that are obliged to do so in future.
587 The eurozone must have a fiscal capacity which is also open to non-eurozone member states, and its
588 members must be able to resort to coordination and solidarity mechanisms.

589

590 Rejecting failed austerity policies, we want social and environmental objectives on an equal footing
591 with the budgetary targets of the Stability and Growth Pact. The pact should also be complemented
592 with a Sustainability and Prosperity Pact that defines social, economic and environmental targets
593 based on indicators for the European Monetary Union (EMU) and its member states.

594

595 The intergovernmental structures of the eurozone, such as the European Stability Mechanism
596 (ESM), must be profoundly reformed and made fully accountable to the European Parliament. The
597 Eurogroup must become an ordinary body of the Council of Ministers. The banking union must be
598 completed with a workable EU deposit insurance scheme. The European Central Bank statutes must

599 be revised to allow it to act as a last-resort lender for member states and to provide temporary relief
600 from crisis in government bond markets.

601

602 **Fundamental rights and migration reform.** The scope of the Charter of Fundamental Rights
603 should be expanded to apply directly in all areas and member states, and its capacity to effectively
604 defend individual citizens enhanced. The EU must accelerate accession to the European Convention
605 on Human Rights (ECHR) and member states to the EU prosecutor. People and organisations
606 should have access to the European Court of Justice when directly affected by a violation of a
607 member state or an EU institution.

608

609 The Union must use stronger tools – including taking legal action – to intervene when basic
610 European values are undermined. We call for a binding and comprehensive mechanism to monitor
611 the state of democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights in member states. This should be
612 complemented with political dialogue, swift intervention in case of serious violations and, if
613 necessary, adequate sanctions. Where rule of law is not guaranteed, national governments may be
614 bypassed to provide European financing directly to local government and organisations. We want to
615 establish a European values instrument to support civil society and promote core values within the
616 EU.

617

618 The EU treaties should be reformed to enable a common, balanced approach to migration. The
619 European Parliament should be given democratic scrutiny on the implementation of border controls,
620 formal and informal agreements with third countries, and asylum and migration policies.

621

622 **Better regulation and sustainable development.** Better and smarter regulation can reduce
623 unnecessary bureaucracy and make lives easier. Regulation should take into account the different
624 capacities of small and medium-sized enterprises. However, it must not be a smoke screen to
625 deregulate and roll back necessary protection for people and the environment.

626

627 The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development highlights that the challenges we face are universal
628 and interconnected. The Sustainable Development Goals must be implemented across all EU
629 internal and external policies. The Union should adopt a high-level implementation strategy which
630 identifies and addresses the gaps in current policies.

631

632 **Dear voters.** The upcoming election will be decisive for Europe's future. We want to overcome the
633 status quo and to open a new book for our common European endeavour. The world around us does
634 not stand still and we, in Europe, cannot afford to waste time.

635

636 European Greens pledge to fight for the policies that we present to you here. Electing more Green
637 European Parliament Members from more countries will help us take these steps forward.

638

639 We invite all European citizens to support us in these battles.