

The background is a piece of crumpled white paper. There are several thick, horizontal yellow brushstrokes on the left and right sides. A thin yellow line forms a large, irregular outline that frames the central text.

BRIDGING GENERATIONS, BUILDING FUTURES:

THE YOUTH EPP MANIFESTO 2024

PREAMBLE

The Youth of the European People's Party (YEPP) has for decades been a dynamic force, a catalyst for change, and a beacon of hope for the future of the Youth. As an integrative part of our mother party, the EPP, we are inheritors of the values of our Founding Fathers - Robert Schuman, Konrad Adenauer and Alcide de Gasperi - on which the European project was built on. Even though historical circumstances change, we remain true to those European values, to that identity and to that task – to seek solutions that improve the lives of Young people all over Europe.

As we stand at the threshold of a new era with emerging global crises, accelerated challenges around new technologies as well as increased pressure to improve our standard of living all over Europe, we find ourselves entrusted with the responsibility to fight for a positive destiny of our continent. We are focused on building a more prosperous Europe but are aware of the difficulties of the challenges ahead. The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, rising inflation and living costs, low economic growth, the climate crisis, energy dependency, Youth unemployment, brain drain from rural areas, and backlashes against the rule of law, require a firm response from the Young generations.

We are inspired by the historic achievements of the EU - long lasting peace, prosperity, freedom, the protection of human rights - but we know they can't be taken for granted. Today, we are challenged by an increasingly radicalised left, embedded in woke ideologies that create artificial fractures within our societies, by a demagogic far-right reviving national egoism and exploiting feelings of social resentment, and by a Green degrowth dogmatism posing a risk to larger parts of our societies. Our ability to find a common ground for discussion is hindered in an increasingly polarised world that is further polarising the Youth. We advocate for a form of political moderation that seeks political solutions based on an intransigent defence of our values, always putting people first.

Youth is a term abundant in today's political discourse. Repeatedly, we hear slogans advocating for Youth support and empowerment, but often they appear overly simplistic, detached from a genuine understanding of the needs and desires of Young Europeans. We need a deeper acknowledgment of the diversity among European youth, including their differences in life goals, interests, opinions, and beliefs. We are more than solely focused on claiming ever-expanding rights or improving our lives in the short-term; rather, we are primarily concerned with shaping the future in its entirety, which is why we emphasise our responsibility to make sound political choices.

Recognizing the role of political participation in ensuring Intergenerational Justice YEPP urges Young people to step forward and actively seek leadership and decision-making positions. We advocate for "mother parties" to nominate Young candidates for eligible positions in upcoming elections, thereby ensuring representation of the Youth demographic. Additionally, we emphasise the importance of party renewal with a focus on gender balance, which serves to enrich our political systems. Through empowering the Youth, we contribute to the cultivation of more representative and vibrant democracies.

The upcoming European elections in 2024 represent a critical moment for us, the Youth, to answer the call of shaping our future. The Youth must be an integral part of a renewal of the European project, understanding that it must go beyond the instrumental benefits of each Member State belonging to the EU. On the opposite, the deepening of European integration is the institutional consequence of Europe's common civilisational values and mutual political needs. We call for European solidarity, seeing the integration and the need to rebuild Ukraine as the main task for the next European mandate. A task that will call for true European solidarity; that will call for YEPP and EPP leadership.

After listening to our member organisations, true representatives of European diversity, it is with conviction and enthusiasm that we present our Manifesto, a blueprint for progress and unity for the years to come. We believe that we can create a new community spirit to protect our Europe. We want Young Europeans to have a voice at the decision-making table. To achieve that, the Youth must go out, make their voice heard, and vote!

OUR MISSION

WHAT WE FIGHT FOR, IN BRIEF

- ▶ **A FUTURE OF FINANCIAL STABILITY:** support to housing, fighting Youth unemployment and easing access to the labour market are mandatory cornerstones of the future of the Youth. We fight for improving financial support to Young entrepreneurs and implementing labour market reforms to adapt to the evolving needs of the job market.
- ▶ **AN EQUALLY ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION THAT PROMOTES EXCELLENCE:** quality education should be a priority for political institutions. European exchange programmes must be strengthened and no Young European should leave studies due to economic or social constraints.
- ▶ **A CLEAR PATH TO PHASE-OUT OF FOSSIL FUELS FOR A GREENER EUROPE:** we foster a new regulatory framework to incentivize innovation, research, and development towards an ambitious climate agenda. We encourage the implementation of all clean energy sources, including nuclear, with policies that put people over ideology.
- ▶ **MENTAL HEALTH CARE SHOULD NOT BE A LUXURY:** the Youth needs accessible mental health services, such as psychotherapy, counselling and helplines. Cyberbullying must not be tolerated and awareness must be raised to destigmatize Mental Health.
- ▶ **A CYBERSECURITY THAT PROTECTS, A TRANSPARENT USE OF AI:** more innovation and research on AI will expand its potential, while extreme attention must be drawn to the effects of its misuse. Further collaboration is needed among Member States to increase cybersecurity while ensuring that privacy is protected.
- ▶ **REBUILD UKRAINE, PROTECT FREEDOM AND SUPPORT ENLARGEMENT:** YEPP urges institutions to speed up the preparation of Ukraine and Western Balkan's admission to the Union, and the necessary recovery plan to rebuild Kyiv. Enlargement will establish new partnerships to defend democracy, peace and spread EU values.

1. YOUTH PRIORITIES 2024-2029 **(EDUCATION, GREEN TRANSITION, MENTAL HEALTH, DIGITALIZATION)**

1.1 EDUCATION AND FORMATION – EUROPEAN EDUCATION SPACE AND EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

A better future is built on good choices, especially those of the Young generations. For that, quality education, upskills, R&D and innovation are paramount. YEPP believes that education should be grounded on scientific facts, on enduring knowledge and methods, coupled with a culture of diligence, rigour, and evaluation. In addition to ensuring equal accessibility to quality education, it is crucial to promote excellence within educational systems and to continue to push the boundaries of knowledge through research. Such endeavours not only fuel innovation but also lay the groundwork for a knowledge-based economy. Strengthening exchange programmes fosters a sense of European identity and citizenship among Young people. By participating in programmes like Erasmus+, DiscoverEU, Youth in Action or European Solidarity Corps, Young people not only gain valuable skills and experiences but also deepen their understanding of European culture, values, and diversity. But the exchange of students, information, and research also must be achieved together with other global knowledge hubs, focusing on the UK and the US as key partners for advancing knowledge. Furthermore, the EU must ensure that no Young European is deprived of studying due to economic or social constraints. Opportunities provided by education serve as the most effective social elevator and must never be conditional. Finally, in an increasingly complex world, alongside promoting traditional hard skills, financial and political literacy, we need to equip the Young generations with the tools to navigate through the digital world, fostering an entrepreneurial spirit. The accelerated rhythm of today's world calls for an educational paradigm that embraces lifelong learning.

WE STRIVE FOR:

- Expanding and removing barriers for learning abroad programmes, such as apprenticeships, internships, and mobility schemes by providing adequate funding and salaries, information, guidance, and encouraging cooperation between vocational education, companies, and social partners across Europe;
- Exchange opportunities with partners outside Europe, particular the UK and the USA.
- Increasing scholarship programmes based on merit and academic achievement, providing opportunities for talented individuals from all socio-economic backgrounds to pursue higher education, fostering a culture of excellence within the education system;
- Strengthening social support mechanisms for financially disadvantaged students;
- A balance between digitalization and classic education methods of education, leveraging new technologies to provide accessible online education ensuring flexibility and equality of opportunity;
- Accessible study plans that cater to the diverse needs and abilities are necessary to promote inclusivity in education, including implementing flexible learning pathways, personalised support services, and accommodations for students with disabilities or special needs;
- Member States to strengthen cooperation with charter and private institutions, fostering partnerships and sharing resources, optimising capacity and effectiveness;
- Building upon the European Qualifications Framework to develop a simplified and comprehensive framework for vocational education across Europe;
- Member States cooperating among each other and with the European Commission to establish mechanisms for the recognition of vocational education degrees obtained in third countries, such as candidate member states;
- Member States to increase their efforts to provide affordable housing for students.
- Member states cooperating to recognise study titles obtained in other member states, fostering a transnational studying and knowledge transfer.

1.2 COMMITTED TO BE “FIT FOR 55”- A PROMISE FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

The climate crisis requires a dynamic approach that actively involves the voices of Young people. While supporting the ambitious climate agenda of the Commission 2019-2024, we want to incorporate Youth insights into decision-making processes and foster green Youth entrepreneurship, aspiring to build a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable Europe. It is the Young generations that are more directly affected by the climate crisis, particularly with rising energy prices. Furthermore, we must ensure that Europe strengthens its energy autonomy, which can only be achieved with a deepening of the Energy Union that decreases the dependence on energy resources and infrastructure outside the EU. Fighting for climate protection is an absolute priority of the centre-right, as only in a clean, healthy environment can people truly flourish, but our approach to the climate crisis is entirely different from other Youth political forces. YEPP always puts people over ideology.

We recognize that a green transition requires dialogue with civil society – with industries, with farmers, with researchers, and with scientists. By listening to their concerns, providing the best regulatory frameworks and incentivizing innovation, research, and development, we will help create the necessary technological advancements to tackle climate problems, while being able to maintain our standards of living. We place the people at the heart of our green, market-driven strategy. This undogmatic approach leads us to consider all clean energy sources, including nuclear energy, as having the potential to build a greener Europe. Finally, we acknowledge that the new energy sources and clean technologies must play a crucial role in the energy transition and in the necessary rebuilding of European infrastructure, particularly transportation.

WE STRIVE FOR:

- A clear path to phasing out fossil fuels;
- Encouraging and facilitate youth participation in local and European climate action committees, ensuring their voices are heard in decision-making processes;
- Deepening the Energy Union, notably by increasing interconnections and further integrating this market;
- Promoting Public Private Partnerships to invest in clean technologies, leveraging the Multiannual Financial Framework to foster European champions in the transition towards a sustainable future;
- Enhancing the competitiveness of emerging startups and incubators in the fields of energy transformation and sustainability by robustly establishing and fortifying dedicated funds aimed at fostering innovation;
- Ensuring a transition for workers in industries undergoing environmental transformations and support these developments with tailored education and training programmes;
- Establishing concrete climate diplomacy strategies to strengthen global partnerships to get other countries on board and achieve the global CO₂-emission goals, recognizing that we can't solve the climate crisis by ourselves;
- Shaping a climate neutral future by supporting research funds in the area of renewals, supporting technological developments;
- A better implementation of education on energy security in schools via a cross curricular approach.

1.3 FACING THE SILENT THREAT OF MENTAL HEALTH

Young people are the bearers of change, but also the ones experiencing it the most. The COVID-19 pandemic profoundly changed our lives. Many Young Europeans were deprived of the normal experiences of every childhood. Unfortunately, like in the financial crisis of 2008, the burden fell again on the backs of Young people, leaving severe consequences on their mental health. On the other hand, the competitive environment of our modern economies brings a growing concern about mental health. The impact on well-being is often underestimated, and still there is a social stigma preventing Young People to opening about mental health issues. It is crucial to underscore that mental health is as significant as physical health, fostering an environment where seeking help is met with empathy rather than judgement.

Furthermore, we see the fight against bullying and discrimination as intricately linked to mental health advocacy. In the digital era, we must acknowledge the concerning reality of cyber-bullying that is more difficult to be recognized and dealt with on time. Social media can also have a pervasive influence on the mental health of Young people, through addiction and through the immersion into an alternative reality. To fortify mental health initiatives, measures must be implemented at the European level, harmonising mental health policies, sharing best practices, and allocating resources to combat the challenges faced by Young people across member states. The silent struggles faced by many Young people call for a collective effort to destigmatize mental health concerns. Mental health is for us a priority and should not become a luxury for some people.

WE STRIVE FOR:

- Raising awareness about the spectrum of mental health issues. By initiating open conversations and educational campaigns, we can cultivate a more compassionate and understanding society;
- The integration of mental health education into school curriculum. By providing Young people with the tools to understand, recognize, and address mental health challenges, we empower them to navigate these issues proactively;
- Promoting accessible mental health resources, such as psychotherapy, counselling services and helplines, is pivotal in ensuring that support is readily available for those in need;
- Establishing a European Mental Health Task Force facilitates the exchange of expertise, research, and strategies to address mental health issues effectively;
- A collaborative effort between tech companies, educators, and parents to positively impact the mental health of Young people;
- Strict anti-bullying policies in schools;
- A specific legal framework that addresses the reality of cyber-bullying;
- The European Commission to dedicate a European Year of Mental Health in their next mandate 2024-2029;
- Advocate for a common harmonised emergency number across Europe to provide people in need an easy and quick access to a first aid in case of mental health crisis;
- Promote a better re-integration of people with mental health disorders in their professional environment and job market.

1.4 BUILDING A SAFER TOMORROW: PRIORITISING RESPONSIBLE AI AND CYBERSECURITY

Responsible use of AI and cybersecurity is paramount for the well-being and progress of society, especially in times when the digital playing field is changing at an unprecedented pace. AI technologies have immense potential to revolutionise various sectors, from healthcare to finance, by enhancing efficiency, decision-making processes, and innovation. However, without proper oversight and ethical guidelines, there are significant risks associated with the misuse of AI, including biases, privacy violations, and exacerbation of existing social inequalities. Therefore, it is crucial to prioritise responsible AI development and deployment to ensure that these technologies are used ethically and for the benefit of all members of society.

Cybersecurity plays a crucial role in safeguarding individuals, organisations, and critical infrastructure from cyber threats such as data breaches, ransomware attacks, and cyber espionage. As our reliance on digital technologies continues to grow, so does the importance of robust cybersecurity measures to protect sensitive information and preserve trust in online systems. A lack of adequate cybersecurity can result in severe consequences, including financial losses, reputational damage, and disruptions to essential services. Therefore, cybersecurity initiatives and regulations that promote information security best practices, encourage collaboration between public and private sectors, and ensure accountability for negligent or malicious cyber activities must be prioritised.

WE STRIVE FOR:

- Enacting comprehensive AI governance frameworks that address ethical considerations, transparency and accountability, in AI development and deployment;
- Strengthening cybersecurity regulations to enhance the resilience of critical infrastructure and promote information sharing and collaboration among stakeholders to strengthen European innovations;
- Investing in AI research and development to advance technologies that prioritise privacy, security, and societal well-being and which support innovative start-ups;
- Strengthening cybersecurity regulations to enhance the resilience of critical infrastructure and promote information sharing collaboration among stakeholders (in special among public authorities of member states) to strengthen European innovations.
- Promoting education and awareness programmes to empower individuals and organisations to adopt responsible AI and cybersecurity practices;
- Establishing international standards and cooperation mechanisms to address global cybersecurity challenges and mitigate cross-border cyber threats.

2. BUILDING EUROPE'S TOMORROW: BETTER LIVES FOR YOUNG EUROPEANS

Young Europeans want to experience the democratic-liberal promise of financial stability, economic security and social mobility. YEPP acknowledges that only a thriving social market economy brings this promise about, while fighting the material deprivation of vulnerable social groups. The robust social systems we aspire to depend on strong economic growth, which in turn relies on a business-friendly environment rooted in competitiveness. This entails providing investors with confidence in choosing Europe as their investment destination and promoting private initiative through legislative stability, minimal bureaucracy, and efficient public services. On the other hand, the paradigm of the modern global economy and its geopolitical dimension calls for an European investment in innovation, research and development. To ensure that Europe maintains its position as a key player in the global arena, we advocate a deepening of the European Single Market internally and, on the external front, the pursuit of ambitious free-trade agreements, prioritising countries of the so-called Union of democracies.

Upholding principles of Intergenerational Justice strengthens societies, making them more resilient and cohesive. Cooperation between different generations offers essential learning opportunities for Youth and fosters a more caring and inclusive society. It is crucial that the Young generations are politically represented, providing a unique perspective on how the Youth envisions the future. This helps ensure that present decisions do not hinder the future of subsequent generations. At YEPP, we advocate that Youth are not only the future but also the present, with significant contributions to offer. This involves not solely focusing on the short-term impacts of our decisions but also considering their repercussions for generations to come.

The pursuit of affordable housing is a cornerstone for Young Europeans aspiring to establish their own homes and families. Rising property prices and rental costs in urban centres pose significant challenges, hindering the ability to secure stable housing. Addressing the challenge of affordable housing requires a market-based approach, promoting the private sector's involvement and innovation in the construction and rental market. Furthermore, we have learned from experience that inflexible rental market laws exacerbate the housing crisis, and we recognize the need for increasing housing construction. If market incentives for investment are lacking, such as due to high construction costs, high salaries and the lack of skilled workers, the public sector should step in, collaborating with the private or social sector to initiate housing projects. Additionally, incentives for homeownership can be implemented through policies and tax measures supporting first-time homebuyers, promoting individual responsibility and community stability. Smart urban planning policies should prioritise affordable housing solutions to foster vibrant, inclusive communities with the underlying goal of increasing opportunities for all Young people who wish to pursue their life projects in any European city.

Youth unemployment poses a significant threat to the prosperity and well-being of Young Europeans. Fostering entrepreneurial ecosystems is vital to addressing Youth unemployment, creating an environment that empowers Young people to create their own opportunities. In today's dynamic economies, rigid labour laws that hinder job mobility are unsustainable. Young people embrace having different job experiences, working across borders, creating startups, and being open to trying and failing. Furthermore, companies must have the flexibility to adapt to new emerging and disruptive markets. YEPP advocates for flexible labour markets supported by robust social safety nets that focus on reintegrating individuals into the workforce through solid reskilling & upskilling and training programmes, rather than perpetuating cycles of dependency on welfare.

Demographic challenges extend beyond immediate concerns to the impact of an ageing population on the sustainability of social systems and economic vitality. The survival of the European way of life depends on demography, requiring proactive and forward-thinking strategies that preserve the values defining Europe's history, present, and future. Europe needs to be a space for Young families as the nucleus of society to grow. We must create conditions where Young people feel secure in starting families, pushing back an individualistic approach to society. Family-friendly policies, such as parental leave and affordable childcare, support a work-life balance conducive to family-building. We must learn from the best examples of increasing birth rates and address the unequal reality of child support in different Member States.

Young People in Rural Areas still face the challenges of unequal opportunities in personal and professional development. Gentrification and negative demographic trends have led to excessive centralization, uneven development, and inequalities. In Rural Areas, Young people still live in challenging conditions, with underdeveloped communal and transportation infrastructure, limited internet access, lack of accessible Youth services, lack of social, cultural, or sports activities. These factors affect Young people's prospects of socio-economic independence, and harm equality of opportunity. We support incentives and support mechanisms that encourage Young people to live in rural areas. By attracting skilled Youth back to rural areas, we inject new talent and energy into local economies while stemming the tide of depopulation.

Addressing the Agriculture crisis calls for maintaining the Common Agricultural Policy with a balanced reform between economic development and ecological transition. This reform should enable farmers to develop their economic activities, modernise their tools, and bring Young generations to the workforce. It is crucial to fight against competition distortions between member states and to avoid importing products that can be produced within the EU, while respecting free trade agreements. Additionally, the establishment of a green barrier for non-European companies wishing to market or produce on our soils is necessary, as they must be subject to the same constraints as our national and European companies, respecting free competition. YEPP wants to prioritise policies promoting sustainable agriculture and offering support to Young farmers, advocating for funding, technological advancements, and training programmes to boost innovation and sustainability in agriculture. We are aware of the need to prepare for the dramatic change that Enlargement and Integration will create in this sector.

WE STRIVE FOR:

- Deepening of the Single Market to compete effectively on the international market, enhancing efficiency, reducing barriers, and promoting a more globally competitive business environment, particularly focusing on the deepening of the Digital Single Market;
- Facilitate the posting of workers across Europe by streamlining bureaucracy and minimising regulations to empower companies to exercise business activities in other countries;
- Consolidation and simplification of EU legislation for businesses to operate more freely and consumers to navigate the law more easily;
- Financing support for Young generations in entrepreneurial activities. Banks need to facilitate access to finance for Young people for entrepreneurial activities, providing the opportunity to receive European micro-financing to launch businesses;
- Establishing a Committee of the Future within the European Parliament, composed of MEPs, to evaluate the impact of EU decisions in alignment with the principles of Intergenerational Justice.
- Implementing labour market reforms to adapt to the evolving needs of the job market, striking the equilibrium between job mobility, opportunities for the Youth and economic and social security;
- Increase support for Young families, including affordable housing, free or low-cost education for children, and improved and more equal parental benefits, like childcare support and parental leave for Young professionals;
- Investment in Infrastructure and Services to improve in rural areas to attract Young residents, including investments in transportation networks, healthcare facilities, education institutions, and recreational amenities;
- Prioritising investment in digital infrastructure to bridge the urban-rural divide, improving internet connectivity and access to digital tools to enable Young people in rural areas to participate in the global economy, whether through remote work, online education, or e-commerce ventures;
- Youth Return programmes tied to rural employment that offer housing subsidies, tax breaks for entrepreneurs, or student loan forgiveness;
- The implementation of job-shadowing programmes to ensure a smooth transition of knowledge and skills from experienced workers to newcomers;
- Introducing tax incentives and subsidies for Young families who want to engage real estate developers in the construction of affordable housing projects, encouraging increased supply and lowering overall housing costs.

3. OUR UNION: ACKNOWLEDGING THE CHALLENGES, PROTECTING THE FUTURE

Russia's ongoing invasion of Ukraine urges a European resolve in the protection of freedom and democracy, which is the same as to say that it urges our steadfast support of Ukraine. Ukraine must emerge victorious from this conflict, while Russia must lose, and its regime must face the consequences of its war crimes and crimes against humanity. The EU, along with its global partners, should intensify strategic efforts to advance freedom and democracy worldwide, particularly in confronting Russia's current regime. This requires a renewal of European defence, with Member States fulfilling their commitments to military expenditure aimed at bolstering military capabilities. We advocate for a united and strong EU defence strategy for collective security.

The future of Ukraine lies within the EU. YEPP urges the EU to embrace the challenge ahead, not only speeding up the preparation of Ukraine's accession under the current admission criteria, but on the preparation of the necessary recovery plan to rebuild the country after being torn down by war. This demand of an extraordinary budgetary effort will be a very important sign not only of European solidarity but of our resolve to fight for our common civilization values. We also advocate for attention to be directed towards other regions threatened by Russia, such as Georgia and Moldova. We welcome and endorse their progress towards accession, and we advocate for further advancement in this regard.

We support Western Balkan Enlargement and recognize their potential to contribute to the broader European family. Geopolitical shifts, such as the Russian aggression against Ukraine, emphasise the urgency of accelerating integration efforts. We view the Western Balkan countries not just as neighbours, but as key partners with a shared history and culture. Despite challenges in the current enlargement process, we advocate for an approach where the EU fundamental values are in focus and where enlargement is based on the willingness to build on these principles. Ultimately, our unwavering commitment aims to overcome obstacles and contribute to a stable, prosperous, and united Europe where the Western Balkans are integral members.

Immigration and Border Security are an important concern of the Youth. YEPP promotes the principle that Member States should determine who enters Europe. It is crucial to expand Frontex, to improve border and coastal controls at the EU's external borders and to enter into closer cooperation with bordering countries. We advocate for the deployment of advanced technology to detect and deter illegal border crossings to combat illegal immigration effectively. A united and strong EU defence strategy and border control are crucial to face the persistent threat of terrorism within the EU. But migration controls are also important to ensure that every person wishing to come to Europe is treated with dignity and humanity, not falling into the hands of human traffickers or hostile states that instrumentalize their wish for a better future to attack Europe.

The safety and well-being of citizens is paramount. We pledge to implement practical strategies to enhance public safety, combat crime, and create environments where citizens can thrive without fear. This includes increased investment in law enforcement, community policing initiatives, and the implementation of smart city technologies that respect citizen's right to privacy to bolster safety and security. Our commitment extends to fostering dialogue between communities and law enforcement to build trust and collaboration.

Rule of law, democracy, and freedoms are experiencing a concerning trend of deterioration not only globally but also within Europe. We must be vigilant of Member States entering a process of institutional degradation, marked by a consistent devaluation of democratic standards. Particularly troubling is the rise of statism, often accompanied by corruption, as political parties prioritise perpetuation of power over democracy standards or the prosperity and autonomy of civil society. Rebuilding respect for the separation of powers and ensuring the autonomy of individuals and societies from state and party influence is imperative. Rebuilding trust into politicians and the political bodies is crucial for a democracy and should be a high priority.

We strongly condemn the attacks carried out by Hamas in October 7TH 2023, targeting the State of Israel. We reaffirm our unwavering support for Israel's right to self-defence, by respecting international law and conventions condemn terrorism in all its forms, and demand the release of all hostages. We are committed to upholding international law and stress the importance of protecting civilian lives. Additionally, we are committed to fight the rise of anti-Semitism in Europe, which cannot be tolerated and must be rejected.

We are witnessing a concerning trend of radical ideologies associated with “cancel culture” seeking to erase our European heritage, history, and values. We firmly uphold freedom of thought and speech and therefore we must remain vigilant against emerging political ideologies driven by hatred and resentment. We oppose top-down approaches of social engineering that disregard individual liberties and seek to impose a new vision of humanity. We remain resolute in defence of human dignity and the protection of the most vulnerable, with a special concern of safeguarding the physical and spiritual autonomy of the individual against state or mass movements.

WE STRIVE FOR:

- Decisive actions to support Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, including diplomatic pressure, economic support, and strategic alliances;
- The establishment and development of the European Defence Fund to bolster defence capabilities among EU member states underscores NATO's crucial role as Europe's primary institution in matters of power politics. We suggest the introduction of a Security and Defence Commissioner as part of an intensified European defence collaboration effort, aimed at enhancing coordination and agility in security affairs;
- Increased defence cooperation, joint investment in defence capabilities, and a stronger role for the European Defence Agency;
- EU member states and the European Commission to work diligently on combating terrorism, enhance cooperation in sharing intelligence, expertise, and best practices to effectively counter terrorism.
- Emphasising the importance of proactive measures to prevent radicalization, including robust educational programmes and community engagement initiatives;
- Strengthen the legal framework to prevent and combat corruption by revising and implementing existing legislation and introducing new measures to protect whistle-blowers, enhance transparency, strengthen whistleblowing training and ensure accountability of public officials and European institutions.
- Promote the exchange of best practices among Member States on anti-corruption measures and provide technical assistance and training to improve their capacity to prevent and combat corruption;
- To significantly increase penalties, sanctions and sentences related to corruption within the EU-institutions, to provide an additional deterrent effect for the future;
- EU member states to prioritise the realisation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum, with the goal of facilitating improved information sharing related to asylum seekers. This effort is aimed at expediting and enhancing the accuracy of the application processing procedures.



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START VOTING**



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