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THIS IS OUR CONTINENT: A EUROPE THAT ACTS AND KEEPS ITS PROMISE

We, the Youth of the European People's Party, are proudly and firmly pro-European.

We believe in Europe not merely as an institution, a market or a set of procedures, but as our common home. This is our continent. Its future must not be shaped by fear, decline, war, authoritarian pressure or decisions taken elsewhere. It must be shaped by Europeans themselves — with confidence, responsibility and ambition.

The European Union is the greatest peace project in history. It has reconciled former enemies, secured stability and created a space in which generations of Europeans have been able to live, study, work and travel in freedom. But this achievement must never become a matter of habit. Europe must be renewed, defended and made fit for the future.

Europe has too often become absorbed by technical details, excessive regulation and internal hesitation. These questions matter, but they must not overshadow the original promise of Europe: peace, freedom, prosperity and the ability to shape our common future.

In a world of war, authoritarian pressure, technological disruption and economic competition, the European Union cannot be a passenger. Europe must become a driving force: protecting its citizens, defending its interests, supporting its partners and shaping global change according to our values. We should not merely defend our interests, we should proactively pursue them.
We therefore call for a renewed European agenda focused on security, competitiveness and enlargement.

Europe must strengthen its security and defence capabilities, reinforce the European pillar within the transatlantic partnership and build resilience against hybrid threats, cyberattacks, disinformation, foreign interference and attacks on critical infrastructure. Security is also about energy, technology, supply chains, borders and social cohesion. All Member States should contribute to European security in line with their constitutional frameworks and national choices. Security also means safe borders and effective migration management with clear rules on who should come to Europe, who is allowed to stay and who must leave again.

Prosperity is the foundation of our social model, our global influence and our ability to finance security, innovation and cohesion. And peace through prosperity also lies at the heart of the European idea and was one of its founding principles. We support a Europe that reduces unnecessary bureaucracy, strengthens the Single Market, improves access to capital and creates better conditions for start-ups, SMEs, industry and innovation. Europe must be a continent where ideas become companies, research becomes products, and young people see opportunity.

This requires excellence in research, science and innovation. Europe has world-class universities, scientists and research institutions, but we must support them better: through stronger European support for scientists, simpler and faster research funding, better career opportunities for young researchers and academic freedom. Europe must invest in key technologies such as quantum, artificial intelligence, semiconductors, biotechnology, clean technologies, space and cybersecurity. It should also open its doors to international researchers and innovators who share our values.

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Europe also needs more self-confidence. Across our neighbourhood, countries seek a future in the European Union because they associate it with freedom, prosperity, rule of law and stability. This is not a weakness. It is one of Europe's greatest strengths.

That is why we must stop speaking about the future of our continent only in the language of procedures. The real question is not simply whether the European Union should "**enlarge**", but whether Europe is willing to take responsibility for itself.

The Western Balkans, Ukraine, Moldova and other candidate countries are not distant regions at the edge of our political imagination. They are part of our continent. Their stability is our stability. Their democratic future is part of Europe's democratic future. Their vulnerability to foreign influence, corruption, disinformation and authoritarian pressure is also a European challenge.

Europe must therefore keep its promise. If candidate countries meet the agreed criteria, there must be no artificial or politically motivated blockades. The path towards membership must remain merit-based, fair and connected to clear reforms, especially in democracy, rule of law, good governance and the fight against corruption.

We support a more dynamic and gradual path towards the completion of Europe. Candidate countries that make substantial progress should be brought closer to the Union step by step: through deeper participation in the Single Market, access to selected EU programmes, closer cooperation with European institutions and stronger support in implementing the acquis. Such steps must not replace full membership. They must accelerate the path towards it and yield tangible results both for the people in the region and European citizens.

Finally, democracy can never be taken for granted. Around the world, fewer than one in ten people live in full democracies. As YEPP, we commit ourselves to defending and strengthening the values that make democracy possible: freedom, human dignity, rule of law, pluralism, responsibility, solidarity and active civic engagement.

This is our continent. We believe in a Europe that protects, competes, innovates, welcomes talents keeps its promises and acts with confidence. We believe in a Europe that is not afraid of its own future.

Youth of the European People's Party

Junge Österreichische Volkspartei

International Youth Democratic Union

Chrëschtlech Sozial Jugend

Forza Italia Giovani

Juventude Popular

Junge Mitte Ostbelgien

Juventude Social Democrata

Junge Union Deutschlands

Kresťanskodemokratická mládež Slovenska

Suomen Kristillisdemokraattiset

Kokoomuksen Nuorten Liitto

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Konservativ Ungdom

MGERB – Young citizens for European Development of Bulgaria

Mlada Slovenija

Mladež hrvatska demokratska zajednica

Mladí lidovci

Mladež hrvatska demokratska zajednica Bosnia I Hercegowina

NE.DI.SY – Youth of the Democratic Rally

Nueves Generaciones del Partido Popular

PAS Youth

Solidarna Molod

TOP tým

Unija mladih srpske napredne stranke

Unge Høyres Landsforbund

Young Fine Gael

Kataeb Students & Youth Department

Mladi Evrope

Mladí Slovensko

Nowa Generacja

Magyar Ifjúsági Értekezlet