



Since our foundation in 2009, we have been working hard towards an EU that gets back to basics to deliver common sense solutions. We believe that at the heart of every decision made by the EU, should be the consideration of whether or not it is adding value for hard-working taxpayers across the union.

To achieve this, ECR MEPs continue to focus their efforts on decentralisation, connecting people and business, promoting fair and free trade, and fostering a safe and secure Europe, among many other achievements.

Our efforts have delivered results improving the lives of citizens across the EU every day and we will continue promoting a wider agenda of long-term pan-European euro-realist reform. We will also carry on our hard work in securing a more flexible, open, and economically vibrant EU offering citizens and taxpayers tangible benefits.

With your support and the continued efforts of our MEPs, we believe that an EU that respects the wishes of its citizens, spends taxpayers' money responsibly, and respects the sovereignty of its national governments, is an EU that can build a stronger future that better serves its citizens.

Founded to take the EU in a NEW DIRECTION

The ECR Group is a centre-right political group in the European Parliament, founded in 2009 with a common cause to reform the EU based on eurorealism, respecting the sovereignty of nations, and focusing on economic recovery, growth and competitiveness. From its 8 founding Member States with 54 MEPs in 2009, we now have 62 members from 15 EU Member States. EUROREALISTS not anti-European Euro-realism is the driving force of the ECR Group, which distinguishes our agenda from the other political groups in the European Parliament. The European Union needs a new direction. Some argue that the solution is more Europe, others that the solution is no Europe. We offer a bold alternative vision of a reformed EU as a community of nations cooperating in areas where they have some common interests that can best be advanced by working together.

We are the voice of COMMON SENSE

The European Union has overreached. It has become too centralised, too ambitious, and too out of touch with ordinary citizens. We believe in restoring common sense in Brussels - advocating for the equal treatment of all Member States, pushing the EU to be more fiscally responsible, finding new ways to connect people and business, creating solutions to the migrant crisis and the terrorist threat, and adopting a global approach to increase EU competitiveness on the world stage. Reformed European Union that is more flexible, decentralised and respects the wishes of its Member States. Only an EU that truly listens to its people can offer real solutions to the problems we face today. We believe in cutting red tape, in an EU run by national governments not Brussels bureaucrats, in doing less but better, in an immigration system that works, in spending taxpayer money wisely, but most of all, we believe in fostering an EU that is safe, secure, competitive and prosperous for all.

Principles and Values:

- Free enterprise, free and fair trade and competition, minimal regulation, lower taxation, and small govern-

- ment as the ultimate catalysts for individual freedom and personal and national prosperity.
- Freedom of the individual, more personal responsibility and greater democratic accountability.
 - Sustainable, clean energy supply with an emphasis on energy security.
 - The importance of the family as the bedrock of society.
 - The sovereign integrity of the nation state, opposition to EU federalism and a renewed respect for true subsidiarity.
 - The overriding value of the transatlantic security relationship in a revitalised NATO, and support for young democracies across Europe.
 - Effectively controlled immigration and an end to abuse of asylum procedures.
 - Efficient and modern public services and sensitivity to the needs of both rural and urban communities.
 - An end to waste and excessive bureaucracy and a commitment to greater transparency and probity in the EU institutions and use of EU funds.
 - Respect and equitable treatment for all EU countries, new and old, large and small.



The S&D Group's MEPs work hard to support many campaigns and initiatives, highlighting important causes and bringing people together to find better solutions for the key problems we face in Europe. Read more about these activities below and find out how you can get involved.

Social Rights

Europe must rise to the challenge of a new era. Faced with growing inequalities and many changes, from globalisation and economic uncertainty to digitisation and new technologies, we must embrace new opportunities defending our values. This means securing and updating fundamental social rights for everyone. The S&Ds have always fought for this and we're leading the fight in the European Parliament to make social rights a reality for all – through the European Pillar of Social Rights. We want to make sure this delivers real action, with enforceable rights, fairer economic policies and properly funded public investments.

Tax Justice

The COVID-19 pandemic breakout caused both a health and socio-economic crisis that caught the world and its leaders by surprise. As part of national responses, member states granted tax facilities to companies and citizens. The recovery should be based on a just taxation system, and it is also an opportunity to close tax loopholes and continue the fight against tax evasion and tax avoidance.

Our Fight, Women's Rights

Equality between women and men is a fundamental right recognised in the Treaty of Rome of 1957 and in the Charter of Fundamental Rights. Although the EU has adopted many texts to promote equal opportunities, ensure fair treatment for men and women,

and combat all forms of discrimination, nowhere near enough progress has been made and women still face many daily inequalities. The S&D Group wants an inclusive and equal Europe for everyone. There is still a long way to go.

S&Ds with Africa

A more mature and contemporary Africa-EU partnership can help us address the global challenges we face. Together we can strengthen democracy and human rights, and foster sustainable economic and human development in our societies. Good coordination of the EU's external policies is vital if we want to make the most of the global opportunities we are presented with and be a responsible actor on the international stage.

Digital Union

An inclusive Digital Union for Europe. Europe is undergoing a digital revolution. We can see its impact on our daily lives: from online voting to faster broadband, from better ways to communicate to online shopping, and from useful digital tools to new hitech industries and jobs. We welcome the opportunities this revolution offers for all European citizens and want to tackle potential challenges head on.

End Energy Poverty Today, over 50 million Europeans are forced to live their lives in energy poverty. This means that they are not able to pay for the electricity and gas they need, which can have serious effects on their health and wellbeing. Clean and affordable energy is a basic right for every European citizen – no one should be left in the cold! The Socialists and Democrats Group in the European Parliament has written a manifesto on this topic, which you can read [here](#).

#Stand With Ukraine

Russia's brutal war of aggression against Ukraine has marked the start of a new era for Europe and for the world order. For the S&Ds, this illegal, unjustified and unprovoked war and the crisis that has unfolded have been a call to action and we have been working tirelessly to provide all the help the EU can offer to the people of Ukraine and all others who have been affected by the war and its consequences.

Future of Europe

The future of Europe is in our hands! Together we can share our ideas, debate the questions that matter and bring our voices together to shape the future of Europe for the better. The [#Progressives4Europe](#) platform can bring our voices together for a stronger Europe and will ensure that you will be heard. Sign up and join us to debate the future of Europe with citizens and other members of the progressive family.

Our European Green Deal

The European Parliament declared a climate emergency on 28th November 2019. Europe urgently needs a new sustainable economic model, which combines social and ecological progress, improves the well-being of people and leaves no one behind. This model must reflect the objectives of the Paris Agreement and of the United Nations Sustainable

Development Goals. Our European Green Deal will put Europe on the path of long-term, sustainable growth and prosperity. It will ensure that our environmental policies plant inclusive seeds for social and economic change, by decreasing social inequalities, reducing imbalances between bigger and smaller member states, getting rid of geographical disparities as well as disparities between women and men and between generations.

Progressive Society : The Independent Commission for Sustainable Equality

A new economic model for a progressive Europe Our priority is creating well-being for the many, not just profits for the greedy few. At the same time, we need to respect our planet's limits. Our fight is for sustainable equality in all its dimensions - social, economic, political and territorial.



Building back better

We need to foster economic recovery and sustainable development in line with the digital and green transitions. We stand for competition, the market economy and more free trade, subject to respect for EU values.

- Job creation needs to be prioritised and aligned with the green and digital transitions.
- Free and rule-based trade, subject to the respect of EU values, as a condition to access the European procurement market.
- More use of new and existing financial instruments such as loans or guarantees to incentivise innovation and support research.
- Completion and promotion of the Single Market for new opportunities and competitiveness.
- Building of a fully functioning Digital Single Market as well as fostering digital upskilling in society.
- Active monitoring of investments in EU companies as well as regular assessments of possible risks and market distortions.

Sustainable development and fighting climate change

Europe's Liberals believe that Europe should take a leading role in fighting climate change, protecting the environment and promoting sustainable development. This is why we fully support the ambition for EU to be climate neutral by 2050. We need concrete solutions to enable a green transition that creates jobs and generates growth.

Our solutions

- Research and innovation alongside smart regulation to support green growth and develop new technologies, resources and raw materials.
- Market economy forces to incentivise companies to change to a carbon neutral and

circular economy model.

- Examine opening the EU Emissions Trade System (ETS) to additional sectors
- Investments in all forms of renewable and low carbon energy forms to decarbonise our energy sources and systems.
- Transition to zero emissions mobility by phasing out petrol and diesel fuelled vehicles.
- Incentives to citizens' daily behaviours to become climate conscious consumers.
- Stronger cooperation on environmental protection on land and at sea.

Rule of law and human rights

Fundamental democratic pillars such as judicial independence, media freedom and rule of law are under siege in a number of Member States. We need to establish effective measures to address this at the European level that go beyond Article 7 TEU, which has proven to be ineffective.

Our solutions

Application of the principle of conditionality that links the allocation of EU recovery funds to the respect common EU values. New tools and mechanisms to strengthen the involvement of national parliaments in EU affairs

Immigration and asylum

Immigration and asylum remain concerns in Europe, and the current system no longer works. Integration is the key to successful and sustainable immigration and both Member States and immigrants are both responsible for successfully ensuring it.

Our solutions

A humane and effective Common European Asylum System with high-quality reception, responsibility sharing, and efficient procedures in line with EU fundamental standards. Increased funding for reception centres in regions of origin to provide asylum seekers with alternatives. The EU blue card to act as an EU-wide work permit applied by all Member States. An EU coordination proposal for the Mediterranean.

The EU as a global leader

In an increasingly complex world, the European Union needs to strengthen its international presence to become a true global leader and protect and assert its values and interests. The EU should continue to promote human rights and be more resilient against foreign influence. Institutionally reinforcing the EEAS and the High Representative the EU, who should act as an EU Foreign Minister. A European seat in the UN Security Council and other organisations. Qualified Majority Voting for decisions on foreign and security policies. Establishment and implementation of the European Defence Union subject to parliamentary control. The respect of human rights as a basic condition for all international agreements



United in diversity

The promotion of the European model is crucial if we want European values to have an impact in a rapidly changing world. It is also the EPP's responsibility to adapt the European Union to the realities and needs of the 21st century by setting the right priorities and by bringing the European Union closer to its citizens. For the EPP, a strong and united Union acting together is best suited to face this world's many challenges and threats.

Delivering prosperity for everyone

The economy should serve the people, not the other way around. Europe needs an ambitious, competitive and growth-orientated economy that can create jobs and provide a high standard of living for our citizens. The EPP believes that a dynamic economy must be based not just on numbers and statistics, but on the skills, talents and innovation of all its people.

A secure and free Europe

We Europeans want to live in freedom, prosperity and security. The EPP political family has been to the fore of efforts to make Europe a safer place. It is the foremost duty of public authorities to protect their citizens and to uphold the rule of law in our societies. Our work is mainly focused on four areas: securing our external borders, preventing illegal migration, fighting terrorism and combatting organised crime and corruption. In these areas, strengthening the rule of law, good law enforcement, strong intelligence services, effective exchange of information and a strong and resilient civil society, firmly rooted in the core values of the Union, are a precondition to preserving and enhancing the security we live in.

A strong Europe in the world

The European Union was founded on principles that aim to safeguard peace, our way of life, democracy and prosperity, equality and human rights. The only safe world is a multi-lateral rules based world. As the world is changing and security challenges increasing, European citizens expect better protection against threats from the Union. The EPP has been at the forefront of promoting Euro Atlantic cooperation and a stronger role for the EU in defence and security. We need a European Security and Defence Union that addresses the security threats of today and tomorrow, focusing on our own resilience, tackling threats in our neighbourhood and helping to solve global security problems.

A sustainable Europe

Climate change is one of the main concerns where the European citizens look to the EU for answers. Climate change is a reality, it affects all of us and the EPP remains firmly committed to tackling it. For more than a decade, the EPP has been driving the EU climate action agenda. The next generations are rightly concerned about the condition of our planet being passed on to them. At the same time, they are ready to act and contribute to

the change. Businesses increasingly see the benefits of the new sustainable economy. We don't need fatalism but ambition and action. Let us use this momentum and invest in a better future for our children.

Mission

To work to the benefit of all Europeans to build a more ambitious and a more self-assured Europe where everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed; defending a united Europe that respects subsidiarity, without contradiction among European, national and local identities. To put people at the heart of the European project, strengthening European democracy and the accountability of its institutions; defending the European way of life, advocating a united Europe based on the values of human dignity, freedom, solidarity, the respect of human rights and the rule of law.

Vision

A united Europe in which every individual is able to realise their full potential. A fairer, more competitive and democratic Europe where people travel, work, do business, invest, learn from each other, buy, sell, collaborate and team up. A self-assured Europe that recognises its unique history and heritage and defends its way of life. A strong Europe that is ready to punch above its weight globally.

Values

We value human dignity, freedom and responsibility, equality and justice, solidarity and subsidiarity. We acknowledge Christian-Judeo values as our foundation and are committed to defending freedom of religion all over the world.

We defend representative democracy, the separation of powers, human rights and the rule of law, standing against any form of totalitarianism, from any ideological background. We stand for a fair society that provides equal opportunities and protects the legitimate interests of future generations.

We stand for a Social Market Economy based on freedom, responsibility and fairness, that promotes private enterprise, embraces economic prosperity and leaves no one behind.

We believe in the responsible management of natural resources, which provides for justified needs and improves the living conditions for everyone, ensuring sustainable development that protects our planet for future generations. We encourage new technology, research and innovation aimed at improving our quality of life.



As Greens/EFA we stand for a society where everyone, regardless of gender or sexual orientation, age, race, or religion, can live a dignified and fulfilling life. As a political force, we put the human rights of all human beings, present and future, at the front and center of

all policies we advocate and implement.

Even though, compared with many areas in the world, the European Union is a desirable place to live, the very possibility for each and every human being to live in dignity is at grave risk. Over the years we have seen the inexorable rise of our ecological impact, and as a consequence, the looming threat of runaway climate crisis, the collapse of biodiversity and the exhaustion of natural resources.

Concurrently, social inequality has been and is on the rise, not just in terms of income but also in terms of access to decent work, to health care, and to education. Likewise, women's rights and gender equality are being challenged while civil liberties and the foundations of democracy are under threat, not only outside of the EU's borders but also inside. The potential of the digital transformation is being misused in order to concentrate wealth and power in the hands of a few (surveillance and profiling, targeting for political purposes, privatized law enforcement, labor conditions for platform workers, the rise of digital monopolies and tax avoidance), and is adding to the polarization of society, strengthening authoritarian forces. We have seen the European Union becoming a fortress, increasingly closed to any migrant, regardless of whether they are eligible or not for refugee or another protection status. We have seen global multilateralism recede in favour of the "might is right" approach. We have seen global corporate power exert an ever greater pressure on how our societies are governed.

FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE AND PROTECT BIODIVERSITY

By 2024, we want to see the EU on track to deliver its full contribution to achieve the objectives as agreed at the Paris Climate Summit, which is to limit global warming to well under 2°C and as close as possible to 1.5°C compared to pre-industrial levels.

Likewise, we want the EU to reverse the trends of both biodiversity loss and resource consumption, reinforcing and expanding the regenerative economy. This requires full involvement of both public and private sectors, the latter notably through binding sustainability due diligence.

MAKE OUR SOCIETY FAIR AND EQUAL

By 2024, we want to reverse the trend towards greater inequality of both income and wealth as well as the numbers of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion. This will require ambitious action in terms of tax justice, protecting the capacity of States to deliver social services such as education and health care from the logic of financial profit, and by enforcing decent work standards.

PROTECT DEMOCRACY, THE RULE OF LAW AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

By 2024, we want to have reversed the authoritarian attack on democratic standards of the rule of law. By 2024 we want the EU to have working mechanisms in place to tackle every breach of the rule of law and of democratic principles. In other terms, the obligations which accession to the EU is conditional upon must be enforced for all Member States all of the time. In order to reinforce citizen's trust in the European project we should also work towards more democratic and transparent decision making in the EU institutions

MAKE EUROPE AN OPEN AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

By 2024, we want the European Union to have moved away from “fortress Europe” towards a continent of sanctuary, able to welcome people in dignified and humane conditions, and to treat everyone as full citizens. This will require putting in place solidarity mechanisms to welcome asylum seekers and migrants, safeguarding their rights, and reversing EU action in the world that creates the conditions which force people to leave their homes.

PUTTING THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION AT THE SERVICE OF THE PEOPLE

By 2024, we want the EU to be a leader in digital policy and AI based on fundamental rights and freedoms, non-discrimination and inclusiveness. The European Union, while spurring innovation, must be the leader in the global battle against mass surveillance – be it by States or corporations - and the abuse of powerful new technologies for political purposes or for reducing rights acquired in longstanding battles.

MAKING THE EU A CHANGEMAKER IN THE WORLD

By 2024, we want the EU to have substantially increased its role as an international and accountable actor through the considerable means it has at its disposal (its presence in international and multilateral organisations, its common currency, its common trade policy, its development aid, diplomacy, mediation and conflict prevention, civilian and military security missions). We want that role to be aligned with the environmental, social and democratic objectives the EU sets itself and the universal norms, values and principles it is based upon.

A FEMINIST EU

By 2024, we want the EU to have advanced gender equality, to have safeguarded women’s sexual and reproductive health rights, the rights of LGBTQI* persons, to have in place policies that take into account the experiences of all forms of diversity and to have implemented strong anti-discrimination policies.