



EUROPE STAND UP!



ELECTION MANIFESTO



democrats.eu

EUROPE STAND UP!

For the first time in its history, the European Union - a unique project in the history of our continent - might break up, fall apart, and even cease to exist. The combined effect of the turmoil caused by poorly regulated globalisation, the severe economic and social consequences of the financial crisis, the impact of an unprecedented technological revolution, and the chaotic management of migration flows, has led to political or extremist forces seeking to exploit the concerns and fears of worried and confused citizens.

Europe needs a clean break, a profound democratic radical reform. The people of Europe have been excluded from the vision and destiny of Europe. Europe cannot exist without its people.

It's time for European Democrats to assert themselves.

The parties that have dominated the European scene in recent decades are no longer able to rekindle the tremendous European momentum that the founding fathers managed to create.

They are tired and have let down the people: the gap between the citizens of Europe and European institutions has been widening. Furthermore, European policies are all too often inadequate or incomplete.

It is time for Democrats to take control. We have a duty to share our European dream with citizens. We live by the values of respect for human dignity, rule of law, freedom, equality, solidarity and responsibility.

These values are embodied in our societies through pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, respect for national and linguistic minorities, equality between men and women, and investment in youth and education.

The European Democratic Party wants to and must inspire a new political constellation whose aim is to get Europe back on track.

There is no shortage of projects.

European policies aimed at fighting climate change are among the most ambitious in the world. But while the United States has turned its back on the Paris agreements, Europe must go even further with an ambitious plan to transition to a green economy financed by new own resources and creating millions of jobs.

We have created a single currency, but it still has no political leadership. There are no instruments or budgetary resources in existence that would allow euro-area countries to coordinate their economic policies and to benefit from the solidarity of their partners in the event of asymmetric shocks.

We have created an economic and monetary union, but we allow Member States to compete fiercely in tax matters, particularly with regard to corporate tax.

We proclaim our determination to protect the Union from the excesses of globalisation, but we let our main external competitors take control of strategic companies or infrastructures and we do not promote the emergence of European industrial giants capable of competing with our competitors' giants.

The large Digital multinationals make considerable profits marketing European citizens' data but we tax them less than our European SMEs.

We recently staged the adoption of the European Pillar of Social Rights, but we still do not have effective instruments against social dumping or a roadmap to encourage social convergence, a central element in strengthening European social and territorial cohesion.

We have formally established a common border but we do not manage it jointly and we leave the Southern Member States to control tens of thousands of kilometres of maritime borders almost alone and we still have no common rules on asylum.

We put pressure on the African states of origin or transit of migrants to limit the departure of their nationals to Europe, but we still have not implemented the Marshall Plan that Africa needs to ensure the development of a continent with a rapidly growing population.

If we add up the budgets spent by EU Members States on their defence, we spend more money than Russia but we are not able to send European forces to overseas military operations if necessary nor dissuade Russia from developing its audacious and belligerent policy towards its European neighbours.

It's a major challenge, a matter of urgency.

The EDP is taking up this challenge.

For us, it is time to rebuild Europe.



FIRST PILLAR

WHAT MAKES US LIVE TOGETHER

1.1 DEMOCRACY: THE REQUIRED INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS

1.1.1 Transnational lists

The European Union is an incomplete democracy. It certainly has a Parliament whose powers have been increased over time. But its powers remain limited! It has no competence in the field of revenue, it has no real power of initiative, it plays a secondary role in the choice of members of the European Executive.

But above all, its composition is more the result of national dynamism than the expression of a genuinely European dynamic.

The EDP is in favour of the introduction of transnational lists for the allocation of a significant number of the seats to be filled in the European Parliament.

In this way, voters will be able to choose between lists defending programmes for the whole of Europe.

1.1.2 Strengthening participatory democracy

Too many citizens perceive the European Union as an anonymous bureaucratic machine, insensitive to their problems and aspirations and beyond the reach of their grievances and demands.

The EDP wants to help reduce this gap. It calls on the European Union to mobilise the necessary resources to ensure that they know that they have the [right to petition the European Parliament](#).

The EDP also considers that there is an urgent need to review and ease the rules of the [European Citizens' Initiative](#), which allows them to ask the European Commission to make a legislative proposal on a subject that concerns them.

1.1.3 Punishing authoritarian abuses by a Member State

Given the rules that sometimes require unanimity, it is intolerable that a Member State which drifts towards populist and even totalitarian tendencies, should be able to dictate its will to all the other Member States of the European Union. Fully democratic peoples and nations must not and can never accept that such regimes should paralyse and block the Union.

The EDP advocates the introduction of the European Mechanism for the protection of Democracy, the Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights, a resolution passed by the European Parliament, in order to increase the capacity of the European Court of Justice to deal with breaches of the rule of law in EU member States.

Given the risks of populist, or even authoritarian abuses with which Europe is confronted, our proposal is to [set up a system in which failure to respect fundamental values \(article 7 of the Treaty of Lisbon\) would lead to:](#)

- > [The freezing of all European financial aid;](#)
- > [The suspension of all voting rights on decisions taken unanimously.](#)

As an interim measure in the process under Article 7 of the Lisbon Treaty, eligible persons and organisations from the Member State may apply for European funding directly from the European Commission.

1.2 REAFFIRMING OUR SHARED VALUES

The European Union, like any other political community, needs a common set of values and references to ensure its coherence, guide its choices and endow these with legitimacy and meaning.

These values, which are at the heart of our common identity, have been forged over centuries of turbulent history. They have been neglected at certain times, flouted at others, but they have always triumphed in the end.

[These values are strong: respect of human dignity, the rule of law, freedom, equality, solidarity and responsibility.](#)



They are embodied in our societies through pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, respect for national and linguistic minorities, gender equality and the separation of powers. Even if they are already present in the founding Treaties, they will only take on their true dimension when they are written down in gold letters in the European Constitution to which we aspire.

1.3 THE KEYS TO THE FUTURE

Education and exchanges are the two major keys to the future.

The intensification of political and cultural exchanges between citizens plays a central role in the creation of a European identity and stimulates forms of cooperation between European citizens.

Erasmus plays a vital role in strengthening the mutual knowledge of different European cultures, building common ground, and in the emergence of a European people.

The EDP requires that Erasmus benefit from increased budgetary resources - to the tune of a threefold increase in its annual budget - and has its scope extended to young apprentices, artists, and young entrepreneurs.

We need our young people to build a common European history, to know and understand the work undertaken by our common Institutions on the basis of common territory. It is essential to go beyond borders in order to progress towards a European public sphere, through means of communication at European level that contribute to the creation of a European common sphere that complements the national, regional and local sphere. The EDP **wants the creation of a European media dedicated to youth**, which would raise awareness of our common membership, could be promoted by public authorities as is already the case for Arte.



2

20 EURO
EYPO

50 EURO
EYPO

100 EURO
EYPO

SECOND PILLAR

A SUSTAINABLE AND SHARED ECONOMIC GROWTH

2.1 REACTIVATING THE EURO AREA, THE BATTLE FOR INNOVATION, A EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL POLICY

2.1.1 A strong and democratically governed euro area

Of all the achievements of the European Union, the euro is undoubtedly the greatest. Since its creation, it has fulfilled the tasks attributed to it by the Treaties: ensuring price stability and promoting trade. It also served as a buffer against the shock caused by the 2008 financial crisis, supporting the management of public deficits and creating liquidity to boost growth.

While the success of the euro is not much discussed, the performance of the euro area is more controversial. *In recent years, the unemployment rate in the euro area (which includes 19 countries) has been permanently higher than in the 28 countries of the European Union.* During the same period - and this is still the case today - the rate of increase in the Gross Domestic Product of the euro area was lower than that of the 28 European Union countries. Moreover, within the area itself, countries diverge more than they converge in terms of performance.

For citizens, the euro is a real paradox: it embodies what is closest to a citizen (the money in one's pocket) but also what is furthest from a citizen (the currency of an undefined area, managed by autocrats in opaque bodies).

The future of the euro and the euro area requires that these differences in perceptions and performance be reconciled.

The EDP proposal to relaunch the Euro area is based in particular on a [concerted convergence initiative concerning the pro-European and pro-active members of the Euro area \(from 5 to 7 countries\), including the Franco-German couple](#). These countries would jointly define a convergence target for the economic regulatory environment, fiscal principles, social pillar and labour law; they would consult on one or two joint investment projects in the field of innovation, digital sector or the industry of the future (for example, a digital and artificial intelligence agency). They would converge towards this target, each freely, through their national processes, in parallel with each other over a short period of time (3 years); in short, it is a kind of parallel convergence.

The other key to the euro area's relaunch is obviously to develop [own resources deducted from national taxes, such as a tax on financial transactions or a tax on GAFANs](#) (Google, Apple, Facebook, Amazon, Netflix). This will include the financing of new policies and compensate for the loss of budgetary resources caused by Brexit. In addition, there is no question of introducing a tax collection system at European level or of increasing the tax burden on European citizens.

For the EDP, it is also possible and desirable, without having to amend the Treaties, to strengthen the governance of the euro area with:

- > [The creation of an interparliamentary finance committee for the euro area to exercise democratic control](#). This parliamentary committee would focus on the financial issues of the euro area and its budget. It would be composed of permanent members of the finance committees of the national parliaments and members of the ECON committee of the European Parliament. Its purpose would be to monitor decisions that have a direct impact on the euro area in terms of economic and budgetary issues, as well as to improve the link between the national and European level in budgetary matters.
- > [The appointment of a Vice-President of the European Commission, with particular responsibility for the euro area, in direct dialogue with the national parliaments concerned and the interparliamentary committee](#).

To tackle future crises the EU must complete the European Monetary Union with a comprehensive Banking Union, including a European Deposit Insurance Scheme.

2.1.2 Investing in Research and Innovation

Research and Innovation have always played a decisive role in business competitiveness and economic growth. This is even more true today in this period of technological upheaval, unprecedented challenges to protect the planet from global warming, new security and defence threats, stronger public aspirations for a real quality of life and greater respect for the environment.

Europe must do more to address these challenges.

Indeed, the EU's share of GDP devoted to research and development is only 2.03%, almost one percent below its stated target (3%). Worse still, 17 of the 28 Member States devote less than 1.5% of their GDP to it. Overall, the EU is almost 1% behind the US and 1.5% behind Japan, not to mention China.

The EDP wants the EU to remain a leading global economic power. That's why the EDP is asking:

- > To increase the resources devoted to the future European Research Framework Programme (Horizon Europe) to at least 120 billion euros;
- > To increase the share devoted to research and innovation in the use of the Structural Funds;
- > To allocate to the future Community Investment Fund (Invest EU) the resources necessary to encourage the private sector to invest a maximum additional €200 billion over the next 7 years in research and innovation.
- > To launch an ambitious new programme to support the digital economy and artificial intelligence.
- > To focus the ERDF funds mostly on knowledge infrastructure.



2.1.3 Implementing a real industrial policy

For centuries, industry was the basis of the power of European states, particularly in the 19th and 20th centuries. This is still the case today, even though the service sector has gradually taken on a prominent role.

The figures speak for themselves. European industry provides employment for more than 30 million people. It produces 17% of the value added and created in Europe and represents nearly 70% of its total exports. Each job in the industrial sector contributes to the direct or indirect creation of two other jobs in the value chain. Despite this, it cannot be said that there is a real industrial policy in Europe. The only one that existed - for coal and steel - was written off.

It is true that the EU remains among the world leaders in many sectors: chemicals, pharmaceuticals, metal manufacturing, transport (air, rail, road), etc. But we are lagging behind the USA in the sectors of the future and threatened by China's rise to power.

An urgent reaction is needed. The EDP suggests:

- > The development and implementation of a [strategy for the development of European industry in the key sectors of the future: digital, artificial intelligence, low-carbon technology, space...](#)



- > The implementation of a system for prior authorisation for attempted takeovers by foreign investors in European companies and infrastructures defined as strategic.
- > The review of the current competition rules so as not to hinder the formation of European giants by companies operating on the world market.
- > The introduction of a faster and more effective anti-dumping system to sanction imports that do not comply with the rules of fair competition.

2.2 DEVELOPING THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL PILLAR

Despite the provision in the Treaties, in practice, Social Europe has so far been closely instrumentalised and subjected to functional ideology, due to the assumption that social integration would automatically occur as a result of market integration. This assumption was not borne out in fact, and the recent crisis has unveiled major social inequalities between European citizens and the lack of satisfaction concerning several social needs.



Against this background, the EDP suggests the following proposals:

The European Pillar of Social Rights is one of the EDP's major priorities for the forthcoming years ideally a specific treaty on the Social Europe should define its general objectives and scope in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity.

In the immediate future, we urge European institutions to draft a roadmap for the development of this social pillar that links the completion of the internal market with the gradual implementation of a genuine convergence strategy regarding working conditions, minimum wages, the fight against social dumping, guaranteed minimum income and minimum pensions. The objective is to provide all Europeans with the right to a decent life, taking into account the differences in the cost of living between Member States, while ensuring sustainable growth and sound management of public accounts.

Priority must be given in law in particular to gender equity in terms of access to employment, as well as equal wages (for equivalent jobs).

We recommend the promotion of the social economy and associative work models, such as collective cooperation, to counteract the negative effects of globalisation.

We propose that the European Globalisation Fund can act preventively, before redundancies and company relocations.



The European Pillar of Social Rights should make concrete proposals on key policy areas such as aid to families and children, the promotion of higher birth rates, work-life family and personal balance, and on long-term care for the elderly, particularly those who are dependent.

Similarly, proposals should be made in favour of [better social inclusion of young workers under 30 years old and older workers over 50 years old in the labour and housing market](#).

Finally, in keeping with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality, we advocate [the participation of Local and Regional Governments in the management of instruments like the European Social Fund and the Youth Guarantee](#), since it is at a sub-state level where active employment policies are applied, including social innovation and equality policies.

2.3 FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

European policies undertaken for many years to tackle climate change are among the most ambitious in the world: the European objectives of the 3X20 (-20% of CO₂ emissions, +20% of renewable energy production, -20% of energy consumption, all by 2020).

But while the United States has turned its back on the Paris agreements of 2015, Europe must take the initiative again. In this context, the EDP reaffirms its conviction [that the transition to a green economy must represent the third industrial revolution](#), creating millions of jobs in Europe and worldwide, and makes the following recommendations:



- > [Setting a price on greenhouse gas emissions](#). Coal is the main cause of global warming. Today, coal is cheaper than gas, which is less polluting. Putting a price on greenhouse gas emissions is the strong signal that companies are waiting for to turn to renewable energies.
- > Expanding the tax on financial transactions. An innovative, sustainable and non-discriminatory source of financing, it can be used to set up a global investment fund to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- > [Setting up global instruments for monitoring and evaluating the commitments made by Member States at COP21](#). Such instruments represent a guarantee that the commitments made will be fulfilled, in a spirit of transparency and common responsibility. They will also allow commitments to be increased every five years.
- > Pursuing a more ambitious policy in addressing problems concerning forests, agriculture, the countryside and food. In particular, [we suggest vegetalisation programmes in urban areas](#) particularly prone to heat waves in summer, and programmes to increase the protection of forests and trees (especially in urban areas).
- > Creating a [European civil protection force](#) to respond to natural disasters in our respective countries.



- > Deciding, following the example of what was created with the Common Agricultural Policy, to create a [Common Energy Policy](#) whose founding act would be to launch a 100 billion euros climate investment plan, supported by the European Investment Bank, for the period 2019-2024, consisting of concretely lending to Member States, local authorities and companies, the funds necessary to increase their investments in 4 areas tenfold: energy renovation of buildings, smart grids, energy storage systems, and renewable energy production.
- > Reorganising European governance of the sea and oceans in order to strengthen Europe's leadership
- > Banning non-recyclable plastic by 2025 and ending programmed obsolescence by extending warranties.

The EDP's second priority is the fight [to preserve biodiversity](#): a European ambition for it to attain the same level of importance as climate change. The EDP would like to ensure full awareness of this situation and would recommend the following:

- > Re-initiating a dialogue between the EU countries to plan a ban on the most toxic chemical substances and to accompany each decision with an accompanying plan for the professionals and sectors most affected by these bans. In any case, preparing a new decision to ban glyphosate by 2023 (and not just to re-deliberate its marketing authorisation).



- > Initiating a series of measures applicable to products imported into the EU territory that do not respect the environmental measures we impose on our producers and companies.
- > Adopting an action and support programme for sheep farms directly facing cohabitation with large predators (bears, wolves, lynx, etc.).

2.4 A NEW MODEL OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

The EDP, while recognising the added value provided by European agriculture, supports the development of a new sustainable, efficient and productive model of agriculture combining ambitious economic and environmental objectives for the benefit of farmers, consumers, rural communities and the environment.

The EDP would like to see sustainability, innovation, food security in all parts of the Union, competitiveness and tackling climate change as the key drivers of the reform.

Moreover, the budget for the Common Agricultural Policy should be sufficient in order to ensure adequate funding for its objectives and to avoid any possibility of renationalisation in the future.



The EDP supports a Common Agricultural Policy that is fair to all farmers. However, we are aware of the fact that natural conditions, costs of production and general living standards are not the same everywhere in Europe. And this must be taken into account in the redistribution of support. We therefore consider that an EU flat-rate payment system would not fully reflect EU agricultural diversity. The CAP should also reflect the objectives of the European social pillar in the fight against rural poverty and unemployment.

We support the continuous orientation of the Common Agricultural Policy towards the market and not the return to failed policies, insisting that this should not be made at the expense of food security and quality, animal welfare, the environment or undermine farmers' ability to earn a fair income for the delivery of their products to the market.

The EDP is in favour of a Common Agricultural Policy that promotes a variety of agricultural models and supports a gradual transition towards farming methods that minimize the use of plant protection products and replace them with environmentally friendlier alternatives, ensure high animal welfare standards and increase traceability, ensure sanitary and phytosanitary standards, preserve and restore biodiversity and tackle food waste. These measures should be accompanied by concrete Union targets and indicators, where feasible.



We support a future Common Agricultural Policy which emphasises the importance and encourage the [development of food quality schemes such as geographical indications](#), in recognition of the added value provided by European agriculture. EU quality products are part of EU culture and heritage, represent an enormous European asset worldwide and are key to boost rural economies and SMEs.

In conclusion on the CAP, the EDP believes that [investment in innovation, digitalisation, education and training](#) are vital for the future of European agriculture - to “link what we know to what we grow”.

The Common Fisheries Policy is a key policy for the Union and compliance with all the provisions should be necessary in order to protect our fishermen’s jobs and the marine environment. A properly functioning control system would contribute to the viability of the whole sector; a [special attention should be given to the approval of the new protocols on partnership agreements](#) already applied in the fisheries sector. Brexit is likely to have a significant impact on shared fish stocks and market access, which is why a fisheries agreement is a priority.



2.5 TRANSPORT. TOWARDS AN INTEGRATED EUROPEAN MOBILITY SYSTEM

Creating an integrated system for sustainable mobility, which is efficient for users and within the framework of an internal, open and competitive market for entrepreneurs, is a priority objective for the EDP because:

- > Such a system is essential to ensure the free movement of goods and persons and the proper functioning of the internal market.
- > It is crucial for the success of climate change and energy transition policies. Currently, transport is responsible for one third of the final energy consumption of the member countries of the European Environment Agency. The vast majority of this is of fossil origin. One fifth of the greenhouse gas emissions in the Union come from transport.
- > It is key to the competitiveness of our economy because saturation and problems of mobility of goods and people result in an annual cost of 1% of the GDP of the Union to companies and administrations. This huge amount affects the final cost of our products. The current transport model leads to a high level of dependency on fossil fuel imports, which are non-renewable and come from areas of the world with stability problems.



The EDP's proposal includes three elements:

2.5.1 The creation of an integrated mobility system that offers users

- > control of contractual services in terms of prices and time.
- > provision of transport services from the first to the last kilometre as part of a single purchase or contractual operation.
- > the automated and intelligent combination of the different transportation modes used to solve the movement of goods or the travel of people.

2.5.2 A homogeneous legal framework offering security

- > Deepening the principle of single sky, railway interoperability (legal and technical) and avoiding problems of social dumping which are another cause of market fragmentation.
- > Smart legislation, standardising definitions, simplifying processes, reducing administrative burdens and facilitating the evaluation of results.

2.5.3 An industrial policy for the sector

- > Reactivating transport as a source of employment through the training of its professionals, support for entrepreneurs, and the commitment to R&D to support new businesses which will lead to intermodality and the management of "big data" relating to the movement of goods and people.



- > Promoting the progressive decarbonisation of the fuels in all modes of transport and gradually adjusting them to the uses in which each mode offers the best performance.
- > Supporting the increase of e-mobility in vehicles and promoting tools to change from fossil fuels to electrical vehicles (Charging systems and stations, bonus on the purchase of an electric car and renewable household charging systems).
- > Promoting the global leadership of the Union in the provision of transport services and in the supply of goods, equipment and transport technology.



3

THIRD PILLAR

WHAT EUROPE HAS TO SAY TO THE WORLD, A POWERFUL EUROPE

3.1 A FUTURE COHERENT AND ACTIVE EUROPEAN FOREIGN POLICY

The Union has to influence its neighbourhood and the world by promoting peace, stability, prosperity and security. To achieve significant results, we need a coherent and active foreign policy. The EDP argues that the EU and its Member States should speak with one decisive voice on the major issues of today's world. The current situation of weak policies does not reflect the true potential of the Union. We should further revise our internal rules of decision making and engagement in international affairs to become truly effective and more respected, [to transform the Union from a soft power to a global player](#).

The future European foreign policy should be based on a crucial fact: Europe is not only a continent, not only a political and cultural area, not only an economic area, but above all, Europe is a worldwide conflict resolution tool. This is the way we are seen all around the world, and our foreign policy must be based on that. We came from a secular 'war territory', with 'hereditary enemies', into a peace and development democratic entity, whose purpose is to be a 'peace builder'.

In the world, [the United States remains our ally and an important interlocutor, but we must resolve through dialogue and persuasion the issues currently raised concerning trade and tariffs. On the other hand, Russia and its role in the world cannot be overlooked](#). There are aspects of conflict and of important cooperation between European Union and the Russian government which we should continue working



on with determination. With the emerging global powers our trade agreements and active diplomacy are essential. In this respect, the common foreign policy should focus on a genuine partnership between the European Union and the African Union.

Our neighbourhood policies should be pursued more vigorously. We have to engage more actively with our Western Balkan neighbours. We have to convince them to abandon nationalistic rhetoric, to respect good neighbourly relations, to embrace whole heartedly democratic standards and reform their economy and administration.

The EDP supports the position of the Greek Centrists' Union (Enosi Kentroon) calling for the Greek people to decide in a referendum, after the national elections in Greece, on the definitive name of FYROM, since the Greek citizens were not consulted before the Prespes Agreement was signed.

Regarding the situation in Cyprus, a European solution necessarily implies the withdrawal of the Turkish army and settlers as well as the abolition of the system of guarantees by the States that are involved, a system that has in the past paved the way for military intervention.

Further East, the Ankara government pursues an aggressive policy abroad and an authoritarian policy within its borders. It should be clear that all forms of aggression against EU Member States including Cyprus and Greece or non-EU countries such as Syria and Iraq, must stop. Turkey has to recognise the existence of the Kurdish people and grant them the necessary degree of autonomy.



Our Eastern Partnership is essential, especially with [partners with whom we have signed Association Agreements](#) (e.g. Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova), but also with other partners which have different needs and perspectives (e.g. Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus). Equally, our Southern Neighbourhood which is more diverse cannot be overlooked. We must find realistic and tailor-made solutions to [attract North African and Arab countries near us](#). The Union should continue engaging in the Middle East peace process. Eastern and Southern dimensions of our external policy action should be balanced.

3.2 DEFENCE AND SECURITY POLICY

3.2.1 The defence policy of the European Union relies first and foremost on the implementation of the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PeSCo)

This instrument was established by the Lisbon Treaty, which introduces the possibility for a core group of European Union states to develop their collaboration in the field of defence. It was activated in 2017 by a large group of 25 Member States (excluding only the United Kingdom, Denmark and Malta). The [PeSCo enables a group of Member States to take reciprocal commitments regarding the increase and the coordination of their defence expenditures, to the participation in the European weapons cooperation programmes and the strengthening of their armies' operational capacities](#). A second mechanism has meanwhile been set up, [the European Defence Fund](#), in order to finance [research in the military field](#) (€13 billion). And in June 2018, [the European Intervention Initiative \(EII\)](#) was launched, bringing together 9 countries to conduct [joint external interventions](#).



In addition, a model for regulating and defending cyberspace on a European scale should be sought. Indeed, cyberspace has become a place of confrontation where offensive actions against the computer systems of States, critical infrastructures or companies of strategic interest have become daily and can now absolutely and irrefutably impact our defences and internal security, as well as causing systemic effects on the functioning of our societies. There is no doubt that these attacks will soon become lethal. Thus, the EDP must become a force for proposals so that, at European level, an effective criminal response to cybercrime is provided, a shared culture of IT security is promoted and contribute to a reliable and secure digital Europe.

3.2.2 The fight against the terrorist threat

Today – and in recent years – security constitutes the primary concern for all the citizens of the European Union, especially following multiple terror attacks on European soil. The terrorist threat is changing constantly and rapidly. It is a polymorphic, endogenous and exogenous threat. It is also a multifaceted threat as there exists a multitude of forms of terrorism: the so-called “Islamist” terrorism but also extreme right and extreme left terrorism. If we would like to effectively fight against this threat, that attacks our European values, we have to provide effective, multiple and coordinated answers!

The terrorist threat concerns us all: it affects the European Union as a whole as the terrorists can very easily cross physical and intangible borders! Thus, it is essential to give European responses so that our Union can build a real space of freedom, security and justice.



Our recommendations are as follows:

- > We have to base all our policies of fighting against terrorism on a key principle: [the balance between the need for security and the respect for fundamental rights and European values!](#) In the face of obscurantism, in the face of the denial of our European values, we have to defend fundamental rights and to respect our democratic values! The protection of privacy is a fundamental right, we have to reject the development of a society based on general surveillance in which everyone would be considered a suspect!
- > [We have to maximise the added value of the European Union with regard to the exchange of information and cooperation!](#) We cannot fight against the terrorist threat without cooperating and exchanging information. The EU has a major role to play here! This should be accomplished through the use and strengthening of the European agencies, for example through making Europol a truly European police authority with a real power of initiative. Regarding intelligence services, the EDP welcomes [the establishment of the European Intelligence Academy \(Académie du Renseignement\)](#) as a first important step to enhance the cooperation, in order to achieve in the long term, the creation of a true European intelligence agency!
- > [We have to fight the root causes by intensifying our anti-radicalisation efforts!](#) We cannot limit our answer to security policies! We have to engage in a real analysis of our society: on integration, on social welfare, on employment; in order to understand why citizens, and

in particular young people, are becoming more radical. Combating radicalisation also requires tackling the channels through which terrorist propaganda is disseminated, both on the Internet and in prison. We must pool all resources and knowledge and use them for the timely detection and prevention of radicalism and for de-radicalisation, where radicalisation is already present.

- > We have to deprive terrorists of their funding and their means of action! To prevent the terrorist attacks, we have to target the root of the problem: the funding. For this reason, we have to fight on multiple fronts, as terrorist organisations do. The EU also has to pursue its policies in advance in order to stay one step ahead of the terrorists, for instance through regulating cryptocurrencies that emerge.
- > We have to convict the terrorists: towards greater harmonisation between the Member States! In recent months, after the fall of the Caliphate, the crucial question of “returnees” and the trial of persons arrested in Syria, Iraq or on Kurdish territory has been raised. The one for people coming out of prison too. Everyone must be judged and has rights. States cannot ignore it. The Union must act, by harmonising sanctions within States, and by providing for minimum penalties! We must also extend the powers of the future European Public Prosecutor’s Office to serious transnational crime and terrorism!
- > **Strengthening the control of the external borders of the EU even further:** The need to protect our external borders must not in any way encourage the development of a confusion between migration and terrorism: let us not forget that 70% of attacks are carried out by European citizens! Nevertheless, our Union must protect its external borders, in particular through the Europeanisation of Frontex, the European Coast Guard and Border Guard Agency!

3.3 A GLOBAL AND PRAGMATIC APPROACH TO MIGRATION

Europe is facing one of the greatest migration challenges since the Second World War. The causes are known: changing geostrategic interests, armed conflicts, dictatorships, human rights violations, poor

governance, environmental degradation, climate change, endemic poverty. The measures adopted in recent years have been unilateral and have yielded few results at a high cost. These are specific measures that have shown that the effects of immigration cannot be treated separately. Migration requires a comprehensive and integrated approach that addresses challenges while exploiting the benefits of immigration. Local and regional levels must be integrated into decision-making processes. Regions and local authorities are indeed close to possible problems, needs and the real situation of the labour market. This knowledge is a key element in humanising migration policy.

This new and comprehensive approach of the EDP should be based on the following axes:

3.3.1 Common management of external borders:

We must reform Schengen. The EDP supports the establishment of common standards for controls carried out at the external borders and the establishment of an integrated system for the management of these borders. High seas search and rescue programmes and the fight against criminal networks involved in the trafficking of human beings must be carried out in a coordinated manner and Frontex's actions through Eurosur (European Coastal Surveillance System) must be intensified, allowing Member States to share images and data on the situation at external borders in real time.

3.3.2 Cooperation with countries of origin and transit

Prevention at source is fundamental to curbing the massive arrival of immigrants on European coasts. Such cooperation must take place in various areas to manage migration flows in order to guarantee peace and security, promote democratic consolidation and stimulate economic growth beyond development assistance. The new Migration Partnership Framework Programme approved by the Union in July 2016 was positively evaluated in September 2017, so we propose to take this programme forward, deepen its implementation in priority countries and extend it to more countries. With regard to the deployment of experts in countries of origin and transit, the Union maintains military and civilian training and democratic support missions in several



countries, which should be expanded and deepened. Finally, we support awareness raising and the dissemination of accurate information in countries of origin on the risks and costs associated with irregular crossings and stays in Europe, relying on the emigrants themselves who have had these terrible experiences.

3.3.3 The fight against the illegal trafficking of immigrants

Almost 90% of migrants who reach Europe's coasts reach them through the intermediary of local mafias linked to the various organised crime organisations around the world involved in the trafficking of human beings, drug trafficking or money laundering. It is therefore necessary to consider a comprehensive, multidisciplinary and cross-border approach, strengthening operational cooperation to investigate, prosecute and sanction these activities, monitor their financial flows and use technological developments to detect fraud in the field of documents, intensify the mechanisms provided for in the Action Plan against Trafficking in Migrants and in the framework of Eurojust on the Smuggling of Migrants in order to identify obstacles in the field of prosecution and judicial cooperation.

3.3.4 Promotion of return, readmission and reintegration policies

An effective and human-centred return policy is a key deterrent to illegal immigration, both for immigrants and for mafias and international criminal organisations. At the moment, the return policy is not fully effective and traffickers know this. It is therefore necessary to improve these mechanisms applied by Member States in a very disparate way. We should start by intensifying operational cooperation



and the exchange of good practices between Member States, EU agencies and migrants' countries of origin. Member States should make greater use of the potential of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency by giving it the right to repatriate rescued immigrants to ports in safe countries, as well as the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund to support return activities. To this end, Frontex's human resources should be increased, given that the target of 10,000 members in 2027 is too far away. It is also essential to make a clear legal distinction between the responsibilities and rights of humanitarian NGOs, European agencies and Member State authorities.

3.3.5 Harmonisation of the right of Asylum

The refugee crisis has proven that the current system is inadequate to meet needs. Asylum seekers are not uniformly processed from one Member State to another. "This encourages secondary movements, «asylum on demand», abuses of the asylum system and the submission of applications in several countries already saturated by the current migratory pressure, which has led some of them to re-establish controls at internal borders. There is a need to review asylum rules to ensure that responsibilities are shared and that no country is under any further migratory pressure to provide better conditions. The reform would make the asylum system more efficient, making it easier to combat abuses. The revision of the system should allow for greater consistency in asylum procedures, in the conditions for obtaining international protection and in reception conditions. The reform of the Dublin Regulation, a key element of the common asylum system, must be completed because it determines which country is responsible.

3.4 REINVENTING OUR EUROPEAN TRADE POLICY FOR GREATER EFFICIENCY AND ACCEPTABILITY

One of the main priorities of the new Parliament will be to ensure that European commercial interests are best served in a more transparent and democratic framework. The European Union must be more responsive to customs barriers and demanding in terms of compliance with standards. In addition, the current model of negotiation of free trade agreements by the European Commission in complete secrecy is no longer tenable.

On the one hand, citizens feel dispossessed of the subject: the leaders validate negotiating mandates with general indifference, authorise the ratification of the Treaty on elements falling within the competence of the European level, and then stimulate a citizen debate for the ratification in Parliament of the elements falling within its competence. Depending on their national practices, some member states involve their parliaments and public opinion to a greater or lesser extent during the process. Citizen re-appropriation is therefore essential at a time when free trade is becoming a real social issue.

The proposals of the EDP are therefore as follows:

3.4.1 We must reinvent a citizen re-appropriation of free trade

by affirming to public opinion the key role of the European Parliament as a tool for democratic scrutiny of agreements (by ratifying them) and by involving national parliaments as tools for democratic scrutiny of their executives (who validate the negotiating mandates and agreements negotiated by the Commission). These debates must take place before giving a mandate to the Commission, so that they will be more transparent and constructive. The European Parliament must also develop new procedures to stimulate an informed citizen debate that respects the diversity of opinions, for example through a citizen digital platform.

3.4.2 Promoting, new generation agreements at European level

- > that are genuine tools for environmental transition by making the Paris Agreements a sine qua non condition without which the agreement becomes null and void. This will constitute a direct risk for all those who betray their climate commitments and reflect the European Community's commitment: free trade, yes, but not just any kind of trade.
- > that are even more environmentally restrictive towards developed countries. The free trade agreements in question must have a very low marginal environmental impact. For example, by using environmentally friendly modes of transport and production (environmentally friendly modes of transport by ship – natural gas for example –, new low-impact modes of production, etc.).
- > that guarantee Member States the right to entrust with the tasks they determine.
- > that reinforce the precautionary principle with regard to food safety.
- > that allow Member States to speak with one voice to the main players on the international scene (note that China has one strategy towards Europe, Europe has 28 strategies towards China).

The European Democratic Party (EDP), founded by François Bayrou and Francesco Rutelli in 2004, is a centrist European political party that gathers political parties and MEPs who want a Union closer to the citizens who live in it.

As a transnational political movement, the EDP intends to build a European democracy that is rooted in the shared values of peace, freedom, solidarity and education, having the ambition to proudly affirm its culture in the future world.

The members of the European Democratic Party have jointly prepared this electoral manifesto for the 2019 European elections in order to present their proposals for a better Europe.

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