



A new committment for our future



2019
**THE GREEN MANIFESTO
FOR THE EU ELECTIONS**

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Saving the planet with Europe

We support an ambitious European climate policy that will serve to ensure the planet is healthy and safeguard the basis of our existence, with the needs and rights of upcoming generations in mind.

The climate agreement negotiated at the Paris Climate Change Conference – which was in large part the result of the work of the European Union and especially the product of the Luxembourgish Presidency of the Council of the European Union – acts as a common framework for action and as a benchmark to fight the climate change crisis, and it must be implemented as soon as possible.

We must urgently establish all the necessary measures to limit global warming to a maximum temperature increase of 1.5 degrees Celsius by the end of the century. The latest report issued by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), released in October 2018, is clear: all technological means to achieve this goal are already available – but it will only be reached if there is the political goodwill to implement them quickly. In the face of the current dramatic climate change situation, we cannot afford to keep postponing the implementation of the required measures to a later date. The Greens are convinced that the in-depth changes required also represent an opportunity for a fairer society and more equitable distribution of wealth.

Implementing the Paris Climate Agreement on a European level

The goal defined in the Paris Agreement is to reach a coal-free, climate-neutral global economy as soon as possible. The European Union must rise to this challenge. Considering our historical responsibility in terms of global greenhouse gas emissions and our economic wealth, we want to – and should - be the first to achieve a fully carbon-free economy, at the latest by 2050 and ideally by 2040.

The achievements of the European Union in terms of CO2 emissions reduction so far are encouraging, but they do not suffice to reach the objectives of the Paris Agreement. In order to ensure that the long-term goal of greenhouse gas neutrality becomes reality by 2050, we must already set ambitious objectives for 2030, i.e. cutting greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55%. The EU's 2014 goal to cut them by 40% is insufficient and must be revised upwards. This is the only way we will ever stand a chance of achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement. The next UN-level "global stocktake" will take place in 2023, during which national climate objectives will be checked against their compatibility with the Paris Agreement. By then, our aim is to have raised the European Union's ambitions in the field of climate action, and ensure that more stringent goals are defined.

An effective fight against climate change requires cuts in all areas that generate greenhouse gases, i.e. energy production, agriculture, transport and industry. Unfortunately, the use of the latest "wonder technologies" will not be sufficient. If anything, we are convinced that in-depth changes must take place in the way we produce, consume, eat and travel. Such changes will not only be good for the climate: they also have a strong social and health component, because they will lead to the creation of sustainable jobs, a fairer distribution of wealth in our society and a healthier environment.

Pushing Europe to become Number 1 in renewables and energy savings

The energy sector alone is responsible for two thirds of greenhouse gas emissions in the European Union. We must place greater, more decisive focus on the energy transition by basing it on two pillars: energy savings and renewables. The transition towards cleaner energy is not only indispensable to fight climate change, it will also be a guarantee for energy and geopolitical independence.

A lot of progress was made in the last legislature thanks to the actions of Green MEPs. The European Union has committed to an increase in energy efficiency by at least 32.5% by 2030. Moreover, the minimum share of renewables in the overall energy consumption has been set to reach 32% by 2030. However, with the fight against climate change in mind, these targets remain too low. That is why we must advocate for more ambitious objectives when they will be revised during the upcoming legislature.

We stand for the strict implementation of the new energy consumption standards for buildings and for the increase of the number of products that are subject to the eco-design criteria and the energy efficiency labelling obligations. Under the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, all newly constructed buildings from 2021 onwards in the EU must be so-called “nearly zero-energy” constructions, which are highly energy-efficient.

We also want to push forward the restoration and thermal and environmentally-compatible insulation of existing buildings, so that by 2050, real estate may be fully decarbonised. Energy savings are also a social measure. Approximately 10% of European citizens suffer from energy poverty, which is often the result of badly-insulated homes that increase energy consumption and this energy costs. The thermal insulation of buildings by taking sustainability and environmentally-compatible criteria into account would allow these individuals to significantly reduce their electricity and heating bills, as well as guarantee a healthy indoor climate. While some Member States are consistent in their support for the development of wind and solar power, others are holding back, in large part probably because of the difficult access to capital, amongst other issues. In order to reach the objective of climate neutrality by 2050, we must provide targeted support to achieve technological and social progress in the fight against climate change. We want to put an end to subsidies for fossil fuels and technologies in all EU programmes, and use these funds to create a large-scale investment programme for sustainable technologies. Europe must be at the forefront of the fight against climate change. This is why we want to promote the development of climate-neutral technologies with the help of generous European funds (e.g. electric busses and lorries, zero-emissions shipping, solar-powered flights, etc.).

During the upcoming legislature, we shall strive to create a European financial platform for investments in renewables, energy-storage technologies and other technologies that will be conducive to a transition towards the energy transition. To achieve this, we will make use of the European InvestEU Programme, which aims to provide support for sustainable projects. In the energy sector, this could particularly bear fruit in Central and Eastern European countries, where the geographical and climatic conditions for the development of renewable energy plants are often positive, but the financial means to build them are lacking.

This type of funding platform would permit the entire European Union to head towards a 100% renewable energy market quickly and decisively. In addition, it would empower citizens in the fight against climate change, and grant easier access to capital for energy cooperatives, which play a significant role on a local level in the transition towards cleaner energy.

Turning the page on fossil fuels

In 2017, for the first time ever, energy production from renewables surpassed coal-generated power in the EU (21% against 20%). This demonstrates that real progress has been made in the area of renewables, but it also shows that a great deal remains to be done. Any use of fossil fuels whatsoever is incompatible with the objective defined in the Paris Agreement, i.e. a fully climate-neutral economy by 2050.

At the European Parliament, we will campaign for **the immediate stop to public subsidies for coal-generated power** and that **the phase-out from energy generated from coal in Europe will be complete by 2030**. In the absence of a convincing pricing system from the European Trading System (ETS), we will campaign for the reduction of emissions certificates and for the definition of a minimum price per emitted tonne of CO₂. This should be increased every year, and by the end of the next mandate, it should reach at least 50 euros per tonne. It is crucial that the phase-out from coal-generated power be linked to **socio-economic measures in mining regions, which are the most deeply affected by the drop in coal-related industrial activities**. This approach would link social justice with the fight against climate change.

Another challenge for the next legislature will be the necessary **reduction of the natural gas consumption** and to replace it with renewable gas sources, such as biogas or biomethane. We will also **fight the construction of large, unnecessary, expensive gas infrastructures**, such as the Nord Stream, Trans Anatolian and Trans Adriatic gas pipelines, or the construction of fracking terminals, which could lead to a "carbon lock-in" in the future. We stand for **green gas produced from 100% renewable sources**, such as agricultural and organic waste. This would also offer attractive markets for European farmers and could thus contribute to a revival of rural regions, which unfortunately are often forgotten in the context of the transition towards cleaner energy.

We will ban the **use of first-generation biofuels**, as they are produced from fruit oils or sugar and create harsh competition between the use of foodstuffs for the production of power or food, as well as having a negative impact on agriculture, biodiversity and agricultural diversity.

Definite phase-out of nuclear power

The share of nuclear power in the European electricity mix has been dropping for years, but still represents approximately 25% of European power generation. In the fight against global warming, nuclear power is not a credible nor responsible alternative to fossil fuels. It is expensive and terribly dangerous. Nuclear power plants in Europe can only be built and maintained with billions' worth of subsidies. Nuclear power also represents a huge burden on future generations, especially when it comes to the closure of old nuclear power stations and the permanent disposal of spent fuel and radioactive waste, because no dependable solution has yet been found.

We want the progressive closure of all nuclear power stations in Europe, beginning with ailing infrastructures such as Cattenom, Fessenheim, Tihange and Doel. We are also fighting for a fundamental review of the Euratom Treaty. Instead of a treaty to promote nuclear power, we want Euratom to become an agreement that regulates and monitors the disposal of radioactive waste, supports the closure of existing nuclear power stations and guarantees compliance with top safety standards (e.g. security measures against terror attacks). In the future, we want democratic co-determination rights at the European Parliament concerning nuclear policies, as well as the transparent participation of EU citizens, in the sense that they too should be able to influence the security requirements imposed on nuclear power plants located near the borders.

Safeguarding our natural wealth with Europe

Clean water, pure air, healthy soil, biodiversity and preserved landscapes are the basis of our livelihoods and we must protect them. The wide variety of animals and plants is gradually decreasing, their habitats are being destroyed, and species are going extinct. Between 20 and 40% of all registered species in Europe are currently classified as endangered, including many species of bees.

At the European Parliament, we will fight to prevent the extinction of species. We want to re-establish biodiversity and keep nature intact, remedying situations where damage has been done. This also means that we will defend the expansion of the scope of directives aiming to protect the environment (for bird protection and fauna and flora habitats) and defend Natura 2000 areas across Europe, as well as improve them and enlarge them. We welcome the return of the lynx and wolf and wish to maintain the special protection status for these species. We will promote effective wolf management by means of monitoring programmes to prevent problems occurring between humans and wolves.

At the United Nations, the EU and its Member States have committed to putting a halt to the extinction of species and the destruction of natural habitats by 2020. However, it seems that we are nowhere near meeting these objectives. As a result, we will immediately launch an ambitious strategy to maintain biological diversity for the period after 2020 and set up trans-European habitat corridors. Furthermore, we will draft our 8th Environmental Action Programme. The Paris Agreement and the global Sustainable Development Goals will act as the guiding principles of our programme. With the Paris Agreement as an example, we are pursuing global agreements to protect biodiversity and the oceans.

Protecting the environment is not a choice, it is a basic requirement for a livable environment. We want to fight the reckless plundering of a countless number of resources by means of a production policy that promotes a reduced usage of raw materials, clean air, better water protection and the respectful treatment of nature. Over the past years, it has always been the European Union that has set strict environmental standards in the field of environmental and nature protection. These protect our nature, our health and our quality of life and promote an environmentally-friendly, sustainable and thus future-oriented economy.

Ambitious action for clean air in our towns and villages

Air pollution in European cities is becoming an increasingly worrisome public health issue. According to the European Environment Agency, today, air pollution alone causes over 400,000 premature deaths a year in the EU, in addition to having a negative impact on the quality of life of millions of people.

Thanks to the phase-out of fossil fuels, the closure of coal-fired power plants, buildings with less energy consumption and the optimisation of energy cycles, we can reduce the amounts of CO₂ and pollutants in the air, thus promoting cleaner air.

In order to mitigate the deterioration of air quality, we will continue to push for a European shift in transport policy, to make public transport more attractive across borders for our citizens, promote electric mobility and shift freight transport from the streets to the rails and waterways. Soft mobility must be promoted, by means of the expansion of cross-border cycle paths and walkways, for instance. In addition, we want a unique ticketing system for European rail travel.

We stand against the statements made by various governments and industrial lobbies that say that the European air quality thresholds must be relaxed and call the measurement processes into question. Instead of allowing factories to pollute the air as much as they please, we want

to tighten the rules applying to air quality standards in the European Union and impose strict checks across the EU.

Guarantee clean water

Access to clean water is a human right. However, almost two million people in Europe do not have adequate access to drinking water or sanitation – and this situation is worsening because of global warming. Our current mode of consumption and production is wasteful with water and carelessly pollutes it.

We are campaigning for clean drinking water for all, and we want European rivers and seas that are full of life. Healthy waters are valuable ecological systems that guarantee the diversity of animal species that live from them. We will improve the most important directive on water protection, the Water Framework Directive and campaign for a reduction of water pollution, amongst others by means of our push for less usage of antibiotics, manure and pesticides. Moreover, technologies to filter microplastics in wastewater treatment plants must be developed and implemented.

We will work to ensure that all citizens have access to clean and affordable drinking water. This is why we will fight every attempt to turn water provision into an investment opportunity for international businesses.

We are committed to promoting the good health of seas and oceans, and of their inhabitants. To achieve this, we want the proportion of protected sea areas to be increased to 20% and a ban on unsustainable and especially cruel fishing methods. We will fight for the identification of waters such as the Mediterranean as Emission Control Areas and ensure that stringent environmental standards are implemented there. Moreover, we want to expand the sulphur emissions controls of ships across all coastal areas of the EU.

No to the throwaway society

Raw materials – which do not often stem from renewable sources – are extracted, processed and composed in order to produce the daily goods we consume. The lifespan of these products is getting increasingly shorter, and they end up in landfills, incinerators, or in the environment. This contributes towards climate change, significantly pollutes the soil, water and air and generates large amounts of waste throughout the entire supply chain.

It is imperative that we change our consumption behaviour as quickly as possible, in order to leave a planet behind where future generations can live and access sufficient resources. We believe that the solution is partly to be found in the principles of the circular economy. There is no waste in that model: scrapped products and materials do not end up as waste; instead, they are used in a more efficient fashion, or serve multiple times, and as a last resort, they are recycled or used for organic purposes. We want to create incentives to promote a reduction in consumption and a shared usage of material and immaterial goods, by means of sharing, donating, selling or swapping. We want to launch an active “Zero Waste Movement” information policy, i.e. to promote the 5 Rs: “refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle and rot”.

Our European economy is constantly importing natural resources and is dependent on these imports. Indeed, we are a “net importer”. In order to turn the situation around, we need to introduce effective indicators that can measure the consumption of resources in the different economies. These indicators must be applied in political impact assessments and macroeconomic guidelines such as the “European Semester”.

We will campaign for binding goals for 2020, 2025 and 2030 for the reduction of resource consumption, and for the sustainable management and efficient usage of natural resources. In

addition, we want EU laws to be adapted to fight planned obsolescence and ensure that products can be repaired and recycled, and that warranty periods are greatly extended. We want to force manufacturers to offer spare parts, repair equipment and know-how to all on a European level in the long term, so as to grant citizens a "European right to repair".

Consistent fight against plastic waste

There are huge sheets of plastic waste that are the size of Central Europe floating in the oceans, and our rivers and soil are also suffering from increasing plastic pollution. According to studies, if we do not change our policies and consumption habits, in 2050, there will be more plastic than fish in the sea. Microplastics have even been detected in the Arctic and in glaciers – despite the fact that there are practically no humans living there. Such particles, which can have an impact on human health, are even found in the human body nowadays.

In the past legislature, thanks to the Greens' campaigns, the European Union has taken some important steps to reduce plastic waste. Examples thereof are the European ban on single-use plastic products such as bags, cutlery and straws. We want to extend this ban to other product categories. We will campaign for an ambitious strategy in that sense, and for a ban on microplastics in cosmetics and bodycare products and the promotion of projects that aim to free our oceans of plastic waste. Our objective is to achieve a Europe free of plastic waste, with clean seas and oceans, healthy fish stocks and an environment without rubbish.

We want to make use of the European Single Market to fight packaging waste. We want the manufacturers to take more responsibility in the field of waste reduction by introducing a binding 50 % packaging reduction goal for manufacturers by 2030. Moreover, we want a comprehensive ban on organic plastic types which have been proven not to be biodegradable.

We will monitor the implementation of the European Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive closely. In addition, we want to push for more research and development in the area of alternative materials with European research funds.

We need an EU-wide plastic tax on single-use products. This would be an incentive to reduce packaging waste because the raw materials would be taxed. Petrol and gas used to produce plastic should not be funded. The taxation of plastic should form part of a comprehensive and ambitious strategy to reduce and avoid the use of plastic, to increase reusable plastic and promote better product design.

The European Union must also campaign for an international convention on plastic under the aegis of the United Nations. Plastic waste knows no borders.

PVC and PVC plasticisers should be removed from the market for health reasons. Nanoparticles can already be found in food, cosmetics or drugs and their safety has not yet been proven. This is why we demand the creation of a register to record nanoproducts. The definition of "nanoparticle" should be so specific so that no loophole remains.

Improve health protection

In Europe and across the globe, modern medicine has made impressive strides in the fight against infectious diseases, in acute and emergency medicine, as well as in life-preserving diagnostic and operation techniques. This has considerably increased our average life expectancy. However, this has also resulted in the rise of healthcare system costs, the costs of care and disability pensions.

Under the European pillar of social rights, it is stated that everyone has the right to timely, high-quality and affordable healthcare and treatment. The EU demands that Member States collaborate with each other in these areas, and it plays an important role in the area of

healthcare policy, including in the cross-border component of patients' rights and care. We want citizens to have clear information regarding their options and rights in the field of healthcare.

We want the EU to enforce strict protection standards in the area of public healthcare by means of legislation, such as for example in the areas of the approval of medicines and chemical substances, which have a potential impact on humankind and animals.

We will fully revamp the approvals procedure for chemicals, pesticides, additives and genetically-modified foodstuffs in order to achieve greater transparency and prevent the influence of corporations and private interests. Additionally, we will impose stringent requirements and compulsory information obligations on manufacturers, and make sure that dangerous substances are banned. We want strict information obligations to be imposed on manufacturers and the full disclosure of contents in products to become compulsory.

The EU is an important driver in medical research and innovation. We will push for the earmarking of EU research funds for disease prevention and treatment, as well as for rare illnesses, and we will promote the creation of European centres of excellence for rare illnesses.

Creation of wealth and its fair distribution with Europe

All in all, the European Union has increased wealth standards on the continent. However, there is a mismatch between expectations and reality. There are gaps between the standards of living in the various Member States, between North and South, East and West. This is also true of conditions in the countries themselves. Moreover, economic globalisation is making it increasingly difficult to ensure social justice.

This is for instance reflected when large corporations play off states against each other and countries compete on the basis of low taxes and wages. Another example is when companies and the wealthy are continually shirking their responsibilities towards the community, sometimes avoiding them altogether. This situation is becoming more serious because digitalisation will radically change the way we live and work.

During the Eurocrisis, the one-sided austerity measures robbed an entire generation of its future and they split the European Union. The gap between rich and poor has widened as a result. This is an economic, social and democratic problem: too many people live in poverty, too many feel insecure and disappointed, and are becoming more and more marginalised from society.

Organise social progress together

That is why for a true European social policy, we need a different vision. The Greens are fully committed to creating a fair society in which the gap between rich and poor is narrowed. We want to put a stop to the drive for austerity in Europe and want a Europe that invests in its citizens in future and for whom the fight against poverty and unemployment is a priority.

So as to finance this, we want to ensure that everyone in Europe pays their share for society. If the EU decisively fights tax dumping, it will be able to guarantee that also even corporations and the wealthy pay their fair share towards the solidarity system. This is why we will campaign for the **introduction of a common consolidated corporation tax base**, so that companies cannot artificially lower their profits or transfer them to other EU countries in order to reduce their taxes. In addition, we will support a **European minimum tax rate for corporations**, in order to guarantee fair competition on the European Single Market.

European cohesion means that all citizens in the EU have guaranteed social rights, which they can practise and demand everywhere. Especially young people need a perspective. In addition to the "Youth Guarantee" under the European Social Fund, we will highlight the importance of the recently-introduced idea of a "Child Guarantee" by campaigning for it. The fight against child poverty and exclusion is a top priority. All children have the right to free healthcare, balanced nutrition, adequate support and education, and a decent home. Moreover, specific support must be given to ensure all children are schooled. All people in the EU must be able to depend on fair wages and working conditions, and on protection from poverty and exploitation, especially if they live and work in different countries.

We will also fight for **European minimum social standards** because we are convinced that social fundamental rights have precedence over economic fundamental rights in the case of conflict. Any deterioration to social standards in Europe in the future must be stopped. This is why we defend a **European minimum wage, calculated on the basis of national GDP**, so as to prevent wage dumping in the European Union.

In addition, we want a **European unemployment insurance** to be introduced, in order to ensure a minimum of European social solidarity for the unemployed everywhere across Europe. Thanks to this type of system, every unemployed European would receive a basic income,

calculated on the basis of regional data, which would be set at the time of its introduction and then reassessed on a regular basis.

Give a social and ecological shape to digitalisation

Whether it is by means of smartphone apps or network-based services, digitalisation is already a reality in many areas of our daily lives. Digital media influence how we interact and communicate with work colleagues and friends. Our smartphones make us contactable at any time of day. We use them to plan our work commitments, our family and social lives and to perform banking transactions. They act as our fitness trainers, count our steps and archive our bike ride routes. Smartphones are our virtual shopping carts, travel agencies, music storage systems, cameras and playthings. Digitalisation calls many things into question. It is creating a wide range of unprecedented opportunities and challenges, as well as risks.

We want to exploit the potential of digitalisation for education and research, equal participation, social progress and a sustainable economy. In order to make this possible, it is necessary to promote development and innovation, but we must also decide what we want to allow and how applications must be regulated. **This will only make sense if it is implemented on a European level.** If we want to know how to select and determine the criteria applying to algorithms, who must pay how much for flights, or who is pre-selected for a job, then this will barely be possible on a national level. Otherwise, global corporations can choose the lowest national standards.

As Greens, we have **set an international standard thanks to the European General Data Protection Regulation, whose creation we significantly contributed to** – and we have achieved a great deal already. Citizens must be able to move around the digital world with self-determination and maintain full sovereignty over their data. We want to continue moving towards uniform security standards in the fields of data protection, data and IT security in Europe, in order to achieve a digital policy that is based on our fundamental rights to protect our competitive advantages.

Many digital platforms have now replaced physical service points. However, “digital” service providers often do not fall under the same regulations as “traditional” players. This requires the **creation of equal market and competition conditions.**

We want to ensure that the profits from companies in the **platform economy** (such as Uber or Airbnb) are not generated at the expense of labour rights or the social protection of “crowd workers”. Sharing platforms of this type cannot be misused in order to avoid taxes, create bogus self-employment or evade social contributions. We will fight for the **introduction of a European digital tax**, which will be collected at the place of consumption and not only at the place of production.

In addition, we will defend strict checks and severe sanctions in order to ensure that large digital corporations pay their taxes, respect legal provisions in the EU and in the Member States, and meet their social obligations. To do so, we are campaigning for the **creation of a European digital agency**, responsible for more efficient market control in the digital economy. We are also fighting for **improved rights to information for citizens on algorithms** and the **release of the mountains of data of internet monopolies to competitors.**

We are convinced that software should be independent, operational, and repairable in the long term, just like open-source software today. Consequently, we will campaign at the European Parliament for security updates to be provided by manufacturers to lengthen the lifespan of hardware, and that after the period of support, the source code be released as open source software. Electronic devices should be repairable and recyclable. We will fight in a decisive manner

against the planned obsolescence of devices and demand that warranty periods be significantly lengthened. Manufacturers should be forced to provide spare parts, repair equipment and know-how to all, for long periods of time.

We are against EU copyright reform as it is currently debated, and the general introduction of online upload filters. Supporters accept that platforms filter and delete contents against a fee, thus limiting cultural development and slowing down innovation on the web. We believe that Articles 11 and 13 of the current Copyright Law do not target the core problem. We want a fair balance to be struck between creators, users and platforms. In order to promote high-quality, well-researched journalism and a plurality of opinions in our digital future too, we are campaigning for a fair overall concept, improved licensing concepts and of course more accountability for platforms.

Artificial Intelligence and robotisation – made in Europe

Artificial Intelligence (AI), machine-learning and autonomous systems are currently creating a dynamic in the worlds of science and the economy that urgently requires political regulation. The potential of these technologies of the future has by far not been fully exploited yet and researchers are constantly developing them further. But AI has already impacted our daily lives and the working methods of many companies and administrations, sometimes in a disruptive manner, and it has opened up a realm of new opportunities for the economy.

We believe that Artificial Intelligence must be researched and developed on the basis of European values and security standards. This means that the European approach should not simply be one of blind competition with the USA or China; it means that national efforts should be bundled and Europe should find its own path, taking social justice issues into account, as well as fundamental and freedom rights. A consistent legal framework is required to reach this aim. It does not represent a hinderance to the future efficient usage of AI.

It is our duty to ensure that research activity takes place in Europe, because without decisive European investments, the framework conditions for AI will continue to be determined mainly in East Asia and Silicon Valley. In authoritarian states – as can be seen by the developments in China – the risk is that AI will lead to the extensive supervision and limitation of citizens' rights to freedom. In the USA, the threat of the growing powers of already powerful digital corporations on the market is a reality, and it could bear all the negative consequences that we are experiencing today, including in the areas of data and consumer protection and fair competition. Europe must follow its own, different path: one of digital opportunity, fair market access, sustainable development and self-determination.

The issue as to how to use new technologies for the good of society and of the environment must be at the core of all developments. The potential of AI to rise up to important social and ecological challenges is enormous. AI can make positive contributions in countless fields, such as the improved and early medical diagnosis of cancer, intelligent traffic management, sensible ecological applications in agriculture or smart energy grids for a fast transfer to renewables, just to name a few opportunities. In order to leverage this potential, greater research and innovation funding is required in the context of a clear strategy in which the common good and sustainability of AI is placed at the heart of the matter. This means that the increased consumption of energy and resources resulting from digitalisation and the development of AI must be mitigated as much as possible thanks to innovative solutions and clever synergies.

Creation of a secure data infrastructure, promotion of open data and open source

Access to and the use of large amounts of data (Big Data) is one of the core requirements of AI development, while at the same time being one of the biggest challenges. In order to train intelligent systems and self-learning algorithms, researchers and developers need access to

more scientific and statistical data. In Europe, the data infrastructure required is not quite up to scratch yet, and it must be developed urgently. To date, there are large amounts of data – including personal data but especially non-personal data – that are in the possession of public administrations. At the same time, we must guarantee that this data is used in compliance with top data protection and transparency standards.

Promote transparent AI systems that are free of discrimination and ensure an appropriate ethical and legal framework

We want to be at the forefront when it comes to transparent and discrimination-free algorithms. Automatised decisions have the potential of not being as discriminatory as human decisions. Learning algorithms that make decisions concerning citizens must therefore be the object of high requirements relating to the transparency underlying the decision and the access to the data used to reach it, and legal provisions must be in place to ensure this is respected.

We are particularly critical of the use of AI in areas relating to fundamental rights, such as its use by security authorities, and we will campaign for the application of clear and relatively limited authorisation requirements, in order to prevent illegal data retention.

It is our joint responsibility to ensure that freedom of opinion is protected in Europe. This is why we will campaign for a binding European framework for the regulation of self-learning algorithms that have an impact on opinion-building via opinion-influencing platforms (e.g. news portals, social media, search engines, news aggregators, robot journalism, echo chambers).

The reform of the Eurozone

The profound financial crisis in Greece and in the Eurozone was a clear wake-up call warning us that the Economic and Monetary Union need to be reformed urgently, that the social gaps in the EU have to be closed, and that structural reforms are required. If we wish to prevent future problems and crises, or at least if we want to be able to control them better, then some remaining fundamental open questions need to be answered. It is crucial that the common system to manage the economic and political policies of the Eurozone be made more democratic. They need to be reformed. However, greater political integration in the Eurozone cannot lead to a Union in which countries move at different speeds,.

These reforms must be shaped in a way that they do not only impact the Eurozone countries. Decisions affecting the Euro also have direct consequences for non-Eurozone countries, hence why the latter must also be taken into account. We also want to invite all Member States to participate in the reform process, so that not only the Eurozone will be strengthened, but also the rest of the European Union.

The “Sixpack” budget rules and processes contain procyclical debt and deficit rules that are difficult to implement without affecting the yet weak economic and social recovery in many places. These rigid rules must be simplified and replaced by more appropriate objectives to allow governments to have some room for manoeuvre to make sustainable investments.

A true Economic and Monetary Union demands an improved common approach for corporate taxation. We want to implement more transparency in this field and establish a common, consolidated tax base for corporations, and later, a minimum tax rate.

A credible Eurozone also requires the creation of a true Economic and Budgetary Union. With this in mind, the development of a plan for the progressive pooling of public debt in the Eurozone countries must begin immediately. We want to begin with a mechanism for averaged interest rates, which would allow Member States that benefit from low interest rates to share them with others. Automatic stabilisers must also be introduced in order to mitigate the impact of shocks.

Accompanying measures would be the following: the European Central Bank would act as a last-resort creditor and the European Stability Mechanism would be transformed into a European Monetary Fund. These long-term objectives would require treaty changes in the long run, but the preparatory work must begin now.

If the Euro is to be crisis-resistant, the Banking Union must be fully completed. The banking sector in the Eurozone and in the entire Union must become more dependable so that no bank has the power to endanger the stability of our common currency in future. Bailing out banks cannot be done at the expense of taxpayers anymore, and the problem of ailing banks must be solved without profoundly affecting the entire economy.

Here, a common reinsurance system for deposit guarantees must be set up so that the Euro can become a safe currency everywhere and citizens do not lose their faith in national banking systems as soon as the first sign of a crisis appears. Moreover, a more comprehensive regulation and control of the sector by means of a monitoring body that is completely independent from the ECB is required, in order to prevent conflicts of interest. The EU Systemic Risk Council should possess the true powers to identify and neutralise credit bubbles and other macroprudential risks.

The democratic legitimacy of the Eurozone must be strengthened by granting the European Parliament a more important role in the management of economic policies in the EU. The Parliament should take part in all crucial decisions concerning the common currency. As the implementing body of the common economic policy, the European Commission that is legitimised by the Parliament should also play a greater role vis-à-vis the Euro: the Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs should also be the Chair of the Eurogroup.

Promote innovation and research

At the beginning of the 21st century, the European Union set itself the goal to become a global leader in innovation and research. Unfortunately, this aim has not yet been reached. Instead, the USA have confirmed their position as a global leader and China's investments in research and development have now outweighed the EU's. This is reflected in the field of the development of new technologies.

We want Europe to be a leading region when it comes to research and development. At the moment, incredible developments are taking place, especially in digitalisation and robotics, biotechnology and nanotechnology, and we must ensure not to lag behind. Research that aims to deal with climate change must be supported in a sustainable manner and with long-term objectives – not only by means of individual research projects, but also through the set-up of European innovation centres and comprehensive basic funding. New developments in battery technology, recycling, the use of sustainable resources, water treatment and the generation of renewables must be pushed forward in Europe. We firmly reject the reclassification of civilian research funds into armaments research funds.

Due to the fact that the European "Horizon 2020" research framework programme will soon be coming to an end, the time has now come to set up a powerful follow-up programme to network the European research landscape, promote key technologies, create a positive environment for innovative, sustainable start-ups and strengthen both applied and basic research. We are categorically against the use of EU subsidies for nuclear research. Instead of wasting funds on the ITER experimental reactor, we want research into green technologies (e.g. smart grids, renewables, energy efficiency) to be funded.

We feel that the increasing international political pressure on scientists is a cause for great concern. Freedom in science is a fundamental right protected by democracy. Autocratic states that are dismissing or imprisoning thousands of scientists on political grounds and those making

threats against universities are committing violations against the democratic freedom of the sciences. We are campaigning for EU protection for scientists that are persecuted for their work and that have to flee their countries, and they must be able to carry on with their research. This is why we want the EU to set up a "Fund for Persecuted Scientists" to finance the research of guest scientists at universities, higher education institutes and other research bodies. In addition, such a fund would promote more new, inspired scientific expertise in the EU. This would raise Europe's profile as a centre for scientific innovation and improve its reputation as a continent of political humanism.

Turn Europe into a leader in sustainable mobility

The European railway network does not yet cover many areas, and there are many shortfalls in the system at national borders. It is relatively easy to cross borders by car, but by rail, the locomotives, personnel and electricity grids often need to be changed. This is not only time-consuming, it also makes travelling by rail unappealing.

This is why the various national rail networks in Europe should be harmonised. We want a **common rail network with common standards, from ticketing systems and platform heights all the way to security standards**. Only if we can work together on a European level will be able to transfer the transportation of more people and goods to the railways.

We want **night trains to run between all cities in Europe again** and an **operational public transport system for commuters in Luxembourg's border regions**. In order to permit Europe to come closer together despite large distances, trains must finally become a credible and user-friendly alternative. This can only be achieved if train connections are cheaper and faster than a journey by car or plane. This is the only way to reduce the number of short-distance flights in Europe. We demand a European **high-speed rail network, which would connect all European capital cities, from Athens to Helsinki and from Lisbon to Bucharest**.

In order to change mobility in the future, individuals' mobility habits must also be addressed. To do so, Europe must deal with the changes alongside the automotive industry. Competition with new automobile manufacturers, mobility service providers and digital corporations from the USA and China is harsh. Only those offering the cleanest, most comfortable and smart mobility solutions will remain international market leaders. A lot is at stake here: the creation of wealth, jobs, as well as the protection of the environment and health.

The Greens want to push for the necessary technological changes: **a move away from fossil fuel combustion engines and towards emission-free engines**. To do so, **ambitious European CO2 thresholds must be defined for new vehicles, a European programme for the expansion of the charging infrastructure must be developed and an EU quota for new zero-emission vehicles must be introduced**. The climate goals defined for the transport sector are not ambitious enough to reach the objectives of the Paris Agreement. We want the European transport industry to be fit for the future and establish it as a pioneer in the transfer to cleaner transport. This is why we should create European flagship projects (e.g. the first solar-powered passenger plane fit for manufacturing, the first zero-emissions ship, climate-neutral steel production), and fund them by means of the InvestEU programme. Moreover, we want to reduce the European CO2 thresholds for new vehicles and create incentives for small, clean and safe vehicles. Thanks to binding registration quotas in public procurement, we will promote the development of environmentally-friendly and clean trucks, busses, construction machines, other utility vehicles, tractors, ships, helicopters and planes. In order to improve road safety in Europe, we will demand that devices be installed in vehicles by the manufacturers to limit speed.

In addition, we want **European support for battery cell production** in order to create value and jobs in the clean car industry. We want to correlate the promotion of battery cell production with the **rise in renewable electricity generation, a careful use of rare metals, the respect of human rights and high labour standards in raw material extraction** and a **100% recycling rate for battery cells**.

We also want air traffic and shipping to become more sustainable. We want the EU to defend **ambitious climate objectives for shipping and air traffic** on the world stage. We urge sea vessels to use low-emission fuel and we want shipping to become climate-neutral. We want to promote the research and testing of alternative engine techniques. Concerning air traffic, we want to establish fair competition on the market. International flights are not subject to VAT and kerosene is not taxed. To hold the aviation sector accountable, we want this to change. We support the common European initiative for the introduction of a European kerosene tax. Moreover, we want international flights to finally be included in the European emissions trading scheme. As far as shipping is concerned, we support goal-oriented measures that will lead to lower emissions in ports and at sea. We are campaigning for **binding European provisions, e.g. a threshold of 0.1% sulphur content in fuel** or a **reduction of nitrogen emissions at their place of mooring by 80%**.

Defend freedom, democracy and human rights with Europe

We defend the values and achievements of a united Europe. To do so, a strong community is needed. Following the fall of the Iron Curtain and the peaceful revolution of 1989, the EU expansion in 2004 marked another milestone for Europe's freedom project. Cities and countries united, and with this, the continent grew together. We want to maintain Europe as a strong community and strengthen its unity. We will fight for a Europe in which the rule of law, freedom and progress are truly meaningful. Peace, security and wealth cannot be achieved solely on a national level. A Europe in which national borders are drawn up once more would split common living spaces, leave commuters stuck in traffic and undermine the movement of goods. This would be fatal, not only for people living in border regions, but for all of Europe.

The European Parliament elections in May 2019 will decide how the political direction of Europe will evolve. There is no room for arrogance and excessive self-confidence. With the loss of Great Britain, the EU will for the first time in its history lose a Member State and become smaller. Social and economic imbalances have let living standards within the European Union drift further apart. Poverty and frustration live side by side with prosperous, growing regions, and some people are marginalised from social participation. Fears of loss and decline, disappointment, lack of recognition and the suspicion that the state is not working in the interest of all but on behalf of powerful lobbies is a good breeding ground for populism and nationalism. Too many people are losing faith in the rule of law, because it seems to be leaving many to their own devices: women who are victims of violence, employees whose minimum wages are dropped even further, or trade unionists who want to create a Works Council at Amazon or at other anti-union companies.

Strengthen democracy

Today, in many European states, democracy and freedom of opinion are increasingly in the line of fire of their own governments. European parties are also responsible for this. If everyone speaks of European values, then these values should also be adhered to in the Member States by the members of one's own political family. We are strong defenders of the rule of law in

Europe and will not let it slip. The rule of law that has been severely chipped away at over the past years, especially in Eastern European states, cannot be abandoned.

Without a liberal rule of law, there cannot be any democracy. We stand by those who fight against the degradation of the rule of law by their own governments, who fight against corruption, for human rights and citizens' freedoms. They wave European flags when demonstrating and correctly expect the EU to defend their rights and freedom.

The EU must act in a decisive manner on its own territory when authoritarian regimes try to dismantle the rule of law. The EU already has instruments to do so: the European Commission and the European Court of Justice ensured that the Polish government's forced withdrawal of its constitutional judges was struck down. However, in the face of the current challenges, more instruments are needed. We defend the values and achievements of a united Europe, so we need a strong community that is prepared to rise up to the challenge with the following actions and instruments.

In view of the increasing violations of the rule of law and fundamental rights in the EU, we demand an independent panel of constitutional experts, who would carry out regular reviews of Member States' respect for democratic fundamental principles – a "Copenhagen Commission". It should develop principles for monitoring the respect of human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, human rights and the rule of law. Member States should be monitored every year, on the basis of the defined criteria. If necessary, sanctions must be proposed.

Supporting civil society and independent journalism

Democracy cannot operate without an active political civil society and free media. We want to fight limitations imposed on civil society and support independent investigative journalism by means of a fund for democracy and human rights defenders in the EU.

Moreover, we strive for the introduction of a legal form of association "registered in Europe", with a European common interest, so that non-governmental organisations across Europe can avoid the random actions of national governments and protect their status thanks to Europe. In this manner, those defending democracy will receive support. European associations of general interest would blow wind in the European public's sails.

Link funding to compliance with basic values relating to democracy and rule of law

European spending must be in line with European values. This is why we propose that EU funds not be provided to national governments that violate the fundamental pillars of the rule of law. In such cases, the EU Commission should pay the funds out directly to the municipalities and other recipients of funds. In this way, the national governments would not have to power to distribute the funds as they wished, yet the money would still reach those who needed it and who would spend it correctly.

Extend the European Public Prosecutor's role

The European Public Prosecutor, a role which is currently being developed, could become a central investigation and complaints body that would play a central role in criminal prosecution for cross-border terrorism and organised crime. It should not limit its actions to the prosecution of fraud affecting the EU. Not all Member States are taking part in the project for a European Public Prosecutor yet. Our aim is for all Member States to participate so that corruption, terrorism and organised crime may be fought more efficiently.

Better protection for whistleblowers

People who are brave enough to reveal corruption and breaches of the law should be granted better protection across Europe. Upon urging from the Greens, the European Commission published a proposal for a directive in this regard. We want the legislative process to be finalised as soon as possible, and the protective measures to be transposed into national law quickly.

Prevent illegitimate interference

Any attempts at outside influence over the democratic opinion-building processes in individual EU Member States are a threat that must be taken seriously. The creation of echo chambers with the help algorithms lacking any democratic control represents a danger to democratic cohesion. We want to jointly monitor and limit the market power of large digital corporations with a European digital monitoring agency. We demand a strict regulation of political advertising and micro-targeting. Amongst others, this includes clear rules concerning maximum contributions and the publication and transparent labelling of advertisements and party-political information. Recipients must always be able to clearly identify why they receive which types of advertisement.

Democratic discourse, political decision-making processes and elections must be protected efficiently. There must be methods to fight the illegal funding of such activities by associations. Indeed, these funds serve to finance anti-constitutional actions in other countries. Illegally implanted "social bots" can spread misinformation in a targeted manner to masses of people. We also want to include digital platform operators in this crucial fight: the use of bots must be easily identifiable. Once again, a binding European regulation is required here.

Recover trust in the European institutions

Without a united Europe, there will be no freedom, wealth or security in our globalised world. Individually, European democracies are in no position to impose their national democratic decisions – which often differ greatly from one to another – on large multinational corporations.

The European Union alone is in possession of the means to act as a driver for peace and human rights, to protect the rights of citizens and consumers with the aim of guaranteeing an effective foreign policy and global tax justice – against which the large international corporations cannot fight back. For Europe to be able to fulfil its promise of democracy, wealth and rule of law, EU citizens' trust in our European democracy must be restored.

1) Real European elections for the European Parliament

Despite the fact that the European Parliament has been directly elected by the European Union's citizens for the past 35 years, its legitimacy remains contested. The legal fragmentation of the European elections by 28 different national election laws also leads to fragmented lists and programmes, and to an exclusively national framework for the European elections. For citizens, it is difficult to understand how members of the same European party family can contradict each other in their national programmes, but can then form part of the same party in the European Parliament. The European Union needs real European debates!

The selection of top candidates has improved the transparency and responsibility of the parties, but a more extensive harmonisation of election rules is required, including the determination of parity criteria. A partially common European electoral law should comprise the fundamental elements of all election systems and should reserve a proportion of seats at the European Parliament for the candidates of cross-border and pan-European lists. In addition, we advocate for a Europe-wide right to vote from the age of 16 for the European elections.

2) Take citizens' participation seriously

The promise that citizens would be granted a true right to legislative initiative in the European Union by means of the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) has not yet been fulfilled. Due to excessive red tape and the Commission's disappointing reactions, citizens have not yet made sufficient use of the ECI.

The planned revision of the ECI regulation offers a unique opportunity to consolidate and improve it, so that in the future, EU citizens' opinions may directly influence EU decision-making.

The revision should aim to ensure that the procedure is simplified, that people are able to vote in an ECI from the age of 16 and that every ECI which collects the necessary number of signatures (one million) receives appropriate political attention.

3) Control lobby influence

The task of the rule of law is also to prevent powerful interest groups' opaque exertion of influence on political decisions. This is particularly true of the many interest groups acting in Brussels. While the European Parliament and the European Commission have a lobby register, this register is not sufficiently binding. In order to reach the highest level of transparency, we want a binding lobby register for all EU institutions, more stringent grace periods and a "legislative footprint", thanks to which the influence of third parties on the EU legislative process would be more easily verifiable. We want to expand the scope of the existing regulation concerning public access to EU documents, so that it may become a comprehensive EU transparency regulation.

4) Make the Council of the European Union more transparent

The positions that are defended by Member States representatives (including on the level of the Council's working groups) should be made public, so that citizens, the media and civil society may gain a better understanding of the defended positions. This access would also strengthen the role of national parliaments in the EU decision-making process.

5) Luxembourg as a seat for the European institutions

We want to maintain the attractiveness of Luxembourg as a seat of the European Union. This is why we want to ensure that the national conditions and cost of living are better accounted for in the wage structure of the European institutions, including by means of a correction coefficient for EU officials in Luxembourg. Moreover, we want to secure equal access to healthcare services for EU officials in Luxembourg.

6) Full use of the potential of subsidiarity thanks to a constructive alliance of the parliaments

On the one hand, decisions should be struck at the most appropriate level in order to rise up to the challenges; on the other hand, they should be taken as closely as possible to the citizens in order to guarantee the highest degree of legitimacy.

We fight for a European Union in which the national sovereignty of the Member States is pooled in order to form a stronger, joint sovereignty, so that common challenges such as climate change, security, globalisation and digitalisation can be appropriately and democratically responded to. We also fight for a European Union in which the subsidiarity principle is respected. For the EU to become more successful, the European Parliament must collaborate more closely and more regularly with national and regional parliaments. At the same time, parliaments must improve their knowledge and capacities concerning Europe. A Union cannot be constructed in conflict with national and regional parliaments. We must find a fair and effective manner to promote collaboration between the parliaments.

In our opinion, the current subsidiarity system – in which national parliaments can contradict new European draft laws by raising a yellow card – does not work. We propose the introduction of a green card for national and regional parliaments. This type of system would allow parliaments to participate more constructively in the legislative process and to monitor their Member States' position in the Council and in the Eurogroup.

7) The future of our Union

In the current institutional context of the EU, it is difficult or even impossible to make joint progress in too many core areas of EU policy. This is often the result of lacking skills, resources or national vetos.

In order to strengthen European democracy, we want a broad discussion about the future of Europe and its appropriate form to take place, and pave the way for a citizens' constitutional convention. It is not about whether more or less EU is required; instead, the focus should be on how Europe protects its citizens in a globalised world and grants them their freedoms. A European constitution should aim to protect all its citizens' fundamental rights, define the European institutions and their respective competences, regulate all legal processes and clarify the distribution of competences between the various levels in place.

Within this framework, we also want to discuss the strengthening of European citizenship and its related social and political rights, in order to promote the political participation of all citizens.

Education and exchanges

A strong and committed education policy is an investment in the future of young people in Europe. Education policy is the cornerstone of a diverse and open civil society, a thriving economy and a working democracy. Europe should further develop its leading role in education and research.

We want lifelong access to education for all citizens, whether in the form of apprenticeships, university education, further education or retraining. In this respect, we want the Bologna process to be expanded and regularly evaluated, so that it may become easier for students to change universities within Europe, to promote student mobility and exchanges, as well as expand the existing programmes to apprentices. Moreover, we want the popular Erasmus+ programme to be expanded so that all people, independently of their parents' financial means, may have the opportunity to attend further education courses in another country and live there.

The European Solidarity Corps supports cross-border exchanges, the networking of non-profits as well as the European civil society, and promotes intercultural dialogue between the young. Thanks to these measures, young people are encouraged to volunteer or do internships. We welcome this initiative, but it should not become too administrative or complex for organisations or participants. A regular evaluation of the programme must take place.

The Greens support the European Youth Forum's demand for a quality charter for internships. Young people must not be exploited, and they have the right to fair wages and quality experiences on the job.

In this sense, we welcome the Youth Guarantee, which has already been introduced. However, we demand that it be taken seriously and young people be guided towards secure and fair quality jobs with long-term perspectives.

Young people must be allowed to participate in the conception of Europe. The possibility of democratic co-participation should not only be given during the European elections. It should be systematic. Young people on national level and European youth organisations should systematically participate in European policy-making and structured dialogue. In this respect, we demand a European Centre for Political Education be set up.

Thanks to the DiscoverEU programme, which was recently launched upon the proposal of the European Parliament, tens of thousands of 18-year-olds will be able to travel through Europe by rail for free this summer. We are enthusiastic supporters of such European Interrail programmes, as they are emblematic of exchange and the celebration of European diversity. They allow young people to experience the freedom of crossing borders in the EU for free. Such programmes should be continued and expanded in future.

Create a Europe in which equality is a reality

European provisions have played an important role on the road towards full gender equality. However, there is still some work to be done, in order to ensure Europe becomes a continent in which true equality is a reality. At a time in which some countries want to turn back the wheel of history by revoking some of women's rights to sexual self-determination and by calling gender research into question, we express our solidarity with those impacted by these measures and will fight for their rights alongside them.

The right to physical integrity, self-determined family planning and access to safe contraception must be ensured and should be independent of financial capabilities. For this reasons, we want to strengthen free access to contraception.

In order to fight the wage gap between women and men, we demand a European directive that determines the criteria for comparability of activities and creates transparency concerning wages and salaries for all. Those who are paid unfair wages must be able to file complaints with the support of associations and trade unions. In order to ensure gender parity on the boards of directors and supervisory boards of large corporations, we demand quotas for women until parity is achieved. The executive committees of the EU institutions must be subject to compulsory gender parity rules.

In order to improve the citizens' work-life balance, we need a directive that takes the pressure off families and grants them a healthy balance between gainful employment and family work, including leisure time and volunteering.

In the fight against gender-based violence, we need a directive that provides better protection for victims, that enshrines the tenet "NO means NO" as a European standard, and that provides financial support for awareness-raising campaigns concerning sexual harassment in public, at the workplace and in schools.

Victims of human trafficking for sexual and economic exploitation should not simply be returned to their countries of origin. They need protection programmes and should be given permanent residence permits. Moreover, their labour and social rights should be consistently guaranteed. In order to ensure gender parity in the application of the available funds, the European budget should be subject to a gender-budgeting check.

Promote an inclusive society

We campaign for an open, tolerant and inclusive society, in which human rights and equal opportunities are the norm. Green? Yes, but most of all, Europe needs to remain colourful and diverse. We reject all types of discrimination and marginalisation.

We will continue to fight against all kinds of discrimination - whether on the basis of sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, disability, religion, age, nationality or ethnic group - everywhere in Europe. We demand more means for the independent equal opportunity centres and for the European programme to promote diversity, with the aim of preventing discrimination through awareness-raising.

We want the fifth Anti-discrimination Directive to be passed, because it is high time to fill the gaps in European anti-discrimination law. In our opinion, the patchwork system of equal opportunity directives and regulations must urgently be completed and a comprehensive ban on discrimination needs to be implemented.

After decades of struggling for "Marriage for All", same-sex marriages can now be celebrated in approximately half the EU Member States. Other Member States offer same-sex couples the possibility of a civil union. Only in six Member States are there no plans for any form of legal

contract between same-sex individuals. If Member States do not recognise same-sex marriages or registered partnerships, this has a real impact on these individuals' right to freely choose where they live, reside and work. This is why we fight for the **EU-wide recognition of registered partnerships and same-sex marriages** as a first step towards equality in marriage across Europe.

Even if individuals' rights are equal on paper, people are still discriminated against on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity in many places. In some EU Member States, there are so-called "anti-propaganda" laws, which promote discrimination and hate against lesbians, gays, bisexuals, trans*, inter* and queer* people, by for instance forbidding any discussion of sexuality and homosexuality in the classroom. **We support the rights of LGBTIQ+ in Europe as well as across the globe, and want that the European Commission cracks down on attacks against their equal rights**, including within the context of EU foreign, trade and human rights policies and development aid. Extensive awareness-raising programmes should be carried out in schools in order to prevent the violation of LGBTIQ+ rights.

We campaign for **first name and sex status changes to be made possible by means of a simple administrative act in all EU states**. After all, gender identity can only be defined by the individual concerned.

Enable barrier-free participation

People with disabilities must be granted equal access to participate in political and social life on par with non-disabled people – and this in all areas of life, such as education, employment, living, travel and leisure time. Inclusion means that all people have the right to self-determination and have the same rights to participate in social life, without excluding anyone.

Remaining barriers of all types must be eliminated, and infrastructures, transport and communication methods must be made accessible to all. In the past mandate, a **European Accessibility Act** was finally adopted. Now, we are campaigning for **its quick implementation in the Member States, in order to force private goods and service providers to remove barriers to equal access**. We want a barrier-free public space in which buildings, the media, products, services and events are designed for all. This includes the introduction of **a single European disability ID card**, which would grant disabled individuals equal access to events at a discount, especially in the areas of culture, leisure, sports and transport.

People with disabilities must be able to lead an independent life and be involved in decision-making processes that concern them. This is why we defend **equal voting rights and accessible politics**.

Assume responsibility in the world with Europe

The world order is changing. The USA are turning their back on multilateralism and are no longer fulfilling their responsibility as a globally acting world power. Russia is violating the territorial integrity of neighbouring states and has moved away from the path to becoming a firm democracy. China is gaining influence in the world, with limited respect of international rules, and is making use of new digital technologies to create a police state. In the Near and Middle East, the Arab Spring did not fulfil the hopes of democratisation and Saudi Arabia and Iran are in the middle of a proxy war for political dominance.

The EU needs to prove itself in this context: as a player in foreign policy and as a community of values, in which people – with their dignity, freedom and inalienable rights – take centre

stage. The EU needs to be aware that, especially in foreign policy, compromises will always be required and diverging interests must be balanced against each other. If the EU wants to act to reduce instability, fight mass human rights violations and end crises in both its immediate neighbourhood and beyond, then its Member States must cooperate more closely in the field of foreign policy, security and freedom than before and speak with one voice in the medium term.

For a feminist European, foreign and security policy

Equal participation for women in decision-making processes is long overdue. This is why we defend a binding quota for women on supervisory boards in large corporations. We also want parity between the sexes to become a reality at the highest levels of EU institution committees, such as at the European Central Bank. All parties and national governments should take measures for the equal participation of men and women, for example by means of the introduction of gender-balanced electoral lists for the European elections.

In addition, the European Union must adopt the principle of a feminist foreign and security policy, and consequently the equal rights of women, but also of minority groups, as a guiding principle in its common foreign and security policy. A feminist, human-rights-based foreign and security policy would complete the traditional concept of security by placing the needs of humans rather than states at its core.

We want to promote the rights of women across the globe, and push women to become true players in society, the economy and politics, as well as guarantee them equal access to social, economic and political rights and resources.

To reach this aim, we want the equal participation of women across all negotiation and implementation levels of all organisations of the foreign and security policy in the EU. In this manner, the traditional structures of foreign, security and development policy would be revamped, new perspectives would appear, funds would be allocated differently and existing power relations would be called into question.

The protection of women and minorities and their participation in peace processes are important elements for freedom and security. We want the UN Security Council's landmark Resolution no. 1325, "Women, Peace and Security" and its follow-up resolutions to reflect reality, and anchor the gender perspective in all foreign policy areas and EU peace operations. Moreover, we want long-term funding for this overall goal. The aim is the equal treatment and participation of all in civil crisis prevention, in peace negotiations and peace missions, in conflict resolution, and post-conflict reconstruction, as well as in the police and military.

The Gender Advisor of the European External Action Service should have her own budget, and report regularly to the European Parliament concerning tasks performed. In addition, we want the EU to make use of all the existing foreign-policy instruments at its disposal to fight against the systematic discrimination against women and girls across the globe, as well as against sexual and gender-based violence.

For development cooperation based on partnership

European cooperation policy must gear itself towards to the UN's 2030 Agenda, with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Here, a holistic policy is required that pools social, ecological and economic aspects. For instance, trade policy should not clash with development cooperation objectives. The EU should expand compulsory due diligence obligations for corporations in the value-added chain to all areas of risk, such as the textile industry and all industries processing products that may be the object of illegal deforestation, like soy, palm oil or coffee. The respect

of human rights in any entrepreneurship endeavours in developing countries should become self-evident. Consequently, the EU should be proactive in UN negotiations relating to these matters.

The protection of biodiversity across the globe is crucial to prevent species from going extinct and to mitigate the impact of climate change. The EU set a goal to stop the loss of forests in the world by 2030 at the latest, and to reduce the deforestation of tropical forests by at least 50 % by 2020. This is why we demand the establishment of an action plan with concrete measures to reach these objectives. In the context of the negotiations for a new, integrated EU instrument for neighbourhood policy, development and international cooperation, we will advocate that the European Parliament's goal of 45 % of funds to be used for climate action, the protection of the environment and biodiversity will be maintained.

In most cases, genetically-modified organisms (GMOs) are banned in the EU. However, the EU is increasingly supporting the cultivation of monoculture plantations and the use of GMOs in developing countries. We want to oppose this trend and put an end to the dependence of farmers in developing countries on unscrupulous seed companies. All states should have the option to pursue their own food and agricultural policies, which are adapted to their natural and economic circumstances and which can guarantee food security.

In the area of trade, we want the European Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with ACP states to be monitored, and if necessary, we will demand the re-introduction of non-reciprocal trade preferences for developing countries.

Even if the EU is an important donor, most Member States do not yet invest 0.7% of their GDP in development cooperation. Financing must focus on sustainable projects, such as the development of renewables, ecological farming and strengthening women's position in society. Finally, the EU must fight the flight of capital and tax evasion in developing countries and emerging economies more effectively.

For a reform of the UN Security Council

The current structure of the UN Security Council is not in line with today's world order: it dates back to post-war times. Therefore, we defend its reform so that all regions of the world may be appropriately represented. The EU should have its own seat on the Security Council so it can position itself for a common European foreign, security and peace policy. In the long term, we want the veto option on the Security Council to be abolished, and in the short term, we want this option to be accompanied by a justification, especially when it comes to the "Responsibility to Protect". In addition, the Security Council's ability to negotiate in the case of a long-term block by a Member State must be ensured. Until then, in the case of a lengthy block of the Security Council, the UN General Assembly should be able to rely on its right to declare the Security Council as blocked, with a qualified majority, as per the example of the "Uniting for Peace" Resolution 377 of 1950, and impose peace measures in its place, i.e. diplomatic measures, sanctions or military measures, in accordance with Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

For civil and diplomatic crisis prevention and conflict resolution

Generally speaking, the Common EU Foreign and Security Policy must be based on civil crisis prevention and conflict resolution. With this in mind, we want to strengthen the European External Action Service. A civil action team with state and non-state experts such as police officers, legal experts, mediators or constitutional experts must be set up and sent to crisis areas. Civil society players must also be involved and research into peace should be awarded more funding. We also want to strengthen the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The objective is to build the capacities of the OSCE in the areas of civil crisis

prevention, early warning and crisis resolution, in both material and financial terms. The concept of the human dimension of security was and remains one of the core achievements of the OSCE. It forms part of the comprehensive OSCE security concept and includes activities in areas such as the freedom of the media, minority rights, rule of law and non-discrimination. We want to support this commitment to promote democracy, the rule of law, human rights, tolerance and the fight against discrimination.

Greater military cooperation also forms part of a security union, even though the use of military force must only ever be considered once all civilian efforts have failed, and international law must be respected. We view better military cooperation or a common purchase of armaments in a positive light as long as civilian components of cooperation are not neglected in the process. For us, it is important that common defence projects and missions be monitored by the European Parliament and be evaluated on a regular basis.

Arms exports to war and crisis regions must be stopped. To do so, we need an efficient common armaments export control system in the EU. In this context, new types of warfare, such as autonomous arms systems, must also be taken into consideration. Combat drones represent a fundamental change and an erosion of the limits of warfare, because they cause violent military intervention to happen more rapidly. This is why we demand rigorous international regulations for a binding ban on armed unmanned systems, and want the EU to continue campaigning for nuclear disarmament.

We campaign for checks on the compliance with the common rules on export controls for military technology and equipment, and want breaches against the regulations to be punished more severely. We also want the introduction of a general human rights clause within the framework of the revamping of the dual-use legislation (i.e. for goods that can be used for both civilian and military purposes). In this way, we want to ensure that European exports do not serve to support regimes that violate human rights and that the export of surveillance technology does not lead to an encroachment of people's freedom and fundamental rights.

For fair and open global trade

The exchange of goods and services promotes global wealth and peaceful relations between countries. However, if there is insufficient regulation for global trade, and if competition between the states is blind, social and environmental standards suffer. We demand a European trade policy that serves and is directed towards people and the environment. In times in which an increasing number of states enters into bilateral trade agreements, the EU must be proactive so as to lay down global trade rules within the framework of multilateral structures, such as the World Trade Organisation (WTO). On the WTO level, the EU must strive to enforce social and environmental minimum standards for the various sectors of the economy. Our hopes for this type of economic order can only be reached in the long term, which is why we are not opposed to short-term or medium-term bilateral trade agreements.

The European Greens, along with large sections of civil society, fought against the methods and content of the TTIP, CETA and JEFTA negotiations. While TTIP was fully prevented, our achievement for CETA and JEFTA was to enshrine the respect of ILO core standards and to prevent private arbitration courts, which could have been used by investors to sue states. However, these two agreements do not fulfil our demands of a sustainable trade policy. Our demands are: binding social and environmental standards, the definition of a precautionary principle, the protection of public utilities, the consolidation of the Paris Agreement and the EU Parliament's co-decision power in regulatory cooperation. The final aim must always be to improve existing standards. The EU Parliament and civil society must be involved in the entire negotiation process.

We demand the creation of a permanent international trade court to resolve legal disputes, in which not only companies can file claims, but also the victims of the violation of human rights, or of social or environmental duties by transnational companies. We want more accountability and transparency in the supply chain, such as the obligation to respect human and labour rights, and fair and ecological procurement. Moreover, we demand that legal investment standards such as "indirect expropriation" and the principle of "fair and equitable treatment" are defined to ensure that the rights of the state are not negatively affected and that legitimate political goals such as the protection of health and the environment can be pursued. Moreover, we want compensation payments made in the context of an identified case of discrimination to be in correlation with the actual damage done, and not in correlation with the expected profits.

We want to strengthen the interests of small and medium-sized enterprises in trade and reduce the monopoly of economic powers. They benefit from customs duty reductions and standardised technical norms.

The current EU trade policy vis-à-vis developing countries is one-sided, and focused on economic interests. Today's EU Economic Partnership Agreements aim at the elimination of customs duties. This means that developing countries import cheap products, and this puts their domestic industry, artisans and farmers under pressure. We want to put a stop to such agreements and establish true development partnerships on a level playing field, with the involvement of civil society.

For a committed EU Neighbourhood Policy

If the EU wishes to take its role as a community of values and a force for peace seriously, then it should strongly commit to defending human rights, freedom, the rule of law and social and ecological minimum standards in its immediate neighbourhood. The aim of European states should be to open up the prospects for EU accession. However, with Brexit, a whole new field has opened up in EU Neighbourhood Policy: the challenge now is to maintain friendly relations with a state that will potentially be leaving the European Union very soon. For us, an EU exit agreement will only be acceptable if the four fundamental freedoms (freedom of movement of goods, services, people and capital) remain intact in the European Union, if the internal Irish border remains open and if the rights of British citizens in the EU and of EU citizens in Britain remain unviolated.

In our opinion, the EU accession process is a success. The Western Balkan states (Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Kosovo, Albania and Macedonia) should all be able to access the EU within the foreseeable future, as long as they meet the defined criteria in the fields of rule of law, fundamental values, freedom of the press, the fight against corruption and organised crime, the processing of war crimes and bilateral conflict reconciliation.

A good partnership with the Eastern neighbours of the EU is in the interest of Europe and represents a real cornerstone for stability and freedom in the region. Since 2009, the Eastern Partnership of the EU has helped modernise and democratise Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and the Ukraine, in addition to promoting the respect of human rights in those countries. We want to safeguard these achievements and build upon them, in view of visa liberalisation and potential accession.

Russia contributed to the aggravation of international tensions with its annexation of Crimea, violating international law, and with its military action in Eastern Ukraine and Syria. The EU reacted by imposing diplomatic and economic sanctions. A solution to these conflicts can only be found via the political and diplomatic route. We refer to the Minsk Agreements concerning the Ukraine. As long as Russia continues to breach international law, the sanctions must remain in place.

Moreover, we are against every violation of the fundamental and human rights of journalists, representatives from the opposition and minorities in Russia. We support the civil society in its commitments, and want to cooperate proactively with democratic NGOs and civil society initiatives in Russia. We want to actively prevent Russia's interference in European elections. Whatever our differences, in order to settle conflicts we must always remain open to dialogue.

In Turkey, we demand consistent support for the democratic and pro-European forces that are fighting for a democratic Turkey despite state repression. The relationship between Europe and Turkey must be revised. An expansion of the Customs Union can only be negotiated if Turkey makes a U-turn and returns to the path of democracy and rule of law. All arms exports from European Member States must come to a stop, as well as the participation of European companies in armaments consortia in Turkey. Even if Turkey is gradually turning into a dictatorship, we are against the abandonment of the accession negotiations, so that we can continue supporting the democratic and pro-European forces in Turkey.

As far as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is concerned, we want to continue campaigning for a two-state solution, in order to guarantee the security of the state of Israel as the national homeland of the Jewish people and for the good of all its inhabitants, as well as the creation of a sovereign, democratic state of Palestine in which people may live in decent conditions, on the basis of the 1967 borders (Resolution 242 of the UN Security Council). Only a non-violent solution is an option.

For seven years now, Syria has been in the middle of a terrible war. Hundreds of thousands of people have lost their lives or have fled the country. The EU must intervene as a proactive peace negotiator, and it must support justice for the crimes committed, as well as make a substantial contribution to the improvement of the humanitarian situation there. As long as the war continues to be waged without hinderance, sanctions and travel bans must remain in place for Syrian and Russian military forces, and their bank accounts in Europe must be frozen. Moreover, the delivery of weapons that are used in the Syrian war must be stopped.

As a party committed to a nuclear-free world, we welcome the Iran Nuclear Deal and condemn US President Trump's one-sided withdrawal from the agreement. The EU should strive to protect the Iran Deal that aims to prevent the rise of nuclear weapons in Iran. The dramatic human rights situation in Iran, its regular threats against Israel and its regional policies must not be ignored, however.

The proxy war that is waged in Yemen has caused 80% of its population to become dependent on humanitarian aid. The EU must become more involved in the humanitarian work done there. It should also make active efforts to resolve the conflict. All arms exports to Saudi Arabia – a country that plays a decisive role in this war – must be stopped.

For a humane refugee and migration policy

The history of migration is as long as the history of mankind itself. The history of Europe cannot be told without mentioning the numerous waves of migration over the centuries, both within Europe but also outside. Indeed, this has significantly contributed to the diversity of European culture.

The dismantling of borders in Europe and the free movement of workers are pillars of European integration. However, the rise of right-wing populist parties in Europe means that this is being called into question. In our view, the respect of the human rights of asylum seekers and of Europe's open borders are non-negotiable. These open borders have contributed greatly to the development of a new European sense of belonging that is felt by young people with regard to Europe. We stand for a European Union that pools its humanitarian responsibility, the fundamental right to asylum and unhindered access to those seeking protection, as well as the

need to implement processes in line with international law standards, in a fast and ordered manner.

We stand for a Europe in which people who flee war, hunger, persecution and violence may find protection, as opposed to forcing them to suffer under autocracies and military dictatorships. We want a Europe that offers legal routes towards refuge and immigration. A Europe, that guarantees fair processing for asylum seekers and decent living conditions, and that controls its borders. A Europe that fights against the causes of flight and not the refugees themselves. A Europe that puts an end to the cemetery in the Mediterranean.

At the moment, European migration legislation only allows for highly-qualified workers to migrate to Europe. People who lack an advanced degree therefore try to immigrate via the asylum system, often without success. However, at times of demographic change and of specialised worker shortages, Europe is dependent on the skills of these individuals. We support a European immigration legislation that sets forth common rules for the safe, legal immigration of individuals with different qualification levels and their families. This legislation should be based on the UN's Global Compact for Migration.

In this context, the fight against precarious working conditions (which affect migrants more than other groups of individuals (e.g. in the food industry or construction)) must be stepped up. In addition to the consistent application of the EU Employers Sanctions Directive, we demand the establishment of claims centres that whistleblowers and victims of exploitation can turn to, even anonymously.

In order to prevent refugees from falling victim to unscrupulous smugglers and from drowning in the Mediterranean, legal flight routes must be created. The UNHCR's Resettlement Programme, the distribution of humanitarian visas and family reunification can play a part in this. In order to put an end to the masses of deaths in the Mediterranean, we demand the expansion of a civil sea rescue system, organised and financed by Europe. We stand up against the criminalisation of civil sea rescue operations and refugee organisations that volunteer to save lives at sea.

In order to guarantee a humane asylum policy, the EU's external borders must be controlled and people arriving must be registered. The latter obligation serves to ensure safe access to initial primary care, as well as a fair processing of the asylum-seekers' applications, in line with international law. Our idea of a European border control regime does not consist of the one-sided expansion of Frontex. Instead, it would be a joint, coordinated approach to protect human rights. We believe the European Asylum Support Office's tasks should be expanded so that it can, in cooperation with Member States, register migrants quickly, provide humane primary shelter with medical care and then ensure that the migrants are distributed quickly and fairly.

If EU states do not agree on a common approach for the distribution of refugees, as has been the case until now, then the countries willing to take them on must lead the way. Municipalities and regions that take in refugees should receive funds from a municipal integration fund, which must be created for this purpose. These European initial reception centres must immediately receive financial support, infrastructure and personnel. In our opinion, an asylum policy based on human rights does not mean that there should be massive locked-down shelters in the EU, transit zones and European camps in third countries, nor deportation agreements to send people back to third states in which human rights are often completely disregarded. This is why we want the EU-Turkey deal to be struck down. We reject the categorisation of states into safe or not safe countries of origin.

While the main contribution to climate change stems from the massive greenhouse gas emissions emitted by industrialised nations, the impact of climate change has particularly affected developing countries and island states. This is a vicious circle: droughts and floods, which have become more common and severe due to climate change, are increasing the wealth

gap between the Northern and Southern hemispheres, making some countries more vulnerable to disasters.

As stated in the Paris Agreement, this is why the EU should provide technical and financial support to the affected regions, so that they can adapt to the effects of climate change and deal with the consequences. This means that the EU should also provide decent migration options within the migrants' countries, their regions and even to Europe. For instance, a climate passport could be created, so that the inhabitants from regions and island states that are threatened by the impact of climate change can migrate in humane conditions.

Defending animals and animal rights with Europe

The European Union has many regulations in place to protect the well-being of specific animals (e.g. laying hens, calves) or specific areas of animal use (e.g. transport and abattoirs). These laws have led to positive change in several fields and we welcome these results. However, we continue to advocate that gaps in the legislation regarding animal welfare and protection must be filled.

A comprehensive European animal protection law should be adopted, to guarantee that animals' dignity is ensured across Europe. It is also high time for an EU law that defines specific standards for the farming of chickens for fattening, milking cows, rabbits and fish, amongst others.

We are fighting to end unnecessary practices that violate animal welfare, such as forced feeding, farming animals for fur or the use of exotic animals in the entertainment industry. During exhibition, sports and leisure activities, species-appropriate living conditions and animal welfare of domestic animals must be guaranteed.

Alongside the European Greens, we want the existing laws concerning animal protection and welfare to be respected and their implementation to be improved. In this sense, we demand more stringent and efficient checks and consistent, harsh sentences in cases of non-compliance with the standards.

Introduce the end of intensive and factory farming

Many animals in the EU are farmed for the sole purpose of being slaughtered and eaten, or for clothing. However, as beings with emotions, they have a right to species-appropriate living conditions and a life free of suffering. In industrial farming and especially mass farming, animals are treated like raw materials and their needs are not taken into account.

We demand a change of direction in intensive animal farming within the framework of the EU Common Agricultural Policy: fewer animals and better living conditions. Common farming practices must be called into question. We want huge barns that are full of weakened animals and the mass usage of antibiotics to become a practice of the past in animal farming. Only animal farming practices that guarantee animal welfare and farms that respect high animal protection and welfare standards must receive support.

Animal farming that is not species-appropriate, such as keeping animals in excessively restricted spaces, or the use of cement flooring, cannot receive subsidies. In this respect, we actively support the EU-wide citizens' initiative to put an end to the outdated caging of animals ("End the cage age").

Systems and farms in which the animals are castrated without anaesthesia or in which their beaks or tails are cut off must be excluded from all support from EU subsidies. We defend an EU farming policy that encourages farmers to transfer to more animal-friendly farming systems and that provides financial and expert staff support to this end. In our opinion, it is important to introduce a harmonised EU label for animal welfare to distinguish animal-friendly farming, that allows consumers to send clear signals to the market.

Reduce animal transport and end live animal exports

We clearly reject "abattoir tourism", lengthy trips for animals in overloaded trucks and routine violations of animal welfare standards. For us, the matter is clear: less animal transport is always better. Animals should be slaughtered as close as possible to where they are farmed, and

abattoirs should not compete simply on price. If transport is necessary, then it should be as stress-free as possible and in respect of the species' needs.

Animal welfare associations, experienced veterinarians and experts from the European Court of Justice have however confirmed that violations against the existing EU legislation to protect animals during transport are common. Inadequate and overloaded transport vehicles, excessive transport times and weakened animals are the norm in this field. Animal welfare should not stop at national borders. These violations should be the object of more frequent and more efficient EU-wide checks.

An improved implementation of the 2005 Regulation to protect animals during transport is insufficient. We want the Regulation to be updated with stricter rules and provisions to impose better transport conditions. The **transport of young animals or weakened animals that cannot access food or water independently** must be **banned**.

The duration of transport must be drastically reduced, and should be limited to **four hours at most**. Hence, the establishment of regional abattoirs and mobile slaughterhouses, as well as regional processing and marketing structures must be subsidised. **The export** of live animals for breeding, fattening or animals to be slaughtered to countries **outside the EU must be stopped**.

Extend the ban on animal testing

Thanks to a strong civil society and our fight at the European Parliament, animal testing has now been banned in the cosmetics industry. A lot remains to be done, however. We want to extend this ban to other areas of the economy, such as chemicals testing.

In medical research, animal testing should not take place if there are existing alternatives. In such cases, the alternative testing methods should be applied and the "3R" concept, i.e. "Replace, reduce, refine", should be used consistently. Moreover, the long-term vision of ending animal testing requires more funding and cooperation for ambitious research into alternatives, especially because the results of animal-tested products are often not reflective of the impacts on human health.

More protection for domestic and street animals

Domestic and street animals also deserve a decent life free of pain. Unfortunately, in large parts of the EU, these rights are not guaranteed. We demand a ban on the slaughtering of stray cats and dogs and we want methods such as birth control, e.g. castration, to be promoted. The identification and registration of dogs and cats should be compulsory.

There are huge differences in national legislations of Member States concerning the classification of so-called dangerous dog breeds. The complications this causes for dog owners in the EU underline the need for a common approach.

We want an EU-wide ban on all forms of cruel breeding. It is unacceptable that unnecessary pain and disabilities should be inflicted on animals on the basis of aesthetic or economic criteria.

Protect wild animals

We want special protection for wild animals by means of the protection of their habitat and migration areas (Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of Wild Birds) and the consistent implementation of international species and nature protection agreements (e.g. the Washington Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, CITES).

The diversity of species in our forests must be protected and promoted, including by means of awareness-raising among the population, and the support provided to alternatives to regulate wild animals. We welcome the return of the lynx and the wolf to the EU, and we want the special protection status for these species to be maintained and defended. In order to ensure a peaceful cohabitation and prevent conflicts between mankind and wild animals, we support the funding of positive programmes to manage wolf populations and for other predators. Animals know no borders, which is why strict rules must be applied across Europe to fight poaching, with the aim of a harmonised protection of wild animals.

We want the EU to stand for wild animal protection more decisively on the global stage, including for marine mammals. Here, the EU must fight against poaching and the illegal trade of wild animals, and the import of hunting trophies into the EU must be banned. We also want a ban on the import of species that cannot be cared for appropriately in zoos.

We believe that the time has come for people to understand that the era of using wild animals in the entertainment industry (e.g. circuses and zoos) is over and we will fight for this to be recognised and supported in the EU.

A greener Agricultural Policy with Europe

Farming methods and the food that lands on our plates have a great impact on our health, the environment and on animals.

We defend a more environmentally-friendly form of farming: it must become more respectful of the environment, with climate change in mind, and the use of our natural resources must become more sustainable. Farming is one of the areas that is most affected by the climate crisis. However, it is also responsible for a significant proportion of climate-damaging emissions. This sector could become an important ally in the fight against global warming. Clean water, healthy soils and biodiversity must also be taken into account.

Despite regular reforms and “green” promises, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has not resulted in the necessary outcomes. The CAP promotes increasingly intensive farming, monocultures and industrial animal farming, which contribute to poorer soils across Europe, the continued extinction of species, the excessive use of pesticides and the treatment of animals as pure raw materials.

This is why we demand a true change to the agricultural and nutrition policies. Within the framework of the future EU Agricultural Policy, we want all three pillars of sustainability to be considered: only farming models that make economic, social and environmental sense should be promoted. **Diversity, not monocultures. Quality, not mass production.**

We are fighting for an agricultural policy that will help the EU face the future. It is high time for a new direction in the EU Agricultural Policy, in line with social and ecological criteria. The protection of the environment with climate change in mind, animals, soil, water and biodiversity should be at the core of this new policy, and it must be in line with the goals of the climate, environmental, consumer and development policies of the EU.

The European Agricultural Policy should contribute to a consumption and production system in Europe that does not destroy natural resources and the basis of life in Europe or in developing countries. EU agricultural products must not be dumped on African, Asian or Latin American markets at very cheap prices. We need a more equitable distribution of public funds, including more generous support for small farmers. Until present, funding has largely been tied to the surface used for farming. This is why mainly large industrial farms have benefited – and this must be stopped.

Just like a large proportion of EU citizens, we believe that high agricultural subsidies should only be paid out if production methods are in line with the needs of the community at large, i.e. clean and healthy food, as well as methods that are environmentally-friendly and mitigate climate change. The related criteria for production and the environmental and social standards to be respected must be clearly defined on the EU level, so that Member States do not begin competing on the basis of the lowest standards.

Increase targeted support for farms

A green agricultural policy places farms at its heart, of course. In many rural locations, farming is the backbone of the economy, because it creates jobs and promotes regional culture.

However, farmers often suffer at the hands of price dumping in supermarket chains due to the direction taken by the EU Agricultural Policy, and they commonly fear for their existence and have no perspective. It is important to support farmers in their efforts to keep water clean and protect nature, to apply sustainable production methods and implement better animal protection.

Farmers require support to be able to produce healthy, high-quality foodstuffs for both man and animals, to protect the environment and our common natural resources such as soil, air and water, as well as to ensure animal welfare.

The training and further training of farmers must take into consideration today's challenges and new requirements. This is why consultation services must also be expanded and improved. In addition, within the framework of the Common Agricultural Policy, we want generous subsidies to be granted to support young farmers and newcomers to the field.

Access to soil

Rural regions must be protected and revived; they should not just be sold off to corporations little by little.

The problem of land grabbing, which so far has mainly affected developing countries, is increasingly becoming a concern in Europe. Both private and large investors identify farming land as secure capital investment opportunities. This has fatal consequences in rural areas: it has become practically impossible for farmers or small businesses to purchase or farm land at fair prices.

In the future Common Agricultural Policy, we want better protection for farmers from large agricultural corporations and soil speculation, by means of ceilings for agricultural payments, more money for the first hectares, and price monitoring by a European supervisory body, for instance. Newcomers to farming should find it easier to access land, so that both newcomers and existing farms do not fail due to excessively high land prices.

Produce healthy food – organic, regional and sustainable

Consumers want good, safe food without gene technology, antibiotic residue and dishonest marketing. Considering the many scandals (e.g. the pesticide Fipronil in eggs) that surfaced in recent years, the EU must act in a more decisive and transparent manner to improve food safety on the Single Market and regain the trust of consumers.

We want to create an environment in which it is easy to eat in a healthy and sustainable fashion. This is why we fight for a full declaration of ingredients, as well as the use of a simple food quality label that is easily understandable, and allows consumers to identify the most important vitamins and minerals contained in any given product at first glance. We also fight for a reduction of sugar, salt and fat in highly-processed foodstuffs. In order to inform consumers in the best manner possible about production processes, we demand a compulsory animal farming and gene technology label on all products.

We want to promote plant-based nutrition. The reduced consumption of meat and other animal-based products represents an effective way to fight climate change, civilisation illnesses, the mistreatment of animals and the plundering of resources. This must be recognised and supported by the EU. Here, the introduction of binding EU labelling provisions for vegetarian or vegan products must take place, as requested by the EU citizens' initiative for vegetarian and vegan labels.

Moreover, we fight against food waste, by means of awareness-raising campaigns, the replacement of the "sell-by date" by a "consume-by date" and the obligation for supermarkets to donate their unsold food products or recycle them by integrating them into other products (e.g. animal feed).

Consistent reduction of the use of pesticides and a ban on gene technology

Monocultures, excessive fertilising and use of pesticides have destroyed habitats across Europe, and have led to a drastic reduction of bee populations and other insects. This has damaged pollination in many areas and increasingly puts pressure on ecosystems. We want the use of pesticides in farming to be drastically reduced, for instance by imposing an immediate ban on the most dangerous ones, e.g. all neonicotinoids, as well as any other substance with the same or similar action mechanisms, which are very damaging to insects and bees.

We stand for the **EU-wide ban on glyphosate, a total herbicide**. The approvals procedure for pesticides must be reformed, so that it is based on prevention and becomes more transparent. Independent risk assessment and stricter control mechanisms are urgently required. We want the greatest number of chemical and synthetic pesticides and fertilisers as possible to be replaced by more nature-compliant, successfully-tested alternatives in the very near future. We want a Europe-wide ban on the sale of pesticides to private individuals. We want greater support to be provided for sustainable production processes and natural, environmentally-friendly alternatives in the field of organic farming.

The use of gene technology in farming has led to a loss of biodiversity and farming diversity, and contributes to the increasing monopoly of large farming corporations, at the expense of the freedom and safety of consumers. We therefore want a consistent ban on gene technology in agriculture and in our food. New methods (e.g. CRISPR) should not be adopted on the basis of the precautionary principle.