



# THE EUROPE WE WANT

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Social, democratic, sustainable

PES manifesto  
for the 2024  
European elections

Adopted at the  
2024 PES Election Congress,  
2 March, Rome







## THE EUROPE WE WANT

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As the Party of European Socialists, the largest progressive force in Europe, we head into the 2024 European elections with continued determination to transform our societies and improve the lives of European citizens.

**We want a free, fair and secure democratic Europe.** We believe in Europe as the force to guarantee rights for all and with all. We believe in working together to keep our planet liveable, to achieve social justice and to offer new opportunities for everyone. We are building a Europe of sustainability and democracy. A feminist Europe. An inclusive Europe founded on universal human rights. A Europe where social, economic and environmental progress go hand in hand. A Europe supportive of its young people. A Europe that promotes culture in all its diversity. **For us, Europe has always been a project of peace and shared prosperity.** A project of solidarity that allows our countries to overcome challenges that they could not face alone. By joining forces, we are building a Europe that achieves great things we can be proud of.

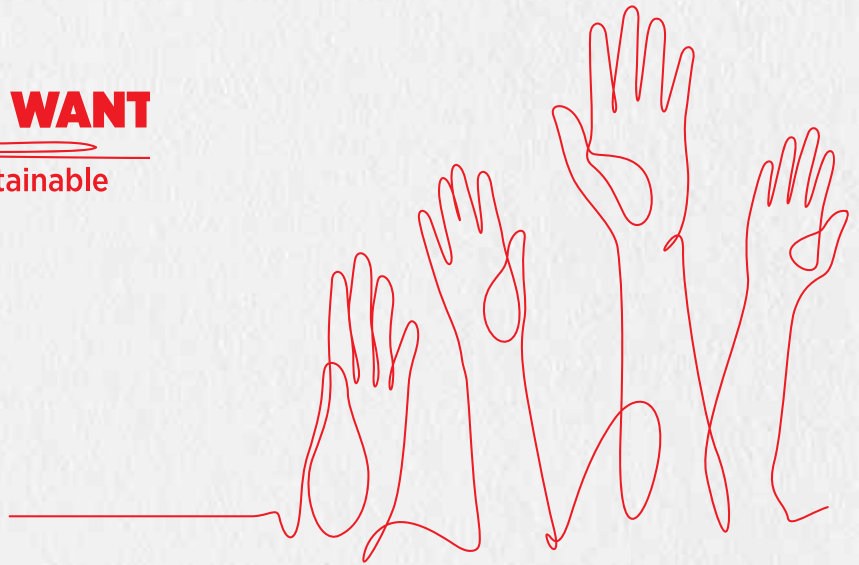
Successive crises and emerging threats have defined the period since the 2019 European elections. Yet, in difficult circumstances, **we have shown that a Europe that protects its people and provides hope for a better future** is possible. We worked hard to deliver progressive solutions to the rising cost of living; to the climate emergency; to the shift to clean energy; to the Covid-19 pandemic; and to the Russian aggression against Ukraine.

Today, many challenges remain ahead of us. Against a backdrop of war and conflict on our continent and in our neighbourhood, as well as rising authoritarianism worldwide, **Europe must be a guarantor of peace, promote the respect of international law and fair international relations**, and stand up for the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Europe must be ready to ensure its security and defence. The EU must also tackle inequalities within our borders, the loss of purchasing power due to the rising cost of living, the backlash against women's rights, the ever-growing difficulties young people face, and the undermining of democracy and the rule of law. **We want a more united Europe that protects our sovereignty, our welfare states and invests in quality green jobs, sustainable wellbeing and a dynamic economy.**



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**The far right is a threat to citizens and to the European project.** It is a poison for democracy. Our values are irreconcilable with theirs. The far right wants to pit people against each other, while we want to bring people together. Our political family has a clear red line: we will never cooperate nor form coalitions with the far right. A stronger Socialist & Democratic Group in the European Parliament means more power to deliver respect, justice and a better future. More power to provide citizens with equal opportunities, a sense of security and the quality of life that everyone deserves. To fight the far right, we must be the main progressive pro-European force, mobilising progressive, social, and environmental forces to deliver change.

In this manifesto, **we put forward 20 commitments for our common candidate and our parties**, for a Europe based on:

- **The right to quality jobs with fair wages** by guaranteeing workers' rights, strengthening collective bargaining, democracy at work and supporting the self-employed.
- **A new Green and Social Deal for a just transition** with clean, secure and affordable energy; new quality jobs in a green, carbon-free circular economy; and a liveable planet.
- **Strong democracy**, where the rule of law is respected and defended by all.
- **A strong and competitive European economy** that prepares its industries and SMEs for the future.
- **A protective Europe** that defends people against the high cost of living, defends their jobs from unfair competition, and defends their health and their environment.
- **A feminist Europe** that stands up for equal rights, women's control over their lives and bodies, and for an end to gender-based violence and discrimination.
- **A Europe for young people** that guarantees progress, autonomy, opportunities and eradicates job insecurity.
- **The right to decent and affordable housing for all.**
- **A strategically independent Europe** that defends its freedom, security and territorial integrity.
- **A strong Europe in the world** that promotes peace, security, cooperation, human rights and sustainable development.



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# I. SOLUTIONS FOR A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE



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## 1. SECURING QUALITY JOBS FOR ALL

As employment rates rise in Europe, more jobs must mean better jobs and fair wages. **Salaries must rise and boost workers' purchasing power against inflation and the rising cost of living.** We have fought alongside trade unions for decent minimum wages, pay transparency, the rights of platform workers, and collective bargaining. The world of work is changing. Malaise and discontent are growing, driven by job insecurity, increased precarious work, low pay and unpredictable working time.

- We will act with a **Roadmap for Quality Work and Well-paid Jobs.**
- Our next battles will be to combat in-work poverty, close gender gaps by 2030, regulate AI, limit the pay gap between workers, reach zero deaths at work, ensure the right to disconnect, reduce working time, end labour exploitation and work-related crime, develop job guarantees at local level and add a Social Progress Protocol to the Treaties.
- We remain committed to the adoption and implementation of the Platform Workers' Directive.
- We continue to **fight unemployment, poverty and social exclusion.** No one should be left without an adequate minimum income.
- We will continue to **push for workers' participation,** co-determination and democracy at work with stronger European Works Councils.
- We will continue to fight for the **full implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights.**
- We will always **protect trade union rights,** encourage collective bargaining and social dialogue and make sure that the EU and the Member States respect the autonomy of social partners.
- We want a **strengthened European Labour Authority.**
- To meet the climate challenge and make sure everyone can harness the potential of digitalisation, **we support equipping workers with new skills, the right to training during paid working time,** and new sustainable jobs by strengthening the Just Transition Fund and Social Climate Fund. To guarantee success and social progress, trade unions must be closely associated to this process.



## 2. A NEW GREEN SOCIAL DEAL FOR A JUST TRANSITION

**Social justice and climate justice are interconnected:** the most vulnerable are paying the highest price for the climate emergency. Climate neutrality must be a force for social progress. Faced with the increasingly damaging effects of climate change, we must prepare and adapt.

- We will implement a **Green Deal with a red heart**, allying social and ecological policies. In our efforts to reach climate neutrality, no one should be abandoned and there should be no pause.
- We will continue to **invest in renewable energy and energy efficiency, to be climate neutral by 2050** at the latest, by achieving strong EU 2040 climate targets.
- Our ultimate objective is to **reach a completely renewable and clean energy mix**, securing national and European interests.

Today high energy prices hit households. They also hit SMEs, businesses and our economies. **For us a key EU priority must be to secure affordable, and reliable energy supply for all.**

- We will **combat energy poverty** and the burden of high energy prices and will guarantee supply for the most vulnerable.
- We strive for the **reform of the energy market** to guarantee price stability and affordability, to modernise our infrastructures and strengthen Europe's strategic autonomy.

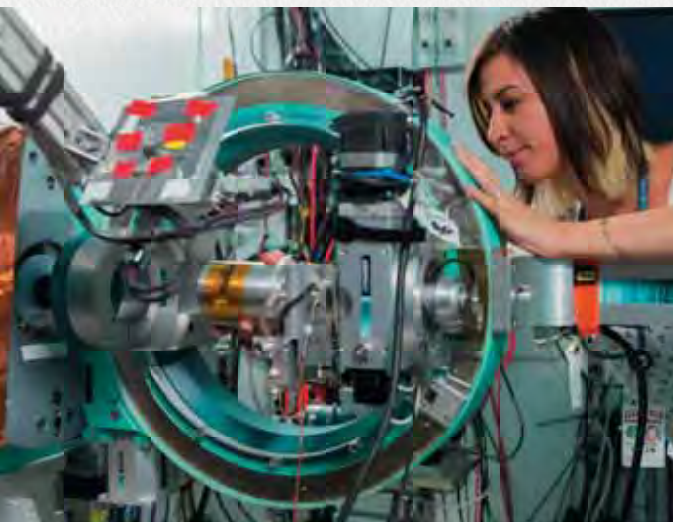
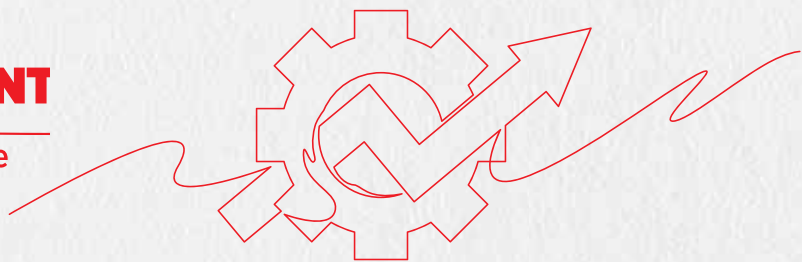






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## 3. A STRONG AND OPEN EUROPEAN ECONOMY IN THE WORLD

We want to **promote the European model of social market economy**, using public investments at the local, regional, national and EU level to develop a resilient, sustainable, and fair economy that delivers quality jobs.

- We want an **Investment Plan for the Green and Digital Transitions** to create new jobs and to reindustrialise our economy and make it innovative, competitive and circular.
- We want a **“Made in Europe” Strategy** and joint financing for projects of common interest in Europe.
- SMEs, the self-employed, start-ups, cooperatives and social economy enterprises are essential and must be supported, especially female and young entrepreneurs.
- We support a **fair Single Market for goods and services, with clear state aid rules and a new approach to competition policy** that levels the global playing field for European industries.
- We want to **strengthen Europe’s sovereignty** by delivering security of supply in energy, raw materials, technologies, medicines and food through investments and international trade.

**We say no to austerity.** We say yes to protecting workers from crises; to regulating the financial markets; to combating speculation; to an EU architecture that empowers Member States to invest in a green and social future. During Covid-19 we proved that initiatives like NextGenerationEU, SURE, and other policies secure growth and economic resilience, and reduce inequalities.

- It is time for a **permanent EU investment capacity** and an ambitious European budget.
- In cases of crisis, **the EU should support Member States against unemployment** with a complementary unemployment reinsurance mechanism, learning the lessons from the pandemic.
- **Stricter procurement rules including for EU funds** must ensure recipients of public money respect workers’ rights and collective bargaining.
- Social rights must take precedence over economic interests, reinforcing the social dimension of the European Union.



## 4. TAX JUSTICE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

**Our commitment to tax justice is a commitment to equal societies.**

A fair tax system strengthens our European social model and supports investments in our economies, public services and security.

- **Large corporations, big polluters and the ultra-rich must pay their fair share** in Europe and around the world, through effective taxes on corporations, windfall profits, capital, financial transactions and the wealthiest individuals.
- We fight to **make sure taxes are paid where profits are made**, building on our success in achieving a Global Minimum Corporate Tax Rate.
- We **fight against tax fraud and tax havens** inside and outside the EU and want to move towards the extension of qualified majority voting in specific tax matters.
- Tax systems must be rid of all gender discrimination.

## 5. THE RIGHT TO QUALITY AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Too many people – often the young, single parents and the vulnerable – struggle to find affordable, quality and energy-efficient housing.

- We will **implement a European Plan for Affordable Housing** with related investments and an **EU Strategy for Combatting Homelessness**.
- To tackle high energy bills and poverty, **we will foster investments in the Renovation Wave** to make public and private buildings more energy efficient.

## 6. ACCESS TO HEALTH, CARE AND MEDICINE

Universal access to quality health and social care are fundamental rights. Covid-19 showed the essential contribution of the care sector to society, including hospitals, doctors, and nurses, and the importance of European cooperation against health threats.

- We will **defend public healthcare** that creates quality jobs.
- We want a **European Health Union** that manages cross-border pandemic responses and supports and respects public health-care at the national level.
- We call for a **strong European Mental Health Strategy**.
- We will implement **fair and transparent medicine pricing to prevent shortages** and support timely access and innovation, including for rare diseases.
- We support **initiatives for common European public research on vaccines**, lifesaving medicines, and antimicrobial resistance.

## 7. PUBLIC SERVICES AT THE HEART OF OUR SOCIETY

Well-funded public services provide security against the hardships of life, promote wellbeing, and are essential for the functioning of our economy. Everyone's access must be guaranteed, from the youngest to the oldest, from the largest city to the most remote village.

- We will **guarantee quality healthcare, affordable access to energy and water**, inclusive education and lifelong learning opportunities, and efficient public services accessible by all.
- The EU must **fight mobility poverty** and support clean, affordable and **sustainable public transport** in all regions, including a large railway network.
- The **right to knowledge and culture** is a fundamental condition of democracy.

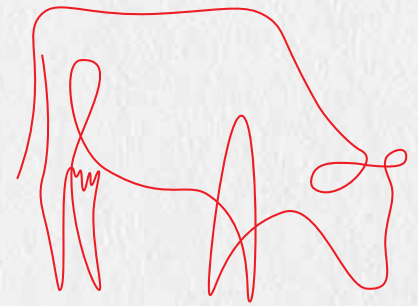






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## 8. SECURING THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

**This planet is all we have.** Through the Green Deal, we will diminish our environmental footprint; restore and care for our forests; clean our air, water and soil; and protect ecosystems. We will secure our environment, sustainable agriculture, rural development, biodiversity, and people's health.

- We will **fight plastic and chemical pollution**, especially PFAS — “forever chemicals” — and microplastics.
- **Water is a vital resource.** We will develop efficient and sustainable water protection and management.
- The EU must **protect the diversity of species and animal welfare.**

Climate and biodiversity crises are real threats to food security and to the livelihood of farmers. Europe's rural areas are the chain that connects our lands, our communities, our foods and our ecosystems.

- We need to **strengthen the EU's common agricultural policy to support farmers**, especially young, women, and small-scale farmers, and agricultural workers.
- We want to **support farmers' incomes and jobs**, while protecting them from unfair competition from third countries and price speculation and enabling fair prices in the value chain.
- We want to secure that farmers are able to **provide healthy and affordable food for all** and improve food production by embracing sustainable farming and fishing. Our fight for **the Green Deal is also a fight to improve the lives of farmers.**

We fundamentally disagree with the conservatives' approach that sustainability is the enemy of farmers.

- **Farmers must be supported financially and technically** to reach the targets to transition to environmentally friendly farming methods.
- We want to **reduce the use of pesticides** based on national best practices, improve soil management, and protect biodiversity.





## 9. GUARANTEEING SECURITY

We want to ensure safety and security for all citizens.

- We will **improve police and judicial cooperation** in the fight against terrorism, organised crime, drug and arms trafficking, cyber-crime, money laundering and any form of gender-based crimes.
- Increasing **cooperation among European ports** is needed to effectively reduce the influx of narcotics into Europe.
- We will **fight phone and internet fraud**, which especially targets older people.
- We want to strengthen Europol, the European Public Prosecutor's Office and the future Anti-Money Laundering Authority, aiming for a **truly European investigation authority that supports Member States**.

## 10. SOLIDARITY AND DEVELOPMENT ACROSS ALL CITIES AND REGIONS

We will keep delivering on **an ambitious Cohesion Policy** across Europe to **improve quality of life in cities, rural areas and remote regions**, and reverse the brain drain.

- We defend the **partnership approach with regional and local authorities** and their crucial role in shaping and implementing Cohesion Policy for **upwards social convergence**, together with civil society.

They have the most direct impact on the lives of citizens and are the drivers of Europe's rich cultural life and diversity.

- To ensure all citizens enjoy the full benefits of EU membership, we insist on our **call for Romania and Bulgaria to be fully and immediately admitted into the Schengen Area**.



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# II. SOLUTIONS FOR OPEN AND DEMOCRATIC SOCIETIES



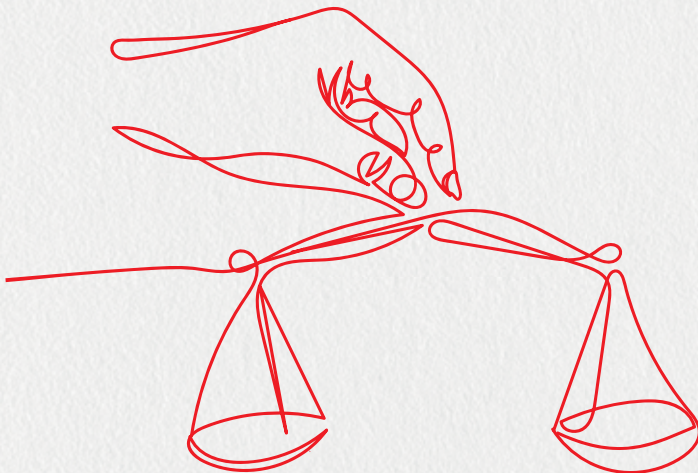
## 11. DEFEND DEMOCRACY AND THE RULE OF LAW

Democracy and the rule of law protect citizens' rights and ensure everyone is treated equally. They are the best defences against abuses of power.

- We **defend the rule of law at all levels**, with a trustworthy justice system, **efficient anti-corruption measures**, and **media freedom and pluralism**.
- The **crucial role of civil society in fostering democracy** must be supported.

The far right and populist movements threaten our democratic institutions and the rights of women, minorities, vulnerable groups, migrants, trade unions and LGBTI communities. **We condemn conservative and liberal parties that have enabled the far right to access power.** It is an insult to our values and our European history.

- We want **clear rules and sanctions**, using all available tools to **ensure that no EU funding reaches autocratic governments.**







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## 12. A FEMINIST EUROPE

**We are the party of feminism.** We fight to ensure that women and girls in all their diversity can reach their full potential.

- **Women must be in control of their own lives and bodies** with free and full access to their sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- The fight for gender equality must be reflected in all policies and budgets.
- We want to **close the gender pay, care, and pension gaps** by 2030 with binding measures.
- We want to **increase women's employment** in both quantity and quality and ensure a better work-life balance.
- Following the recent agreement between the European Parliament and the Council, we will push for the swift adoption of the Directive on gender-based violence and make violence against women an EU crime, and we will continue to support the “yes means yes” principle.
- We will introduce legislation that **safeguards women of all ages against sexual harassment and exploitation** and push the EU and all Member States to fully implement the Istanbul Convention.

## 13. A EUROPE FREE FROM DISCRIMINATION

**There is no room for prejudice in Europe.** There must be zero tolerance for sexism, racism, antisemitism, Islamophobia, LGBTI-phobia, and all forms of discrimination.

- We will continue and **reinforce the EU's strategies for Gender Equality and for LGBTIQ Equality.**
- We will likewise push for the **adoption of the European Anti-Discrimination Directive** and the implementation of the **EU Strategy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** to strengthen political and social rights for all.





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## 14. MANAGING ASYLUM AND MIGRATION

**Migration is a part of European history and of our societies.** Citizens of migrant backgrounds actively participate in the economic and cultural life of our countries. When properly managed, migration is an opportunity and a strength.

- We strive for a **common and coordinated system for migration and asylum based on solidarity and shared responsibility.**

The Pact on Asylum and Migration finally moves the EU away from crisis management. Its implementation must result in a fair, safe and predictable approach grounded in the **respect of human rights and people's dignity**, following the EU's long history of protecting people in need.

- Europe must offer **fair and respectful procedures**, safe and legal pathways, the right to asylum and protection, and humane and decent reception conditions that respect our values and laws.
- We must especially **protect and support children and minors**, and act in their best interests.
- **Legal assistance** must be accessible throughout the procedure.
- For a well-functioning system, return decisions must be carried out effectively, in a safe and dignified manner.
- We will **fight against traffickers and smugglers.**
- **Sexual violence and exploitation must be severely punished.**
- We will ensure that the **EU's external borders are strengthened**, managed and controlled effectively, while protecting the safety and rights of people.
- We will promote **accountable and transparent partnerships** with countries of origin and transit and stand against any form of EU border externalisation.
- We will **never criminalise humanitarian assistance**, and we **support a European mission for search and rescue** in the Mediterranean.
- We stand for **inclusive labour market policies, support for local authorities** and **stronger inclusion policies.**







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## 15. A EUROPE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

We need a **Europe that works for its young people**. Our political family will continue making future generations a priority.

- We will **empower young people** as decision makers, including as candidates for election.
- We will **promote all initiatives strengthening the democratic participation** of our youngest citizens.
- We support the implementation by Member States of the Young European Socialists' demand to lower the voting age to 16 in the European elections.
- We will keep **building on the European Youth Guarantee** and **strive for full youth employment**.
- We will **ensure that all internships are paid** and exploitative practices prevented, with the adoption of a Directive on Quality Traineeships in the EU, without harming well-functioning national practices.
- We want a **widened Erasmus+ accessible to all** and effective recognition of diplomas.
- We will fight so all young people have access to **free quality education and training, and housing**, including through an **EU plan against the student housing crisis**.
- We want to **eradicate child poverty** in Europe, strengthen child protection and fully **implement the European Child Guarantee**.

## 16. FOSTERING INTERGENERATIONAL SOLIDARITY

In our aging societies, we will **fight for citizens' rights and participation, autonomy and wellbeing at all ages**.

- We will **defend the rights of seniors** – older workers and pensioners alike – including healthcare, housing, decent pensions – without gender bias and age-friendly cities.
- We will **push for an EU Strategy on Age Equality** to effectively promote the equality of all ages and to fight ageism.



## 17. CONTROLLING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND STRENGTHENING ONLINE RIGHTS

The digital transformation of our societies must respect EU fundamental values.

- We will promote better inclusivity via high-speed internet access and **major investment in digital public infrastructure** and digital education.
- We will ensure **Europe harnesses the power of AI to protect workers and citizens** following the “**human in control**” principle.

Big Tech’s pursuit of profit or algorithmic management must never be allowed to undermine democracy and workers’ rights.

- We will implement rules to **safeguard our democracies from foreign interference**, tackle disinformation, safeguard privacy and protect everyone from hate speech, online violence and harassment.
- We will ensure that **what is illegal offline is illegal online**.



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# III. SOLUTIONS FOR A FAIRER WORLD



## 18. SECURING EUROPE'S PLACE IN THE WORLD

In an increasingly insecure world, the EU must take greater responsibility for its own security and defence.

- We will implement a **strong European Common Security and Defence Policy** that complements NATO.

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine is a turning point in history. It proves that greater collaboration and deeper solidarity is needed to face the new international environment.

- We support the **development of the European defence industry** through targeted and smarter spending, greater joint procurements of defence products, closer cooperation in intelligence and further collaboration in cybersecurity and the protection of critical infrastructure.

The EU must speak with one voice in foreign policy matters and move towards more majority decisions in certain policy matters. To counter foreign interference, the EU must protect itself against subversive actions from authoritarian regimes.

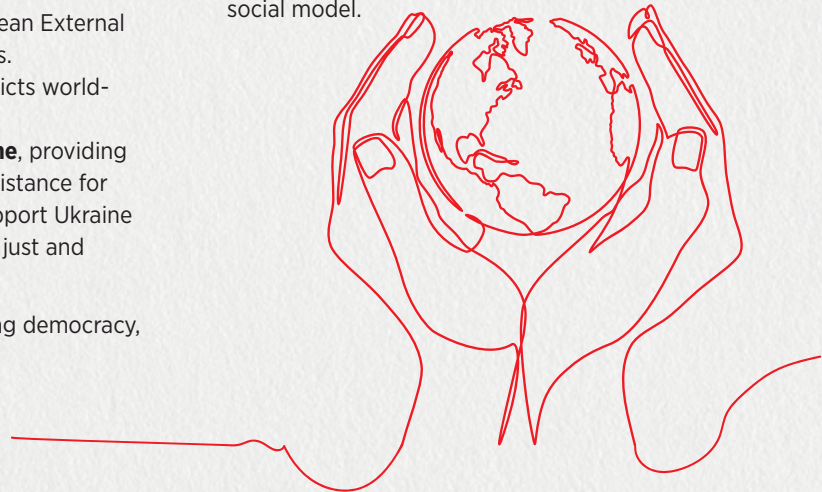
- We need to **strengthen the diplomatic and political role of the EU on the global scene** with a strong European External Action Service to defend EU values and interests.
- The EU must work to resolve longstanding conflicts worldwide and in Europe, including in Cyprus.
- We maintain our **unwavering support for Ukraine**, providing political, humanitarian, financial and military assistance for as long as needed. Our ultimate goals are to support Ukraine in restoring its territorial integrity and achieve a just and sustainable peace.

The EU's enlargement has been a success, bringing democracy, prosperity and security.

- We **welcome the start of EU membership negotiations** with **Ukraine, Moldova, and Bosnia and Herzegovina**, and we support the **European aspirations of Georgia**.
- We regret that the EU accession process of Turkey has stalled for several years because of the Turkish government. In the absence of a drastic change of course, the accession process cannot be resumed in the current circumstances.
- We will implement an **effective enlargement policy, starting with the Western Balkans**, insisting that all candidate countries meet all accession criteria.

Enlargement must go hand in hand with a serious assessment of what reforms of the EU architecture are needed, for a more efficient and democratic Europe that is more transparent and closer to its citizens.

- On this basis, we will use the next parliamentary term to **strengthen the EU's capacity to act in an enlarged Union**, with targeted Treaty changes.
- We need to **empower the European Parliament and the European Commission** with tools to safeguard our democracy, strengthen our economy, protect our environment and our social model.





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## 19. SUPPORTING PEACE AND FUNDAMENTAL VALUES

We believe in the rules-based multilateral order, centred on a reformed United Nations.

- We will continue **promoting the Sustainable Development Goals, peace, democracy, human rights, a feminist foreign policy, and economic and climate justice.**
- We will work to end conflict, instability, and humanitarian tragedies in the Middle East and elsewhere.
- We **support an international peace conference to achieve an equitable two-state solution between Israelis and Palestinians** that respects the rights and duties of the two peoples.
- We support initiatives leading towards a **sustainable ceasefire.**
- We welcome the EU comprehensive approach to **reinitiate the peace process between Israel and Palestine** and to promote peace in the region. Israelis and Palestinians both have the right to live in peace and security.

## 20. RENEWED INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The first objective of development policies must be to improve people's lives in our partner countries. Europe must support democratic forces, civil society and trade unions in all countries.

- We will further strengthen EU cooperation with the United States and other democratic allies and build a strong partnership with the United Kingdom.
- We will rebalance our relations with China, promoting our values and protecting our interests, and further cooperating to address pressing global issues.
- We will **build a new partnership of equals with the Global South** through a **strong Africa-EU Partnership** on social progress, the economy, green energy, climate change, migration and democracy, a **relaunched Euro-Mediterranean partnership** and a **new EU-Latin America Progressive Agenda.**
- We promote workers' rights globally with a strong **support to the International Labour Organization.**
- We will implement an ambitious and **fair EU trade agenda that promotes binding human rights, social, labour, and environmental standards** and close cooperation based on the Sustainable Development Goals.





VOTING CARD  
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2024 PES Election Congress, 2 March Rome



## PES FULL MEMBER PARTIES, MARCH 2024

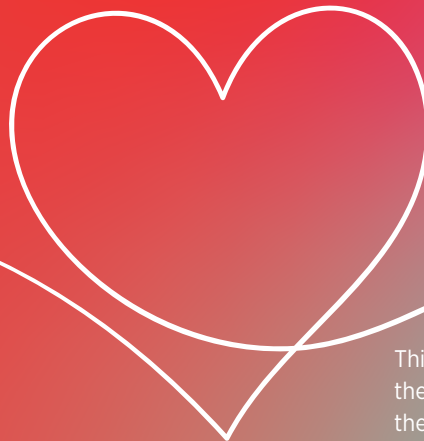


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