

### Dear voters,

the time is now to tackle climate change. The time is now to protect democracy. The time is now to stand up against hatred and racism. The time is now to fight for social justice. The time is now for change in Europe to allow the fulfilment of the dreams of its citizens.

Our Green vision of Europe is that of a Europe that champions the greening of our economies, which will allow good new jobs to be created. That pursues social and generational justice and inclusive democracy. That protects its citizens and empowers them. That cherishes diversity and upholds the rule of law. That promotes international peace and the Sustainable Development Goals. We owe it to our children and we owe it to the world.

We want to renew the promise of Europe. We stand for the European project. We will work to push back against and isolate those who try to convert valid criticism of deficiencies and mistakes into an anti-European, extremist and xenophobic roll-back. We say no to a Europe of nationalisms. We consider the European unification process a great historical achievement. It benefits Europeans in multiple ways. But we will not rest on our laurels. Europe, our common home, is a dedication, a responsibility.

European unity must be developed further in every generation. In our time, it is becoming increasingly important to work together for our shared values and interests in the world. To deal with the big challenges we must agree on European sovereignty because our individual nations are not powerful enough. Let's deal with the challenges and opportunities together as Europeans. Europe shall uphold multilateralism, human rights, sustainable development and peaceful conflict resolution.

To build a Europe that delivers to its citizens, democracy must be strengthened. The EU institutional framework must develop further into a full multi-level democracy in which all public decisions are taken in a transparent way by elected and politically accountable representatives. This framework must allow citizens to get involved actively to create the transformative power of changing Europe for the better. Therefore, lobbying needs to become transparent with binding rules. All this is why we stand with movements that promote solidarity, environmental and climate responsibility, rule of law, feminism, justice and freedom. These are core Green values that we pursue in the quest for popular democracy. The Economic and Monetary Union has to be reformed to ensure that progress is shared fairly and no one is left behind.

We call on all European citizens to make use of their right to vote. Rarely has a European election been as consequential as the next one will be. Whether Europe moves forward together or falls apart depends on the citizens' choice, on your choice. Here are the 12 Green priorities for changing Europe:

### **Fight climate change by phasing out coal, promoting energy efficiency and moving to 100% renewables**

Climate change is the defining challenge of our times. Without reining in climate change, humanity would create momentous havoc and would render many parts of the globe basically uninhabitable. But the answer to the climate crisis does exist: It starts with solar, wind and other renewables! We must go for 100% renewables, use our energy efficiently, phase out fossil energy and nuclear power while creating sustainable jobs in affected regions. To cut emissions fast enough to reach the 1.5°C-world we will push hard for a just transition towards a net-zero-emissions economy. An EU carbon budget and a strong carbon floor price are needed to strengthen our efforts. We advocate phasing out coal by 2030 and other fossil fuels soon thereafter. Fossil and nuclear subsidies must stop now. Europe needs to divest from fossil fuels, to pull private and public funds from fossil investments.

### **Invest in a just Green economy, research and innovation**

Europe has the chance of becoming a global leader in the just transition to a carbon-neutral circular economy through a Green New Deal, overcoming the austerity paradigm and ensuring economic development that benefits all. This promises good work and decent jobs, sustainability, social inclusiveness, improved crisis resilience and stability. We want to do that in partnership with economic actors, employees, unions and businesses in order to promote economic security. We call for an effective and independent EU authority to supervise the digital sector in order to control and limit the market power of big corporations. Europe needs a common sustainable industrial policy. We call for the greening of manufacturing and for Greening finance but oppose greenwashing. The development of adequate infrastructure has to be a high priority; emphasis must be put on research and eco-innovation. The development of digital technology and clean technology shall go hand in hand, guided by societal needs and by the international community's Sustainable Development Goals. Industrial (de-)regulation and trade agreements must not be allowed to undermine or stand in the way of environmental and social progress.

### **Guarantee decent minimum income in member countries**

Europe needs to become a truly social union, empowering workers, fighting poverty and reducing inequality. The social promise of justice and inclusion for all citizens must be renewed. It must not fall victim to austerity policies nor to corporate greed. We fight social dumping. Fair pay, Union rights and decent working conditions must be secured. European framework legislation must enforce, through a minimum income directive passed by the next European Parliament, that Member States guarantee their citizens a decent minimum income, respecting national social security systems. Greens also fight for fairly paid sick leave and fair parental leave in all countries. Social rights must become legally enforceable. We advocate for national experiments on universal basic income and working-time reduction schemes.

### **Uphold the rule of law and fundamental rights, increase transparency and fight corruption**

The rule of law is under assault, both in Europe and abroad. Defending it against authoritarianism is a battle for the soul of Europe. European institutions and Member States must be united in this conflict. The EU needs a binding and comprehensive mechanism to regularly monitor the state of democracy, the right of opposition forces to be heard, the rule of law, free press and fundamental rights in all EU Member States. It also needs a system of political dialogue and swift intervention and support measures to independent media, civil society and, if necessary, adequate sanctions. Transparency of EU institutions for citizens is indispensable. A lack of transparency in the Council compromises democratic accountability and allows hypocritically blaming 'Brussels'. The EU must support minority groups reliably against any discrimination. It needs to provide protection to activists, journalists and whistle-blowers who expose hidden information in the public interest. European funds must not be used to break European rules. National governments that undermined the rule of law shall be denied control over EU funds, while final beneficiaries shall be protected. Corruption must be resolutely fought.

### **Defend the right to asylum and establish legal and safe channels for migration**

Safety guarantees to asylum seekers exist because of lessons that Europe's dark history has taught us. For us, the right to asylum is non-negotiable. We want an asylum policy based on solidarity, on humanity and an orderly process, including the fair sharing of responsibilities among Member States and re-establishing a European sea-rescuing mission. Europe must create common standards and common rules for labour mobility and migration. We want the Union to support countries and municipalities integrating refugees or migrants. Helping migrants should never be criminalised. People do not belong in prison for seeking asylum.

### **Make trains a real alternative to planes in Europe**

One core Green goal is to transform the transport sector across Europe to overcome our dependency on polluting cars as quickly as possible, to stop the increasing pollution from aviation and to invest extensively in regional and cross-border railway networks. CO2 emissions from the transport sector continue to rise, particularly from cars and flights. Connecting countries and regions with fast trains, night trains and regional trains offers a positive alternative. To level the playing field between train and air traffic, flights need to be fairly taxed.

### **Protect the health of our citizens by fighting air and water pollution and stopping plastic waste**

Determined action on the environment can improve the lives of millions of people. To protect the air we breathe and the water we drink, we need to cut pollution rapidly. Thousands die every year from fine particles and other air pollutants. A significant increase in illnesses has been provoked by environmental degradation and unhealthy lifestyles. Chemicals, hormones, nitrate or micro plastic in our food chain pose many health dangers. The EU must address the roots of the problem and take adequate initiatives. Non-recyclable plastics will be taxed or banned, sustainable alternatives developed and recycling targets increased. To preserve our valuable nature, we want to expand protected natural areas significantly so that they cover key ecosystems. The EU needs a new environmental action programme. The EU should not finance harming the environment or biodiversity. Marine protected areas should cover 20% of our seas.

### **Produce good local, GMO and pesticide-free food, farming without cruelty to animals**

In future, European taxpayers' money shall only support healthy food production for European citizens instead of subsidising the agro-industry that destroys our soils, heightens the biodiversity crises and monopolises food production. The most poisonous pesticides must be banned as soon as possible. We oppose European agricultural products being dumped on the world market that destroy the local food production in many developing countries. How much farmers benefit from Europe's agricultural policies should depend on how much they protect the climate, safeguard water, invest in animal welfare, protect biodiversity and refrain from using GMOs. We want fair product prices for farmers in vital rural areas rather than serving a few multinationals with huge revenues. Greens stand for animal welfare for farm animals instead of the cruelty of mass breeding and the long-distance livestock transport torture.

### **Guarantee free access to quality education, fairly paid internships and good jobs for young people**

Young people are building the future of Europe. We owe them the best possible conditions for doing so and the right to youth emancipation. This is why young people must have the right to affordable higher education, good training conditions and fair access to good income jobs. Social protection for youth would be guaranteed through minimum income, and basic income experiments. The EU should encourage Member States to invest more in education. Europe needs to invest heavily in financing lifelong learning and requalification. The EU funding for exchange programmes, such as the Erasmus Programme, needs to be multiplied tenfold. Every young person should have the possibility of participating in an exchange programme regardless of financial background or educational career. Sufficient funding for the European Solidarity Corps ought to give young people the chance to develop their own volunteering projects. We will fight against job market regulations that hinder fair access for young people. A Cultural European Pass would certainly enrich the Erasmus programme.

### **Fight for tax justice now**

Everybody must pay their fair share in taxes because corporate tax evasion and corporate tax avoidance undermine democracy. Our societies are becoming increasingly divided. Unfair taxation contributes to inequality. Growing inequality, unfettered lobbies and corruption pose great dangers for democracy. Greens will develop tax regimes that do not continue to privilege large multinational corporations and wealthy individuals. We have fought hard in the European Parliament for more tax justice. We will continue to crack down on tax havens, tax evasion, tax avoidance and money laundering. It is unacceptable that a number of multinational corporations as well as big internet platforms pay almost no taxes at all. Therefore, we want to introduce a digital tax in Europe. Greens stand against unfair tax competition between member countries which is disrupting public budgets everywhere.

### **Fight for a feminist Europe, against gender-based violence and for equal rights for all**

Gender equality is at the heart of Green policies. We want the right to abortion to be included in the EU's Charter of Fundamental Rights. We want to guarantee free and accessible, good-quality and safe sexual and reproductive health care and services for all, including abortion<sup>1</sup>. Europe needs to fight gender-based violence as laid out in EU policies on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. All European countries must implement the Istanbul Convention as a matter of priority. We are determined to secure equal pay for equal work and a more gender-balance composition of power structures. We also want all policies and services to recognise the true diversity of Europeans and to tackle and prevent all forms of discrimination and violence, including LGBTIQ\*.

### **Stop arms exports to dictators and warring parties and foster development**

The EU is still a peace project. To maintain peace, Europe needs a common security and defence policy, by pooling and sharing resources as well as coordinating Member States' efforts at the European level. Europe must not seek profits from unscrupulous exports of arms and surveillance technologies to dictators or warring parties. Stringent export guidelines should be strictly imposed. Stability and development cannot be guaranteed only through military means. Europe should increase its development cooperation funding to reach at least 0.7% of GDP and raise its funding for civil conflict prevention, resolution and moderation instead of reducing it. When human rights and environment are seriously threatened, Europe has to be able to defend its values by using its foreign policy instruments comprehensively. A comprehensive concept of human security will only thrive in an environment of multilateralism, of international justice, rule of law and the protection of human rights.

### **Dear voters,**

the upcoming election will be decisive for Europe's future. We want to overcome the status quo and to open a new book for our common European endeavour. The world around us does not stand still and we, in Europe, cannot afford to waste time. Let's be European changemakers! Let us combine radical analysis with visionary goals and a pragmatic approach.

European Greens pledge to fight for the priorities that we present to you here. We invite all European citizens to support us in these battles. Electing more Green European Parliament Members from more countries will help us to take these steps forward. In order to realise these priorities, we will seek to form progressive alliances and majorities in the next European Parliament. Greens promise to support a leading candidate from the European election as president of the next European Commission who is willing to share these pursuits. Let's build a better Europe.

---

<sup>1</sup> Alternattiva Demokratika, Malta, registers its objection to all references to abortion