

# Freedom to Live Better: Building a Green and Social Europe

1 A warm home in a safe community.

2 A diverse society where everyone's rights are respected.

3 An A strong EU united for international law and global coalitions on climate, health and  
4 nature.

5 A leader in the green transition – pursuing ambitious targets in line with the Paris agreement.

6 A society that proves that social justice, green transition and competitiveness can go hand in hand.

7 A caring society that finds solutions to everyday problems.

8 This is where the EU can and should be going.

9 Yet when people wake up, they see a world out of control. One day, President

10 Trump imposes tariffs on long-standing allies. The next, wildfires rip through

11 homes, and while disinformation, one of the most serious threats to European democracy, social trust and  
12 security - spreads rapidly and poisons politics.

13 This stream of crises is not random. It is the most serious ideological

14 challenge the EU has faced. The MAGA White House, Europe's far-right radicals, an ever more aggressive China,

15 and Putin's blood-soaked regime share an agenda: to undermine everything the

16 European project stands for. ~~Our own divisions and the fragmentation of our single market, as well as a lack of~~  
17 ~~coherent industrial policies and investments strategies, leave our businesses more and more behind in the race~~  
18 ~~for future sustainable industries and businesses.~~

19 The EU is a political community built on human dignity, freedom, democracy, the

20 rule of law, and respect for human rights. Globally, it stands up to the Big

21 Tech and fossil fuel lobbies. ~~This is why today it is under attack.~~

22 ~~This attack started on the extremes but is taking hold of the~~ Currently, however, authoritarian forces are  
23 increasing their influence on political forces leading the EU:

24 The European People's Party ~~is doing the~~ has shown itself willing to work with the far right ~~to dirty~~  
25 ~~work by~~ undermining climate protection, social rights, justice, rule of law and democratic principles

26 Even some allies are giving up on the Green Deal, compromising our future ~~for short-term gain~~

27 The European Commission ~~is abandoning green and social progress with~~  
28 ~~must defend green and social progress against~~ short-sighted deregulation, leaving that would leave  
29 much of society and the business community behind. Key elements of the European Green Deal are  
30 under attack and the EU has caved into direct pressure from the US.

31 Backsliding has global consequences: the EU lacked the ambition to push forward a transformative  
32 global climate agreement at COP 30 in Belém.

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34 This dangerous game led to an unprecedented low point. With the vote on weakening the corporate

sustainable due diligence legislation, the EPP inexcusably broke the cordon sanitaire, counting on a majority with the extreme right to pressure and blackmail the pro-European, democratic groups into following the EPP line instead of negotiating a compromise. This calculated decision marks a dangerous turning point bringing chaos and instability at a time when the EU needs to act in unity.

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We face a critical choice. Pursue the far-right's destructive, anti-European agenda or fight for a free Europe. We need a Europe united to protect itself against military and hybrid threats as well as act for peace with civil means. This includes strong cooperation with like-minded allies and building European preparedness combining both conventional and civilian approaches. Ending Russia's aggression is essential for ensuring a peaceful, democratic, and green Europe in the long term.

We stand in full solidarity with Ukraine, which must be able to defend itself and negotiate from a position of strength. There must be nothing about Ukraine without Ukraine and we demand a peace based on sovereignty, self-determination, and territorial integrity.

What does a free Europe mean? For us it means, A a Europe that focuses on real and fair solutions to the shared problems. ~~making our lives insecure. Because w~~ A Europe that invests together in a competitive green and social economy. We are strongest when we stand in solidarity, ~~as in the pandemic and the energy crisis.~~

It means freedom from expensive imported and unsustainable energy and unaffordable rents. It means freedom from distorted elections and hybrid threats. Most ~~simply~~ importantly, it means the freedom to live in a community where everyone looks out for each other.

## 57 The Time Is Now

This is why we are fighting for the next step in European integration. The time for excuses and half-measures is over. Europe cannot wait.

We call on all pro-European forces to work together and take responsibility. We need investment to reduce the cost of living and protect our climate. We need to safeguard shrinking democratic space and act with unity in an insecure world.

We need to make the European Green Deal the basis for our future shared prosperity, not roll back our environmental and social commitments. We are committed to keeping our European industry in Europe and supporting it through the green transition. We also call for reinforcing the 'Buy European' approach to increase our strategic autonomy and secure shorter, more sustainable supply chains

Our own divisions and the fragmentation of our single market, as well as a lack of coherent industrial policies and investments strategies, leave our businesses more and more behind in the race for future sustainable industries and businesses.

We need massive investment in the just transition: that means an ambitious next EU budget, joint borrowing and reformed fiscal rules.

We need a reformed EU that takes democratic decisions without being held back by national vetoes.

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As European Greens, we are calling for a Green and Social Europe to:

- 76 Lead climate action with ~~90-95% net emissions reduction by 2040 and~~ reaching  
77 climate neutrality ~~by 2050~~ by 2040.
- 78 Build a fully circular economy: the clean tech revolution can re-  
79 industrialize Europe, create well-paying jobs, and drive innovation
- 80 Ensure clean air, food, and water free from toxic pollutants
- 81 Accelerate efforts to restore and protect biodiversity, ecosystems, and nature, in line with the EU  
82 Biodiversity Strategy and the Montreal/Kunming protocol, also recognising that healthy nature is  
83 essential for human wellbeing and climate resilience
- 84 Implement stronger protection for European industry against imports that are manufactured without  
85 comparable environmental, social or labour standards, including from the United States and China.
- 86 Develop a common “Buy European” approach to ensure sustainable production, protection of labour  
87 standards, fair competition and the long-term resilience of our economy
- 88 Ensure access to quality public goods: from renewable energy to  
89 affordable and sustainable housing
- 90 ~~Ensure~~ Guarantee decent employment, fair wages and workers’ rights and make the  
91 ultra-rich, multinationals and polluters pay their fair share
- 92 Invest in resilience to protect people, nature, and infrastructure from  
93 extreme weather
- 94 Continue to deepen the Single Market so that European businesses can unleash their potential for  
95 innovative, green products, whilst protecting social rights
- 96 Implement economic or fiscal tools to discourage the distribution of dividends and encourage  
97 investments
- 98 Develop coherent green industrial policies and sustainable investment strategies
- 99 **We are calling for a democratic Europe that:**
- 100 Upholds the protection ~~from online hate,~~ against disinformation and manipulation  
101 that civil society fought for by enforcing European law
- 102 Invests in education, free and independent media, and European digital infrastructure
- 103 Strives for a meaningful and representative inclusion of young people, ethnic minorities, racialised  
104 people, women and other underrepresented groups in policy making
- 105 Stands in solidarity with protest movements and NGOs and protects civic  
106 space and the right to freedom of speech, assembly and expression
- 107 Ensures transparent, honest and corruption-free governance, with strict limits on hidden lobbying and  
108 full accountability in political decision-making
- 109 Counters the global anti-rights campaign that is engulfing our societies with deliberate and coordinated  
110 assaults on LGBTQ+ rights, women’s reproductive rights and democratic values
- 111 Offer accession countries a future as they stand up against

112 authoritarianism

113 **We are calling for a global Europe that:**

114 recognises the right to self-determination of Palestinians and Israelis, works towards a just political  
115 solution for a lasting peace, including the immediate recognition of the State of Palestine, as an  
116 important step towards the two-state solution, advocates for the dismantling of all oppressive systems  
117 of apartheid and illegal occupation, as stated in the advisory opinion of the International Court of  
118 Justice. ~~Stands for peace and justice in the Middle East and recognises the state~~  
119 ~~of Palestine to secure a two-state solution guaranteeing the rights and~~  
120 ~~security of both peoples~~

121 Accounts for war crimes and the genocide against the Palestinian people<sup>1</sup>

122 Continues to stand in solidarity with Ukraine against Russia's illegal war  
123 of aggression

124 Supports Ukraine's struggle as a defence of freedom, peace and European  
125 security and its future ~~in~~ within the EU

126 Insists that Ukraine and Europe are fully represented in all negotiations on ending the war.

127 Helps Ukraine in documenting and prosecuting the full scale of Russia's crimes, including war crimes,  
128 crimes against humanity, the abduction and forced transfer of Ukrainian children, and the deliberate  
129 destruction of nature amounting to ecocide

130 Insists that Russia pays for the damage it has caused, including through the use of frozen Russian  
131 assets, in line with international law

132 Continues to stand in solidarity with the Sudanese civilians, refugees and the country's civil society as  
133 well as supporting all humanitarian aids programs and diplomatic efforts, and condemns the United  
134 Arab Emirates' support to Rapid Support Forces

135 Continues to stand in solidarity with the civilians living in North Kivu and South Kivu, Democratic  
136 Republic of Congo (DRC) threatened by M23 armed group as well as supporting all humanitarian aids  
137 programs and diplomatic efforts

138 Deepens security and resilience cooperation on capabilities, synergies and  
139 enhanced crisis preparedness, grounded in a human security approach, recognising that effective  
140 defence and deterrence as well as diplomacy and peacebuilding are environmentally responsible in the  
141 long term, as they prevent the devastating ecological and climate impacts of war

142 Defends a migration policy based on fundamental rights and solidarity so  
143 European countries remain havens for those fleeing war and persecution

144 Reinforces international law and strengthens institutions such as the International Criminal Court, the  
145 United Nations, the Council of Europe and EU human rights instruments as guarantees of democracy  
146 and security

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<sup>1</sup> Bündnis90/Die Grünen, Die Grünen - Die Grüne Alternative, and Grüne / Les Vert.e.s recognize that an  
147 increasing number of international law experts come to the conclusion that the Israeli government's military  
148 action in Gaza accounts for serious war crimes and genocide against the Palestinian people but hold the  
149 stance that a judgement about genocide has to be made by the ICJ.

151 Promotes multilateralism, green industry, fair transition and  
152 environmental stewardship, particularly in cooperation with actors in Africa, Asia and Latin America,  
153 while preventing exploitation and resource plundering

154 We are ready to create this momentum. This is the fFree gGreen Europe we are  
155 fighting for.