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Draft

Title:	**Draft 2024 Manifesto - CHAPTER I: The Courage to Put Planet and People First – Our Green and Social Deal for Europe**
Tabled by:	EGP Committee, Editorial- and Manifesto WGs

PDF full draft Manifesto - Courage to Change (no line numbering)

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PDF Spreadsheet Amendments on Chapter 1(18 January)

for CAS 1 - PDF Pre-CAS Amendments on Chapter 1 (25 January)
Outcome CAS 1 - PDF AMs on Chapter 1 (26 January)

for CAS 3 - PDF AMs on Chapter 1 (30 January)
Outcome CAS 3 - PDF AMs on Chapter 1 (31 January)

Outcome CAS 5 - PDF AMs on Chapter 1 (2 February)

For the Final CAS on 4 February - PDF AMs on Chapter 1 (3 February)

Consolidated text Chapter 1 - CAS accepted AMs (4 February AM)

Draft text

Maria's electricity bill had never been as high as the previous winter's. Try paying that on one income with two children to feed. She worked hard – too hard

if anything – but it was never enough at the end of the month.

She couldn't have got out of that situation alone, but she wasn't alone. The council finally opened the community childcare centre that they had been promising for years. A Green and Social Deal grant then came through and she renovated her draughty house. The new bus route meant she wasn't using half as much petrol each week.

It turned out that once society treated all our daily struggles as shared problems, together we could solve them. With our Green and Social Deal, together we can turn lives like Marias – like ours – into more secure, happier, and healthier ones, with cheaper energy bills, healthy food at affordable prices, and clean air in our towns and cities.

Climate justice and social justice are two sides of the same coin.

Last year was the hottest year on record. The state of the planet is an emergency. The damage to lives and livelihoods – the homes flooded and farms bankrupted – caused by the climate crisis gets bigger each year.

We hear the urgent calls of scientists and activists. The animals and ecosystems dying off in record numbers cannot wait.

Climate action now will bring benefits across society, making our lives more affordable and pleasant in the years ahead. It will protect the nature that surrounds us.

Doing nothing will only serve the wealthiest profiting from fossil fuels, while leaving the poorest in our societies to bear the costs.

The living standards of people in Europe have been hit hard over the past few years. The cost of living is rising, forcing millions into insecurity with the most vulnerable paying the highest price.

Growing inequalities and burning economic injustice are not new. For decades, the ultra-rich have got away with paying next to no tax, while public services have been cut.

Jobs have become more precarious and too many people have had to leave the place they call home to find decent work.

None of this has to be normal. None of this is inevitable.

We have the courage to do what it takes.

They are our problems and we need to solve them now. We won't put it off for the next generation.

Fighting the cost of living crisis and economic inequality while protecting the climate and restoring nature will take investment. That is why we are proposing a major investment plan for Europe: the Green and Social Deal.

We will build new green infrastructure and fund quality public services. This economic opportunity will create new jobs and industries.

Everything we put forward combines improving lives with protecting the climate and environment.

We want toxic air pollution and wasteful fossil fuel subsidies to be things of the past. Tax havens for the few have no place in Europe or anywhere.

Affordable housing, renewable energy, and healthy food for all are what we will fight for. A stable climate and restored nature are what we will protect.

The Green and Social Deal is our plan for a greener, healthier Europe where lives are secure, prosperous, and full of opportunity.

Protecting the Climate and the Environment

Our Green and Social Deal leads the way on climate and environmental justice. The EU's climate and environmental policies set the pace and ambition of action across Europe and beyond. Much has been put in motion, we are on a path towards the green transition. Now the question is how to accelerate the much-needed action at the same time as protecting living standards, especially for the most vulnerable.

Our societies are only as healthy and secure as the natural world on which they depend. We are facing the consequences of climate change today: more extreme weather events such as storms, droughts, and floods, rising sea levels, desertification, and the melting of arctic ice and glaciers. One million animal and plant species are perilously close to extinction. The future of our planet and our relatively peaceful and prosperous societies depends on us acting now. Protecting the climate and environment is about protecting people.

Tackling the climate emergency

Europe needs to face the climate crisis in its full urgency, reducing its emissions as rapidly as possible in line with scientific recommendations to secure the most liveable future possible for the years and decades ahead. At the same time, investing in a clean European economy and rapidly reducing our dependence on fossil fuels strengthens competitiveness and security.

The EU has committed to the European Green Deal and introduced key policies for climate protection in the past five years. We welcome the progress but continue to push for more ambition and the full implementation of the plans already set in motion. To recognize the climate and environmental crisis, we will push to include the right to a healthy and clean environment in the Charter of Fundamental Rights, which must be directly applicable to all EU citizens.

Europe can and must take steps to go beyond a 55% reduction in emissions by 2030 and achieve full climate neutrality by 2040. These objectives should be set out in a revised EU climate law.

Building a community of renewable energy

We will push the EU to build a community of renewables that connects and powers the continent. Renewables are the economic keys to the future. Cheaper and safer than any other energy source, renewables helped the EU economy save 100 billion euros between 2021 and 2023 and bring down energy bills for households.

We want to transform our energy system to rely 100% on solar, water, wind and geothermal, making it fossil-free by 2040. Only renewables can ensure a habitable planet, geopolitical independence from autocrats, and a resilient and democratically managed energy system.

We want solar panels on every roof possible to put citizens at the heart of the energy transition giving them cheaper energy and control.

Solving the climate crisis will create millions of jobs in sectors from renewable energy and construction to industry and transport. The “shovel ready” projects that we would kick start tomorrow represent 2 million jobs in the short and medium term and our long-term transition up to 10 million.

Ending fossil fuels in Europe

The EU needs a clear plan for the total phaseout of fossil fuels: coal by 2030, fossil gas by 2035, and oil by 2040. The energy crisis of 2022 cost Europe over 1 trillion euros between energy subsidies and inflated prices. We cannot afford this, and neither can the planet.

The acceleration of the transition to renewables will bring economic, health and security benefits, while further delay will only lead to higher costs down the line.

Europe needs a plan to phase out all fossil fuels subsidies by 2025 at the latest, and all other environmentally harmful subsidies by 2027 at the latest. The billions of euros from fossil fuel subsidies must be channelled into renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy savings. No European or member state public money should go towards fossil infrastructure.

Energy-saving measures to reduce demand are essential. Focusing on demand reduction and efficiency means using less and needing less energy – making it easier to green our energy system. The energy efficiency measures set out in recent EU legislation, such as introduction of the “energy efficiency principle”, are major achievements. Now they must be fully implemented.

Adapting Europe to an overheating planet

Decades of climate denial and delay have left us vulnerable to extreme weather and the rising anti-climate backlash will make the situation even worse. Floods and fires have destroyed homes and businesses, while heat waves put lives at risk in homes and workplaces.

To make people and places less vulnerable to climate impacts, we will introduce a climate adaptation law grounded on ecosystem-based solutions.

Nature restoration and climate adaptation efforts will restore water retention in the countryside and urban areas through the revitalisation of rivers and floodplains. To recognize the key role of water, an integrated approach must mainstream water into all relevant EU policies.

The green transformation must go hand in hand with a strong cohesion policy to make sure that all regions of Europe benefit. Our expanded EU Solidarity Fund will focus on climate adaptation and preparedness for natural disasters. Dedicated and direct funding from the EU for climate action can relieve budgetary and political pressure on cities and municipalities and allow the transition to be shaped and led locally, no matter who is in office at the national level.

Based on the principle of European solidarity, we will create a European Natural Disaster Fund. We will also expand and co-fund the European firefighting fleet, including pooled qualified professional and voluntary personnel, firefighting equipment, assets, and firefighting planes, as well as near-real-time monitoring and an emergency coordination centre. Strengthening civil protection will make Europe more resilient to climate disasters.

Zero-pollution is about health

A zero-pollution European Union will be a much healthier place to live. Air pollution is responsible for 300,000 premature deaths each year in the EU with children most vulnerable to the effects of fine particulate matter. We will push the EU to increase air quality standards for everyone, everywhere in the EU with no exceptions.

By 2030, air quality in the EU must meet World Health Organization guidelines. We will fight for a toxic-free Europe by 2030 by phasing out the use of the most harmful chemicals through a stronger chemicals law.

The climate crisis is also a severe threat to human health, seen in the effects that heat waves, droughts and other extreme weather events have on the general population. Reducing emissions now will help avoid a worsening situation in the years ahead.

Bringing nature back

From the birds to the bees to the moors and wetlands, we need to protect nature that is the basis for life on this planet. One million species are threatened with extinction linked to damaged ecosystems, pesticide use and climate change. This mass extinction must stop.

From 2026, 10% of the EU budget must be spent on biodiversity objectives. Taking action against climate change and restoring healthy, biodiversity-rich ecosystems are two sides of the same coin.

As Greens, we will restore degraded ecosystems across the EU. We want to protect one third of the EU's territory and marine areas, so we can live in harmony with nature, including wetlands, forests, marine, agro-ecosystems, rivers, and lakes. As set out in the Nature Restoration Law that we fought for, we want to restore degraded natural areas. Working with farmers and local communities is key to protecting biodiversity and fighting climate change.

Forests as Europe's green lung

Forests are threatened by deforestation and the consequences of climate change. They are our lungs and life-support system, home to most land-based biodiversity and major carbon sinks. Forests also play a crucial role in providing clean air, regulating the water cycle, and preventing soil erosion. Forest protection and restoration are key for reaching our climate goals.

As Greens, we see old-growth forests, closer-to-nature management, and biodiversity-friendly afforestation and restoration as key for healthy forests in Europe. We need a common forest fire strategy through near-natural mixed forests. We are determined to avoid clear cutting and establish protection corridors. Emergency measures are needed to protect forests from poor management, pollution, and climate change.

Caring for our soils with sustainable food and agriculture

Europe needs a Common Food Policy to support changes in what we eat, how we produce food and where we get it from. We need a fundamental shift away from subsidies for industrial agriculture based on pesticides and monocultures and

towards massive investment into organic farming and agroecological production. Years of misguided subsidies have concentrated landholdings and driven small and medium-sized farmers into the ground.

This green and social transition for agriculture, supported by retargeted EU funds, is an opportunity for secure and sustainable business models that will benefit millions of European farmers.

The Common Food Policy will condition EU agricultural funding on social and environmental criteria to provide quality jobs and increase food security. This means that one third of the EU budget will be dedicated to sustainable food systems that improve soil quality, cut emissions, and reduce food waste, while addressing the economic situation of farmers. The EU needs to take action to strengthen the plant-based protein sector.

Healthy food also means pesticide-free food. We must reduce the use of chemical pesticides to save ecosystems, keep soil healthy and protect human health. We will fight for a 50% reduction in pesticide use by 2030. Glyphosate is not necessary for productive farming, nor for weed control. Glyphosate can and must be banned, with economic support for farmers to make this shift.

GMO-free Europe

We will keep genetically modified crops out of our fields and off our plates. We want animal feed to be free from genetically modified crops in the EU. As Greens, we are committed to the precautionary principle and will maintain the existing regulatory regime for all new genetically modified and new genomic techniques. New techniques must not be excluded from the protections already set out in EU law.

Farmers must be protected from agroindustry’s use of intellectual property law to enforce economic dependency. All products that contain genetically modified products must be traceable and labelled. National governments must retain the right to ban the cultivation of genetically modified crops.

Making animal welfare a priority

We will make animal welfare a priority at the EU level, with strict rules on

farming conditions, use of antibiotics and animal transportation. Zoonotic spillover and anti-microbial resistance risk another devastating pandemic.

We want to ban animal mega-farms and animal cruelty in industrial farming. While the European Commission did nothing with the historic European Citizens' Initiative on ending the cage age, we will take up the citizens' fight so that cage farming is finally banned. We will continue to fight for a maximum of 8-hour (with 4 hours for certain species) or 300-kilometre transport time and distance. We fully support the European Citizens' Initiative on a fur-free Europe.

Our Common Food Policy will take the funds currently used to support unsustainable industrial animal farming and redirect them to improving housing systems and management practices in the interest of animal welfare.

Clean seas and oceans

From the Baltic Sea to the Atlantic Ocean, Europe's marine regions need protection. To safeguard our shared oceans and seas, we will introduce a Seas and Oceans Law to establish the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable seas and oceans in a fair and equitable way. We demand a strategy that leads to a clean and pollution-free ocean by 2030.

To protect access for local communities and protect marine ecosystems, overfishing practices need to be stopped and alternative sustainable economic models for coastal communities developed. It is not just about the amount of fish we are catching but how we catch it, we will put an end to bottom trawling practices that damage everything in their wake.

We will fight against deep-sea mining and call for a global moratorium. It is high time to protect deep sea marine ecosystems. We will oppose any and all expansion of offshore oil and gas exploration.

Securing Livelihoods for All

Our Green and Social Deal protects everyone's, including and especially the most vulnerable, right to life's essentials: renewable energy and green transport, decent housing and nutritious food, and quality education and care.

Renewable energy for all

Everyone should have access to sufficient, affordable, and renewable energy as a basic right. 125 million people in the EU struggle to heat their homes with women and older people disproportionately affected. Eliminating energy poverty is an essential priority for the EU.

We support an Energy Guarantee to provide all households with a sufficient amount of energy at an affordable price. Vulnerable groups will benefit from targeted support, including for energy-saving investments, and no vulnerable household will be cut off from their energy needs because of their inability to pay. Consuming one's own energy, sharing it with neighbours, and joining an energy community must become an opportunity that all can benefit from.

Affordable housing for all

Housing is a right, not a commodity. Decent, comfortable housing that is warm in winter and cool in summer should be accessible for all. On any given night, there are 900,000 homeless people in the EU, while millions struggle with rising rents in big cities and energy poverty linked to poor-quality housing – all symptoms of chronic underinvestment in quality, well-insulated affordable and social housing.

We must encourage and increase public and private investment in affordable housing, including social housing. We support the introduction of rent control in cities and regions where rents have exploded to become out of reach. As achieved by several Green cities across the EU, we advocate limits on short-term tourist rentals to keep rents down. We will keep fighting for the right of young people to live in full independence.

We must take a European approach towards public housing policy, defining housing as a basic right and protecting those who rent properties from exploitation. EU funding for public housing must continue after the current Resilient and Recovery Fund expires.

Warm in winter, cool in summer

We need an EU programme to renovate the homes of people facing the highest

energy bills on low incomes. A large-scale social energy renovation programme can make sure everyone lives in a healthy and fossil-free home by 2040. 75% of buildings are energy inefficient in Europe, responsible for 36% of carbon emissions – a huge opportunity for improvement through renovation and retrofitting.

Support needs to be available for all, with the bulk of financing targeting the most vulnerable, and renovation must be cost-neutral for tenants. EU, member state and private investment in rapid renovation will provide nicer, greener places to live and create quality jobs. Our fiscal proposals will incentivize public investment in green housing at the level of member states as well as unlock private money to renovate Europe's housing stock.

Healthy food for all

A shift to a sustainable, climate-friendly food system is imperative for people in Europe to enjoy affordable, nutritious food for which producers are properly remunerated. Many key risk factors of non-communicable diseases like cancer are dietary. Our vision is that of connecting consumers and producers, empowering people to make informed choices, and ensuring farmers get a fair price.

We will establish the right to food as a legal principle in EU legislation, leading to dedicated social security mechanisms at national level that guarantee access to healthy food while supporting local supply chains.

We will support small and ecological farming with massive investment. Millions of Europeans have struggled with soaring food prices in recent years. No one should go without healthy and sustainably produced food because it is too expensive.

It is time to stop the speculation on food driving hunger globally. Our financial transactions and windfall tax proposals will curb the speculation driving up food prices for households.

Water is a right

Access to clean water should be guaranteed as a basic right. Water scarcity is already costing billions each year, with farmers and low-income households among

the worst affected and the Mediterranean region particularly vulnerable. Urgent action is needed to protect the right to water. We will take action using existing EU legislation to protect vulnerable reserves and prioritize drinking water over other uses.

Mobility justice for all

We want people to be able to get around easily and cheaply on sustainable public transport. Mobility is crucial to everyone, every day. It connects people, communities, and businesses, while traveling to see friends and family or for leisure should be one of life's pleasures.

Today, transport systems are stacked in favour of the wealthy and against people and the planet. Working-class neighbourhoods suffer most from air and noise pollution and poorly connected rural and suburban communities often have no choice other than the car. High-emission transport is perversely subsidized, and private jets are pushing emissions ever higher.

We will introduce a European Climate Ticket framework, so that every part of Europe offers an affordable public transport pass easily used across different modes of public transport. Young people, single-parent families and the elderly should benefit from reduced fares.

Europe must invest in better public transport, safe and sustainable cycling networks, and people-centric urban planning, for cities as well as rural communities. As Europe phases out internal combustion engines, electric cars will be part of reducing transport emissions, but a real response makes much more room for public transport. To make electric cars affordable and create a second-hand market, the EU should mandate their uptake in corporate fleets.

Connecting Europe with an Infrastructure Union

We need to massively increase investment in rail transport to literally connect Europe as part of our Infrastructure Union. Rail infrastructure in many European regions is in a state of disrepair and there is no high-speed rail coverage whatsoever in much of Central and Eastern Europe. The EU must therefore prioritize investment in the modernization and convergence of under-served regions.

To promote sustainable long-distance travel, we will invest in night train infrastructure and create a European Ticketing Platform to make booking cross-border journeys on sustainable transport straightforward. Rural areas and poorly connected regions will be prioritized in transport investments, including car-sharing initiatives and ferries.

We will make sure that fairer prices show the real cost of polluting transport, taxing air travel and fuel properly where efficient climate-friendly alternatives cannot be put in place. We will reduce demand for flights, introducing a frequent flyer levy, with exceptions for island regions, and banning short-haul where alternatives are available. We will fight to introduce a ban on private jets. We defend a just transition for all transport workers and will protect workers and passengers through road safety measures and an EU-wide speed limit.

Quality education for all

Accessible quality public education, training and lifelong learning should be available to everyone in Europe, regardless of where they live or their wealth. Education can equip our societies so they can overcome inequality, make progress on the green transition, and stay at the forefront of science and culture. Jobs in new green industries can only be filled if we have the people trained to do them.

We have been ardent supporters of Erasmus+ since its inception and will introduce an Erasmus Equality principle to make sure that learners who could not otherwise afford Erasmus receive enough money to fully fund their time abroad. Erasmus+ must be equally accessible for all, regardless of one's country or economic background.

Our Green and Social Deal will introduce a shared green education and training project that helps connect schools, universities, and training centres to connect learning institutions across Europe. Citizenship education about the EU, including anti-extremism, anti-hate and anti-racism education, should be part of curricula and non-formal education learning recognized at the EU level. Education investments are a critical part of our proposals to finance the transition, and need to give everybody the chance to learn and provide the skills we need for the future.

Access to healthcare for all

Health is a public good to which everyone has a right. The pandemic was tragic evidence that underinvestment, privatization, and the neglect of preventative approaches put patients and health workers at risk, physically and mentally.

A European Health Union should make sure member states provide everyone in Europe with universal health coverage. We will push to eliminate health inequities and guarantee access to affordable medicines and treatment, including for cancer and rare diseases, in ways that are inclusive to all parts of society, especially the most vulnerable and racialized communities. No one in Europe should feel forced to move to a different country because of unmet healthcare needs. European legislation on universal health coverage will require all member states to provide this essential social right.

The European Union should create an EU Health Force for cooperation on health emergencies and disaster response. All policies should be looked at from a health perspective.

A green society is a caring society

Society runs on care. It is our overlooked, undervalued and often unpaid foundation. As Greens, we want to build a caring society and understand care as an overarching priority and concept. As European societies get older, the importance of care will grow, especially in those European countries that have recently experienced major emigration.

Our Green and Social Deal is also a Care Deal. We will push to improve working conditions for care workers, while protecting everyone’s right to proper care. We will invest in comprehensive, life-long approaches, such as universal access to early childhood education and care and deinstitutionalized care for disabled people and the elderly. Early childhood education and care must be counted as social investment in the EU fiscal framework.

Mental health is political

Our Universal Health Coverage will go beyond physical health and make sure that public healthcare systems include mental health care with no additional costs

for individuals. Mental and physical health must have parity of esteem. To tackle the mental health crisis, we recognize the need for inclusive, comprehensive, preventive, and healing strategies that include culture and sport as well as social and creative activities.

Legalize it – Time to rethink Europe's drug policy

Drug policy must be based on evidence, not prejudice. We advocate for drug policies based on harm reduction, health, and help for people who suffer from drug abuse, not punishment. As Greens, we work towards decriminalizing cannabis for adult use with the goal of legalization and regulation whilst protecting minors.

Building a Europe of Social Rights

Our Green and Social Deal will put people and their wellbeing at the centre of Europe’s green transformation and economy. The social welfare state was one of Europe’s biggest successes. Rebuilding that welfare state for the 21st century is the only way to protect and extend social rights for everyone in Europe. A Europe of Social Rights must empower and protect workers and communities in transition and be inclusive to all. It must protect the people who face multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination in their daily lives.

Decent jobs for all

European workers deserve a fair wage, especially after years of price rises. We fight to end in-work poverty. In the last EU mandate, we won an EU-wide living minimum wage framework that sets minimum wages at a decent level and indexes them to the cost of living. We won measures on pay transparency that will help end the huge pay discrepancies that exist within companies and institutions.

We are fighting for legislation that will recognize platform workers as workers, with all the rights to minimum wages, collective bargaining, and employment conditions and protection that workers are legally entitled to.

The jobs in the key sectors for the future from construction to care and from energy to education must be well-paid jobs. We support the role of trade unions in ensuring that workers get their fair share of profits. Our tax proposals will

increase take-home pay by shifting the tax burden to polluters and the ultra-rich.

Fighting poverty comprehensively

Everyone has the right to a decent income. A strong social safety net should protect people in employment transitions and those who cannot work. We call for an EU framework directive on minimum income to establish an adequate level of support (60% of the median income) in each EU country for people between jobs or who cannot work and guarantee its coverage and take-up.

The short-term SURE unemployment insurance programme should be made permanent to protect the livelihoods of workers affected by transition. We continue to demand an integrated anti-poverty strategy for the EU to end homelessness and halve child poverty by 2030.

Nothing about workers without workers

Our Green and Social Deal protects workers and their rights. We want to build a Union where people are properly treated and paid for their work, especially the essential workers who keep society running and everyone building the infrastructure necessary for a green tomorrow.

There should be nothing about workers without workers. We will fight for the rights of trade unions to organize, collective bargaining and strike. Workers affected by the twin green and digital transitions should have guaranteed rights to information, involvement through collective bargaining and social dialogue, and training. Unionizing for new or non-standard forms of work should be supported to guarantee the rights of all workers. These rights and standards should be protected by a Just Transition Law. A Lifelong Learning Directive should protect the right to paid training leave.

Fair labour mobility for all

Europe must enable and protect fair mobility of workers across borders, so no one falls through the cracks of nationally fragmented social systems. To avoid social dumping, social rights and access to the labour market must be ensured. Administrative tasks should be possible in different languages, social services

should be open to mobile workers, and social coordination on EU level should be fostered. The recognition of professional qualifications should be made easier.

Many EU countries are suffering from the consequences of massive emigration. The economic and social convergence of EU countries must be a priority for EU policymaking and investments to improve the quality of life and opportunity for people across Europe.

New rights for the future of work

Work should take place on decent terms and in safe conditions. We will dismantle the current system that exploits interns and trainees. We will end the practice of unpaid internships so that young people are guaranteed proper pay and safe working conditions. Mobile and migrant work should be properly regulated with all such workers receiving decent and affordable accommodation.

Occupational health and safety measures must be updated for the reality of climate change and enforced, such as rules on heatwaves and working in extreme temperatures. Too much work causes stress and ill health. We will introduce measures that reduce working time and improve work-life balance, including an EU Right to Disconnect, Right to Remote Work, and flexibility in working hours. We support the efforts across the EU to introduce a four-day working week. We will not let workers be monitored by artificial intelligence-based surveillance tools.

Equal pay for equal work

We will fight for equal pay for equal work and equal opportunities for all at work. It is long overdue to fully eliminate the gender pay gap through binding measures for all employers. The gender pay gap depends on factors such as ethnicity, disability, access to education, and age. Different groups of women experience very different gaps in pay. The fair mobility of workers should be ensured to protect social rights, access to the labour market, and avoid social dumping. Universal and equal access to childcare and long-term care facilities and the revision of the Work-Life Balance Directive and the Maternity Leave Directive can move Europe towards fully paid parental leave of equal and sufficient duration.

Equal opportunities from the start

As the start of life is decisive, we demand adequate funding for the European Child Guarantee giving time to care and resources to parents. At the same time, we want to support parents' participation in the labour market. All children have the right to participate in play, recreation, sport and culture.

All children in the EU should have guaranteed access to high-quality care and education – no matter their passport. We want to work with member states to ensure that the direly needed investment in education and care infrastructure is finally taken up.

An Economy that Works for All

The European Union is the key level for climate and environmental policy where we make those crucial, shared decisions that steer European societies on a greener path.

Thanks to the mobilisation of the climate movement, we Greens managed to push for a European Green Deal in 2019 and put the climate crisis at the top of the agenda. But progress is too little and too slow. The quicker Europe moves forward with its green transition, the sooner our investments and efforts will pay off. The climate will not wait for other crises to pass.

Our Green and Social Deal envisions a major investment plan to build a prosperous and dynamic society based on climate neutrality, green industries and technologies, and sustainable digitalisation.

Investing in a green and better future

Europe's economic and fiscal policies need to focus on improving people's wellbeing and quality of life and maintaining a stable climate and a healthy environment. In a break with the austerity of the past, Europe must enable investment to fix the problems of the present and future. We will revise the arbitrary limits of the Maastricht Criteria and the Stability and Growth Pact. They have left Europe exposed to crises and cut public services and public investments to the bone.

Instead, we will introduce a new wellbeing-based macroeconomic governance that prioritizes quality investment in public goods and the green transition to avoid further crises and their social consequences.

We call for the introduction of a Green Golden Rule and a reformed European Semester to create space for future-oriented green and social investment.

We will revise the European Central Bank's mandate to include employment, climate, and environmental protection, alongside price stability. As fossil fuels are vulnerable to price hikes and drive inflation, interest rates should be lower for green investments.

Greening industry for our future competitiveness

The green transition is the challenge of our generation, and it will not be achieved without active industrial policy. Greening industries through investment in Europe is a huge opportunity in terms of both competitiveness and climate neutrality.

We will push for a Green Transition Fund equivalent to 1% of EU GDP per year. The backbone of our Infrastructure Union, it will fund green infrastructure projects such as public transport and energy grid connections as well as emerging green industries.

A key lever to fight deindustrialisation across the EU, this fund will support member states with fewer economic resources and sectors affected by the transition. EU-level investment is needed to protect the single market and win political backing for the green transition in all EU countries.

EU industrial policy must be designed with the participation of citizens, trade unions and businesses and not become a way of socializing the costs while privatizing the profits. We will make sure that the public purse benefits from the proceeds of investments in industries, for example through equity stakes. Industrial policy should not be introduced at the expense of emissions reductions and regulation. European support for research and development can also contribute towards scientific and technological development, as well as other societal goals, and should be increased.

Financing the Green and Social Deal

The money to finance this much-needed investment is there. We are convinced that the EU can help channel it towards green and social investment. A mix of fiscal policy, public investment, and private initiative will drive this change. A fairer economic system requires a greater redistribution, a better use of public funds, and that all actors in society play their part.

Creating a fair tax system

Europe needs a just tax system that takes the burden off workers and small businesses and makes polluters, multinationals, and the ultra-rich pay their fair share.

We will establish a minimum level for capital gains tax in the EU to rebalance the tax burden away from employees. We will close the loopholes in the OECD corporate minimum tax agreement and push EU member states to implement the agreement at a higher level. Loopholes that leave room for tax avoidance and evasion inside and outside the EU as well as fraud and money laundering will be closed. We will fight against tax havens, be them in the EU or anywhere else in the world.

The European Union requires greater budgetary resources to face our common challenges. Europe must extend the carbon border tax to new polluting sectors, apply the polluter pays principle across all sectors, and abolish free quotas ahead of the current 2034 date. We will increase the scope of existing taxes on plastics.

We will push to increase the size of the EU Social Climate Fund to ensure a just transition for low-income households.

We call for an EU-wide wealth tax to fight inequality and finance the green transition. In addition, we will push for a European Financial Transactions Tax to generate revenue while curbing speculation. We will make the EU windfall tax on energy companies permanent to prevent profiteering in future energy crises and apply it to commodity traders and banks too.

Greening finance for real

We will regulate financial services to promote long-term investment in a green and social future over short-term speculation. We will fight to revise the Green Taxonomy to make sure that gas and nuclear are not greenwashed as “sustainable”.

Financial services for coal, oil and gas extraction, coal-fired energy projects, and the companies that develop them must be prohibited with a Brown Taxonomy. The continued development of high-emission activities jeopardizes the EU’s climate and environmental commitments and increases financial risks.

We will oblige financial actors to adopt robust climate transition plans to support their economic transition and enable a gradual transformation. Their content and implementation must be regulated, with sectoral policies for the highest-emitting activities and methods for setting decarbonization targets.

Stable and inclusive banking for Europe

Households should no longer end up lining the pockets of financial players speculating on food, energy and housing or bear the fallout of financial crashes. The EU needs to complete its much overdue banking union and introduce a common deposit insurance system.

The European Central Bank should offer a public digital euro to offer an alternative to private payment systems, crypto-currency markets should be properly regulated, including their environmental impacts, and the right of people to access and use cash should be protected as a matter of inclusion.

Closing the loop with a circular economy

Produce, consume, and throw away – the economy of our society leads to the exploitation of resources beyond the limits of our planet. If we do nothing to change this, we will need three Earths by 2050 to satisfy our need for raw materials. This linear model fuels the climate crisis, environmental destruction, and human rights violations in resource extraction. It leaves our supply chains vulnerable to crises and our economies and businesses dependent on imports.

Waste must become a design flaw. We want to build a fully renewable, fully circular, and non-toxic economy by 2040 with clear and binding targets and

transition pathways to reduce consumption and resource use by 2030.

As the green transition requires growing amounts of metals, we must adopt a sufficiency approach and prioritize the development of processing and recycling capacities for strategic materials.

If extraction in the EU proves to be unavoidable despite demand curbs, we must impose the highest environmental and social standards. There should be no ground for exemption of any EU legislation or human and environmental rights conditions, strict and irreversible “no-mining” areas, and continuous effort to improve mining techniques and corresponding working conditions (including safety and health coverage) and ban of most harmful ones. Affected communities – particularly Europe’s last indigenous community, the Sami people – must receive early information, participation, consent, and fair compensation.

Zero waste is the business model of the future

Our vision is a fully circular economy where we reuse, upcycle, share, and recycle our products to keep the materials in a closed loop. This approach protects resources and the climate and saves money for consumers as products last longer. Environmental and consumer protection go hand in hand. As Greens, we will push for the fast implementation of the mandatory sustainability requirements for our products and for EU action to ensure industry compliance.

We will fight the planned obsolescence that is devastating to the planet as well as the budget of households. We will make sure that an effective and affordable right to repair, including an EU-wide repair score and an open repair market for independent repairers and consumers, is properly introduced so it makes a real difference. We will support the creation of an internal market for second hand goods and refurbishment. We want new technical standards such as the common charger incentivizing our product’s durability, paving the way to our vision of a zero-waste society, and ending waste exports to third countries.

Building a social and collaborative economy

This vision of our economy is dynamic and circular where the small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) that form the backbone of Europe’s economy thrive alongside new models of community, social and collaborative economies.

SMEs should operate on a level playing field with large companies. We will facilitate their access to EU funding and investment programmes through simplified application procedures. With fixed quotas, we ensure that SMEs also benefit from these programmes.

The power of sustainable public procurement should be unlocked to foster high ecological and social standards. European regulation should enable alternative economic models such as cooperatives, crowdfunding, social entrepreneurship, and the commons.

Sustainable digitization for the people and the planet

Digital technologies are an ever-more important part of our lives; they should protect the rights of individuals and serve the common good, not private corporations. Caught between US surveillance capitalism and China-style state control, Europe needs a rights-based, decentralized approach to digitalization to reap its benefits.

We will introduce a European Data Space that opens anonymized social data for non-commercial uses that serve the common good, including the fight against climate change.

Interoperability is key to successful digital policy. The European Interoperability Framework is a good starting point, but it does not yet create a level-playing field. We will push to open standardization to developers, civil society and small and medium-sized enterprises. Their involvement must be paid so that everyone can equally participate in this process on an equal footing.

If truly open and with rights protected by legislation, digitalization will be an opportunity for people in Europe. Recent EU legislation will provide greater choice and transparency online, protecting against violations of rights and freedoms. However, the EU needs to introduce a Digital Fairness Act to protect people from intrusive online advertising practices.

As well as reuse and recycling of digital devices, we will cut the energy consumption linked to data processing and cryptocurrency by regulation to massively reduce the internet’s material footprint.

Continuing a success story: protecting European consumers

Strong consumer protections such as roaming rights and passengers' rights and product safety measures are major successes of the single market. But with the economy changing fast, the EU's high standards need an urgent update to protect people, especially online.

Consumers should enjoy the same rights online and offline. With an increasing share of e-commerce involving potentially unsafe purchases directly from third-party sellers, we are calling for greater responsibility on online marketplaces and extended and coordinated approval and testing procedures by customs and market surveillance authorities.

As Greens, we will make sure that people receive clear and comprehensive information about the environmental impact of products and services sold in the EU, including information on expected product lifespan and its environmental footprint. In the single market, there must be no first- or second-class consumers. Products marketed in the same way in different European countries must be of the same quality and composition. Consumer rights should be upheld fully everywhere in the EU.