



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)

Deadline for tabling amendments: 17 January, 23:59 CET

[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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

34 **We have the courage to do what it takes.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

50 **Protecting the Climate and the Environment**

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

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

64 ***Tackling the climate emergency***

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

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

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

79 ***Building a community of renewable energy***

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

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

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

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

94 ***Ending fossil fuels in Europe***

95 The EU needs a clear plan for the total phaseout of fossil fuels: coal by 2030,
96 fossil gas by 2035, and oil by 2040. The energy crisis of 2022 cost Europe over
97 1 trillion euros between energy subsidies and inflated prices. We cannot afford
98 this, and neither can the planet.

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

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

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

112 ***Adapting Europe to an overheating planet***

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

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

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

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

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

136 ***Zero-pollution is about health***

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

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

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

149 ***Bringing nature back***

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

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

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

163 ***Forests as Europe's green lung***

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

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

175 ***Caring for our soils with sustainable food and agriculture***

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

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

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

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

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

196 ***GMO-free Europe***

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

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

207 ***Making animal welfare a priority***

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

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

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

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

221 ***Clean seas and oceans***

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

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

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

235 **Securing Livelihoods for All**

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

239 ***Renewable energy for all***

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

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

250 ***Affordable housing for all***

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

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

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

267 ***Warm in winter, cool in summer***

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

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

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

280 ***Healthy food for all***

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

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

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

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

296 ***Water is a right***

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

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

303 ***Mobility justice for all***

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

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

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

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

323 ***Connecting Europe with an Infrastructure Union***

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

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

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

343 ***Quality education for all***

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

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

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

363 ***Access to healthcare for all***

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

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

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

378 ***A green society is a caring society***

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

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

390 ***Mental health is political***

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

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

397 ***Legalize it – Time to rethink Europe's drug policy***

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

403 **Building a Europe of Social Rights**

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

411 ***Decent jobs for all***

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

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

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

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

425 ***Fighting poverty comprehensively***

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

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

435 ***Nothing about workers without workers***

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

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

448 ***Fair labour mobility for all***

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

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

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

459 ***New rights for the future of work***

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

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

473 ***Equal pay for equal work***

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

484 ***Equal opportunities from the start***

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

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

493 **An Economy that Works for All**

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

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

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

505 ***Investing in a green and better future***

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

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

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

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

522 ***Greening industry for our future competitiveness***

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

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

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

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

543 ***Financing the Green and Social Deal***

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

549 ***Creating a fair tax system***

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

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

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

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

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

572 ***Greening finance for real***

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

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

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

584 ***Stable and inclusive banking for Europe***

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

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

593 ***Closing the loop with a circular economy***

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

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

603 transition pathways to reduce consumption and resource use by 2030.

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

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

615 ***Zero waste is the business model of the future***

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

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

630 ***Building a social and collaborative economy***

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

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

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

642 ***Sustainable digitization for the people and the planet***

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

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

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

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

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

664 ***Continuing a success story: protecting European consumers***

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

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

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