



**Draft**

**Title:** **Draft 2024 Manifesto - CHAPTER II: The Courage to Stand Up Against the Far Right – For a Europe of Democracy, Feminism and Human Rights**

**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 2](#) (18 January)

[for CAS 2 - PDF Pre-CAS Amendments on Chapter 2](#) (25 January)

[Outcome CAS 2 - PDF AMs on Chapter 2](#) (26 January)

[for CAS 4 - PDF AMS on Chapter 2](#) (30 January)

[Outcome CAS 4 - PDF AMs on Chapter 2](#) (31 January)

[Outcome CAS 6 - PDF AMs on Chapter 2](#) (2 February)

[For the final CAS on 4 February - PDF AMs on Chapter 2](#) (3 February)

[Outcome final CAS on 4 February - PDF AMs on Chapter 2](#) (4 February)

[Consolidated text CAS accepted AMs on Chapter 2](#) (4 February AM)

**Draft text**

1 Charlie just wants to be Charlie. Nothing more. Why is their gender so difficult  
2 for the world around them to accept?

3 Zara knows what she wants: end the horrible pain of endometriosis. Find a drug  
4 that could help so many women. But sometimes it seems like people can't see any  
5 further than her skin colour, her last name, or her choice of clothing.

6 Daniel wants to scream it out to the world. He is in love with a man. He wants  
7 to go out at night, walk the streets of Sofia with his partner, and bring his  
8 partner to the company Christmas party.

9 Prejudice and discrimination continue to hold our societies back. But we can  
10 change this. It must change.

11 **The European Union of democracy, freedom and fundamental rights is ours to**  
12 **build.**

13 Racism never went away. Today, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism and anti-Gypsyism are  
14 all on the rise. Discrimination and exclusion remain far too common for people  
15 living with disabilities, people living in poverty and other vulnerable groups.

16 At Europe's borders, people are dying. Mediterranean migration routes are the  
17 deadliest in the world. People seeking safety and protection increasingly face  
18 detention, brutal and illegal pushbacks, and violence at the hands of smugglers  
19 and border authorities. The far right exploits and deepens their suffering,  
20 dragging mainstream parties to the right and normalizing migration policies that  
21 are both dysfunctional and unsustainable.

22 Far-right parties are gaining ground with their tried and trusted tactics of  
23 spinning half-truths and scapegoating minorities. This conservative backlash is  
24 working strategically to roll back our rights and freedoms. Once firm believers  
25 in the European project, even mainstream Conservatives are opening the door for  
26 anti-democratic forces who threaten the rule of law.

27 **We have the courage to stand up to the far right to protect everyone's rights**  
28 **and freedoms.**

29 Greens will safeguard democracy and the rule of law and demand a different

30 European Union. We are convinced that the European Union needs to be more united  
31 to tackle our shared problems. We call for a federal European Union with  
32 increased powers, deep democracy, and real transparency and accountability.

33 We will fight racism and exclusion in all its forms. We will make sure that  
34 nobody can make decisions about your body. We demand a fair asylum system that  
35 defends human rights and dignity. We work towards a migration policy that  
36 recognizes the immense contribution that migrants make to our societies. We  
37 believe that policies work best when shaped by the people concerned. We are  
38 certain that democracy cannot flourish without vibrant civic space and empowered  
39 civil society actors.

40 The European Union was founded to protect peace and democracy and uphold  
41 freedom, rights, and justice.

42 **We will make that founding promise a reality for all.**

## 43 **The Necessary Next Step: A United Europe Ready** 44 **for Enlargement**

45 To face the great challenges of our century, from the green transition to  
46 fighting growing inequalities and protecting democracy, the European Union needs  
47 to reform its treaties, move forward towards a federal Europe, and ensure its  
48 ability to act when welcoming new members.

49 At the Conference on the Future of Europe, European citizens gave a clear  
50 message that they support new treaties giving the EU greater competences. They  
51 called for deepened European democracy, with more power for the European  
52 Parliament, an end to national vetoes, a larger EU budget, and stronger EU  
53 competences on key issues such as health, tax, and social protection. As Greens,  
54 we stand behind their proposals.

### 55 ***Extending democracy at the heart of Europe***

56 We stand for a federal Europe, for a fully fledged supranational democracy able  
57 to deliver.

58 The need for unanimity between European member states on matters from tax and  
59 foreign policy to anti-discrimination and Article 7 procedures to protect  
60 democracy prevents the EU from taking decisions for the common good.

61 The European Parliament must have the right to propose legislation and equal  
62 budgetary power. The Council of the European Union should act as a second  
63 chamber for EU law making, not the venue for late-night haggling over inter-  
64 governmental deals. The President of the European Commission should be proposed  
65 by the European Parliament. The current budget of the EU is patently  
66 insufficient to address the challenges Europe faces. Supported by its own  
67 resources, the EU budget should be raised significantly, with an expanded role  
68 of the European Parliament and civil society in monitoring EU spending. EU  
69 competences should be expanded to ensure the EU can deliver. This truly  
70 transnational democracy must also ensure a residence-based European citizenship.

71 For Europe to take this much needed step, a democratic mandate from citizens is  
72 vital. That is why an EU-wide inclusive constituent process should lead to these  
73 treaty changes.

74 Treaty changes should then be ratified through a European-wide referendum  
75 according to a double majority system: a qualified majority of states and a  
76 majority of European citizens.

### 77 ***Bringing Europe to life with citizens' participation***

78 Public participation and engagement strengthen the European Union. The EU  
79 institutions should take steps to make voting in EU elections more accessible,  
80 including for people with disabilities. To increase democratic participation, we  
81 want to champion internet-voting at least for mobile European citizens to be  
82 piloted for the 2029 EU election. Transnational lists for the European  
83 Parliament should be introduced alongside national lists, creating an additional  
84 single EU-wide constituency to which citizens will elect a large number of MEPs.

85 As democracy is about more than elections, the Greens will push for the  
86 introduction of standing citizens' agoras to make EU policy more inclusive. The  
87 framework for petitions and specifically the European Citizens Initiative must  
88 be strengthened to open more channels for citizens to influence EU policy and to  
89 oblige the European institutions to respond with legislative proposals. A  
90 framework for EU-wide referenda should be introduced.

91 ***Stronger together: enlarging the Union***

92 Many people in the European neighbourhood long to become EU citizens, first and  
93 foremost with Ukraine fighting for our values and European security. Our Union  
94 holds the promise of peace, justice, shared values and prosperity and each  
95 member, old and new, is responsible for upholding these principles and  
96 objectives.

97 A new push for enlargement is long overdue. The EU has always been a project  
98 with geopolitical implications. As the EU is built on shared rules and values,  
99 it helps make borders less important. The EU's enlargement is therefore the best  
100 prospect for lasting peace and security in Europe.

101 All countries who strive to be part of or re-join the EU and who share our  
102 values must be welcomed on the path to EU membership and given all the required  
103 support in fulfilling the criteria.

104 ***Keeping our promises: A pathway to joining the European***  
105 ***Union***

106 The European Union must keep its promises to candidate countries: Albania,  
107 Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, and  
108 Ukraine. We support Georgia and Kosovo's efforts to become candidates for EU  
109 membership. We will support these countries on their paths to meet the  
110 Copenhagen Criteria. Accessing the single market and EU budget requires meeting  
111 these criteria and progress in the process must be based on merit. As Greens, we  
112 believe that the EU must work more closely with civil society in the accession  
113 process. We will work towards overcoming unanimity in the Council that is  
114 currently hindering accession.

115 The future of Ukraine lies in the European Union. We will support Ukrainian  
116 authorities in introducing the reforms required for EU membership. EU assistance  
117 to Ukraine should, insofar as possible, enable a climate-resilient  
118 reconstruction and recovery, built on renewable energy, modern infrastructure,  
119 and a sustainable and inclusive economy.

120 Welcoming new members must serve as a vital push for internal reforms to make it  
121 easier for the EU to make decisions efficiently and effectively.

122 ***Taking rapid action for democracy and the rule of law***

123 One of the biggest blows to European progress in recent years has been the  
124 development of authoritarian tendencies in the heart of Europe. Citizens of  
125 these countries are EU citizens, and the EU must defend their rights against  
126 government power grabs. We want rapid action to put an end to EU law's  
127 violations by member states through infringement procedures. This needs a clear  
128 timeframe, including for the Article 7 procedure.

129 We will introduce a Fundamental Values Annual Review to monitor, enforce and  
130 sanction the infringement of fundamental values across the EU.

131 We must ensure that EU funds strengthen prosperity, democracy and the rule of  
132 law and do not disappear into the pockets of autocrats and their friends. We  
133 have made important progress in equipping the EU with better tools to do so, but  
134 they need to be fully implemented.

135 Access to justice must become a reality for all people in the European Union. It  
136 is essential that vulnerable groups, such as people on low incomes and from  
137 marginalized communities, can access their right to seek responses and remedies  
138 for injustice.

139 ***Fighting corruption! Politics need to be transparent and***  
140 ***accountable***

141 Citizens' trust in democracy rests on political integrity. Transparency and  
142 accountability are vital for democratic scrutiny and public oversight. When the  
143 trust in politicians and democratic institutions is under serious threat, we  
144 must act.

145 The Qatargate scandal showed that the EU institutions are not equipped to  
146 prevent corruption and massive misconduct. Rather than another advisory body,  
147 the EU institutions need an independent Ethics Authority with the power and  
148 resources to investigate and sanction unethical conduct and abuse of office. We  
149 need comprehensive legislation on lobbying activities at EU level, including a  
150 mandatory EU transparency register.

151 It remains virtually impossible for citizens to understand how decisions are

152 made in the Council of the EU. This must change. Corruption and misuse of the EU  
153 budget undermines the entire European project. We support the bodies responsible  
154 for protecting the EU's financial interest, OLAF and the European Public  
155 Prosecutors Office, and call for greater resources for anti-corruption efforts.

## 156 **A Union of Rights and Freedoms: For a Truly** 157 **Feminist and Anti-Racist Future**

158 As Greens, we want to build a world where we all live free from violence,  
159 racism, sexism, queerphobia and coercion. We fight for a world where we get to  
160 decide over our bodies, where we can love who we want to love, and where racial  
161 justice becomes a reality at last. This world is possible, and we will not stop  
162 fighting for it. The harder the attacks, the more convinced, compassionate, and  
163 determined we will be.

### 164 ***Equal rights for all***

165 We fight for equal rights for all. This is why we want the Charter of  
166 Fundamental Rights to be directly applicable to European citizens and  
167 fundamental rights to be direct EU competences.

168 We call for an overall assessment of the EU Anti-Discrimination framework,  
169 acknowledging the need for an intersectional and comprehensive approach. To  
170 effectively counter discrimination against racialized communities and ensure  
171 equal rights and equal treatment for all, the Horizontal Anti-discrimination  
172 directive needs a major update. It has been 15 years since it was first brought  
173 forward.

### 174 ***Smash patriarchy!***

175 Women are not all the same and understanding their diversity is key to fighting  
176 inequality and discrimination.

177 A feminist Europe must guarantee policies that ensure financial independence for  
178 women, notably by abolishing tax regimes that discriminate against women and  
179 ending the gender pay gap via binding measures for companies and public  
180 authorities.

181 We demand universal and equal access to childcare. We call for the revision of  
182 the Work Life Balance Directive and the Maternity Leave Directive to advance  
183 towards fully paid maternity and paternity leaves of equal length.

184 Gender mainstreaming must make sure that European money benefits men and women  
185 equally. We defend a binding parity mechanism for the lists in the European  
186 elections and gender balance in EU decision-making, including for the top-jobs.  
187 The EU Commission and the Council need specific portfolios for women's rights  
188 and gender equality.

### 189 ***Your body, your rights***

190 We fight to expand reproductive freedom. Sexual and reproductive health and  
191 rights, including the right to safe abortion, are fundamental rights. They  
192 belong in the EU treaties - as core principles and competences of the EU and in  
193 the directly applicable Charter of Fundamental Rights. Safe and legal abortion  
194 must be available in all EU member states. Abortion care is an essential health  
195 service.

196 We stand up against the devastating regression on reproductive rights all over  
197 the world. No one should be criminalized for seeking or accessing abortion  
198 services. Women must have access to medical abortions. As Greens, we advocate  
199 the provision of free, high-quality contraceptives for all. Young people have  
200 the right to comprehensive sexuality education.

### 201 ***End gender-based violence***

202 All women and girls across Europe have the right to live a life free from  
203 violence. Gender-based violence is a brutal human rights violation and an  
204 expression of the unequal power relations in our societies. We continue our  
205 unswerving fight for comprehensive EU legislation that prevents, responds to,  
206 and ends gender-based violence online and offline across the EU. Greens  
207 strengthen victims' rights with specialized support, access to justice and  
208 protection for victims with special attention to marginalized communities. All  
209 EU member states must ratify the Istanbul Convention.

### 210 ***Pride, respect and equality for LGBTQIA+***



211 A renewed LGBTQIA+ Equality Strategy should ensure that trans, intersex, and  
212 non-binary people are also protected under the EU legal framework, closing  
213 legislative gaps in the areas of non-discrimination and hate crime. We want to  
214 end intersex genital mutilation. We push for legal gender recognition based on  
215 self-determination and access to trans-specific healthcare. The European Union  
216 should act politically for an EU-wide ban on so-called “conversion therapy” and  
217 forced sterilisation of transgender people. Rainbow families and their rights  
218 must be protected in all of the EU, including the full application of the  
219 freedom of movement with no loss of rights.

## 220 ***Fight racism and exclusion***

221 Racism in Europe is not just a problem of individual attitudes, it is a  
222 structural and systemic challenge that must be addressed as such. Racial justice  
223 should be mainstreamed in all EU policies, based on meaningful participation of  
224 all ethnic and racialized communities to ensure their lived experiences are  
225 considered.

226 Anti-Semitism and anti-Muslim racism are on the rise. The EU must be safe for  
227 everybody to live. We will protect Jewish and Muslim communities and demand an  
228 end to all forms of discrimination.

229 We will ensure that the EU Action Plan Against Racism is implemented, and work  
230 towards its renewal for 2025 with appropriate funding and a civil society  
231 advisory body. National Action Plans must be mandatory for all member states.

232 It is a democratic problem that 96% of Members of the European Parliament are  
233 white. As Greens, we work towards having candidates from racialized communities  
234 on electable spots. We actively encourage racialized and ethnic-minoritized  
235 Greens to run for the European Parliament.

## 236 ***Young voices matter: more rights, more representation***

237 We fight for votes from 16 for all elections in Europe and the right to stand as  
238 a candidate from 18, starting with the European elections. As European Greens,  
239 we work towards having young candidates in electable spots on party lists.

240 EU legislation must work for young people. The European Union needs to support

241 the adoption of an International Convention on the Rights of Young People.  
242 Consultation methods such as annual dialogues with youth representative  
243 organizations and youth citizens' agora should be institutionalized and  
244 legislative impact assessments should systematically include young people. EU  
245 funds must properly finance youth organizations.

## 246 ***No to ageism***

247 Age must not be a barrier to a full and active life, but too often older people  
248 are held back by aged-based discrimination and exclusion. Older people are among  
249 the social groups most at risk of poverty as well as digital exclusion. As  
250 Greens, we will take a stand against ageism in European policies and support  
251 measures that promote the inclusion of older people.

252 We demand fair pensions for all seniors in the EU. We believe that the mandatory  
253 retirement age should be a concept of the past. We want to have strong long-term  
254 care services that benefit the wellbeing of people with long-term care needs, as  
255 well as their families and communities. Intergenerational justice is not just a  
256 concept: exchange between generations should be anchored in our educational  
257 systems, but also more broadly in our community activities.

## 258 ***For a Europe that is accessible for all***

259 People with disabilities in the European Union must be able to pursue a full  
260 participation in political, social, and public life, including employment. We  
261 will push for the effective monitoring and enforcement of European accessibility  
262 legislation and the introduction of Disability Card recognized across the EU.  
263 The EU should begin collecting disaggregated data by gender, age, and type of  
264 disability to assess the impact of EU policies and monitor progress on the  
265 inclusion of people with disabilities generally.

## 266 **A Union of Rights and Freedoms: Protecting the** 267 **Rights of All**

268 Protecting the rights of all is a key battle against the far right. All over  
269 Europe, the far right is instrumentalizing migration to spread fear and  
270 resentment. They wish to roll-back the rights and freedoms of women and people  
271 from the LGBTQIA+community as well as racialised people. We are fighting against

272 this backlash, standing resolutely for democracy, freedom, and human rights.

### 273 ***Upholding human rights with a humane asylum system***

274 We uphold a fair asylum system that defends human rights and dignity, based on  
275 solidarity and responsibility sharing. We are convinced that when the political  
276 will is there the European Union can tackle humanitarian challenges and protect  
277 the people seeking safety with humanity. As we uphold the fundamental principles  
278 of the European Union, the right to asylum is not up for negotiation.

279 We want to work towards a human asylum system with fast and decentralized  
280 procedures. Member states must fairly share the responsibility for asylum  
281 applications. For us, it is clear that we need a mandatory relocation mechanism.  
282 Parties across the political spectrum let themselves be dragged towards far-  
283 right migration policies, as the EU's new Migration and Asylum Pact sadly  
284 reflects. The successful use of the Temporary Protection Directive in response  
285 to the refugee situation caused by the war in Ukraine should be replicated.

286 We call for EU visas for Human Rights and Environmental Defenders. New climate  
287 visas should be created to allow victims of natural disasters to seek protection  
288 and security in the European Union. The specific vulnerability of LGBTQIA+  
289 asylum seekers must be addressed.

### 290 ***End the criminalisation of people on the move***

291 There has been an intolerable escalation of violence against people seeking  
292 protection. We must stop violence, torture, and inhuman and degrading treatment  
293 at Europe's borders. Illegal pushbacks at the borders of the EU must end.

294 EU laws to harmonize standards on asylum procedures, reception conditions and  
295 safeguards must be enforced. We cannot accept imprisonment, mistreatment and  
296 abuse towards people seeking protection and a better life in the EU.

### 297 ***Rescue is not a crime***

298 We call for an EU-funded and EU-led Search and Rescue Mission in the  
299 Mediterranean and strengthen the humanitarian mandate and responsibility of  
300 Frontex. We want to end the criminalisation of humanitarian assistance, and

301 prolific use of state of emergency to limit access to asylum and legitimate  
302 rights of oversight by civil society and media. People do not belong in prison  
303 simply for seeking asylum. Asylum seekers should be guaranteed access to legal  
304 help.

### 305 ***No dirty deals with dictators***

306 We fiercely oppose so-called “migration deals”, such as that with Tunisia, where  
307 the EU pays off countries to keep out migrants. Any cooperation with third  
308 countries on migration needs a human rights assessment. Making development  
309 cooperation with third countries conditional on “migration management” is  
310 unethical. We cannot accept that refugees and migrants are exploited for  
311 geopolitical gain. Human trafficking can never be a weapon of hybrid warfare.

### 312 ***A fair migration policy for the benefit of all***

313 Throughout history, people have always moved from place to place. Migration is  
314 as old as history, and we must return to this pragmatism. Migration can benefit  
315 all. It can fill labour shortages – today a key economic challenge. Migrants  
316 make an essential contribution to the European economy and enrich our culture,  
317 communities, and daily lives.

318 The establishment of legal and accessible channels for migration is a necessary  
319 precondition for ending human trafficking and exploitation. We want to develop a  
320 new, comprehensive Migration Code, providing for visa opportunities for families  
321 to be reunited and for work at different skills levels. It should also allow  
322 migrants already in the EU to change their status, for instance from student to  
323 employee. We want to make it easier for newcomers to start working and integrate  
324 into our societies, by offering them access to education, language support and  
325 job opportunities.

326 To prevent exploitation of migrant workers, access to justice needs to be  
327 ensured in all EU countries. We call for a comprehensive campaign to regularize  
328 long-term “sans-papiers”, living in EU countries. Whatever their status, people  
329 coming to the European Union to build a life should enjoy equal social,  
330 cultural, economic, and civic rights including freedom of movement, the right to  
331 work and to social protection, and access to healthcare and education.

332 ***For a fair and safe digital world***

333 As the digital world has become an integral part of our lives, the same freedoms  
334 and protections that exist offline should exist in online spaces. Preventing the  
335 spread of online hate is key to making sure that certain groups are not excluded  
336 from the political arena. Countering disinformation is essential for functioning  
337 and trusted democratic institutions.

338 The EU has made progress on the fight against disinformation and the regulation  
339 of online platforms with the Digital Services Act. Now its provisions must be  
340 enforced. Online platforms must protect legal content and be subject to public  
341 scrutiny and transparency on the removal of illegal content.

342 The EU should use its powers to make particularly harmful manifestations of hate  
343 chargeable as EU crimes with minimum rules regarding their definition and  
344 related sanctions. Women and racialized people suffer from disproportionate  
345 amounts of online hate. The internet must be free from illegal hate speech and  
346 discrimination. We want to give support to platforms, civil society  
347 organizations, and media initiatives promoting media literacy and anti-hate  
348 strategies.

349 We will push for the right not to be tracked. The EU must lead in the global  
350 battle against mass surveillance. Adequate EU legislation must protect citizens  
351 against the abuse of spyware and stop member states from evading accountability  
352 by evoking national security.

353 ***Putting humans at the centre in artificial intelligence***

354 Artificial intelligence has enormous potential. It can lead to both incredible  
355 developments as well as tremendous risks for humanity. Artificial Intelligence  
356 must work for people, society, and the planet, not for surveillance states or  
357 tech capitalism.

358 Strict limits should therefore be enforced. The most unethical and undemocratic  
359 practices in the EU, such as biometric mass surveillance, AI systems used to  
360 recognize emotions, gender or sexual orientation and AI used for predictive  
361 policing should not be permitted. Non-discrimination laws and data protection  
362 laws must be strengthened and enforced to guarantee that AI systems do not

363 discriminate against racialized communities.

364 We also want to ensure AI promotes, not hampers, the Green Deal with key  
365 environmental provisions. In the workplace, workers should always have the  
366 possibility to disconnect from AI systems. Copyright legislation should be  
367 properly enforced in the context of AI models to fully protect content creators.

### 368 ***For a strong and dynamic civic space***

369 Civil society organizations (CSO) are at the heart of every democracy. This is  
370 why we want to make them strong and truly European. We call for an EU mechanism  
371 to protect civil society, activists, and defenders from all forms of attacks,  
372 discrimination, and harassment. An EU mechanism should allow CSOs to report  
373 these attacks, including through an early warning system. Adequate funding  
374 should also be guaranteed, both at EU and national levels.

375 Measures to support a regular, meaningful, and structured dialogue with civil  
376 society during legislative procedures are essential. We will introduce a statute  
377 for European cross-border associations and non-profit organisations. We advocate  
378 for an EU-level civil dialogue, modelled on the social dialogue, between CSOs  
379 and EU Institutions.

### 380 ***Free and independent media for Europe***

381 Media concentration has reached alarming levels, threatening their editorial and  
382 economic independence. The protection of journalistic sources is hampered by  
383 sweeping anti-terrorism laws and far-reaching mass surveillance measures.  
384 Defamation suits and abusive judicial proceedings have become key methods to gag  
385 investigative journalists.

386 We need an EU framework to prevent media concentration and enable journalists to  
387 work freely. Investigative journalism needs dedicated safeguards. Free and  
388 independent journalism can never be a question of the necessary finances. We  
389 want to closely monitor the application of EU law, in particular EU laws such as  
390 copyright, trade secrets, the data protection regulation, the Audio-visual Media  
391 Services Directive to ensure they are not abused. We will work towards the  
392 proper implementation of the future Media Freedom Act and anti-SLAPPs (Strategic  
393 Lawsuits against Public Participation) directive.

394 We support the emergence of pan-European media outlets and quality content on  
395 European affairs, European citizenship, and European identity, as core elements  
396 for a shared European civic and information space, dispelling EU-related myths  
397 and building a sense of European belonging.

### 398 ***Culture as the spark of change***

399 Art and culture are some of society's most powerful tools to tell stories,  
400 change minds, and build solidarity. As Greens, we believe that the worlds of  
401 culture and creativity can play an important political role in helping us  
402 imagine solutions to the challenges of our time.

403 The ability to produce together is a truly transformative aspect of the Creative  
404 Europe programme. Continued support for the production and distribution of art  
405 and culture produced across Europe, particularly supporting experimentation and  
406 diversity of expressions and organizational forms, is essential.

407 We will push for an EU strategy to engage the cultural sectors in our Green and  
408 Social Deal and in any constituent process on the future of Europe. Cultural  
409 diplomacy and exchange should form part of the accession process for all  
410 countries looking to join the EU. Learning the difficult lessons of the  
411 pandemic, we call for common European standards on employment, social guarantees  
412 and working conditions in the cultural and creative sectors.

### 413 ***Defending Schengen, enjoying free movement***

414 Freedom of movement – the right of people to travel and move around the European  
415 Union freely and without hindrance – has touched and shaped the lives of EU  
416 citizens like no other achievement. Millions of people have built lives and  
417 relationships in EU countries other than their own and millions more regularly  
418 cross national borders for professional opportunities and leisure.

419 As the border checks in the pandemic reminded us, the days of queuing at the  
420 border are thankfully behind us. We intend to keep it that way. The European  
421 institutions should act to reverse the steady re-emergence and illegally  
422 unlimited maintenance of border checks within the Schengen area, especially  
423 based on the justification of migration. As full EU members who have met all the  
424 requirements for Schengen membership, Bulgaria and Romania should be welcomed so

425 their citizens can enjoy their full rights as EU citizens.

### 426 ***Policing without prejudice***

427 No one in the European Union is above the law, including police and security  
428 agencies. This core principle that protects everybody's fundamental rights is  
429 regularly undermined, seen in all too often cases of police brutality.

430 To protect the rights of racialized groups disproportionately at risk of police  
431 violence and profiling, the EU's Race Equality Directive should be updated to  
432 explicitly cover policing and institutional violence. With the right to protest  
433 increasingly under threat, we will defend the right to assembly and peacefully  
434 demonstrate in line with international and European law.

### 435 ***A European fight against organized crime***

436 Organized crime harms our democracies, puts lives at risk, and destroys local  
437 environments. As organized crime is transnational, it can only be fought through  
438 European cooperation. We support policies that improve exchange and information  
439 flows between European police and intelligence services and create a Europe-wide  
440 exchange programme for police officers.