

**by
the
many!**

**We demand
a people-powered
Europe.**



**A manifesto
for an alternative
Europe**

5	<u>IMAGINE</u>
7	<u>DEMAND</u>
10	<u>ENACT</u>



Ahead of the 2024 European elections, European Alternatives is launching a campaign to call for a radical shift in our politics, based on the transformative power of people working across borders. We imagine a democratic Europe in which everyone can live a good life, and which acts to bring transnational justice and a flourishing planet.

We believe that the profound change that is required in our continent needs to be made by the many. We can imagine, demand and enact this alternative Europe together.

In order for this to happen, each person needs to be empowered to act individually and collectively to transform social, political, economic and interpersonal structures and relations, both locally and transnationally. The European Union can put in place policies that make this change possible.

We call for a redistribution of power away from the national, simultaneously to the translocal and the transnational. We base the legitimacy of this campaign on declarations from transnational people's assemblies for eco-social justice, transnational peace, and an end to the climate catastrophe, on the democratic ideas and possibilities they open, and on its involvement of minoritised and underrepresented groups.

We want to bring into the European institutions the demands collected over decades through assemblies, festivals and gatherings across Europe and beyond, involving thousands of people. Some recent concrete results of these moments are the Porto Declaration for Eco Social Justice (2022), the Porto Declaration for Transnational Peace (2022) or the Palermo Climate Declaration Avoiding Climate Catastrophe (2021).

Initiated by European Alternatives and created in collaboration with grassroots partners and movements, we present a manifesto for alternatives to nationalism, patriarchy, racism, exploitation and injustice. Together, we want to imagine a positive vision of society that can be transformed and shaped by the hands of the people.

Our campaign is founded on taking the lead from people directly impacted by EU policies. This means taking the lead from those most ignored by political establishments:

- Racialised communities and ethnic minorities
- Women and gender minorities
- LGBTQIA communities
- Workers and carers
- Persons with disabilities
- Migrants, asylum seekers and the undocumented

Putting power firmly in the hands of ordinary people is the only way to disrupt the system, and offer a real alternative to the failings of democracy and the false promise of capitalism.

All our demands are based on the equal protection of people and planet over profit. We are calling for:

- Immediate climate action for a planet in balance
- A world led by workers
- A democratic process that derives power from the people
- Justice and equity for all
- A digital revolution that serves the people

Our Demands for a Europe by the Many:

A PLANET IN BALANCE

It is urgent to move away from fossil fuels in our societies to achieve ecological, economic and social justice. There can be no eco-social justice without climate justice and a transformation of our economic model which is based on exploitation. Instead of focusing on individualised solutions to climate change, we need investment in public infrastructures, clean energy sources, and the protection of water as a universal public good for life.

- We want a non-eurocentric European democracy, radically responsible towards the planet, animals and people
- A European Green Deal that divests from fossil fuels and unproven solutions to the climate crisis
- A tax on billionaires and corporations to finance climate action, including support to the hardest-hit countries
- Energy-efficient housing that saves energy, lifts vulnerable and low-income households out of poverty, and protects tenants from rent increases and renovation costs
- We demand more research, expertise and activism at the intersection of health and environmental concerns
- We need institutional commitment to end Fossil Fuels, deforestation, and water pollution, and the protection of water as a universal public good
- Polluters must pay reparations in a way that rapidly ensures the transformation of our economic system away from polluting industries to social and ecological justice and sustainability
- Climate refugees should be recognized legally and given support and welcome, as should all people fleeing disaster, war or persecution

A WORLD LED BY WORKERS

As profits are prioritised, workers are increasingly overworked and under-paid. The result is an unprecedented cost of living crisis and higher rates of in-work poverty, whilst corporations are reporting record profits.

The EU must ensure that workers, including young, migrant and seasonal workers, and women, have the right to a living wage, good working conditions, dignity at work, and the freedom to organise. Trade union and worker collectives must use their power to constrain and control capital. We need to visibilise [unpaid carers and wage workers](#), who are often women and migrants, and protect their workers' rights.

Only through fair working conditions during a time of technological revolution and climate action can we transition fairly away from an economy based on unsustainable growth and extraction.

- We want more useful, meaningful and quality work: mobilise the power of trade unions and workers collectives to constrain and control capital
- We want an end to unpaid internships
- We want full implementation of the Platform Workers' Directive ensured by the European Labour Authority
- Transnational institutions must mobilise to protect workers, including young, migrant and seasonal workers, and their right to a living wage, good working conditions, dignity at work and to organise
- The workplace should be a place for creativity and freedom. European institutions should defend and promote this possibility to democratise work and everyday life, in relations between partners, family members, buyers and sellers and at the workplace
- Action for collective negotiation: we demand combating the power of finance by banning corporate lobbies from democratic institutions, prioritising social dialogue with worker organisations within corporations
- The EU must ensure universal access to basic income, decent housing, healthcare and education.

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

Corporate power has captured the political process at the expense of the voices of ordinary people. Far-right narratives have used political institutions to continue to target racialised people, the LGBTQIA community, migrants, workers, and those in poverty. We need a redistribution of wealth and power away from national governments and corporations towards people and local agencies.

- We call for people's assemblies and deliberative, participatory democracy for a radical relocation of power and agency
- We call for meaningful civic education in schools and beyond that promotes historical and social awareness and political agency of all people
- We call for transnational lists: we want more power and representation to minoritised and marginalised groups, including racialised groups, LGBTQIA+, women and young people, and greater political diversity for a non-heteronormative, anti-racist, non-anthropocentric democracy
- We call for voting age to be set at 16 years old, in all EU member-states
- We call for more power to the European Parliament to introduce legislation that is binding in member-states. We call for a redistribution of power away from the national, which means simultaneously power which is closer to the people, and connected power which has a greater impact on a global scale
- We demand voting rights for all residents of Europe
- We demand access to affordable, decent living spaces and a housing market that prioritises the rights of tenants and buy-to-live first-time homeowners over super landlords and corporations buying-to-rent
- We call for the redistribution of wealth across social classes and across borders, ensuring a decent standard of life for all, are achievable aims and essential to democratic societies in which each can participate fully.

JUSTICE AND EQUITY

We call for a EU-wide law on anti-discrimination which includes specific and intersectional grounds on: gender-based violence, LGBTQI+ discrimination, exclusion based on race, ethnicity, and nationality, and religion (including Islamophobia). Europe should work internally and in the world against discrimination and all forms of domination.

- Women's rights must be guaranteed, promoted and protected, including the right to abortion and reproductive autonomy
- Comprehensive sex education for all young people in Europe for an informed and empowered generation, with an understanding and respect of gender and sexual diversity
- A reinforced European Feminist Network to stop the anti-gender movement
- Ensuring the same rights for LGBTQIA+ people and families across Europe, including marriage, adoption, having children, access to healthcare and education and ending discrimination
- We must immediately address and protect the significant disparities in suicidality and severe mental health challenges that disproportionately affect LGBTQIA+ youth
- The EU must urgently address rising Islamophobia and anti-Muslim racism; providing funding and resources for community safety and tackling hate crime; guaranteeing women's rights to bodily autonomy and freedom to choose what to wear, and freedom of expression and belief
- The EU must acknowledge the historic role of European countries in colonialism, including genocides, apartheid, violence and extraction, that continue to this day
- There can be no durable justice in Europe without justice in the world. This means the EU must support Ukrainians to resist Russian imperial aggression, bring about an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, and reinforce the work of the International Criminal Court to prosecute crimes against humanity and establish international law as the peaceful alternative to a world of military force.

A DIGITAL REVOLUTION THAT SERVES THE PEOPLE

Technology should ease human suffering and serve human flourishing and creativity. It should not be used as a tool of control or profit. Instead, surveillance technology is becoming increasingly widespread, disproportionately impacting human rights defenders, racialised people and migrants. Private data is bought and sold in the name of corporate interests.

- We want tech built for people, not profit. We must democratise ownership of tech tools and data. Our digital lives are intertwined with our physical lives: everyone must be empowered and equipped to participate and co-create digital life, protected against exploitation online
- Citizens must have control over who stores their personal data and be able to delete them at any time. The EU must implement systems for individual control over the storing of personal data, the right to delete your own data, and the right to privacy online
- Private data must be protected from being bought and sold by private companies without consent, transparency or protection of the individual
- The EU must take unified legal protection against discrimination and violence by Artificial Intelligence, and develop a planetary model of advanced technology which facilitates human flourishing and collaboration rather than profit-making or domination
- The EU must investigate and dismantle systemic discrimination, violence and repression, online and offline, towards women, trans and LGBTQIA+, migrants, racialised communities, human rights defenders, journalists, and ordinary people
- A democratic online space that protects freedom of speech as well as the rights of women, children, racialised people and the LGBTQIA community to thrive and participate in digital life.

HOW TO TAKE ACTION

If you are an MEP candidate, organisation, or concerned individual, [click here to sign the By the Many! pledge](#). See the text of the pledge below.

Use our pre-prepared digital email tool to ask your MEP candidate to sign the By the Many! pledge and commit to a people-powered Europe. [Click here to access the tool](#).

WHO WE ARE

European Alternatives works to promote democracy, equality and culture beyond the nation-state and imagine, demand and enact alternatives for a viable future.

We are doing this by:

- Articulating a radical, long-term vision of democratic, just and culturally-open politics, society and culture beyond the nation-state for Europe and for the world
- Experimenting with forms of action that contribute to transformative change in political institutions, society, the economy and imagination
- Building the capacity, the mutual-awareness and connection of members, activists and organisations working in line with our values
- Advancing and defending human, fundamental, civic, democratic and social rights across borders.

**Europe
should be
powered by
people, not
profit!**

**Join the call
to create a
Europe By
the Many!**

1. Sign the pledge

The planet and its people are being exploited and harmed in the name of corporate super-profits. Too much of the political establishment continues to offer only minimal solutions that serve to maintain the balance of power in the hands of the few. The resulting climate and cost of living crises disproportionately impact vulnerable communities in the world and within Europe.

We need to imagine, demand, and enact radical alternatives. We need a Europe created by the many, and powered by the people.

Putting power firmly in the hands of ordinary people is the only way to disrupt a failing system and restore the promise of democracy.. We call for a redistribution of power away from the state and towards local actors who work across borders.

Together, we can fight back against hate, division, discrimination and exclusion. We can enact an alternative now to show another Europe is possible and another world is in the making.

For a Europe and a planet shaped By the Many! I pledge to :

- Work closely with community-led organisations representing people who are most impacted by EU legislation and policies, wherever they are found
- Reduce the influence of corporate interests in policy-making
- Protect the rights of the most vulnerable people in our communities; migrants, refugees, racial, ethnic and religious minorities including Roma communities, women and girls, the full spectrum of the LGBTQIA community, persons with disabilities, and low or zero-income groups
- Take immediate climate action to divest from fossil fuels in a way that does not substitute one form of exploitation and extraction for another, endangering people and planet
- Prioritise workers' rights and collective power
- Extend voting rights to all European residents and improve the capacity for full democratic participation of all members of society regardless of nationality or residency status
- Protect everyone from systemic racism, discrimination and violence at the hands of the state, law enforcement authorities, and surveillance technology.

[Click here to sign the pledge.](#)

Share our pledge badge below on your website, socials, or profile pictures! [Click here to download the badge.](#)



2. Encourage your MEP candidate to commit to a Europe created By the Many!

By directly emailing your MEP candidates, you are letting them know how important it is to voters like you that they are aligned with your values.

Complete our pre-prepared letter with your email/signature, and we'll take care of sending the email for you. We have prepared a text for you to send but feel free to personalise it – it is more likely to be read if it is original and unique.

Ask your friends to email their MEP candidates as well!

[You can access the digital tool to email your MEP here.](#)

3. Share on socials!

Visit our [campaign page](#) to download the social media toolkit.

