

# EU PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS 2024 FACTSHEET

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## THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The European Parliament is the only directly elected European institution. It is elected every 5 years by European citizens. Each country elects a number of MEPs – that is, members of the European Parliament – based on the principle of degressive proportionality, which means that MEPs from more populous countries represent more people than MEPs from less populous countries. This year, 720 MEPs will be elected.

While European citizens vote their own national political parties, in the Parliament MEPs don't sit according to nationality, but in political groups, therefore according to their political affiliation. These are: The Left, Socialists & Democrats, the Greens and EFA, Renew Europe, the European People's Party, the European Conservatives and Reformists, and Identity and Democracy.

The European Parliament works both in specialised committees and in plenary sessions. The committees meet once or twice a month and draw up, amend, and adopt legislative proposals and reports, while when the plenary is reunited every month in Strasbourg – with additional sessions held in Brussels – MEPs mainly debate and vote new legislation.

## THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Once established the new Parliament, MEPs must elect both the President of the Parliament and the new President of the European Commission. The procedure to appoint the latter is somewhat complicated: it's up to the European Council (Heads of State or Governments), taking into consideration the results of the elections, to propose a candidate (supported by absolute majority) to be voted by the Parliament. In 2014 parliamentary groups introduced a new strategy – that of Spitzenkandidat, the lead candidate: they each proposed a name to become President of the Commission once won the elections. Already in 2019 this system failed, and Ursula Von Der Leyen (who had not been a Spitzenkandidat, but did come from the winning party) was appointed instead. Anyway, once the Council finds a name for the candidate to the presidency of the Commission, then it's voted in the Parliament: if it reaches the majority, the Commission has a new President; if the candidate doesn't reach such majority, then the Council must propose a new candidate within 1 month, following the same procedure.

Once appointed the new President, in agreement with the Council, a list of Commissioners to be voted by the Parliament is then proposed. Once gained the consent, then the new Commission is appointed by the European Council.

The European Commission acts as the executive arm for European decision-making, similarly to national governments. It has the "right to initiative" and has therefore the power to propose new legislation.

The European Parliament supervises the work of the Commission – and of other European institutions – and acts as a co-legislator, sharing with the Council of the EU the power to adopt and amend legislative proposals. The Parliament and the Council have also the shared power to decide on the annual EU budget.

Ahead of the appointment of the European Commission, moreover, the European Council sets the EU strategic agenda, in which EU's political priorities are defined – these priorities are then to be followed by European institutions. The 2024-2029 agenda is expected to be adopted by the June European Council.

Even though the Parliament doesn't have a direct power to initiative – which various parties wish to change –, it can and has great influence on the adoption of almost all EU legislation, which then can have great impact on Europeans' lives.

## STATE BY STATE VOTING GUIDE

From 6 to 9 June 2024, 720 MEPs will be elected from 27 different countries. As such, they will represent 450 million EU citizens.

Different countries may have different electoral rules, as the EU imposes only a few: during the preestablished election period, every EU citizen can only vote once and has the right to vote in another EU country if she's resident there; moreover, the number of MEPs elected has to be proportional to the number of votes their political party has received. The exact day – or days – of elections, the threshold, the number of constituencies and so on depends on the specific country's legislation.



**Here you can find a very synthetic, state by state voting guide:**

<b>STATE</b>	<b>WHEN?</b>	<b>VOTING CONDITIONS</b>	<b>HOW MANY MEPs ARE ELECTED?</b>
Austria	7 June 2024	16+ years old Austrians and residing EU-citizens have the right to vote. EU citizens residing in Austria and Austrians without residence in Austria need to register to vote.	14
Belgium	8 June 2024	16+ years old who have registered to vote are obliged to participate in the elections. This applies to both Belgian and EU citizens.	6
Bulgaria	9 June 2024	18+ year old Bulgarian citizens are obliged to vote, therefore they don't need to register to do so. EU citizens voting in Bulgaria must register to vote.	20

STATE	WHEN?	VOTING CONDITIONS	HOW MANY MEPs ARE ELECTED?
Croatia	9 June 2024	18+ years old have the right to vote. EU citizens with a legal residence and who wish to vote in Croatia need to register to do so.	12
Cyprus	9 June 2024	18+ years old Cypriots and EU citizens with habitual residence in Cyprus and who have registered in the special electoral list have the right to vote. Cypriots who have moved abroad have a right to vote only if they have moved less than six months before the elections.	6
Czechia	7-8 June 2024	18+ years old Czech and EU citizens have the right to vote. To vote, residence in Czechia at least 45 days prior to the elections is required. Only mobile EU citizens have to register to vote, if they were not already.	21

STATE	WHEN?	VOTING CONDITIONS	HOW MANY MEPs ARE ELECTED?
Denmark	9 June 2024	18+ years old Danish citizens and EU citizens with a residency have the right to vote. EU and Danish citizens living in another EU country have to register to vote in Denmark. Danish citizens voting from a country outside the EU can do so only under certain conditions.	15
Estonia	3-9 June 2024	18+ years old Estonians and EU citizens with a residency have the right to vote. Only EU citizens have to register to vote. It is possible to vote in advance (3 to 8 June), as well as online (3 to 8 June).	7
Finland	9 June 2024	18+ years old Finnish and EU citizens with a residency have the right to vote. EU citizens and Finnish citizens living abroad and wanting to vote by post have to register to vote.	15

STATE	WHEN?	VOTING CONDITIONS	HOW MANY MEPs ARE ELECTED?
France	9 June 2024 (8 June 2024 in the overseas departments)	18+ years old French and EU citizens with voting rights in their home State and who have registered on the electoral roll to vote have the right to do so. French citizens living abroad who are not registered on the electoral roll of their country of residence have the right to vote in France.	81
Germany	9 June 2024	16+ years old Germans and residing EU citizens who have registered to vote in their home municipality have the right to vote. German without a registered domicile in Germany and EU citizens residing in Germany need to register to vote.	96
Greece	9 June 2024	17-70 years old residing in Greece are obliged to vote. EU citizens and Greek citizens who wish to use the postal voting mechanism must register to vote.	21



STATE	WHEN?	VOTING CONDITIONS	HOW MANY MEPs ARE ELECTED?
Hungary	9 June 2024	18+ years old Hungarians and residing EU citizens have the right to vote. Minors can vote if they got married before the age of 18. EU citizens and Hungarian citizens living abroad have to register to vote.	21
Ireland	9 June 2024	16+ years old are obliged to vote. EU citizens and Irish citizens living abroad have to register to vote.	22
Italy	8-9 June 2024	18+ years old Italians and residing EU citizens have the right to vote. Only EU citizens have to register to vote.	76
Latvia	8 June 2024	18+ years old Latvian citizens and EU citizens having voting rights in their country of origin, have the right to vote. Only EU citizens have to register to vote.	9

STATE	WHEN?	VOTING CONDITIONS	HOW MANY MEPS ARE ELECTED?
Lithuania	9 June 2024	18+ years old Lithuanians and residing EU citizens at least 60 days prior to the elections have the right to vote. EU citizens and Lithuanian citizens living abroad have to register to vote.	11
Luxemburg	9 June 2024	18 to 75 Luxembourgish nationals and (registered) EU citizens residing are obliged to vote. Luxembourgish citizens voting from abroad have to register to vote, too.	6
Malta	8 June 2024	16+ years old Maltese and EU citizens registered and included in the rolling Electoral Register have the right to vote. It is not possible for Maltese citizens to vote from abroad.	6
Netherlands	6 June 2024	Any 18+ years old European citizen can vote in the Netherlands. EU citizens and Dutch citizens living abroad have to register to vote. Dutch citizens temporarily abroad can vote by proxy.	31

STATE	WHEN?	VOTING CONDITIONS	HOW MANY MEPS ARE ELECTED?
Poland	9 June 2024	Any 18+ years old European citizen has the right to vote in Poland. EU citizens and Polish citizens living abroad have to register to vote.	53
Portugal	9 June 2024	18+ years old registered Portuguese citizens, EU citizens and Brazilian citizens with an equal political rights status, have the right to vote in Portugal. Voter registration is automatic for all citizens over the age of 17, while foreign citizens living in Portugal that wish to vote have to enrol in the electoral register.	21
Romania	9 June 2024	18+ years old Romanians and residing Eu citizens have the right to vote. Only EU citizens have to register on a special electoral list to vote.	33

STATE	WHEN?	VOTING CONDITIONS	HOW MANY MEPs ARE ELECTED?
Slovakia	8 June 2024	<p>18+ years old Slovak and EU citizens with a permanent residence have the right to vote. Slovaks permanently residing in another EU country cannot vote in Slovakia; voting from abroad is not possible. Only EU citizens have to register to vote.</p>	15
Slovenia	9 June 2024	<p>18+ years old Slovenians and registered EU citizens with a permanent residence have the right to vote. Only EU citizens have to register to vote.</p>	9
Spain	9 June 2024	<p>18+ years old Spanish citizens and residing EU citizens have the right to vote in Spain. EU citizens and Spanish citizens living abroad (that have not decided to vote in the EU country of residence) have to register to vote.</p>	61
Sweden	9 June 2024	<p>18+ residing years old Swedish and EU citizens have the right to vote. It is also possible to vote in advance, from abroad and by proxy.</p>	21

# EU POLITICAL PARTIES

## SUMMARY



### [The Left in the European Parliament \(GUE/NGL\)](#)

Spitzenkandidat: Walter Baier.

Established in 1995, this left to far-left parliamentary group comprises former communist political parties and has a very clear democratic socialist orientation. In the 2019 elections it got 41 seats (now 37), making it the minor political group in the EU Parliament.

Workers' rights, feminism, climate action, tax justice, civil liberties, human rights, peace and democracy are its focal points. In foreign affairs, The Left stands for a neutrality and non-alignment approach: the EU has to find diplomatic solutions, fight for the peace. It demands a fair distribution of wealth and better employment and social rights. It aspires to a reformation of the current EU migration system and fight for sustainable and just environmental policies. It's a feminist, anti-racist and anti-fascist group; it wishes for dignity, equality and solidarity for all.

### [Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament \(S&D\)](#)

Spitzenkandidat: Nicolas Schmit.

Born in 1953, the centre-left group is the second oldest political group in the European Parliament. It is mostly composed of social-democratic groups and, since the 1999 elections, it has been the second-largest group in the European Parliament, accounting for 154 seats in 2019 (now 139).

It stands for a free, fair and secure democratic Europe, which works toward sustainable, feminist policies, peace and prosperity. In today's uncertainty, S&D wishes for a peace-guarantor EU, able to both ensure security and defence. Workers' rights and quality jobs are at the centre of their manifesto, as the key priority of renewable and clean energy, and the promotion of the European model of social market economy in the world, along with a feminist approach which encourages gender equality and works toward a "Europe free from discrimination". On the migration issue, it aims to strengthen the EU's external borders, while creating a common and coordinated European system based on solidarity and shared responsibilities.

### [The Greens / European Free Alliance \(EFA\)](#)

Spitzenkandidat: Terry Reintke and Bas Eickhout.

The Greens/EFA group was established in 1999; in the 2019 election it gained 74 seats (now 72), its highest representation ever.

The two main parties, the EGP and EFA, share a common idea of the EU as a peace-building actor in war circumstances, of a common European response to the migration issue, and of great attention to climate change. However, the policies proposed in their manifestos can be different. Generally, the European Green Party seems to focus more on workers' rights (decent jobs for all, included the minimum wage, right to organise and so on), explicitly defining itself as a feminist party, and calling for a federal European Union. It also aims at a fair tax system. On the other hand, the EFA stands for self-determination and argues for the importance of preserving diversity in Europe: democracy and decentralisation are core principles, and therefore the decentralisation of the decision-making and fairer investments strategies based on regional needs are the kind of policies it proposes. At the same time, while supporting the principles at the base of the Green Deal, it also aims to a more case-by-case approach to prevent disproportionate effects on certain communities.

### [Renew Europe](#)

Spitzenkandidat: Valérie Hayer, Marie-Agnes Strack-Zimmermann and Sandro Gozi.

Successor to the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) group since 2019, it is a liberal, pro-European group, therefore situating in the centre. In 2019 it gained 108 seats (now 102) in the Parliament as the third group.

In the 2024 manifesto it describes defence as the central pillar: rearm and strengthening of European defence capacity, goal to build an alliance of democracies. This has to be done also by strengthening European democracy. It suggests the introduction of economic legal pathways to migrate, and a new way to humanely manage migration. It aims to strengthen Europe's economy in order to be competitive against China and the USA, also creating a circular, innovative and diversified economy and deepening the Single Market. It supports the European Green Deal and wants to pursue the shift towards a sustainable agriculture, while completing the Digital Single Market. It also supports gender equality and greatly focuses on the youth.

### [European People's Party \(EPP\)](#)

Spitzenkandidat: Ursula von der Leyen.

One of the oldest European-level political groups, it was officially founded in 1976. It's the Christian democratic party of the European centre-right and won the 2019 elections with 182 seats (now 177).

In its manifesto the defence of the so-called "European way of life" is given primary importance, both through the security issue (strong common defence and foreign policy, enlarged NATO, remilitarisation, goal of a European Defence Union etc.) and the migration issue (strengthen of external borders, fight against smugglers and traffickers, stronger Frontex, externalisation). According to EPP, anti-discrimination protections is to be subjected to the respect of European traditions and cultural heritage. It also aims to a better, strong European Union which protects first and foremost its citizens through a stable economy and a labour market which ensures quality jobs and fair wages. This has to be done also through the protection of the family as the root of Europe: introduction of a European-wide parental leave and greater gender equality on the labour market. Furthermore, Europe has to be a leader in the global climate protection, continuing the Green Deal project and investing in the creation of an efficient Energy Union.

### [European Conservatives and Reformists \(ECR\)](#)

Founded in 2009, it gained 62 seats in the 2019 elections (now 68). It is far-right, strongly conservative and Eurosceptic. One of the major points the ECR focuses on is migration: need to strengthen EU external borders and of FRONTEX, externalisation, increase the rate of returns, great attention on terrorism etc. ECR aims to reform the EU so that it becomes a community of nations in shared confederal institutions in areas in which they have common interest and is anti-Russian. ECR aims at increased transparency and accountability of EU institutions and greatly supports the Single Market, the improvement of infrastructure and consumer rights, while reducing bureaucracy. Moreover, the ECR has developed the idea of financing with European funds private enterprises to help reduce poverty around the world, for which it demonstrates ongoing support. In sum, it stands for decentralisation, free and fair trade and a safe and secure Europe.

The most far-right-wing group in the European Parliament, ID was launched for the 2019 elections and gained 73 seats (now 59). It is nationalist, Eurosceptic and anti-immigration.

Its priorities are: more democracy (by giving national parliaments greater decision-making powers), greater respect to national identities, sovereignty to each European nation (especially in internal affairs), no Eurozone budget and increased border protection against illegal immigration. In substance, it aims to give back power to the states. This view of Europe and migrations can also be seen in the 2022 Antwerp Declaration, used as electoral programme, in which ID underlined the value of the concept of sovereignty and explicitly criticised the Conference on the Future of Europe as well as the European Union and its approach to the migration issue.

# Main focal points

Before every election – local, regional, national that is – parties usually elaborate a manifesto in which they explain to electors how they expect to work once elected and what kind of policies they aim at implement. Electoral programmes are very important as, through them, electors can better understand the parties’ stance on very divisive arguments – and if they agree with them. The same thing happens for the European Parliament elections: parliamentary groups usually write their own manifestos to communicate with European citizens their ideas for the new legislature. However, not all parliamentary groups have composed their own manifesto: Renew Europe’s campaign is based on its "10 principles" - priorities, the European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) group has also shared its values and priorities on its website, while the Identity and Democracy (ID) group has declared that the 2019 Antwerp Declaration has to be applied as its programme.

In the subsequent paragraph you will find six tables which summarise the different groups’ approach to six different major focal points we have identified in the different manifestos or policy documents: security and foreign relations; migrations; climate change; democracy and the EU; anti-discrimination and gender equality; and economy and the labour market. Then, we have compared them with their 2019 manifestos, in order to see if there have been any changes in policy proposals on the same subject.

## SECURITY AND FOREIGN RELATIONS

<p><b>THE LEFT</b></p> <p>Foreign and security strategies have to be based on peace, diplomacy: reject to rearm as an answer. Support to Ukraine, Palestine, and attention to all wars.</p> <p>In 2019: EU as the protector of human rights, security and peace around the world.</p>	<p><b>S&amp;D</b></p> <p>Creation of a strong European Common Security and Defence Policy and creation of a common European foreign policy approach. EU to promote peace in Ukraine and in Palestine.</p> <p>In 2019: creation of a Common European defence in cooperation with NATO.</p>
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## SECURITY AND FOREIGN RELATIONS

<p><b>GREENS</b></p> <p>EU to promote peace in Ukraine and in Palestine.</p> <p>In 2019: need to create a common security and defence policy. Refusal of military intervention, support to peaceful solutions to armed conflicts.</p>	<p><b>RENEW EUROPE</b></p> <p>Defence is the central pillar of the manifesto: need to rearm and strengthen defence to protect peace on the continent. Support to Ukraine and Taiwan.</p> <p>In 2019: EU to play a central role both as a soft and hard power around the world. Common European approach and increase defence cooperation. Condemn the annexation of Crimea by Russia.</p>
<p><b>EPP</b></p> <p>Rearm, coherent EU foreign policy and enlarge NATO. Anti-Russia stance. Fight to terrorism, organised crimes, misinformation and disinformation.</p> <p>In 2019: anti-authoritarianism stance, fight to terrorism, protection from cyberattacks. Commitment to NATO.</p>	<p><b>ECR</b></p> <p>European citizens' security is the priority. Support to EU-NATO collaboration. Anti-Russia stance. Fight to terrorism, cybercrimes, and cross-border crimes. Scepticism about the establishment on a European defence union.</p> <p>In 2019: EU to use private enterprises to reduce poverty around the world.</p>
<p><b>ID</b></p> <p>No mention of this point on the Declaration.</p> <p>2019: no mention of this point, same Declaration.</p>	

## MIGRATIONS

<p><b>THE LEFT</b></p> <p>Completely reverse the current approach to irregular migrations, no to Fortress Europe, yes to a system based on co-responsibility and solidarity. Creation of legal and safe routes, stop to the externalisation of borders.</p> <p>2019: creation of legal safe routes, reform the Dublin system, promote cooperation with origin countries and create a system of shared responsibilities. Reject the criminalisation of NGOs, stop to the militarisation of borders.</p>	<p><b>S&amp;D</b></p> <p>Need to create a common and coordinated system for migration and asylum based on solidarity and shared responsibility, while strengthening external borders and fighting traffickers and smugglers.</p> <p>2019: create a common and coordinated system for migration and asylum based on solidarity and shared responsibility, in collaboration with countries of origin and of transit. Strengthen external borders and fight against traffickers and smugglers, while opening legal and safe channels.</p>
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<p><b>GREENS</b></p> <p>Creation of a common, humane asylum system. Recognition of migrants' contribution in our societies.</p> <p>2019: asylum policy based on solidarity and on shared responsibilities, fair allocation of asylum seekers among EU member states. Re-establishing of a European sea-rescuing mission and support to NGOs who save peoples' lives in the sea. Common standards and rules for labour mobility and migration.</p>	<p><b>RENEW EUROPE</b></p> <p>Need to manage migration in a humane and stable way, introducing economic legal pathways and respecting human rights and dignity while externalising borders.</p> <p>2019: need to promote a common European response. Externalisation of borders by signing agreements with safe third countries and by ensuring shelter in countries of origin. Legal and safe ways to enter workers and students. Commitment to integration.</p>
<p><b>EPP</b></p> <p>Fight against illegal migration by strengthening external borders, in cooperation with third countries.</p> <p>2019: "help them in their home country" approach, border protection agreements with North African countries and institutions of a Marshall Plan for Africa. Improve the integration of refugees.</p>	<p><b>ECR</b></p> <p>Migration as a key European priority, need to protect external borders, strengthen FRONTEX, increase the rate of returns, externalise borders.</p> <p>2019: goal to increase the return of failed asylum seekers, strengthen the role of FRONTEX.</p>
<p><b>ID</b></p> <p>Need to increase border protection against illegal migration.</p> <p>2019: same Declaration.</p>	

## **CLIMATE CHANGE**

<p><b>THE LEFT</b></p> <p>Work towards a just green transition. Promote a new green social contract based on justice and respect to reach the Paris Agreement. Need to overcome neoliberalism and the capitalist system.</p> <p>2019: fight for sustainable and just environmental, agriculture and fisheries policies. Climate justice, end to fossil fuels, boost investments and climate action.</p>	<p><b>S&amp;D</b></p> <p>New Green Social Deal for a just transition. Invest in renewable energy and energy efficiency, to be climate neutral by 2050. Strengthen the EU's common agricultural policy.</p> <p>2019: EU as a leader to fight climate change. Protect biodiversity and stop pollution. Accessibility of clean air, clean water, clean energy and quality food. Objective to become climate-neutral by 2050. Taxation of CO2 emissions.</p>
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<p><b>GREENS</b></p> <p>Increased fundings towards the Green Deal, financed by taxing wealthiest firms and individuals more. Zero-pollution EU, 100% renewable energy system.</p> <p>2019: fight climate change by phasing out coal by 2030, promoting energy efficiency and moving to 100% renewables.</p>	<p><b>RENEW EUROPE</b></p> <p>Support to farmers, sustainable agriculture system. Shift to a sustainable economy, accelerate the deployment of renewable and clean energies.</p> <p>2019: EU as a leader to fight climate change. circular economy, increased international cooperation, carbon neutral EU by 20250.</p>
<p><b>EPP</b></p> <p>EU as leader in climate protection. Support to the industry and commitment to the targets set by the European Green Deal. Invest in clean energy and protect the agriculture and fishery sectors.</p> <p>2019: promotion of the Paris Climate Agreements, need to balance environmental protection with economy protection. EU as a leader in clean technologies. Defence of farmers.</p>	<p><b>ECR</b></p> <p>Review of the Green Deal. Support only to realistic targets, such as lowering emissions. Need to protect wildlife and endangered animals, European fishermen and the sea.</p> <p>2019: no mention.</p>
<p><b>ID</b></p> <p>No mention of this point on the Declaration.</p> <p>2019: no mention of this point, same Declaration.</p>	

## **DEMOCRACY AND THE EU**

<p><b>THE LEFT</b></p> <p>Reform of the EU and its founding treaties in order to create a truly democratic Union, for example by giving the EU Parliament the right to initiate legislation and by inserting anti-fascist and anti-nazi values as founding.</p> <p>Extension of the right to vote to residents and 16+ year-old.</p> <p>2019: demand transparency and the respect of human rights to EU institutions. promotion of alternative visions to challenge the dominant neoliberal approach.</p>	<p><b>S&amp;D</b></p> <p>Defend democracy and the rule of law also through anti-corruption laws and media freedom. Stop to fundings to autocratic governments.</p> <p>2019: respect, protect and promote democracy. Empower citizens participation. Introduction of the universal suffrage to allow long-residents' participation in EU elections.</p>
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<p><b>GREENS</b></p> <p>Defend democracy and the rule of law against anti-democratic, authoritarian tendencies. EU as a federal union of states.</p> <p>2019: need to strengthen democracy, EU as a full supranational democracy and protection of democracy against authoritarianism. Denial of EU funds when states break European rules</p>	<p><b>RENEW EUROPE</b></p> <p>Stronger EU institutions: more power to the Parliament, the Commission as a proper democratic government. Fight against autocrats, stop to funding towards them.</p> <p>2019: EU as a role model in the world. introduction of new mechanisms to monitor violations of human rights. Greater powers to EU Parliament.</p>
<p><b>EPP</b></p> <p>Preservation of the common European Christian values against external interference, and particular attention given to the family as the root of Europe. Consequences for serious and systemic breaches of the rule of law.</p> <p>2019: preservation of the common European Judeo-Christian roots against radical Islam, terrorism and authoritarianism. Defence of the family. Foster parliamentary democracy: the EU as a fully-fledged parliamentary democracy.</p>	<p><b>ECR</b></p> <p>Less powers to the EU, so that it becomes a community of nations that only cooperate in areas in which they have shared interests. Improve transparency and democratic accountability.</p> <p>2019: EU as a community of nations. Goal to change the treaties so to have a looser, confederal association of nation states; improved transparency and accountability of EU institutions; enhanced role of national and regional parliaments.</p>
<p><b>ID</b></p> <p>Less powers to the EU, more decision-making powers left to national parliaments, greater respect to national identities. European nations should be sovereign, especially in internal affairs.</p> <p>2019: same Declaration.</p>	

## ANTI-DISCRIMINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY

<p><b>THE LEFT</b></p> <p>Anti-discrimination, anti-fascist approach. Support to LGBTQIA+ community to marriage, self-determinate, and so on. Feminist party, fight towards gender equality in all spheres of life, critic of capitalist patriarchal society.</p> <p>2019: inclusion of immigrants in anti-discrimination policies. Protection of the LGBTQIA+ community and promotion of same-sex marriage, right to adoption and legal gender recognition. Feminist approach to work towards gender equality.</p>	<p><b>S&amp;D</b></p> <p>Anti-discrimination approach. Attention to persons with disabilities, young people. Push for LGBTQIA+ equality. Feminist party, fight towards gender equality, need to legislate on gender-based violence.</p> <p>2019: promotion of equal rights and anti-discrimination approach. Removal of legal and societal obstacles for LGBTQ+ community. Need to prevent rising inequalities by improving the welfare state. Feminist party.</p>
<p><b>GREENS</b></p> <p>Anti-discrimination approach. Attention to persons with disabilities, migrants, and other vulnerable groups. Feminist party, fight towards gender equality in all spheres of life, more representation, fight gender-based violence. Support to LGBTQIA+ community.</p> <p>2019: reduce poverty and inequalities. Secure essential social rights to everyone and give particular attention to young people. Equal right for the LGBTQIA+ community. Feminism and gender equality.</p>	<p><b>RENEW EUROPE</b></p> <p>Recognition of same-sex marriages and rainbow families, attention to the youth. More comprehensive EU legislation on hate crimes. Defend women's access to sexual and reproductive health and rights.</p> <p>2019: defend the right to self-determination. EU proud of its diversity. Fight against racism. Invest in education, research and innovation. Priority to fight violence against women.</p>
<p><b>EPP</b></p> <p>Protection of European common traditions and cultural richness. Fight against all forms of discrimination while especially protecting Christians from persecution.</p> <p>2019: safeguard European common traditions and values, upholding democracy and the rule of law. Fight against racism and antisemitism. Gender equality as one of the EU pillars.</p>	<p><b>ECR</b></p> <p>No mention.</p> <p>2019: no mention.</p>
<p><b>ID</b></p> <p>No mention of this point on the Declaration.</p> <p>2019: no mention of this point, same Declaration.</p>	

## ECONOMY AND THE LABOUR MARKET

### THE LEFT

No to austerity, investments to create green jobs. Tax the rich and combat tax evasion. Workers' right at the heart of its values: empower workers and trade unions, guarantee a minimum income, close the gender gap, fight precarious work, equal working conditions to migrants. Defend the right to a decent and affordable housing and promote a universal and free healthcare system.

2019: no to austerity, better coordination across several policy areas, economy to serve the people by ensuring a fair distribution of wealth. Close tax heavens and tax big companies. Fight precariousness and unemployment, reduce working hours for the same income, improve work-life balance to ensure women enter the labour market.

### S&D

No to austerity. Support and promote European social market economy. Strengthen EU's investment and international trade system. Tax large corporations, big polluters and the ultra-rich. Secure quality jobs for all: high salaries and decent minimum wage, close gender gaps, protect collective bargaining and trade union rights, ensure that internships are paid.

2019: no to austerity, introduction of a long-term Investment Plan, strong budget to improve living conditions and reduce inequalities. Fight tax evasion. Protection against unemployment. Right to work and to live in dignity; principle of equal pay for equal work; decent minimum wage and decent contractual conditions.

### GREENS

EU's policies must aim to European citizens' wellbeing. Fair tax system, tax the big polluters and the ultra-rich. Need to create good jobs and promote fair pay, also through an EU-wide minimum wage, paid internships, eliminating gender inequalities, and regulating migrant workers.

2019: no to austerity, invest in a green, circular zero-emission economy. Tax justice. Complete the single market to create jobs and prosperity. Fight social dumping: decent minimum wage, universal basic income and working time reduction schemes, paid internships and good working conditions for young people.

### RENEW EUROPE

Need to strengthen EU's economy against China and the USA: trade and investment agreements with open, market-based economies. Protect the rights of workers: ensure quality jobs and wages, introduce a Europe-wide parental leave, close the gender pay gap and promote youth employment.

2019: strengthen the economy by investing in research and innovation, smart mobility, and sustainable economic growth. Promotion of modern and progressive free trade agreements.

<p><b>EPP</b></p> <p>Tax friendly and business supportive. Promotion of free and fair trade, in cooperation with likeminded partners. Investment plan for European quality jobs.</p> <p>2019: continue the “Juncker Plan” path. Strong network between regions, fight against brain drain. Fight for fair tax distribution and against corruption. Less bureaucracy.</p>	<p><b>ECR</b></p> <p>Reduce the barriers within the Single Market, protect consumer rights, reduce bureaucracy, expand and support open trade. Protect European citizens and businesses against the Green Deal.</p> <p>2019: goal to reduce barriers in the Single Market, protect consumer rights; fiscal competition within the EU; voluntary-based Euro; 2% of GDP expenditure on defence.</p>
<p><b>ID</b></p> <p>No Eurozone budget.</p> <p>2019: same Declaration.</p>	



# Our Campaigns

In collaboration with other organisations, European Alternatives has launched 4 campaigns in the run up to the European elections to promote a Europe of democracy, equality and justice. Here we compare the demands of our campaigns with the political manifestos of the parties.

## **By the Many**

The By The Many! campaign aims at a people-powered Europe: more attention to the planet and the people, especially as vulnerable communities are disproportionately damaged by issues as climate change and rising living costs; more power to the people and away from the state. Workers' rights and protections, defence of vulnerable peoples' rights, climate action, voting rights to all residents, are just some of the focal points of the campaign. Left to centre European parliamentary groups mostly share these values, as they aim at contrasting discriminations, and at creating good jobs conditions – this point is shared also by the EPP – while fighting for gender equality. In one way or another they understand the need to establish a more effective approach to climate change, which is becoming more and more urgent. In the meantime, these groups' proposal to give "more power to the people" is to be reached mainly through the attribution of more powers to the European Parliament, even though this greatly varies within parties: while the Greens aim at the transformation of the EU into a federation of states, The Left aims to completely reform the EU starting from attributing to the Parliament the right to initiate legislation; and, while Renew Europe agrees with The Left, it also aims at the transformation of the Commission into a proper democratic government, one that will serve as the only executive authority representing the EU on the global stage. The S&D manifesto, on the other hand, mostly concentrates on the defence of democracy through greater anti-corruption measures, and media freedom and pluralism, and the EPP's one focuses on the protection of the so-called "European way of life". Lastly, centre-right to right groups have other priorities, such as the contrast to migrations, and don't share our values and proposals.

## **Citizens Take Over Europe**

The Citizens Take Over Europe (CTOE) manifesto aims to a more democratic European Union that integrates citizens' view into its policymaking and institutions, as only through a greater civic participation in the European democracy and decision-making we can actually solve – or at least manage – the great issues of our time. CTOE calls to the application of the proposals issued by citizens during the Conference on the Future of Europe, as well as other more specific requests such as the transformation of European Citizens' Initiative into a real democratic instrument and the electoral reforms. European parliamentary groups share some of CTOE's values and proposals in their manifestos, usually as a request for greater power to the European Parliament and more transparency. In their manifesto, the Greens greatly support the Conference on the Future of Europe's outcomes, for example aiming at the introduction of a residence-based European citizenship, at the monitoring of EU spending both by the European Parliament and civil society and at creating a mandatory EU transparency register as one of the new comprehensive legislation on lobbying activities to be applied. The fundamental role of the civil society in fostering democracy is also shared by Social and Democrats. Similarly, the Left supports a public debate that comprises also both civil society and national parliaments, other than the extension of the right to vote to long-term migrants (residents) too. Lastly, the Renew Europe group concentrated on possible institutional reforms that could strengthen citizens' voice, as the forming of transnational lists or opening the Commission consultation process. In fact, centre-right to right groups tend to either want to maintain the status quo while strengthening European institutions (European Peoples' Party) – or to decrease EU's powers (European Conservatives and Reformists and Identity and Democracy).



## **Pact for Equality**

The Pact for Equality is a campaign that aims at promoting equality in the EU and at fighting discrimination, especially towards migrants. The Pact suggests a comprehensive EU-wide law on anti-discrimination, the legal recognition of climate change as a reason for asylum, and a general transformation of the current policy on migration, based on the externalisation of borders and on the Frontex agency. Different European parliamentary groups' manifestos include similar proposals. For instance, The Left, as well as S&D and Renew Europe, suggest the need to define hate speech and to promote a more inclusive anti-discrimination law, in some way or another. The groups' approach to migration however varies widely as, while most of centre to left parties wish for a more humane approach to the issue based on shared responsibility and solidarity, some also support the strengthening of EU's borders (S&D) and wish for a greater externalisation, in cooperation with third countries (Renew Europe). Very little attention is accorded to migrants' rights, especially economic ones: for example, Renew Europe argues for the opening of economic legal pathways to migrate, and The Left – the most critical towards the current system – argues for the welcoming of migrant workers “on equal terms and working conditions”, while also supporting the introduction of legal and safe migration channels. None of the others consider such policies, not even for only migrant workers, even when discussing about the need of a human rights approach to migration. And, as expected, the other groups – EPP, ECR and ID, wish for closer borders and greater intervention from third countries.

## **FIERCE**

Lastly, the FIERCE project aims to connect the feminist movement, civil society and political decision-makers, countering the growing anti-feminist far right ideas. We aspire to work with MEPs that share our same feminist values in rekindling such relationship. There are various European parliamentary groups that explicitly define themselves as feminist: The Left, the Greens, S&D and Renew Europe all have, and support gender equality and feminist policies. In particular, The Left aims at the deconstruction of the current capitalist patriarchal society by proposing an alternative society based on gender equality: equal opportunities, salary and pension, the redistribution of care work, the right to self-determination and the right to universally accessible contraceptive services and safe abortion, as well as the fight against gender-based violence. The Greens, too, have a feminist approach and aim at the destruction of patriarchy, working towards not only to the filling of the gender pay gap, but also at gender equality in all institutional spheres, protecting women's sexual and reproductive right and ending gender-based violence. S&D suggests the same arguments about gender equality and sexual and reproductive freedom, and it also aims at the introduction of a legislation on sexual harassment and exploitation, while Renew Europe concentrates on the defence of women's access to sexual and reproductive health and rights – explicitly citing abortion – and on the fight to gender-based violence. Lastly, while the EPP group generally supports equal rights between men and women, particularly for what attain equal pay, it is quite ambiguous in doing so, as it doesn't define gender equality as one of the EU pillars as in 2019, and the last two groups – ECR and ID – don't even mention it. Similarly, LGBTQIA+ rights are supported more or less extensively by centre to left groups, while ignored by centre-right to right groups. Most notably, the Greens and the Left not only support same-sex marriages and families and aim to the expansion of anti-discrimination laws, but also extensively aim at protecting the right to gender self-determination.

DEMAND

# A EUROPE BUILT BY THE MANY

by  
the  
many!

We demand  
a people-powered  
Europe.

ea



Scan to join  
the campaign!



# By the Many

## We demand a people-powered Europe! A manifesto for an alternative Europe

### IMAGINE

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

## DEMAND

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
- The right to protest against polluters and climate destruction must be guaranteed.

### 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, LGBTQIA+ 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.

Sign here: <https://euroalter.com/bytheman/>



YOU DECIDE  
ON THE FUTURE  
OF EUROPE

BE COURAGEOUS  
& REFORM  
EUROPE!

CITIZENS  
TAKE OVER  
EUROPE

ABOLISH THE  
VEToes - MAKE  
EUROPE A GLOBAL  
PLAYER

DE GRÜNEN  
DANTELFREUND.EU

# Citizens Take Over Europe

## We demand a people-powered Europe!

## A manifesto for an alternative Europe

Democracy is more central to the future of Europe than ever before. It is only through widespread and empowering civic deliberation, participation, and citizen involvement in decision-making that the polarised conflicts in Europe – e.g. regarding the environment, migration, agriculture, security - can be resolved. It is by allowing for more civic voice and transparency that social, intergenerational, and climate justice can be restored or even strengthened, and lasting peace can be secured. Citizens and civil society are essential in their role as watchdogs of proper political dialogue and policy-making, as well as to deter corrupt practices. As various authoritarian challenges to democracy show us in a dramatic way, it is only by extensive and meaningful citizen involvement in politics that much needed democratic resilience can be enhanced in practice. Citizens Take Over Europe therefore calls for a leap forward in the democratisation of the European Union.

CTOE calls on the political parties and independent candidates for the 2024 European Parliament elections to remedy the democratic deficits in the EU. This means that the EU institutions need to follow up in a clear, transparent and effective manner to the democratic reform proposals formulated by the Conference on the Future of Europe. The EP should take the lead in institutionalising the demands both in its own procedures and within its powers and calling on the other European institutions to do so. So far, the political proposals have not been taken up by the institutions, as CTOE has noted again and again.

We request more specifically from our political representatives:

1. The creation of permanent citizens/people's assembly for Europe; including a mechanism of mandatory, transparent, and detailed follow-up to such an assembly's recommendations by the institutions of the European Union;
2. The insertion of a meaningful citizen component into the Convention procedure for EU Treaty change. The European Parliament has already adopted a fair number of proposals for Treaty amendment and has called for a Convention. Core demands relating to EU democratisation should be made central to the process of Treaty reform. This means that the ordinary Treaty revision procedure should include robust formats for citizen and civil society participation and deliberation. The inclusion of citizens from accession states should be guaranteed in this process to ensure the EU is preparing in a democratic way for its future.
3. Making the European Citizens' initiative (ECI) a real democratic instrument.
4. The ECI instrument is to be transformed into a direct right of initiative in which citizens' proposals are to be submitted directly to the legislator (European Parliament and Council of the EU) for consideration.
5. Moreover ECIs should be given the right to initiate a European Citizens' Assembly. ECIs should also have the right to put forward proposals that may involve Treaty change, thereby giving citizens the possibility to exercise constituent power;
6. A pan-European referendum should be established that can be initiated by citizens and prepared by a European Citizens' Assembly. The purpose of the Assembly is to discuss and recommend a referendum text that will be put to voters. Its design will aim at triggering public interest and trigger an informed public debate before an actual referendum is held.
7. An empowering European digital platform for participation, accessible through a European Digital Citizenship. It should allow citizens to sign petitions, ECIs, interact with each other, and should include civic artificial intelligence giving information on the access to European public services and participatory venues for citizens and civil society organisations;



8. Electoral reforms and Europeanising EP elections, establishing: a) for all European citizens and long term residents an equal right to vote that is based on pan-european electoral standards; b) transnational lists that offer citizens the choice among candidates selected by national political parties and running only in one member state as well as European candidates selected by European party alliances and running in multiple member states; c) the right to vote for people with longer residence in the EU; d) the creation of new parties and the collection of signatures for the presentation of new electoral lists should be simplified and made accessible.

9. The consolidation of a democratic ecosystem throughout Europe where decisions should systematically and meaningfully involve those that are most affected by them, particularly through their local authorities and communities, and where relevant local citizens' assemblies and other forms of participation;

10. Protecting European civil society organisations by developing instruments for safeguarding and enhancing civic spaces in domestic contexts as well as at the transnational level, provide robust funding schemes for civil society organisations, and develop a permanent instrument for monitoring and checking EU legislation on whether it promotes or harms the functioning of civil society.

11. An EU Enlargement that reinforces democracy and a strong civil society as prerequisites for membership in the EU, involving citizens both in the accession countries and in the EU in the accession process through citizens assemblies and other forms of participation and deliberation.

Sign here: <https://citizenstakeover.eu/blog/our-democratic-manifesto-for-the-european-elections/>



# Five FIERCE Claims for a Feminist Europe

## 1. A Recognised European Feminist Network to Stop the Anti-Gender Movement

Establish a collaborative process that facilitates networking and alliance-building opportunities among existing national and transnational feminist movements and NGOs. Amplify feminist voices and foster intersectional solidarity. Build a STRONG front that the European Parliament systematically supports and empowers.

### 1.1: Redirect the funding to secure sustainable and transparent feminist networking

TURN THE TIDE from financing anti-gender movements to consolidating a durable feminist network by assuring the following:

- Funding monitoring and exposing anti-gender movements: document economic flows and schemes with evidence and data to disclose the narratives and networks behind non-democratic movements. Include funding indicators of antifeminist and anti-gender actors and organisations in annual reports accessible to the public.
- Funding sustainability and long-term functionality: guarantee constant core funding (not exclusively project-based) for feminist activists and rights advocacy organisations, movements, and networks to secure their actions and move beyond the uncertainty of volunteering.

### 1.2: Confront online democracy threats such as disinformation and hate speech

- Document and expose gender biases in technology AI and social media algorithms. Promote using tools and systems that foster algorithmic justice.
- Regulate digital platforms' criteria for identifying non-democratic threats and guarantee that the algorithm-building process respects European values, using fair and transparent algorithm management tools.
- Advocate intersectional criteria in the analysis of information presented by the media so its coverage shifts towards diversity, considering gender, ethnicity, religion, ideology, and other identity markers.

### 1.3: Words Matter: "Words shape worlds."

The European Parliament can participate in shaping an EQUAL WORLD and create an open discourse with feminist networks to amplify their words and address fake and non-scientific harmful speech.

- Anti-gender discourse is responsible for online and offline violence of many people when threats escalate to a personal level. Political discourse should create a narrative that directly connects the feminist agenda and democracy.
- Systematically monitor and denounce hate speech based on anti-gender rhetoric, which includes violent discourse against women, misogynistic attacks on female politicians, gender-based threats against female journalists, women human rights defenders, discrimination attacks on LGBTIQ+, hatred against marginalised groups, etc.

## 2: Social, Economic and Reproductive Justice

### 2.1: Achieve reproductive justice NOW

Reproductive justice goes beyond fundamental reproductive rights, encompassing aspects such as maintaining personal bodily autonomy, freedom to have/not to have children (including LGBTIQ+ people), access to childcare, and issues related to adoption. These vital rights must be accessible to racialised and minoritised women, women with disabilities, those affected by poverty, and any other inequalities. The reason behind this inequality is simple - marginal groups don't have full access to their rights. A particular emphasis should be put on female genital mutilation (FGM) and combating forced sterilisation, one of the most serious human rights violations that have been documented regarding Romani women and LGBTIQ+ people. JUSTICE means JUSTICE FOR EVERYBODY as a universal model, and no specific population group should be excluded.

- Institute universal health coverage and guarantee access to sexual and reproductive health care services (contraception, abortion, maternal health, accessibility to free medical care, cervical and breast cancer prevention, menstrual hygiene facilities and products etc.), regardless of nationality and citizenship.
- Activate evidence-based decision-making processes based on research and specifically collected data at the European and Member States levels. Use this information to monitor and strengthen sanctioning mechanisms to protect sexual and reproductive rights.
- Combat gender-based physical, verbal and structural violence in the healthcare system—e.g., gynaecological and obstetric violence, primarily including forced sterilisation based on discrimination e.g. of Romani women, LGBTIQ+ people, as well as the denial of abortion care, that violates the universal concept "MY BODY, MY CHOICE."
- Produce guidelines and design training programmes for healthcare professionals on intersectionality and gender-sensitive treatment, so specialists know how to address and help patients regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, or identity.
- Constitutionalise reproductive rights at the EU level and modify the Charter of Fundamental Rights and the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU), in line with the European Parliament proposals. Ensure the EU is up-to-date with the latest reproductive issues in the Member States (MS) and that legislation is modified accordingly.
- Encourage Member States to focus on the implementation of a basic minimum health insurance (taking into account the socio-economic aspects) to prevent and treat cervical and other types of cancer among women and reduce the percentage of deaths occurring during childbirth and pregnancy.

## 2.2: Dignify and recognise care work as the cornerstone of life

"EP candidates, your daily life happens because of people who stay in the background and care for your infants, school-age children, ill, disabled, and elderly people. Next time, look at them Properly! They are the people who work A LOT and receive LITTLE!"

- Care is a public matter!
  - Create a European Public Care system that addresses the universal need for care, guarantees access to public and quality services, particularly for migrant and marginalised people based on their country of origin, social status (undocumented, refugees, indigenous people, etc.), and valorises the work of carers. Offer reasonable inclusive care opportunities regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, political choice, citizenship, etc.
- Turn care into a universal right: TO CARE FOR SOMEONE and TO BE THE SUBJECT OF CARE!
  - Build up on the European Care Strategy to promote a non-profit, relationship-centred quality care model that avoids privatisation and does not dismantle public services.
  - Stop the "uberization" of home care services through platforms that dehumanise and impersonalise the employer-worker relationship. Technology should facilitate working processes and simplify daily tasks, not undermine common interpersonal relationships.

## 2.3: Decent work for all: Decent conditions! Decent opportunities! Decent legislation!

- Guarantee everyone's access to quality jobs considering dignity and equality, with proper working conditions and a fair income (access to decent work according to the ILO's standards). Address the problem of migrant women's work opportunities, who have the least paid jobs but are most needed in the EU. Create mechanisms to protect workers from discrimination considering their de facto subordinate position in the working relationships.
- Protect workers from all forms of exploitation (verbal harassment, physical violence, minimum wages, unregistered employment, extended work hours, etc).
- Guarantee social protection rights, such as access to social security, healthcare, and retirement benefits.

## 3: Fighting Against SGBV (Sexual and Gender-Based Violence)

### 3.1: Implement and improve the EU directive on violence against women (VAW) and visualise the bigger picture - institutional violence that creates structural discrimination

The EU Directive on VAW and domestic violence has been an important first step in addressing and tackling sexual and gender-based violence. The Directive needs content improvements and effective implementation according to the document's original proposal, which is an achievable goal for EP candidates.

- Add modifications to the directive and implement a consent-based definition of rape, as well as intersex genital mutilation/coercive medicalisation and forced sterilisation as forms of SGBV.

- Institute universal health coverage and guarantee access to sexual and reproductive health care services (contraception, abortion, maternal health, accessibility to free medical care, cervical and breast cancer prevention, menstrual hygiene facilities and products etc.), regardless of nationality and citizenship.
- Activate evidence-based decision-making processes based on research and specifically collected data at the European and Member States levels. Use this information to monitor and strengthen sanctioning mechanisms to protect sexual and reproductive rights.
- Combat gender-based physical, verbal and structural violence in the healthcare system—e.g., gynaecological and obstetric violence, primarily including forced sterilisation based on discrimination e.g. of Romani women, LGBTIQ+ people, as well as the denial of abortion care, that violates the universal concept "MY BODY, MY CHOICE."
- Produce guidelines and design training programmes for healthcare professionals on intersectionality and gender-sensitive treatment, so specialists know how to address and help patients regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, or identity.
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- Encourage Member States to focus on the implementation of a basic minimum health insurance (taking into account the socio-economic aspects) to prevent and treat cervical and other types of cancer among women and reduce the percentage of deaths occurring during childbirth and pregnancy.

## 2.2: Dignify and recognise care work as the cornerstone of life

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- Care is a public matter!
  - Create a European Public Care system that addresses the universal need for care, guarantees access to public and quality services, particularly for migrant and marginalised people based on their country of origin, social status (undocumented, refugees, indigenous people, etc.), and valorises the work of carers. Offer reasonable inclusive care opportunities regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, political choice, citizenship, etc.
- Turn care into a universal right: TO CARE FOR SOMEONE and TO BE THE SUBJECT OF CARE!
  - Build up on the European Care Strategy to promote a non-profit, relationship-centred quality care model that avoids privatisation and does not dismantle public services.
  - Stop the "uberization" of home care services through platforms that dehumanise and impersonalise the employer-worker relationship. Technology should facilitate working processes and simplify daily tasks, not undermine common interpersonal relationships.

## 2.3: Decent work for all: Decent conditions! Decent opportunities! Decent legislation!

- Guarantee everyone's access to quality jobs considering dignity and equality, with proper working conditions and a fair income (access to decent work according to the ILO's standards). Address the problem of migrant women's work opportunities, who have the least paid jobs but are most needed in the EU. Create mechanisms to protect workers from discrimination considering their de facto subordinate position in the working relationships.
- Protect workers from all forms of exploitation (verbal harassment, physical violence, minimum wages, unregistered employment, extended work hours, etc).
- Guarantee social protection rights, such as access to social security, healthcare, and retirement benefits.

## 3: Fighting Against SGBV (Sexual and Gender-Based Violence)

### 3.1: Implement and improve the EU directive on violence against women (VAW) and visualise the bigger picture - institutional violence that creates structural discrimination

The EU Directive on VAW and domestic violence has been an important first step in addressing and tackling sexual and gender-based violence. The Directive needs content improvements and effective implementation according to the document's original proposal, which is an achievable goal for EP candidates.

- Add modifications to the directive and implement a consent-based definition of rape, as well as intersex genital mutilation/coercive medicalisation and forced sterilisation as forms of SGBV.

- Avoid an instrumentalisation of the directive by ensuring the complete implementation of each of its components. Go beyond criminalisation and emphasise prevention, considering additionally the content of the Victim's Rights Directive and the Istanbul Convention. Adopt a victim-centred approach to address the underlying issues and provide adequate victim support.
- Guarantee national and local implementation of the directive by sharing examples of successful case studies using cross-checked facts, data, functional tools for combating SGBV, legislative precedents, and media coverage.
- Add gender-based violence to the EU Treaties Article 83.1 TFEU to recognise it as a serious crime that needs a common combating approach.
- Address the perpetration of the SGBV by the state institutions (non-recognition of the victims of SGBV, corruption, obstetrical and gynaecological violence, reduced access to basic health care, etc.).
- Stop harmful practices like female genital mutilation and promote dignified menstruation.

### 3.2: Comprehensive Sex Education (CSE) for all young people in Europe: An informed and empowered generation

Address gender-based violence as a cultural problem for all nationalities, promoting prevention through education and raising awareness of sexism. Guarantee that age-appropriate material for comprehensive sex education and a curriculum spanning all life stages and well-trained educators are available to all public and private institutions, including pre-schools, schools, universities, colleges, vocational training institutes, adult educational centres, and others.

- Mandatory and standardised CSE materials for children in the EU countries, addressing consent, gender norms, intersectional discrimination, LGBTIQ+ rights, SGBV, and sexual violence against children, including incest and other issues with real case studies.
- Guarantee constant EU funding and allocation of resources for CSE material development and implementation.
- Introduce specific training courses and materials for teachers and educators highlighting CSE themes and giving valid examples of problem-solving.
- Consider an intersectional perspective on CSE that includes the sexual rights of people with disabilities and the complexity of discrimination based on identity markers (gender, ethnicity, religion, etc.).
- Address SGBV as a transnational problem by periodically reporting on selected indicators (e.g., femicides, cyber-harassment) and applying an intersectional approach to data collection and analysis. Use media coverage as a tool to increase awareness.

## 4: Protect LGBTIQ+ Rights

### 4.1: Legal protection of LGBTIQ+ rights

Advocate and push for an anti-discrimination law to criminalise homo-transphobia and close the legal gap in the protection of LGBTIQ+ people's rights, who are one of the most discriminated and marginalised population groups in Europe.

- Extend efforts beyond the EC LGBTIQ Equality Strategy and promote an EU anti-discrimination law to ensure LGBTIQ+ rights.
- Improve current legislation on human rights and anti-discrimination to foster greater inclusivity for the LGBTIQ+ community.
- Address intersectionality within LGBTIQ+ rights based on multiple identity markers (gender, ethnicity, religion, ideology, etc.).
- Include the rights of LGBTIQ+ families (adoption rights, marriage equality, anti-discrimination protections, healthcare access, inclusive environment, etc.).

### 4.2: Integrate LGBTIQ+ rights into foreign policies

- Make LGBTIQ+ rights protection a criterion in the EU enlargement and accession processes by promoting diversity and combating discrimination.
- Support and fund cooperation programs with civil society in countries where LGBTIQ+ rights are under attack. Provide assistance, protection, and advocacy for LGBTIQ+ communities that face constant threats.
- Foresee binding clauses dedicated to human rights protection in Trade Agreements.
- Oblige parties to adhere to human rights standards and principles by promoting accountability, transparency, and protecting fundamental rights.

## 5: Global Development, Peace and Feminist Foreign Policy

- Build a global system where solidarity is not barred by political boundaries. Change the current justice landscape to eliminate inequalities and prioritise peaceful conflict resolutions implementing a feminist foreign policy. Recognise women as critical agents of change in globalisation.

### 5.1: Adjusting the EU's soft power to build a global institutional framework for peace, development, and sustainability by appealing to its core values, policies, and institutions

- Set up an independent foreign policy, based on feminist foreign policy principles, that prioritises the peace agenda against all wars using a diplomatic and peaceful resolution commitment.
- Strengthen the EU's role in advocating for a UN system reform that aligns with its original mandate and mission by addressing global challenges.
- Revisit the EU's financial rules and budget-assigning criteria to stop financing authoritarian regimes and involve women and organisations supporting gender equality in decision-making processes.

### 5.2: Ceasefire everywhere NOW!

- Prevent any national or international conflict from turning into genocide, ethnic cleansing or crimes against humanity and take international measures against actors that commit these crimes. Identify potential targets during the conflict's early stages and ensure protective measures.
- Respect the ICJ's (International Court of Justice) decisions and avoid complicity in these crimes.
- Improve and ensure a concrete action plan for implementing the women's peace and security agenda (UN1325).

### 5.3: Climate, justice and economic governance

- Put people's rights (individuals and communities) in the centre and prioritise them over corporate interests in economic decision-making processes and governance.
- Modify the debt policy to promote debt restructuring and cancellation models in economically disadvantaged countries.
- Modify tax policies to foster progressive taxation systems, establish a common tax policy, set international tax standards, and eliminate tax havens.
- Stop promoting privatisation and liberalisation of public goods and services through trade policy, which limits access to public services and increases the unpaid care burden—a burden that falls heavily on women.
- Recognise the climate justice demands by accepting the disproportionate impact of climate change on women, girls, and gender-diverse people. It is essential to address existing gender inequalities within climate policies.
- Feminist climate action asserts that women are at the frontline of climate governance. Empowering women economically, socially, and politically is crucial for building resilient communities and fostering sustainable development

### 5.4: Europe without borders

- Equal rights to all migrants (special focus on refugees and undocumented people).
  - Stop racist narratives towards migrants.
  - Valorise migrants' work.
  - Regularise the situation of migrant workers currently in irregular employment.
  - Offer unrestricted access to public services regardless of administrative asylum status.
  - Facilitate the recognition process of country-of-origin qualifications.
- Stop institutional violence and racism towards all migrants (special focus on refugees, undocumented people and racialised minorities [e.g. Roma people]).
  - Fight restrictions against freedom of movement.
  - Eliminate detention centres for immigrants and asylum seekers.
  - Address the global roots of the refugee crisis, including climate disasters, pollution, threats, violent conflicts, and economic precarity.
- Rights for refugee women.
  - Revise all EU refugee deals with authoritarian governments to ensure they align with EU values, human rights standards, and ethical considerations.
  - Guarantee refugee rights for all refugee women (special focus on victims of SGBV) to promote and facilitate their economic independence, which is key to ensuring their full inclusion.

Sign here: <https://euroalter.com/be-fierce-join-our-five-claims-for-a-feminist-europe/>





# PACT FOR EQUALITY

## End discrimination now!



### Our principles

The EU is not the human rights example it claims to be. Discrimination and structural racism are rife – from profiling, exclusion, to violence and death – and after these elections, likely to rise for migrants\*, refugees, and racialised people\*\*.

In 2022 the Fundamental Rights Agency survey on Being Black in the EU found that within a year, “racial discrimination [had] risen from 24% to 34%. It has increased the most when searching for accommodation, looking for a job, at work and in education.”

In December 2023, the EU Barometer survey found rising discrimination across the EU, most commonly due to ethnicity, race, gender identity and sexual orientation. Most instances of discrimination took place at work or in public spaces.

Yet, our communities have never been more interconnected. Europe is becoming increasingly diverse and aware of its multiple identities and histories. We can use our connections in this crucial time to create an equal, inclusive, representative, and vibrant Europe together.

Let’s make a Europe of human rights a reality – not just a slogan.

Acknowledge our agency and recognise our shared humanity and common values.  
Join the Pact for Equality today and join the fight for a future of equality in Europe!

### Who we are

As a group of anti-racism, migration, and anti-discrimination advocates, all politically active in our communities, we mobilised our expertise to formulate the Pact for Equality’s principles and demands over two days of deliberation in Marseille, April 2024.

This Pact is shaped by our personal experiences of exclusion and discrimination, as well as our strong links with local communities.

Our mission statement:

“We have the privilege of speaking on behalf of ourselves and drawing attention to similar struggles faced by our communities. We want to use our skills, unique perspectives, and expertise to demand people in positions of power change the reality faced by migrants\*, refugees and racialised people in Europe\*\*, and contribute to ending all forms of discrimination.”

### Our demands

Anti-discrimination and equality

1. Expansion of equality or anti-discrimination frameworks to all EU policies
2. Awareness-raising and education on racism and discrimination
3. An EU anti-racism law that addresses the gaps in the Race Equality Directive for comprehensive protection from discrimination

4. Investment and incentives for Corporate Social Responsibility programmes specifically on issues on discrimination and equality
5. Structural investment in civil society organisations, primarily those led by racialised people
6. Mandated collection of disaggregated data, with clear and broad categories for self-identification encompassing race, ethnicity, country of origin, nationality, and religion, as well as gender, sexuality, and ability
7. Equal and fair recognition of university degrees or technical qualifications with EU academic institutions, regardless of country of origin or sponsorship.

#### Migration and Asylum

1. Provide safe migration routes to Europe, with universal access regardless of country of origin
2. End EU externalisation policies
3. End deportations of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers
4. End racial profiling at the borders and in society
5. Equal civic, political and social rights for all migrants
6. Complementary routes to arrival, including but not limited to expanded student and worker visas, humanitarian visas, family reunification, and private sponsorship

#### Democracy and citizenship

1. The right of everyone born in the EU to acquire citizenship (jus soli)
2. Pathways to naturalisation without racist and discriminatory criteria based on nationality, country of origin, ethnicity or race, or socio-economic status
3. The right of everyone to acquire an EU citizenship that is not tied to a specific Member State
4. The right to vote for all EU residents, regardless of citizenship or migration status, for local and EU elections
5. A guarantee that EU citizenship acquired from a Member State or the EU can never be revoked, even for those with dual or multiple nationality
6. The EU to acknowledge colonial responsibility in excluding racialised people in participative democratic system and to work towards greater inclusion, representation and (meaningful) participation
7. A harmonised EU citizenship system and the uniform application of the 1997 Citizenship Directive

Sign here: <https://euroalter.com/pactforequality/>

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