

New Deal for Europe



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Introduction

- * European Spring was formed to restore hope to Europe.
- * Our movement is united behind a shared vision of Europe as a realm of democracy, sustainability, prosperity, and solidarity.
- * We present this shared vision as a New Deal for Europe.
- * This document sets out the core principles and key policies of the New Deal. Each pillar of the programme offers immediate solutions to Europe's social, economic, and ecological crises.
- * Together, the pillars form a long-term vision of a sustainable way of life. The New Deal promotes a model of development that takes account of the major challenges that lie ahead: from the scarcity of natural resources to labour market automation to the destruction of the environment with chemical pollutants. European Spring is committed to establishing local systems of production and supply, and to preserving our natural world, cultural heritage, social progress, and public services.
- * The New Deal provides an alternative to the choice that Europeans face – between apathy and anger, between technocracy and autocracy, between those who defend the European Union as it exists today and those who wish to destroy it forever.
- * We are aware of the challenge of implementing an ambitious agenda like ours. But we will use the opportunity of the election – and of our parliamentary mandate – to inspire citizens across Europe to join our coalition for democratic change. Only when millions of citizens stand together will the demand for change become irresistible.
- * There is no time to waste: Join the movement for European Spring!

New Deal for Democracy

I. A Democratic Constitution for Europe

- i. Europe belongs to its citizens — and Europe’s institutions must be guided by their voices. The EU, which began as a project for peace and unity, has become a maze of institutions where technocrats make decisions from behind closed doors. We must reclaim it.
- ii. We call to bring the peoples of Europe together to develop a **new democratic constitution**. This process begins with a **European Constituent Assembly** that we, European Spring, will kick off in the campaign for the European parliamentary elections in May 2019. We will travel city to city and country to country to ask citizens what they want from a new European Constitution.
- iii. Following the 2019 parliamentary elections, European Spring will call for the very first **Pan-European Referendum on its Constitution**, asking citizens: “Do you want a European Constitutional Assembly, elected by all citizens, with a mandate to draft a new Democratic European Constitution?” The Assembly shall be composed as follows: 25% will be randomly drawn among the entire body of the European citizens; 25% will be directly elected by the citizens via transnational lists; 25% will represent the member-state governments, while the final 25% will represent territories and municipalities. This system will allow all the main components of European society to be represented and to act as authentic constituent actors. The end result will be a constitution that enshrines the rights of all citizens and establishes new rules for their control over Europe’s future.

II. Transparency & Open Government

- i. Transparency is the oxygen of democracy: the principle of self-government is meaningless if citizens cannot see how they are governed. Today, many European institutions remain closed to the public. The European Council currently violates transparency laws by preventing internal documents from reaching the public. Meanwhile, lobbyists with special interests aim to sway decision-makers against the best interests of citizens. Many national governments have no obligation to report which lobbyists they meet and for which causes they advocate.
- ii. We are calling for the **immediate introduction of new transparency reforms** in EU decision-making that hold European leaders accountable for their dealings with special interests.

- iii. We will introduce a **Pan-European Governance Registry** — a unified and comprehensive account of EU institutional decision-making and special interests, available and accessible in a digital format. The Registry would make public the financial interests of all Members of European Parliament as well as EU officials and their partners. The Registry would also keep a comprehensive list of lobbyists, their interests, their interactions with politicians, and the laws for which they lobbied in those conversations. We will increase the powers and resources of the European Union Ombudsman to investigate any malpractice or corruption on the part of EU officials, experts, and advisors that result from the implementation of the Registry.
- iv. Finally, the Registry will publish all the documentation from EU institutional proceedings, including Parliamentary Committee meetings, Council internal documents, and their sources. **All voting shall be made public**, and all expert opinions will be issued for public scrutiny.

III. Enforcing Fundamental Rights

- i. The Treaty of the European Union declares the respect for human dignity, the rule of law, and the democratic rights of all persons — the ‘Copenhagen Criteria.’ Yet in many parts of the Union, we find systematic violations of these principles: the erosion of civil society, the corruption of judicial independence, and the elimination of fairness in elections.
- ii. We will strengthen national constitutional courts by linking them to a **Copenhagen Commission**, an independent body that will carry out investigations of EU member-states on the legal basis of Article 2 of the Lisbon Treaty, which guarantees the EU as a Union of Democratic Values. The Commission will be composed of representatives of the Constitutional Courts and Supreme Courts of the Union, Ombudsmen, and elements of civil society and civil liberties movements. It will receive requests for reports from the European institutions, but would also have the authority to investigate violations of democratic rights and the rule of law. Under Europe’s new democratic constitution, this Commission would perform the function of a European constitutional court and guarantor of the democratic rule of law in the Union.
- iii. But the protection of democratic rights requires that citizens be empowered to fight for themselves. We will **abolish Article 51 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights**, which currently empowers Member State governments to ignore the charter without sanction. We will bind all Member States to the charter and allow citizens to bring their governments before the ECJ if they fail to enforce their fundamental rights.

New Deal for Workers

I. Jobs Guarantee

- i. Every European deserves to contribute to their community — without the fear of falling into poverty. Across Europe, workers continue to suffer from high levels of involuntary employment: millions of young people cannot find stable, well-paying work; and millions of old people have exited the labour force early. The result is rising levels of involuntary economic migration. Young Europeans are leaving their home countries *en masse* to pursue economic opportunity elsewhere, leaving behind their homes, families, and communities.
- ii. We are calling for all European countries to come to a **multilateral agreement to fund and guarantee jobs for every European** in her place of residence. Such jobs would be created by European states or local authorities to ensure that they are (a) meaningful and required by the community and (b) don't serve as a way to avoid hiring a worker with a regular contract. They would be paid at a common living wage rate at the national scale. The Jobs Guarantee will be closely linked with the Green Investment Program, which will deliver new opportunities across the continent to rebuild Europe's infrastructure and contribute to community-based sustainability projects.

II. European Workers' Compact

- i. The EU guaranteed to workers the right to free movement — but denied them the right to equal pay, fair working conditions, and a decent standard of living.
- ii. We will propose a **European Workers' Compact to reinforce worker rights** across Europe. We will introduce new European minimum wage legislation that includes criteria for the convergence of wages across Europe, applying especially to Members States where there are no collective agreements, thereby creating a backstop for in-work income to bring it to a living wage. The minimum wage legislation will require full wage transparency in order to promote insure equal pay for equal work. And it will call for the harmonisation of social contributions for employees, in order to make social dumping impossible between European countries.
- iii. But wage growth is not enough — we must build better working conditions for all. We will propose the **generalisation of a maximum 35-hour workweek** and minimum of 35 days of vacation leave per year as the standard across the EU. To fight against worker exploitation, we will establish the **All-European Work Inspection Agency** to oversee the employers' compliance to labour laws, from wage fairness to worker privacy

to protection from mobbing. And to support better collective bargaining, we propose an **All-European Trilateral Commission** to bring workers across borders in dialogue with each other, their employers, and the Inspection Agency. We will fight all forms of suffering in the workplace — including worker burnout — by promoting a harmonized health insurance scheme that provides relief to ailing workers.

- iv. Our Compact aims not only to lift from the bottom, but also to increase equality across the economy. We will set up a negotiation process to reduce the range of wages within firms and across states, nations, and Europe. We will strictly limit corporate bonuses and eliminate stock options. And we will improve and harmonise the criteria for and level of unemployment benefits at the European level, reinforcing the capacity of the Public Employment Services to support jobseekers to build skills and find decent work.

III. Universal Citizens' Dividend

- i. All workers should **share in Europe's wealth** — not just the privileged few. Over the last 50 years, a divide has grown between those who own capital and those who do not. The result is that, even as productivity is rising, the total share of wealth held by the bottom half of workers is in decline. Instead, Europe's wealth is concentrated among a small group of the super-rich, and transferred from generation to the next. Over half of Europe's billionaires today inherited their wealth from their parents.
- ii. We are calling for a new fund that would guarantee a **Universal Citizens' Divided (UCD)** to be paid to every European citizen. The UCD would accumulate in a European Citizens' Fund, which contains (i) assets purchased by central banks, as part of their quantitative easing programs, (ii) a percentage of capital stock from every initial public offering (IPO), (iii) revenues from intellectual property rights and other common knowledge monopolies. The UCD is entirely citizen-based and granted independently of welfare payments, unemployment insurance and other benefits.

New Deal for Solidarity

I. Solidarity Programme

- i. Europe must stand for solidarity, supporting our neighbours next door and across the continent. Austerity measures have sent millions of Europeans into poverty and involuntary migration. Our Union cannot survive if we do not address their urgent needs and deliver them access to the most basic goods.
- ii. We believe that the European Union must revisit its fundamental values — replacing the principle of free competition with the principle of solidarity. To act on this principle, we are proposing a **pan-European Solidarity Program that will guarantee access** to basic goods for every European resident: (i) water, (ii) food, (iii) housing, and (iv) energy. The program will fund a large anti-poverty initiative to end food insecurity in Europe. And it will also divert greater funds for the construction of new social housing, which will offer families security of tenure and protection from rough sleeping.
- iii. A Europe of Solidarity needs to protect children first and foremost. European Spring will introduce a new **European Plan to Eradicate Child Poverty** that will increase investments in public care to protect vulnerable children and improve their access to health care and education.

II. European Health Standard

- i. There are striking inequalities in health in the EU, especially between the 'old' and the 'new' EU. They are visible not only in life expectancy but also in healthy life expectancy. We must create tools for quality of life convergence, with healthcare leading the way.
- ii. We propose establishing **European Healthcare Standard**. The standards will focus on healthcare investment in Member States (both non-relative and per capita), their resources (number of nurses, doctors, hospitals per capita), and quality of service. We will direct funds from the EU budget to support countries that struggle to reach those standards.
- iii. We will also reform the pharmaceutical sector. Current patent law benefits corporations rather than people. We will allow patents only on production methods, not substances. Instead of funding just the initial stages of R&D, the EU will engage in the full process, including implementation. The patents will then end up in the European Citizens' Fund.
- iv. Third, we will create the **European Disease Control Centre**, focused on fighting diseases for which there are vaccines, as well as improving readiness for new diseases that will appear in the course of climate change.

III. General States of Education

- i. We believe that education should be universal, public, and free from the constraints of capitalist interests. We will fight for an education system that is multidimensional — both strengthening the awareness of our European citizenship and supporting teachers to design their own education programs at the local level.
- ii. From the 2000 Lisbon Strategy to the 2012 Rethinking Education Communication to the current ET2020 Strategy, European education has become increasingly oriented around employability, productivity, and competitiveness. Despite the Constitutional autonomy of the education sector, teachers are rarely involved as partners in education policy-making. Instead, it is organizations like the OECD and the EU that inform our education policy, designing the system to support the principle of competition.
- iii. We believe that **education is a common good** that all citizens should be empowered to shape. Schools would play their part at the centre of a complex civic fabric, composed of libraries, cultural and sports centres. This complex civic fabric would have as ultimate objective the development of intercultural European citizens with an awareness of their multiple identities - local, regional, national, European, global - and the capacity to protect them.
- iv. We will launch the **General States of Education** throughout Europe, involving teachers, students, families, educators, and specialists in the design of a new education system. The General States of Education will establish a multidimensional education, in which some certain issues and methods remain European, others focused nationally, and others regionally, aiming to ensure the sovereignty of specific populations in each area. We will involve regional and municipal authorities in the transfer of European funds to schools to ensure the funding of program focussing on the local perspective and a sound interaction of the school with other local cultural institutions. To reduce brain drain, we will support investments in universities that accept the EU Charter, targeted at ailing regions, in particular.

New Deal for Nature, the Climate, & Europe's Green Transition

I. Green Investment Program

- i. We will transform the European economy to build green, shared prosperity. Today, we are unprepared for a changing climate. Many municipalities lack the resources to transition to more sustainable sources of energy. Others lack the capacity to protect citizens from environmental catastrophes. This is not only a danger to European citizens. It is also a missed opportunity to rebuild the continent's infrastructure and enshrine sustainability in the process.
- ii. We are calling for a **Green Investment-led Recovery Program** of €500 billion to be invested annually in a Green Energy, Transport & Transition (GETT) programme. GETT will be financed entirely via Green investment bonds issued by Europe's public investment bank institutions, and backed by an alliance of Europe's Central Banks, which will stand ready to intervene in the secondary bonds markets in case the Green investment bond yields begin to rise. A new **Organisation for the European Green Transition** (OEGT) will consult with local communities, cities and municipalities to develop and manage the pan-European works and projects necessary for the GETT program.
- iii. Through the GETT, we will introduce a **European Anti-Seismic Plan** to protect citizens and their communities from earthquake damage. The new plan will direct funds for (i) classification of seismic risk and the creation of a hazard map that is open to the public, (ii) renovation of buildings with high levels of vulnerability, and (iii) new construction of public buildings that are up to seismic standards.

II. 2030 Climate Compact

- i. The European Union must move faster in order to **fulfil the Paris Climate Agreement** and protect the planet from uncontrolled climate change. To get there, we must be prepared to implement all the necessary measures to limit the global temperature rise, in this century, to no more than 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.
- ii. For this purpose, we will adopt a more ambitious European climate and energy targets in order to achieve, by 2030, a **reduction of 65% in greenhouse gas emissions**, the adoption of 45% of energy obtained from renewable energy sources and the saving of 40% of energy use.
- iii. We will call for the European Union to **phase out environmental and climate damaging subsidies** from EU Member States and the EU itself. Today, 11 countries and EU subsidize oil, coal and gas with at least 112 billion euros per year. We propose to develop new procedures allowing the

European Budget to be regularly checked regarding its contribution towards the achievement of our climate and environmental goals and the compliance of its spending lines with sustainability, through participatory tools, strong accountability mechanisms, or other available options. Special attention will be paid to coal-depend regions to ensure that there are new jobs in green industries for every one that is left behind in a fuel-reliant industries.

- iv. We are calling for a **pan-European carbon tax**. We propose a progressive carbon price based on the level of a country's development and emissions. More precisely, we propose a reference carbon price based on the HDI (Human Development Index) and the amount of consumed CO2 emissions. For a given HDI level, countries would thus pay a carbon price based on a reference price set by a multilateral pan-European organisation. Setting such a carbon price would fall in line with the Climate Convention's principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities."

III. A New Common Agricultural Programme (CAP)

- i. We believe that the European citizens deserve a new and improved Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), making the best possible use of what is still the largest portion of the European Union's Budget while still working to diminish the overall subsidies.
- ii. In order to deploy a truly beneficial CAP, we aim at reforming every pillar so as to assure not just food security but environmental improvements by aligning it with other environmental policies, especially the Birds and Habitats Directive, the Water Framework Directive, the Nitrogen Directive, the Pesticides Directive, the Emission Reduction Directive, and the Marine Strategy.
- iii. We understand that a **biodiverse Europe is a more resistant and resilient Europe**. Our mission is not just to save Europe's biodiversity from its current declining trend, but to celebrate the intrinsic value of life and to express intergenerational solidarity by offering opportunities to future generations. In order to honour this vision, we are committed to increase the European contribution towards maintaining and restoring nature and biodiversity within the Natura 2000 network of protected areas, the High Nature Value territories and all the necessary ecological corridors and buffer areas.
- iv. We will **redirect agricultural financing in CAP** towards ecological and similar environmentally sustainable farming practices before 2025, also by using financing in CAP to support shift from intensive large-scale animal agriculture towards vegetable farming and on nature conservancy.

New Deal for the Eurozone & EU Public Finance

I. Reformed EU Budget

- i. Citizens deserve a democratic voice in the distribution of EU funds. The EU Budget is not only extremely important in fostering economic development. It also enables communities to initiate projects that are suited to their needs and aspirations. These funds must be wisely — and fairly — apportioned.
- ii. We are calling for a reformed EU budget that devolves **greater democratic control** to the local level. We will fight for citizens to express their preferences over EU expenditure on the ballot for the European parliament elections. And we will open the door for citizens to participate in the pilot-project phase of the European Parliament’s budgetary procedure.
- iii. But the budget must also expand. We will introduce **new public finance instruments** to increase the EU budget beyond its current constraints. We will call for a change in the treaties to get rid of the straightjacket created by the so-called Stability and Growth Pact, the Sixpack and the European Fiscal Compact. By building alliances with national governments, local authorities, and citizens across Europe, we will push for an **end to the harsh constraints** on EU spending.
- iv. In its place, we propose a **new EU budget** that will serve to finance the urgent programs that we present in this New Deal — to fight poverty, to build green prosperity, and to support municipalities to integrate newcomers. The new budget will match its spending commitments with the EU’s own resources: We will develop several new avenues for raising the revenue for this ambitious EU budget. These include a carbon tax that will curb climate change, a tax on financial transactions, the freezing of transactions for non-identified or undeclared beneficiaries, the introduction of the principle that Europeans pay tax in their Member States, and the formation of new Eurobonds to finance new infrastructure projects. We will set out the full scope for EU budget financing in the months to come.

II. Eliminating Tax Havens

- i. We demand **tax justice**. The current system of taxation is highly unequal. Europe’s poorest citizens pay their taxes while the wealthy elite and their multinational corporations dodge their tax burdens and hide their money from European authorities. The European Commission estimates €1 trillion lost each year to tax evasion. And these estimates fail to account for intra-European arbitrage, as transnational corporations flee to low-tax jurisdictions without sanction.

- ii. Our New Deal for Europe will **ban all tax havens within the EU** — including the revocation of evasion enabling laws in Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Ireland, and elsewhere. We will clean up Europe’s banking sector, with a single clear rule: banks that do not disclose what they do in tax havens cannot operate and do not have access to ECB credit lines. Following the proposals of the European Parliament’s CRIM Committee, European Spring will make proposals to amend any legislation that would require full transparency to financial institutions in providing all information about their activities to offshore supervisory authorities.
- iii. To that end, we will **blacklist all tax havens outside the EU** identified with serial tax evasion. And we will set up a new Court of Economic Justice to investigate and prosecute European corporations and individuals with accounts in blacklisted tax havens, with the remit to revoke their property rights if caught red-handed.

III. Fixing the Euro

- i. In order to save Europe, we must fix the Euro. Such reforms are necessary not only to repair the broken economies of the Eurozone countries, but also to rebalance the economy of the European continent as a whole. Our New Deal offers a plan for a common, integrated monetary framework that works for all European countries — and restores democratic control over economic policy.
- ii. We are calling for the development of a **Public Digital Payments Platform (PDPP)** in every European country. The PDPP creates a reserve account for each taxpayer. Each taxpayer is then provided with a PIN that allows them to transfer credit from their reserve account to the state — as a form of tax payment — or to any other taxpayer’s account. In doing so, the PDPP affords national governments greater fiscal sovereignty against the Fiscal Stability Treaty.
- iii. In addition, we are calling for a **European Clearing Union (ECU)**, based on a digital common accounting unit, in which all intra-European trade and capital flows are denominated on the basis of a transparent digital distributed ledger that (a) taxes, on behalf of the EU, deficits and surpluses symmetrically, and (b) uses these funds for additional investments in regions where investment falls below the average.
- iv. Finally, we are calling for **limited public debt conversion**, by which each member state’s Maastricht Compliant Debt is serviced by ECB-bonds that are, in turn, serviced by the member-state. To protect the ECB from losses, (A) this new liability of the member-states to the ECB is given seniority over their other obligations, and (B) the ECB is insured further by the ESM.

New Deal for Debtors & the Financial System

I. Housing Security for All

- i. Decent housing is a human right — yet millions of families in Europe are at risk of eviction. In Spain alone, more than 600,000 families have faced foreclosure since the onset of the financial crisis. But even in countries less affected by the crash, evictions are reaching record highs, as private landlords push their tenants out in pursuit of higher returns.
- ii. We are calling for **all European countries to come to a multilateral agreement on housing security**. Through our Solidarity Program, we will fund and guarantee decent housing for every European in their home country, restoring the model of social housing that has all but disappeared in the course of the last half-century.
- iii. Housing Security for All will also introduce **a moratorium on debt-led evictions**, offering homeowners the chance to remain in their homes at a fair rent set by local community boards. This moratorium would encourage lenders to renegotiate mortgages rather than to foreclose, stabilising communities otherwise ravaged by blight and displacement.

II. Taming Finance

- i. The Eurozone crisis revealed the rotten architecture of Europe's banking sector. Banks went bankrupt, taxpayers were handed the bill, and — to manage this ensuing crisis — new institutions were introduced that were neither democratically elected nor democratically managed.
- ii. The time has come to address the interlinked problems of excessive debt, anaemic economic growth and the Euro's institutional frailty. We propose the creation of a **European Treasury** that would complement the European Central Bank and offer a stabilizing effect in times of crisis. We will also mobilize European Investment Fund, whose charter explicitly allows it to raise funds from the money markets for the purposes of education, health, and urban renewal. And at the ECB, we propose that "old debt" be refinanced at rates close to zero percent. The ECB must follow through on its promise to end the public debt crisis.
- iii. Europe's financial institutions must belong to its people. We will fight for the **European Stability Mechanism to be placed under EU jurisdiction**, either by changing the Treaties or through secondary legislation. The objectives of this transition include: (i) ensuring full compliance with the Union law, (ii) strengthening the role of the European Parliament, and thereby strengthening the democratic accountability of the

ESM, (iii) emancipating the ESM from any chance of a spurious veto, reinforcing its operational independence, (iv) expedite its ability to act in a timely and decisive manner in combating any factor of economic instability, and (v) to develop a credible and responsible alternative to the IMF at Union level.

- iv. Finally, we are calling for a **New Macroprudential Framework** to reduce risk and encourage investment among Europe's banks, with two rules to be introduced immediately. The first minimum equity ratios for Europe's banks of no less than 15 per cent of assets. The second is that no bank's assets should exceed 20% of the national income of the country in which it is domiciled.

II. Completing the Banking Union

- i. Banks should serve people of Europe — not the other way around. Europe today is full of zombie banks, whose bad habits drove the European continent into crisis, but who never paid the price. They are zombies not only because their balance sheets are full of non-performing assets, but also because their business models offer no life to the European economy. We must reclaim these banks in order to ensure that they serve their core function: making Europe's economy stronger, managing its risks better, and supporting all Europeans to build their future.
- ii. We will complete the banking union by turning Europe's failed banks, one at a time, over to the European Stability Mechanism. The ESM, and not the national government, would then restructure, recapitalize and resolve the failing banks. Our proposal is that a failing bank should be removed from its national jurisdiction and moved to a new, dedicated Eurozone jurisdiction. The ECB appoints a new board of directors with a view to resolving or recapitalizing the bank. In the latter case, the ESM provides the capital and shares equivalent to the needed capital injection will pass to the ESM. Restructuring of the bank may entail a merger, downsizing, even a full resolution of the bank, with the understanding that steps will be taken to avoid, above all, a haircut of deposits. Once the bank has been restructured and recapitalized, the ESM will sell its shares and recoups its costs.

New Deal for Migrants, Refugees, and Newcomers

I. European Common Asylum System

- i. Our New Deal aims to create a more just global society, with less conflict, lower inequality, and fewer causes of involuntary migration. But we must also be prepared to welcome newcomers to Europe, support their transition into our societies, and build a new future together.
- ii. This process begins with emergency measures to address Europe's humanitarian crisis. More than 500,000 migrants arrived to Europe through the Mediterranean in the last two years — one in four of which are children. We must come together to formulate an effective pan-European response.
- iii. We are calling for the establishment of a **pan-European Common Asylum System** in full respect of the TFEU, the charter of fundamental rights, the Geneva Convention and other international law obligations. The system will require all Europeans to respect the internationally protected **right of non-refoulement**, which forbids Europe from returning asylum-seekers to a country in which they would be in likely danger of persecution.
- iv. Instead, European countries will **facilitate mutual recognition** of asylum decisions and the swift transfer of protection statuses so that refugees and asylum-seekers can settle where they have better prospects for employment, stronger family ties, or better language skills. We call for the implementation of the EU Joint Refugee Resettlement Programme, which provides support to Member States that volunteer to welcome refugees.
- v. Detention centres must be closed down. Reception facilities must improve. And authorities must guarantee access to physical and mental healthcare for all newcomers — with EU funding conditional on compliance.

II. Integration & Investment Programme

- i. Our challenge is not only to welcome newcomers — but also to build their ties with communities across Europe. We believe that we must consider the rights and needs of host communities just as much as those of the migrants. No successful inclusion or integration process is possible otherwise. Integration is a two-sided process.
- ii. We will introduce a new **Integration and Investment Programme** that directs EU funding to municipalities that welcome newcomers into their communities. New funds will be earmarked for programs that support (i) economic integration into local economies, (ii) celebration of culture, of all members of the community, and (iii) mixed social housing projects that help bridge new and older communities.

- iii. We will also fight to include the newcomers into EU politics in their actual places of residence. Despite the fact that millions of EU-migrants, refugees, and newcomers pay their taxes, they do not get to enjoy the full rights of their residence. They are excluded from political decisions that will determine their futures in fundamental ways. We will fight for all newcomers to enjoy **full voting rights** after a minimum period of residency, including a right to vote in national elections and referenda as well as a right to stand for elections.

III. Ending Fortress Europe

- i. While promoting intervention against authoritarian regimes, many Member-States continue to cut backdoor deals with despots to keep asylum-seekers out of Europe. We must create new avenues for legal migration, and we must end the exportation of migration control.
- ii. We will fight to **allow job-seeker Schengen visas** to be granted by EU consulates all around the world, creating safe, legal, and open avenues for newcomers to pursue opportunities in Europe. We will also support the establishment of an **International Humanitarian Passport** for the most vulnerable categories of refugees.
- iii. At the same time, we are calling for the **termination of the EU-Turkey Refugee Deal** that has pushed asylum-seekers back into peril in the countries from which they fled. We will also call for an end to deals with Libyan local authorities and militias, and to the termination of the agreements for the training and equipment of the Libyan coastguards. The same must apply to the backdoor agreements with the corrupt, authoritarian governments of Chad and Niger.
- iv. We are calling for the establishment of a **European Search and Rescue Operation (ESRO)** geared at saving, welcoming, and introducing migrants to Europe. With the ESRO, we call for the immediate suspension of any externalization of EU borders and migration controls, to comply with its responsibility to allow all people to request protection on European territory. We will increase cooperation with and funding of International Organisations working with refugees (UNHCR) and migrants (IOM), while demanding increased accountability and exerting a stronger supervision of the implementation of their principles in their activities. We will support civil society organizations working with migrants and potential migrants in their countries of origin and countries of transit.

New Deal for Trade & Europe's Role in the World

I. Just Trade & Economic Cooperation

- i. Trade policy in Europe ignores the democratic will of Europeans and undermines solidarity with workers around the world. Mechanisms like the Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) — which allow investors to sue governments for lost profits — are unjust. TTIP, CETA, JEFTA, and similar agreements fail to meet the most basic democratic standards.
- ii. We believe in a better system: where international trade agreements foster prosperity while improving workers' solidarity across borders. As European Spring, we will coordinate with like-minded parties and movements to engage with citizens inside and out of Europe about how best to mobilize economic interdependence.
- iii. Just trade must become the basis of our trade policy, in opposition to free trade. During any trade deal negotiations, European Spring will **defend higher standards** to protect the environment, human rights, public health, labour rights, public services, animal welfare and consumer rights, whilst allowing for lower standards of intellectual property protection, if useful. We will also defend that tariffs between the European Union and other partners avoid social and environmental dumping in the production processes of imported products and incorporate any environmental impacts associated with transportation.
- iv. Furthermore, European Spring rejects all the mechanisms that seek to create and maintain a separate justice for multinational corporations. We will put **an end to special privileges for transnational corporations** through any form of Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanisms or similar, including the Investment Court System, by stopping the expansion of the system via new agreements and by existing or terminating existing treaties that include them. We will also reject any attempt to create a Multilateral Investment Court. Instead we will ensure full regulatory freedom for environmental and social policies without the threat of international investment litigation.

II. Peace & Solidarity Pact

- i. Europe must rediscover its principles of peace and solidarity. In many regions today, democracy is in retreat: authoritarian leaders are cracking down on civil rights and undermining elections. In many others, armed conflict continues to rage: millions of people lack access to basic security — let alone food, shelter, and adequate healthcare. Europe must renew its commitment to supporting vulnerable populations around the world — while taking action to end armed conflict and bring about lasting peace.

- ii. We will immediately **end all sales of arms and dual-use products** to rogue states, amending the export-licensing criteria to account for their human rights violations and introducing new transparency guidelines across the board. We will reject militarist solutions to conflicts that merit diplomacy. And we will hold accountable transnational corporations that contribute to human rights violations, supporting the UN's Binding Treaty on Transnational Corporations and Human Rights. We call on the UN to push for an enforceable mechanism that allows affected people to claim justice against human rights abuses and environmental destruction by such corporations, not only in their country but in all states that have jurisdiction over the concerned corporation.
- iii. The EU must take particular responsibility for its neighbourhood. We want to extend **regional cooperation within EU Partnership Programs**. We will call for new criteria of accession to the EU to include social factors, such as: social security level of citizens, combating inequalities and dignified work conditions. Solidarity within the EU requires that we protect it against exploitation, tax evasion, and dumping of all kinds.

III. A New Bretton Woods

- i. International economic institutions should be designed to increase equitable growth and decrease the risk of crisis. One decade after the financial crash in 2008, the global economy continues to suffer — with debtor nations struggling to recover and rebalance their trade deficits. We are calling for a New Bretton Woods system — based on the 1944 conference that established the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Our goal is to realize the potential for these institutions to build a better global economy.
- ii. To do so, we will link up with progressive movements from around the world to introduce an **International Clearing Union** (ICU) that helps to rebalance the global economy by distributing a common digital currency to debtor countries. The International Monetary Fund would administer the ICU, and ensure that the rules of the Union were fair, multilateral, and democratic — unlike in the Eurozone. We have an incredible infrastructure of international economic institutions at our disposal — it is time to use them for good!
- iii. Recognising that change will only come by citizens organising to demand it, European Spring pledges to dedicate the time and resources of its elected representatives and staff to foster the emergence of a global justice movement and facilitate all efforts at global coordination of citizens, social movements, and civil society.

New Deal for Women

I. Equal Pay & Power Standard

- i. Equal work for equal pay: this is a fundamental right. Today in Europe, women confront systematic discrimination in the labour market. Women are paid an average of 16 per cent less than their male colleagues — the equivalent of two full months of unpaid work each year. And they are also overlooked for promotion on account of the enduring stigma of maternity in the workplace.
- ii. We will fight for a European solution to gender-based discrimination in the workplace. We are calling for a **Pan-European Equal Pay Standard** (EPS) that cracks down on the gender pay gap across all member-states. The EPS prevents all employers from inquiring about past income as the basis for salary negotiations, therefore forcing all employers to base pay on qualifications. The EPS also forces all employers to **publish their internal salary payments** to increase transparency. All employees are allowed to petition discrepancies in pay between colleagues, and all employers must respond with the detailed reasoning for remaining pay gaps.
- iii. We will also fight for gender parity in our politics. We propose the introduction of a **European gender parity clause** that will ensure an equal and fair representation of women and men in all presidia and boards of the European Union. The proposal will also stipulate new thresholds for the electoral lists of political parties in the European Parliament. Only an equal division of power can truly safeguard women's rights.

II. Convention on Reproductive Rights

- i. We demand women's rights to their own bodies. Across Europe, women are marching for their reproductive rights, which have come under attack from the reactionary and religious right. We believe that women's oppression in one member-state is a threat to women's security across all of them.
- ii. We are calling for a Pan-European Convention on Reproductive Rights, which brings member-states together to formulate a European solution to **unequal access to reproductive autonomy** and sexual health. The solution must provide European policy with teeth to **sanction member-states** for the erosion of women's safety and security.
- iii. In the Convention, we will call for a range of immediate reforms to promote women's reproductive rights. We demand **free birth-control** and easy access to contraception, and the Morning-After Pill should be available in pharmacies without prescription. Hygiene products like tampons, sanitary

towels as well as menstruation cups should have affordable prices and be distributed for free in places like schools, universities, work places and all kinds of public spaces so that they are easily accessible to women.

- iv. All women in Europe should have access to and free information about **safe and legal abortion**, with a maximum protection of women's right to an independent decision and with full medical, psychological and social care. Expectant mothers should have access to prenatal care through free prenatal testing, free midwifery care, free or subsidised courses in order to help them prepare for the delivery. Women who work exhausting or demanding jobs or jobs that can cause foetal death or premature birth are entitled to a fully paid holiday during pregnancy.
- v. These rights extend into parenthood. Parents should be entitled to 480 days of parental leave, from which during 390 days the parents are entitled to minimum 80 per cent of their normal pay. Parents who are not employed should be also entitled to parental leave. The 480 days should be equally divided between the parents. Outside the 480 paid days, parents should also have the legal right to reduce their normal working hours by up to 25 per cent until the child turns eight.

III. Ending Violence & Discrimination

- i. Women's disadvantages are not only economic. Across Europe, women continue to confront sexual and physical violence — in the office, on the street, and inside the home. Women's right to safety remains insecure. One in four women have experienced physical or sexual violence at least once in their lives.
- ii. We believe in a European solution to the crisis of domestic violence. We will fight to **protect and extend the Istanbul Convention**, calling on all remaining European states to ratify protections against gender exploitation. And we will call on all member-states to implement the special protections for migrant women and female refugees that remain at high risk. All EU-sponsored facilities for asylum-seekers must provide women with their own facilities and guarantee protection from harassment and sexual assault. And we will respect gender-based exploitation as the basis for refugee status.
- iii. We demand that **same-sex couples be allowed to marry** and enjoy equal privileges as same-sex partners. Access to transit procedures (e.g. change of documents) and transit support procedures (e.g. access to hormone therapy, surgical procedures) should be guaranteed throughout Europe.

New Deal for Technological Sovereignty

I. Building the Digital Commons

- i. We believe in a technologically sovereign Europe. China's firewall has taught us that — with a large market — it is possible to challenge big tech corporations and shape our digital future. As the world's largest market, we will harness our power to build a digital commons that belongs not to corporations or the state, but to citizens. The EU must **invest in open AI** to promote machine-learning and technological progress in Europe. And all ethical issues stemming from the rise of Artificial Intelligence should be settled democratically and debated at the European level.
- ii. But technological sovereignty not only requires Europe to control its digital future — it also requires citizens to feel **protected from data extraction**. All data should be treated equally in network traffic rules, which is why we will enforce absolute net neutrality. Users should have full control over their data and none should be collected without their informed consent. Content personalisation will have to be optional and disabled by default. In the same vein, business practices that strip control from the user, such as online gambling and loot boxes, or designing devices with programmed obsolescence, will be prohibited.
- iii. Tech firms can no longer operate without accountability to the European public. We will call for the **end of data trading**, calling on companies like Facebook to reveal their data trading records, including the buyers' identities. Furthermore, they will be required to reveal the inner workings of their algorithms.
- iv. Media giants want to increase their share in entertainment market by lobbying for the copyright law to limit the range of fair use. But we must protect a broad digital commons from the pursuit of these private rents. We are calling for the **immediate repeal of Article 13 of the EU Copyright Reform**, which threatens open source software and protects the patent collector.

II. Open-Sourced Governance

- i. Technology can radically increase transparency and radically transform the delivery of public goods. Public authorities must retire old practices that maintain opacity and prevent participation by the people.
- ii. Our platform is multidimensional. At the European level, we will begin by demanding that all parliamentary hearings in Brussels are live-streamed for all Europeans to watch.

- iii. At the Member-State level, **all records** that are available to the public **should be digitized** for the purposes of transparency and public scrutiny. In particular, every transaction that involves public funds should be published in an open online database.
- iv. The people and the governments need to have **full control over the software** that administers their lives. Wherever possible, we will shift from proprietary software to free and open-source software. All publicly funded software — both code and documentation — will be released to the public, facilitating public audits.
- v. While there is dire need to establish cyber defence and hybrid activities units in our military, the states must use surveillance techniques only under judicial oversight and public scrutiny. To keep up with the times, access to investigative bodies to files stored on private devices or in the cloud will require a search warrant.

III. European Innovation Fund

- i. Technological innovation should serve the public good — not private gain. The technology sector is currently dominated by a handful of large corporations, who determine the direction of technological progress and then claim large profits. Interestingly, none of these big corporations are European. This presents an opportunity for a different development model. We believe that citizens deserve to guide innovation and enjoy its rewards.
- ii. We propose a **European Innovation Fund (EIF)** that invests in and takes equity from new technological ventures. The public sector has always played a central role in technological progress, in medical science as in digital technology. The EIF will expand this investment in two directions. First, it will boost investment in research and development in areas like energy, medicine, and transportation. Second, it will bring new funds to small-scale projects to support innovation at the grassroots. In taking equity in these ventures, the EIF can feed directly into the Universal Citizens' Dividend, socializing the returns to technological progress.