

## EPP PRIORITIES FOR THE 10<sup>th</sup> TERM

**10 points for a strong Europe that protects and shapes the future.**

**1. A European Security & Defence Pact:** *Europe must be capable to defend itself while fully contributing to an enlarged NATO.*

- Create a **European Defence Union** with increased resources and a dedicated budget, a **single market on defence**, a **European Commissioner for Security and Defence**, a Defence Council formation and a dedicated standing Committee in Parliament.
- Make better use of **PESCO** and its flagship projects, ramp up Europe's **defence industrial base** with joint procurement and more investments, especially in new technologies with a **Defence Tech 2.0** and create a **European Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)** to step up the European security and defence of the future.

**2. A Europe that stops illegal migration:** *Europe needs a migration policy that works. State authorities, not smugglers, must decide who can enter Europe and who cannot.*

- Make **Frontex** a true European EU border and coastal protection force and **triple its staff to 30.000** provide it with its own equipment and higher resources.
- Reinforce national capabilities, **set up physical infrastructure** and advanced means of surveillance for an integrated border management.
- With a new **Mediterranean Pact**, build closer **EU cooperation with third countries** based on win-win, comprehensive and strategic partnerships where migration – ranging from preventing illegal migration, to fighting smuggling, return and legal pathways – stands alongside shared interests.

**3. A European Competitiveness Strategy:** *With increasing geopolitical competition, our economy must be fit for challenges and become even more competitive.*

- Strengthen our **Single Market** by bringing it to the 21st century, tearing down remaining barriers, advancing digitalisation, completing the single market for services and deepening the capital and energy markets.
- **Cut red tape for our companies and SMEs** and establish a **European Commissioner for SMEs'** issues and cutting red tape.
- Closer cooperation on modern, fair trade with like-minded democracies and partners and establish a new free trade agreement with the US.
- Ensure SME access to finance through a completed **capital markets union**.

4. **A geopolitical Europe that stands with Ukraine:** *We stand firmly on the side of our Ukrainian friends to ensure Ukraine's victory. The future of Ukrainians is European.*

- **Political, economic, humanitarian and military aid** to Ukraine for as long as it takes and promote **reconstruction** of Ukraine.
- Putin's regime must be punished for the crime of aggression and war crimes through a **tribunal for the crime of aggression**.
- Forward-looking **European enlargement strategy** for Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia and Western Balkans.

5. **A Europe that keeps people safe:** *We will leave no room for terrorism and organised crime in Europe. Our Europe protects its citizens from any form of violence, both online and offline.*

- Strengthen **Europol** making it an operational police agency with enforcement powers, more than double its **staff from 1.400 to 3.000** and create a special centre to **combat migrant smuggling and human trafficking**.
- Strengthen the **European Arrest Warrant**.
- Launch an **EU Action Plan against cyberbullying and child abuse**.

6. **A true European Energy Union:** *With coal and steel, shared energy was the foundation of European integration. Today, we want a Europe that ensures energy security and affordability for all citizens and businesses.*

- Create a true **European Energy Union** by strengthening the internal market for energy, build cross-border infrastructure with added value for Europe and promote **diversification** to avoid dependencies from third countries.
- Promote a common **European resource strategy** for future innovations (critical raw materials, circularity).
- Moving away from fossil fuels towards **clean energy**, for example ramping up clean **hydrogen production**.
- Ensuring access to **critical raw materials** to produce the technologies of the future while increasing Europe's resilience.

7. **A Europe that stands behind farmers and fishers:** *We want to enable our farmers and fishers to ensure food remains secure, affordable and of the highest quality for all Europeans.*

- Give farmers and fishers a real perspective and strengthen their role in the food

value chain.

- **Future orientated CAP** with direct payments included and **less bureaucracy**.
- Investments in agriculture as a high-tech industry, for example **European moon-shot for precision agriculture, robotics and integrated pest management**.

**8. A Europe that improves people's health by innovating:** *With the record-time development of the Covid-19 vaccine, we proved: Europeans are unstoppable when they work together.*

- Complete the **European Health Union** that to join our resources and best minds and to create breakthrough innovation in medicine.
- Tackling demographic challenges to sustain our social and economic models by providing support for families, enhancing care services, as well as promoting active aging and ensuring that older citizens can fully participate in society.
- Promote and support every measure to enable affordable housing for families and youngsters.
- Fully implement **European Cancer Plan** and jointly fight the most serious diseases such as cancer and Alzheimer's.
- Europe must again become "**the pharmacy of the world**", built on a strong European manufacturing and biotech base.
- Launch an **EU action plan for cardiovascular health** and take forward the Action Plan on **mental health**.

**9. A Europe that protects the planet:** *We want an ambitious climate policy, based on incentives and all available technologies, which brings all citizens on board. We need more technology, not bans.*

- Achieve the 55% greenhouse gas emissions' reduction target by 2030 and climate neutrality by 2050 by making the **Green Deal a deal with our economy** and implement it while reducing excessive bureaucracy.
- Keep **financially supporting our companies**, notably, SMEs, farmers and fishers, in the transition.
- Unlock investments in innovation for clean technologies with and **Investment Plan for European Jobs**.
- Keep the EU at the forefront of environmental protection while enabling our companies to strengthen their competitive advantage in relation to third countries, notably **China**.

**10. A Europe that is ready for the future:** *We stand for a strong and effective EU that will successfully lead into the future.*

- Europe must speak with one voice in the world and needs a common EU foreign minister.
- Continuing our strong EU support to UN efforts to reunify Cyprus, in line with UNSCRs, EU law, values and principles. We stand ready to tangibly promote and upgrade the UN-led efforts.
- Ensuring the **right for the European Parliament to initiate EU legislation.**