



Wholeheartedly

FOR

EUROPE

**LSAP: OUR PROGRAM FOR
A STRONG #HEARTOFEUROPE**

A EUROPE WITH HEART

Social justice? Democracy? Peace? Freedom? To all today's and tomorrow's challenges, only one answer guarantees a viable future: a progressive and social democratic Europe. That's why a strong socialist and social democratic group is needed in the European Parliament.

We socialists and social democrats advocate for a fair and inclusive Europe. We act for a Europe of human rights, a Europe where social, economic, and environmental policies complement one another, and are not played off against each other. We stand for a Europe where our children can grow up safely. We stand for a Europe of open borders, cultural diversity, a Europe that is there for all generations, supporting its youth and looking after its elderly citizens.

For us socialists and social democrats, Europe has always been, is and will always be a project of peace, open borders and economic prosperity. Europe is a solidarity project that offers European countries a promising common future. We want strong and stable regions throughout the European Union ("EU"), because only a strong, united, inclusive and just Union guarantees our common development.

As Luxembourgers, we know how important Europe is. We experience Europe in our daily lives. We socialists and social democrats put people at the centre of our EU: Europe is a project by the people, for the people. We will build on the many positive dimensions that Europe has brought and still brings us to shape our Europe. But we want more, and Europe can do better – especially with regards social justice!

We must ensure that Europe always reinvents itself in the face of ever-new challenges. This can only be done with progressive and socially just politics.

Europe already offers us many guarantees. Member states have stood together during recent crises such as the pandemic and have embarked on new paths together. We must sustain this solidarity for the future. That is why we European socialists and social democrats stand united, at both the national and European level, in our firm opposition to any anti-democratic movements. We stand united to defend our ideal of an inclusive and tolerant society. In our Europe, there is no place for discrimination and fascism – we will never allow right-wing forces to destroy our European project.

The future of Europe lies in ensuring peace, pursuing a sustainable environmental policy, making economic union fair, placing human beings at the heart of our political actions and engaging Europeans in a socially just politics.

Such a future is only possible with us; with us socialists and social democrats.

PEOPLE AT THE HEART OF A SOCIAL EUROPE



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People are at the centre of a constantly evolving world of work. We socialists and social democrats protect workers by regulating new forms of work. We simultaneously grasp the opportunities offered by this changing world of work to create quality jobs and further strengthen the EU's social dimension.

The LSAP is the party of workers. In Europe, we fight alongside our socialist and social democratic comrades for:

- secure jobs;
- regulated and fair wages;
- transparent information on working conditions, such as pay or working hours; and
- a just tax system.

To achieve our goals, we need a strong and united Europe that works in the interest of its citizens. That is why it is important that social dialogue, as it has operated in Luxembourg for decades, becomes the norm at the European level.

We must prepare our society and thus our world of work for coming industrial revolutions. For this, workers must have a seat at the table when the EU makes decisions about their jobs. We want unions to have a strong voice in Europe.

For us socialists and social democrats, human capital is at the heart of the European project. We must avoid the digital divide, ensuring that no one is left behind by digitisation and the transformation of our economy. That is why we demand that:

- Further training and upskilling be made available and accessible to all, for example through a right to training during working hours;
- professional retraining, including for workers who have lost their jobs, receive increased structural and financial support; and
- the use of AI in the workplace must respect workers' fundamental and social rights.

In a fair world of work, everyone should be able to live off their work and participate in society without the risk of falling into poverty. To combat working poverty, we demand that:

- a fair minimum wage, adjusted for inflation or the cost of living, be established throughout Europe;
- permanent employment contracts become the norm;
- platform work and temporary work be regulated;
- the digitisation of the world of work be structured and regulated so as to pose no danger to workers;
- the social security system be strengthened and expanded; and
- collective work agreements become more widespread.

These demands are the only way we can prevent workers from being exposed to the risk of exploitation. We socialists and social democrats will ensure strong social protection for workers and the right to work for those who have lost their jobs or can no longer perform them.

To facilitate the entry of young people into the workforce regardless of their social background, we call for an EU directive guaranteeing that each student and apprentice internship is adequately remunerated.

We also want to give families the opportunity to spend more time with their children. Our goal is to achieve a better work-life balance by improving working conditions. That is why we must consider well-being GDP as a binding performance indicator in European member states, in addition to economic GDP. To facilitate a high well-being GDP, we demand that:

- teleworking, including cross-border teleworking, be simplified and regulated;
- the right to disconnect be established;
- working hours be reduced with full salary retention; and
- a strategy for mental health in the workplace be developed.

To emphasise Europe's social ambitions for the future and to sustainably strengthen the EU's social dimension, we demand that:

- a social protocol be applied, having the same binding importance as European treaties, to prevent any social regression,
- the European Pillar of Social Rights determine the framework for economic governance.

For our society to function, we need a strong and fair European tax system. Today, the tax burden on individuals is considerably higher than that on capital. The taxation burden between individuals, non-productive capital and multinational companies must be rebalanced.

A strong and fair European tax system is an important lever for greater justice in our society. Large corporations, the ultra-rich and major polluters must contribute fairly to the community and the proper functioning of our society. Only through a fair tax policy can we make the investments necessary to build a sustainable future.

We socialists and social democrats advocate for tax justice among individuals, companies and member states. Those who earn more should also pay more taxes. That's why we demand:

- reconsideration of the principle of unanimity in the European Council on tax matters;
- a special tax for the ultra-rich;
- a more equitable and effective definition of corporate taxes;
- a framework for the permanent taxation of windfall profits; and
- a financial transaction tax at the European level.

We continue our fight to keep Luxembourg attractive as a seat for European institutions and to improve the situation for European civil servants in Luxembourg. European institutions must serve as a model for fair working conditions. That is why we demand that the salaries of employees of European institutions be adjusted to the country's socio-economic context.



A GREEN DEAL WITH A RED HEART



A GREEN DEAL WITH A RED HEART

Our planet is “burning”! It is only together that we will succeed in leaving a planet for our children and grandchildren where they can live in peace and security.

We need a socio-ecological transition, meaning a more sustainable form of economic development with a fair, collective distribution of the necessary work. We socialists and social democrats want to take advantage of the transition to climate neutrality to make progress simultaneously on the social front.

We strongly support a forward-looking European green taxonomy, offering a transparent classification of sustainable technologies and activities. “Greenwashing”, especially with regard to nuclear energy and fossil fuels, must be prevented in the future.



For us, the Green Deal only works with a red heart, connecting environmental policies with social ones. It is very important that the most vulnerable in our societies are not left behind by changes brought about by the Green Deal. That is why we insist on an eco-social investment policy. The EU and its member states must not only set an example but also commit firmly to climate goals and resolutely implement them. Therefore, as socialists and social democrats, we support the Green Deal and demand that:

- the 27 EU member states commit to ensuring that the maximum global warming does not exceed 1.5 degrees by 2100, as proposed by COP21 in the Paris Agreement;
- member states continue to implement the “Fit for 55”, meaning a 55% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030; and
- climate neutrality is achieved no later than 2050.

We also commit to fighting any attempts to dilute the Green Deal. We are therefore steadfastly committed to:

- effective protection for nature and the environment;
- biodiversity and species diversity protection;
- the regeneration of destroyed ecosystems;
- efficient water use and protection of water resources;
- prohibition of harmful chemicals, including glyphosate in agriculture; and
- the expansion of renewable energies.

The EU needs a sustainable and transparent energy policy that ensures the energy security of its 27 member states. When it comes to the issue of energy, all stakeholders must be involved in shaping a European energy strategy. Businesses, regardless of their size, and citizens must have access to affordable energy. Therefore, we want this European energy strategy to:

- radically reduce dependence on fossil fuels and promote renewable energies;
- reduce imports of foreign fossil fuels, especially Russian gas, to the point where they are no longer needed;
- reform the energy market to ensure affordable and stable energy prices; and
- combat energy poverty in the population, through social compensation measures and support for the weakest and most vulnerable in our society.

Unless we include agriculture, meaningful environmental policy isn't possible. For the LSAP, sustainable and efficient agriculture therefore lies at the heart of Europe and Luxembourg.

For us socialists and social democrats, environmental protection and agriculture are closely linked. If nature and the earth are damaged, if extreme weather conditions become the norm, sustainable agriculture is no longer possible. That is why we must find solutions together with farmers. United, we can:

- integrate climate goals into European agricultural policy;
- establish an EU agricultural policy that actively supports farmers in the transition to sustainable agriculture; and
- ensure food security for consumers by introducing a European food products standard.

To achieve these goals, it is important for us socialists and social democrats that:

- farmers are fairly compensated for the food they produce;
- farmers are protected against unfair market competition and price speculation;
- environmental pollution resulting from agriculture is minimised by reducing the use of pesticides; and
- animal welfare measures are effectively implemented.

With regards new genetic engineering techniques, we socialists and social democrats are not against them, provided that the precautionary principle is guaranteed at all times so as to minimise any risks. Labelling and the traceability of genetically modified foods are necessary so that consumers can decide for themselves what they eat.



A STRONG AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY STRENGTHENS THE HEART OF EUROPE

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The EU boasts the world's largest internal market, offering numerous benefits to businesses and member states. This market must be developed further because a strong and sustainable economy is the core of a strong Europe. Digitisation and climate change offer significant opportunities, including the creation of new high-quality jobs and a more sustainable and circular economy.

To strengthen the position of the European economy globally and ensure its strategic independence, we stand for an active industrial policy, investments to promote innovation, fair and sustainable planning of the internal market and enhanced consumer protection. Therefore, we demand:

- the development of an economic strategy setting short, medium and long-term goals capable of adapting to different scenarios;
- based on this strategy, the implementation of a coherent investment plan that supports the coming economic transitions through innovation, adjustment funding and social considerations
- a clear strategy for the decarbonisation of industry;
- financial support for companies investing in research and development to accelerate the transition, for example, via tax measures;
- including the workforce - in other words, the people who work - in all these considerations, whether it be in terms of training, retraining, or conversion, or in terms of labour migration and simple migration,
- the promotion of investment policy in Europe and strengthening financing for European companies; and
- ensuring a strong voice for trades unions in these processes.

Citizens' awareness of their civic duties as well as responsible businesses play a major role in shaping these transitions. In this regard, ecological and digital transitions offer significant opportunities to promote businesses through targeted fiscal and structural support, thereby strengthening the economy. Therefore, we demand:

- enforcement of the law on supply chain due diligence. The supply chain due diligence directive should require companies to ensure that there are no violations of human or labour rights, or practices harmful to the environment in the production of their products and via their supply chain activities. This includes, for example, "fast fashion", where clothing is made extremely cheaply in developing countries at the expense of the environment, workers and society at large.
- the introduction of a legal framework encouraging companies to save resources and gradually transition to a circular economy. At the same time, directives on the right to repair goods, reuse and recycle and to produce goods and services in an environmentally friendly manner must be implemented and strengthened;

- the protection of consumers against hazardous products and unfair commercial practices, and the strengthening of their rights. Consumers must be informed about the production of goods and be able to enforce their rights. Especially in the digital realm, companies and online platforms must be held to their obligations – notably by strengthening the Digital Services Act.



However, companies should not shoulder the burden of economic transitions alone. Citizens must also play their part by changing their mindset. Thus, the “technofix”- the idea that technological innovations alone can solve climate change - is not the only possible approach to addressing tomorrow’s challenges. It is equally clear that our society must change its habits. A more sustainable way of life must be the goal for society.

To achieve this, we need a fair European internal market where no one country is favoured over another. This is particularly important for a small country like Luxembourg, and that is why we call for:

- clear rules ensuring fairness among member states, such as uniform rules for granting subsidies or tax benefits;
- clear rules harmonising social and environmental requirements in Europe, such as the introduction of social and environmental criteria for public procurement; and
- protection of EU companies against unfair competition from third countries.

**A EUROPE THAT
PRIORITISES
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A EUROPE THAT PRIORITISES SERVICES AND SUPPORT WITH PEOPLE AT HEART

A strong public sector, universal access to quality healthcare and the right to adequate housing are fundamental for a just society. We want efficient public services and administrative bodies that take care of people. Without strong public services, our society simply cannot function! We want a society that takes care of its citizens - especially its youth and its seniors.

Children are the most affected by poverty and child poverty in Europe is far too prevalent. We have a duty to change this not only by combating poverty but above all by strengthening the rights of children and young people. Europe must support future generations and offer young people clear and decent prospects in a strong Europe. That is why we socialists and social democrats demand:

- the European guarantee for better protection of our children, the so-called “European Child Guarantee” is implemented and receives a budget of at least 20 billion euros;
- an extension of the European Youth Guarantee, so every person under the age of 30 must be offered quality work, training, an apprenticeship or an internship at the end of their education or should they find themselves unemployed;
- active inclusion of young people in political decisions, which is why we demand the voting age be 16 in all elections;
- remuneration for internships in both the public and private sectors;
- a guarantee of free public education and vocational training: education must continue to ensure equal opportunities to enable social advancement;
- expansion of the Erasmus+ student exchange programme, coupled with an EU initiative to increase the availability of affordable student housing;
- Europe’s commitment to enable young people to afford their first home.



The strength of our society lies in its diversity and openness, and in the fact that our society takes care of its citizens, especially when they are in need. The LSAP defends a solidarity-based society. So that each individual, especially when their opportunities are limited by a disability or age, is able to lead a dignified life with equal rights, we socialists and social democrats support:

- a guarantee that older generations can continue their active participation in social and political life;
- a strengthening of public pension systems in Europe, ensuring adequate pension provisions to combat the age-related poverty;
- the introduction of European-wide measures to enable the elderly to live independently as long and as well as possible;
- free access to quality healthcare;
- a Europe without barriers, where binding measures in all member states make infrastructure and the provision of education, culture and public life accessible to people with disabilities;
- respect for the political and social rights of people with disabilities.

A strong public service stimulates our economy, ensures social justice, guarantees quality of life and promotes equal opportunities. Public authorities must therefore ensure that digitalisation does not create new inequalities. Therefore, we socialists and social democrats demand:

- significant investment in public digital infrastructure and digital education;
- the principle of network neutrality is defended; and
- every person has fair and equal access to the Internet, without restrictions, including access to high-speed connections.

Good public transportation is essential to promote equal opportunity and a high quality of life. Free public transport in Luxembourg is thus a model for promoting sustainable and equitable mobility beneficial to society as a whole. In Europe, we socialists and social democrats demand that:

- public transport be systematically expanded and enhanced;
- everyone - wherever they live - has access to adequate public mobility options; and
- the European railway network be expanded and that connections – especially night connections – be systematically increased to offer a viable alternative to air travel.

As socialists and social democrats, we strongly oppose any privatisation and commercialisation of the healthcare sector. Every individual has the right to adequate healthcare, regardless of their financial resources, age, gender or sexual orientation. Therefore, we socialists and social democrats demand that:

- healthcare and scientific advances be available and accessible to everyone;
- social security is guaranteed for every individual;
- medicine prices are fair and transparent;
- at the European level, countries collaborate to prevent drug shortages;
- the European strategy for mental health be finalised and implemented;
- Europe must coordinate healthcare sector research and innovation among member states;
- research into drugs and treatments for cancer, especially in children, must be promoted at the EU level;
- research on therapies for and causes of rare diseases must be better coordinated and intensified at the EU level, and access to innovative treatments must be accessible to all;
- gender-specific medicine must be at the heart of prevention, diagnosis, treatment and research on diseases, making healthcare for women more equitable;
- so-called “conversion therapy” be banned in the EU;
- a European system for nutritional labelling of food become mandatory, in order to promote healthier eating and combat common diseases such as diabetes, obesity and hypertension.

Just as access to adequate healthcare is a human right, so is housing. Too many people in Europe, especially young people, are unable to find decent housing. That is why we socialists and social democrats call for a European initiative for the development and promotion of affordable and sustainable housing. In this regard, we want to:

- promote energy-efficient renovations;
- financially assist socio-economically disadvantaged individuals in renovating their homes;
- establish binding targets for the development of affordable housing, for example by setting a determined percentage of affordable housing in relation to homes being built on the open market;
- reform state aid rules to be able to build more social housing; and
- set mandatory targets to combat homelessness.

EUROPE AND ITS FUNDAMENTAL VALUES



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Europe exists for everyone. As socialists and social democrats, we aspire to a Europe where all individuals can live together without discrimination. We advocate for equal opportunities and a united society that offers a place for everyone. Therefore, in our view, Europe must be diverse, feminist, open; a society that stands in solidarity together, where each citizen has bright prospects - and there's a place for everyone.

That is why we will continue to strengthen the rights of people with disabilities, whether physical or mental, and their inclusion in society. Specifically, we demand:

- standard definitions of the terms “disability”, “physical or mental disability” and “accessibility” at the European level; and
- binding measures to integrate people with disabilities into our society and the job market.

In our Europe, there is no place for prejudice. We categorically reject sexism, racism, antisemitism, Islamophobia and any other form of discrimination. That is why, as socialists and social democrats, we commit to:

- establishing an EU anti-discrimination directive to ensure the rights of all individuals in every European country;
- Updating and implementing consistently the equality strategy;
- guaranteeing recognition of both same-sex parents and marriage for same-sex couples throughout the EU; and
- ensuring that the rights of LGBTQI+ people are considered in both internal and external EU policies.

For us socialists and social democrats, Europe must also be feminist! We strive so that young girls and women do not face discrimination. Therefore, we demand that:

- the principle of gender equality be considered in all political and budgetary decisions;
- women alone have the freedom to decide on their own lives;
- women have exclusive control over their bodies, including their sexual rights;
- women's right to decide regarding abortion not be questioned;
- violence against women is addressed and combatted;
- the Istanbul Convention for preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence is implemented in EU member states.

To ensure gender equality and equal opportunities for all genders, we demand as socialists and social democrats a coherent policy in which:

- the appointment of a European Commissioner responsible for implementing the “Union of Equality” is guaranteed;
- all gender-related differences in salaries and pensions are eliminated by 2030; and
- it is ensured that more women can hold leadership positions.

Our European and progressive values, just like our democracy, are increasingly under challenge, from both within the Union and externally. Several member states deliberately violate European values and no longer guarantee the rule of law. **To put an end to this trend:**

- institutional mechanisms to combat violations of the rule of law and violations of democratic principles must be strengthened and enforced;
- no European funds should be disbursed to countries where there are suspicions of corruption and where the judicial system is not independent; and
- the European Parliament must be strengthened to ensure a better institutional balance within the Union.

Misinformation and hatred undermine our democratic culture and divide our societies.

That is why we demand that:

- targeted hatred and misinformation be criminalised at the EU level; and
- online platforms be held accountable for combatting combat these phenomena as they occur on their sites.

**TOGETHER WE HAVE FORCE.
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The EU must be a safe place for all our citizens. To ensure this:

- there must be enhanced cooperation between EU member states at all levels – only international cooperation and consistent legislation can combat organised crime, terrorism, cybercrime and drug-related crime;
- more resources should be allocated to fight financial crime. This should also be done in Luxembourg, which is particularly exposed due to its large financial sector;
- Europol and the European Public Prosecutor's Office must be strengthened;
- a European judicial police force, supporting the European Public Prosecutor's Office, must be established;
- free legal services must be guaranteed for people who cannot afford legal representation; and
- coordinated and solidarity-based European measures and laws in civil protection be defined, to mutually assist member states both to help prevent and in case of disasters or pandemics.

For us socialists and social democrats, democracy and human rights are non-negotiable! That is why we need a strong rule of law in Europe that guarantees the rights and freedoms of citizens and ensures that all individuals are treated equally. To ensure this, the following measures are necessary:

- strong and independent judicial systems in member states;
- an effective and coordinated fight against corruption at national and international levels;
- guarantees of media pluralism and press freedom;
- journalists' ability to access to information guaranteed by law; and
- civil society participation in democratic decision-making processes.

In a democracy, there can be no discrimination - all individuals are equal. That is why we socialists and social democrats fight against extremist and populist organisations and trends that not only question our democratic institutions but also seek to deprive minorities and vulnerable communities, such as migrants or socially disadvantaged individuals, of their rights.

We socialists and social democrats commit to a fair and egalitarian society, and support the feminist movement, the LGBTQI+ movement and all progressive organisations working for any form of justice. At the European level, we demand clear rules to ensure that neither third countries nor EU member states receive any form of financial support when governed by autocratic regimes.



Migration presents an opportunity – economic, social, and cultural – for our countries. That is why we socialists and social democrats:

- consider that migrants should not be perceived as a political problem;
- demand a common and coordinated migration policy based on the principle of solidarity among countries; and
- demand a European migration policy based on human rights, respect and dignity.

Europe must always show that it is a solidarity project. Regarding refugees, we demand:

- fair, respectful and consistent asylum and immigration procedures in Europe;
- the right to asylum and protection for all;
- comprehensive, transparent and dignified return procedures;
- responsible and transparent partnerships with countries of origin and transit;
- no outsourcing of EU borders;
- that humanitarian aid not be criminalised;
- that EU funds are not used to build walls or fences at the EU's external borders;
- a European sea rescue mission for people in distress in the Mediterranean;
- strengthened measures and laws against human trafficking, sexual violence and exploitation of distressed individuals; and
- promotion of inclusive labour markets in Europe and support for local authorities in implementing inclusive policies.



A STRONG EUROPE IN THE WORLD, WITH HEART AND REASON



A STRONG EUROPE IN THE WORLD, WITH HEART AND REASON

The European Union is a project for peace. It is therefore concerning to note that the tone in international relations is becoming increasingly harsh, even calling into question international rules and organisations. Especially for small countries like Luxembourg, whose defence ultimately relies on these rules, this is a worrying and dangerous development.

At a time when political right-wing movements openly question the EU, when an armed conflict is taking place on the European continent, when China is becoming increasingly aggressive, when the Middle East is embroiled in a deep crisis, when the United Kingdom has left the EU and when the prospect of a second Trump term in the United States offers little hope, Europe must act with courage and determination.

That is why Europe must become more independent, self-assured, sovereign and capable of action. Europe must be strong enough to defend its values effectively on the international stage.

We will always remain a Europe that defends peace and its values: a progressive, solidarity-driven and social Europe.

Therefore, as socialists and social democrats, we firmly support the objectives of the EU, NATO and other international institutions such as the United Nations (“UN”).

We advocate for:

- UN reform, without questioning the international law system;
- a strong common European security and defence policy, complementary to NATO;
- Centralised coordination of European armies, joint procurement of equipment and better cooperation in combating cyber threats;
- abandonment of the unanimity principle in most foreign and defence policy matters, so that Europe can act more quickly and effectively;
- essential support for Ukraine; and
- a Europe that plays a leading role in preventing wars and conflicts worldwide, thereby fulfilling its role as a peace project.

It is important that we further strengthen the EU framework, especially at a time when conservative and right-wing forces are trying to destabilise the EU from within. For us socialists and social democrats, Europe must have authority in foreign and security policy. Europe also needs a common defence strategy and industry. Only united action gives Europeans a strong voice in a multipolar world.

As socialists and social democrats, we support the EU's enlargement. We welcome any European country that wishes to join our common project of peace, prosperity and modernisation in the region. We are strong only if we are united. There is therefore some urgency in continuing the EU enlargement process. However, it is imperative that the Copenhagen criteria be respected and that candidate countries be ready to join the EU.

It is necessary for Europe to adjust its own rules of the game. For example, the unanimity principle must be reconsidered to avoid blockages in the decision-making process and prevent any single country from holding the entire EU hostage. The EU must become more responsive. In this regard, we also need targeted adjustments to the treaties to ensure that an enlarged EU remains financially viable and manageable.

For the LSAP, as well as for our European sister parties, it is clear that the EU continues to embody international solidarity. That is why we are committed to the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A more sustainable, digital, modern and socially just world benefits everyone and guarantees peace.

We must also redirect our European trade policy. The idea that free trade automatically means more prosperity for everyone is an illusion. We need a trade policy that tangibly improves people's lives, both here in Europe and among our partners. With a directive on supply chain due diligence, which we socialists and social democrats continue to fight for, we can promote sustainable and fair global trade, respecting environmental, social and human rights and labour standards. At the same time, we must establish concrete measures to ensure that these principles are implemented.

In our multilateral world, we, the EU, need strong partners. We must strengthen our partnerships, especially with the United States and the United Kingdom, without neglecting our European responsibility and sovereignty. With China, we must maintain contact to continue discussions and find common solutions - without abandoning our fundamental values of democracy and human rights.

Furthermore, we must establish equitable and forward-looking partnerships with countries in the Global South. These partnerships must operate on an equal footing, because this is the only way we can create a socially just world.

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9TH JUNE



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