

"EU in the world"

1. Proposal: Reducing dependency of EU from foreign actors in economically strategic sectors

Objective: We propose that the EU take measures to strengthen its autonomy in key strategic sectors such as agricultural products, strategic economic goods, semiconductors, medical products, innovative digital and environmental technologies and energy, through:

Measures:

1. boosting research, development and innovation activities and collaboration on that between public and private partners
2. maintaining an ambitious trade negotiation agenda that can contribute to building resilience and diversification of supply chains, in particular for raw materials, while also sharing the benefits of trade more equally and with more partners, thereby limiting our exposure and dependency on a small number of potentially risky suppliers.¹
3. increasing the resilience of EU supply chains through fostering investment in strategic sectors in the EU, stockpiling critical productions and devices and diversifying the supply sources of critical raw materials;
4. investing further in the completion of the internal market, creating a level-playing field to make it more attractive to produce and buy these items in the European Union.
5. support to keep such products available and affordable to European consumers and reduce dependencies from outside, for example through the use of structural and regional policies, tax breaks, subsidies, infrastructure and research investments, boosting the competitiveness of SMEs as well as education programmes to keep related qualifications and jobs in Europe that are relevant to secure basic needs.²
6. a European-wide programme to support small local producers from strategic sectors across all Member States,³ making greater use of the EU programmes and financial instruments, such as InvestEU.
7. better cooperation between Member States to handle the management of supply chain risks⁴

2. Proposal: Reducing dependency of EU from foreign actors in energy

Objective: We propose that the EU reach more autonomy in the field of energy production and supply, in the context of the ongoing green transition by:

Measures:

¹ From debates in Working Group and Plenary

² See Recommendation 1 from ECP4, Recommendation 2 from NCP Germany Panel 1 "EU in the World", and NCP Italy Cluster 2, Rec1, further developed in WG

³ See Recommendation 4 from ECP4 and NCP Italy Cluster 2, Recs 5 and 6, further developed in WG

⁴ See Digital Platform and NCP Italy Cluster 2, Recs 2 and 3, further developed in WG
<https://futureu.europa.eu/processes/EUInTheWorld/f/16/proposals/197870>

1. adopting a strategy to be more autonomous in its energy production. A European body should integrate the existing European energy agencies and should coordinate the development of renewable energies and promote knowledge sharing ⁵
2. actively supporting public transport and energy efficiency projects, a pan-European high-speed rail and freight network, the expansion of clean and renewable energy provision (in particular in solar and wind) and alternative technologies (such as hydrogen or waste-to-energy), as well as cultural change in urban settings from the individual car towards public transport, e-car sharing and biking.⁶
3. ensuring a just and fair transition, supporting in particular vulnerable citizens, who face the greatest challenges in transitioning towards climate neutrality and who are already suffering from increasing energy prices because of energy dependency and the recent tripling of energy prices.
4. increased collaboration around the assessment of the use of nuclear energy in the ongoing green transition to renewable energy in Europe, examining the collective issues that it could solve or create, given that it is still being used by many member states.⁷
5. engaging with international partners, committing them in attaining more ambitious goals to address climate change at different international fora, including G7 and G20.
6. Linking foreign trade with climate policy measures (e.g. by launching an investment package for climate-friendly technologies and innovations, including funding programmes)⁸
7. pursuing common purchases of imported energy and sustainable energy partnerships in order to reduce European energy import dependencies, specifically in the area of gas and oil and developing EU domestic sources of energy.

[3. Proposal: Defining standards within and outside the EU in trade and investment relations](#)

Objective: We propose that the EU strengthen the ethical dimension of its trade and investment relations through:

Measures:

1. preserving and reforming our multilateral rules-based international trade architecture, and partnership with like-minded democracies
2. effective and proportionate EU legislation to ensure that decent work standards are fully applied along the global value chains, including EU production and supply processes and that goods which are imported comply with qualitative ethical standards, sustainable development, and human rights standards including workers' and trade union rights, offering certification for products abiding by this EU legislation⁹ and engage in an EU wide

⁵ See Recommendation 14 from ECP4, further developed in WG

⁶ See Recommendation 2 from ECP4 and NCP Italy Cluster 2, Rec4, further developed in WG

⁷ See Recommendation 17 from ECP4 and NCP Italy Cluster 2, Rec4, further developed in WG

⁸ See Recommendation 1 NCP Germany, Panel 1 "EU in the World", further developed in WG

⁹ See Recommendation 3 from ECP4, further developed in WG

dialogue process that seeks to inform and educate on the environmental and ethical effects of policy changes in international trade

3. restrictions on the import and sale of products from countries that allow forced and child labour, a periodically updated blacklist of companies, and promoting consumer awareness on child labour through information made by official EU channels¹⁰.
4. following up and enforcing Trade Sustainable Development chapters (TSD) in EU Free Trade Agreements (FTA) including the possibility of a sanctions-based mechanism as a last resort.
5. reforming the EU's Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) to include strong conditionality provisions and effective and appropriate monitoring, reporting and dialogue processes in order to improve the impact GSP can have on trade, human rights and development in partner countries with trade preferences to be withdrawn in case of non-compliance.

4. Proposal: Defining standards within and outside the EU in environmental policies

Objective: We propose that the EU strengthen the environmental dimension of its trade relations through:

Measures:

1. harmonising and strengthening eco-labelling and introducing a mandatory eco-score to be displayed on all products that can be bought by the consumer. The eco-score would be calculated according to emissions from production and transportation, as well as harmful content, based on a list of hazardous products. The eco-score should be managed and monitored by an EU authority¹¹.
2. strengthen environmental standards for the export of waste and more stringent controls and sanctions to stop illegal exports. The EU should incentivise the Member States to recycle their own waste and use it for energy production¹².
3. setting a goal of eliminating polluting packaging by promoting less packaging or more environmentally-friendly packaging¹³. establishing partnerships with developing countries, supporting their infrastructure and with mutually favourable trade deals to aid them in the transition towards green energy sources¹⁴.
4. rewarding countries that apply high sustainability standards by offering them further access to the EU market for their sustainable goods and services, either unilaterally through the General System of Preferences GSP+, bilaterally through negotiated trade agreements, or multilaterally through initiatives in the World Trade Organisation

5. Proposal: Decision making and cohesion within the Union

Objective: We propose that the EU improve its capacity to take speedy and effective decisions, notably in Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), speaking with one

¹⁰ See Recommendation 11 from ECP4, further developed in WG

¹¹ See Recommendation 13 from ECP4, further developed in WG

¹² See Recommendation 15 from ECP4, further developed in WG

¹³ See Recommendation 16 from ECP4, further developed in WG

¹⁴ See Recommendation 12 from ECP4, further developed in WG

voice and acting as a truly global player, projecting a positive role in the world and making a difference in response to any crisis, notably through:

Measures:

1. in particular in the area of the CFSP, issues that are currently decided by way of unanimity to be changed, normally to be decided by way of a qualified majority¹⁵.
2. basing cooperation in security and defense policy on the recently endorsed Strategic Compass and making use of the European Peace Facility¹⁶
3. strengthening the role of the High Representative to ensure that the EU speaks with one voice.¹⁷
4. agreeing on a strong vision and a common strategy to consolidate the unity and decision taking capacity of the EU in order to prepare the EU for further enlargement¹⁸.
5. ratifying recently concluded trade agreements more promptly without precluding proper examination and discussion.

6. Proposal: Transparency of the EU and its relations with the citizens

Objective: We propose that the EU, in particular in its actions at the international level, including trade negotiations, improve its accessibility for citizens through better information, education, citizen participation, and transparency of its action, notably by:

Measures:

1. strengthening links with citizens and local institutions to improve transparency, reach the citizens and communicate and consult better with them about concrete EU initiatives and at the international level¹⁹.
2. stronger citizen participation in the EU's international politics and direct citizens' involvement events, similar to the Conference on the Future of Europe, organised on a national, local and European level²⁰ and with the active participation of organised civil society²¹.
3. full support by all relevant stakeholders to citizens who choose to get involved in organised civil society organisations, as they did with COVID-19 and Ukraine.
4. allocating a specific budget to develop educational programmes on the functioning of the EU and its values that it could propose to the Member States that wish, so that they can integrate them into their curricula (primary, secondary schools, and universities). In addition, a specific course on the EU and its functioning could be offered to students wishing to study in another European country through the Erasmus programme. Students choosing this course would be given priority in the allocation of said Erasmus programmes.
- 6.

¹⁵ See Recommendation 21 from ECP4, further developed in WG

¹⁶ See Digital Platform, further developed in WG

¹⁷ See Digital Platform, further developed in WG

¹⁸ See Recommendation 26 from ECP4, further developed in WG

¹⁹ See Recommendation 18 from ECP4, further developed in WG

²⁰ See Recommendation 19 from ECP4, further developed in WG

²¹ See Recommendation 19 from ECP4, further developed in WG

5. improving its media strategy by strengthening its visibility on social media and actively promote its content and encouraging innovation by promoting an accessible European social media.²²

7. [Proposal: The EU as a strong actor on the world scene in peace and security](#)

Objective: We propose that the EU continue to act to promote dialogue and guarantee peace and a rules-based international order,²³ strengthening multilateralism and building on long standing EU peace initiatives which contributed to its award of the Nobel Prize in 2012, while strengthening its common security through²⁴:

Measures:

1. Its joint armed forces that shall be used for self-defence purposes and preclude aggressive military action of any kind, with a capacity to provide support in times of crises including natural catastrophes. Outside European borders it could be deployed in exceptional circumstances preferably under a legal mandate from the UN Security Council and thus in compliance with international law²⁵, and without competing with or duplicating NATO and respecting different national relationships with NATO and undertaking an assessment of EU relations with NATO in the context of the debate on the EU's strategic autonomy.
2. Playing a leading role in building the world security order after the war in Ukraine building on the recently adopted EU strategic compass.
3. Protecting its strategic research and its capacity in priority sectors such as the space sector, cybersecurity, the medical sector and the environment²⁶.
4. Strengthening the operational capabilities necessary to ensure the effectiveness of the mutual assistance clause of Art. 42.7 of the Treaty on European Union, providing adequate EU protection to any member state under attack by a third country.
5. Reflect on how to counter disinformation and propaganda in an objective and factual way

8. [Proposal: The EU as a strong actor on the world scene in relationship building](#)

Objective: We propose that the EU should, in its relations with third countries:

Measures:

1. make greater use of its collective political and economic weight, speaking with one voice and acting in a unified way, without individual Member States dividing the Union through inappropriate bilateral responses²⁷.
2. strengthen its ability to sanction States, governments, entities, groups or organisations as well as individuals that do not comply with its fundamental principles, agreements and

²² See Recommendation 25 from ECP4

²³ From debate in Working Group and Plenary

²⁴ See Change 2 from the French national panel/events

²⁵ See Recommendation 20 from ECP4 and NCP Italy Cluster 2, Rec 7, further developed in WG

²⁶ See Change 2 from French National Citizens' Panel

²⁷ See Recommendation 24 from ECP4 and NCP Italy Cluster 2, Rec 7, further developed in WG

laws and ensuring that sanctions that already exist are quickly implemented and enforced. Sanctions against third countries should be proportional to the action that triggered them and be effective and applied in due time²⁸.

3. promote sustainable and rules-based trade while opening new trade and investment opportunities for European companies. While bilateral trade and investment agreements are key to promote European competitiveness, standards and rules are needed to ensure a level playing field. The EU needs to remain an active and reliable partner by negotiating, concluding and implementing trade agreements that also set high sustainability standards
4. conclude major international cooperation agreements as the EU rather than as individual countries²⁹.
5. reform EU trade and investment policy to relaunch global multilateralism with as objectives the creation of decent jobs and the protection of fundamental human rights, including workers' and trade union rights; the preservation of the environment and biodiversity and the conformity with the Paris Agreement on climate change; the safeguarding of high-quality public services; and the strengthening of Europe's industrial basis. The EU should contribute to a relaunch of global multilateralism, through a profound reform based on democracy and peace, solidarity and respect for human, social and environmental rights and a reinforced role for the ILO.
6. include in cooperation and investment agreement with third countries the fight against human trafficking and illegal immigration and cooperation with reference to any appropriate repatriations.
7. establish partnerships with developing countries, supporting their infrastructure and with mutually favourable trade deals to aid them in the transition towards green energy sources³⁰
8. develop a more effective and unified policy towards autocratic and hybrid regimes and develop partnerships with civil society organisations in such countries.
9. increase the resources of EU electoral observation missions
10. offer a credible accession perspective for candidate and potential candidate countries to foster peace and stability in Europe and bring prosperity to millions of Europeans³¹.

NOTE: Several members of the WG considered that Proposals "Reducing dependency of EU from foreign actors in energy" and "Transparency of the EU and its relations with the citizens" in particular were matters for other WGs. Some members wished to draw attention to other alternatives to unanimity in the Council besides QMV, such as variable geometry, opt-outs and enhanced cooperation. Some WG members advocated using the term "sustainable" instead of "ethical" in Proposal "Defining standards within and outside the EU in trade and investment relations". There was a difference of views as to whether accession of new Member States should continue to require the unanimous agreement of all current Member States. There was a

²⁸ See Recommendation 22 from ECP4, further developed in WG

²⁹ See Recommendation 1 on EU in World from Dutch National Citizens' Panel, further developed in WG

³⁰ See Digital Platform and Plenary Debates, further developed in WG

³¹ See Digital Platform, further developed in WG

range of views as to the extent to which there should be joint armed forces. Two members mentioned the prospect of Irish unity in the event of Northern Ireland voting for it in accordance with the provisions of the Good Friday Agreement, and for the EU to be prepared for such an eventuality.