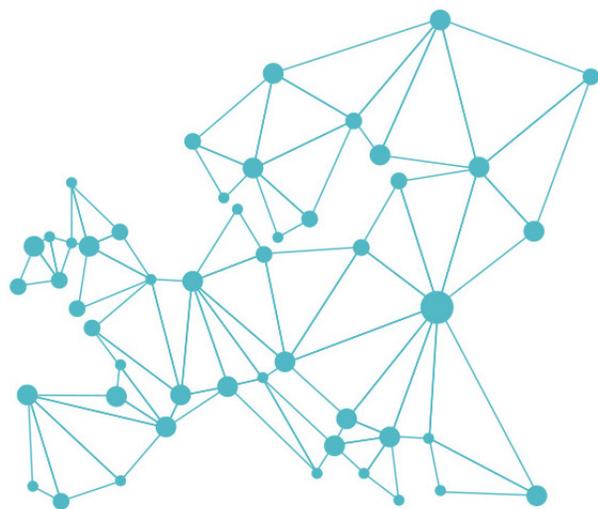


# THE EUROPEAN WAY FOR A BETTER FUTURE



**CIVICO**  
• • • europa

CONTRIBUTION TO THE REFLECTION ON  
THE FUTURE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

as following the request of the President of the European  
Commission and the President of the European council



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## ABOUT

CIVICO europa finds its origin in the May 9 Movement (M9M), an informal group initiated by opinion leaders a later supported by politicians, all coming from all over Europe and from various horizons, backgrounds and generations, formed on May 9<sup>th</sup> 2016 with the ambition of giving a new impulse to the European project in a world in radical change and putting citizens at the heart of this dynamic.

Now, we believe it is time to reinvent to the link between European citizens and their political leaders, to develop a genuine shared-understanding of our common challenges, to adapt our priority-setting and decision-making processes to new expectations by empowering citizens. Together, we believe these are the ways to respond to the mistrust of a growing part of European societies. This unavoidable reinvention is the only way for the EU to remain a reference and a source of inspiration for its citizens and the rest of the world.

This is why we founded CIVICO europa, embodying this renewal of European democracy and in the purpose of delivering a 'European civic platform' that enables citizens in view of shaping together this new chapter of the European project history.

## HISTORY

### MAY 9, 2016

17 European personalities launch an appeal for a New European Renaissance, it is the May 9 Appeal, published in 13 countries and backed online by thousands of citizens.

### JUNE 26-27, 2016

A second appeal in the aftermath of the British referendum is published, calling Heads of state and government for launching a concrete roadmap – independent from the Brexit process – aiming at reconnecting citizens with the European project. It is the birth of the May 9 Movement.

### OCTOBER 3 AND 28, 2016

The President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, and the President of the European Council, meet with M9M members in order to ask their contribution to the reflection on the future of the EU, according a particular attention to citizens' involvement.

### NOVEMBER 16, 2016

Fourth appeal in the context of the new U.S. elected President, to pave the way towards a European political, democratic, social, cultural and ecological power, equipped with a strong foreign and defence policy. M9M also announces the upcoming creation of a trans-national European civic platform.

### JUNE 10, 2016

In the framework of a series of meeting with Heads of state and government and their sherpas, these personalities meet first with the President of the French Republic, who invite them to launch citizens' conventions all over Europe.

### AUGUST 22, 2016

Publication of an open-letter on education and youth to President Hollande, Chancellor Merkel, and Prime Minister Renzi at the occasion of the extraordinary meeting of Ventotene in Italy.

### OCT 2016 – FEB 2017

Starting a series of deliberative events and debates being tested in Paris (Oct 15, 2016) and Bratislava (Feb 17, 2017). M9M launches a dedicated task-force in charge of designing a new type of citizens' conventions, allowing Europeans to influence the shape of the future of the EU according to their priorities.

### MARCH 20-24, 2017

M9M becomes CIVICO europa and publishes its contribution to the reflection on the future of the EU, 'The European way for a better future'.



## PRELIMINARY REMARKS

“The European way for a better future” results from the research and works started on May 2016 by the May 9 Movement (M9M). Gathering advices and expertise of many opinion leaders from all backgrounds, horizons and generations and coming from the whole Continent, this report represents a unique interdisciplinary, benevolent and collective work proposing a comprehensive set of concrete solutions enabling a better future for European citizens.

As a contribution to the reflection on the future of Europe, following the request made by both Presidents of the European Commission and of the European Council to the May 9 Movement, we wish it could inspire the awaited Rome agenda to be adopted at the occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the treaty of Rome and its implementation roadmap.

Our approach and proposals can gather a wide, pragmatic and ambitious consensus. The European solutions we propose, can rapidly be implemented without any change of the existing treaties and impact positively the lives of millions of European citizens. The interests of citizens and therefore, the European common interest, are at the heart of our reflection.

We do share the core conviction that for decades, the EU was there to sustain the quality of life of Europeans and the fairness, cohesion, inclusiveness as well as openness of European societies. The EU guaranteed peace, security, stability and created a dynamic that reinforced fundamental rights and liberties. However, part of these benefits have been eroded during the last decade, giving further space to fragmentation and inequalities, while globalisation strengthened fears. If we want the EU to remain the guarantee of these values and benefits in such a radically new and shifting environment, the EU needs to rethink itself and write a new chapter of its history in mobilising its citizens. The best and unique way to tackle fears it to develop a shared awareness of the challenges we face and to call our whole societies up, in order to find positive and cooperative solutions. National pride should not be opposed to a European ambition; one should reinforce the other in respect of a common European interest.

We believe in the relevance and the singularity of the European project based upon:

THE BUNDLING OF CERTAIN COMPETENCES OF MEMBER STATES, which are better exerted in common than separately;

A MUTUAL REINFORCEMENT of member states and the union;

A CONTINUOUS FURTHER INVOLVEMENT OF CITIZENS in the reflection and the decision processes.

This contribution is addressed to all European citizens and opinion-makers, and has already been communicated to European Heads of State and Government as well as European decision-makers, in the hope it will nurture their reflection to reshape our Union.



## INTRODUCTION

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### THE PRESENT WORLD

Unprecedented economic and technological progress and radical changes have been witnessed all over the world over the last decades. Globalisation and increased economic interconnections between the different parts of the world, but also cheaper and faster transport and communication through digitalisation have lifted millions out of poverty, and contributed to facilitate the dialogue between peoples and cultures. However, poorly regulated globalisation has also increased economic and social inequalities, both between and within countries, and weakened Western working and middle classes.

While we are facing a rapid economic and geopolitical rebalancing, and the emergence of a new multipolar world, citizens are losing their traditional landmarks especially within developed countries. The EU Member States will soon stand for less than 5% of the global population, whereas their contribution to global GDP is also decreasing rapidly. While four European countries were among the G8 of the richest countries in 2010, only one will remain in ten years' time.

The multiplication of transnational challenges has rendered action by governments more difficult whilst multilateralism and international cooperation have too rarely succeeded to find solutions to those challenges which are no longer national. In this emerging gap between the national and transnational levels, fears have multiplied and nationalism, populism and self-retreat have started to flourish in many democracies around the world, and particularly in Europe.

Without systemic changes, this negative dynamic is set to go on.

A consensus has emerged on the fact that the next ten years will see rising tensions within and between countries. Large groups of people increasingly feel left out, alienated or lost, by becoming culturally homeless.

Global growth might slow down and, as a result, national interests are expected to continue to override ideals of cross-border collaboration. Migrations flows - today at record time with more than 60 million displaced worldwide - may consequently go on increasing. In the same time, the fourth industrial revolution - that is characterized by digitalization, big data and Artificial intelligence - and potentialities of transhumanism are going to reshuffle our perception of realities and reinforce the power of global digital platforms driven by U.S. and Asian oligopolies, while global competition for rare resources and talents is growing. In addition, rapid population aging in many democracies will increase tensions between generations, challenge increasingly solidarity, increase fear for change and make adaptation harder. Finally, climate change will go on. Rarely such a conjunction of events has taken place in our history. In such a situation, a collective reinvention is indispensable.

Europe and the EU will not be immune to these trends and phenomena.



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## EUROPE IN AN EXISTENTIAL CRISIS

From a long term viewpoint, the European project has been a huge success story. It brought peace, stability and freedom and enlarged prosperity to 500 million Europeans for decades. 60 years after the signature of the Treaties of Rome and despite fragmentation and increase of inequalities, the EU remains one of the few places in the world combining economic development, with high levels of social and environmental protection. Its single market ensuring the free movement of people, goods, services and capital, equipped with a single currency, remains the biggest market in the world in value. Europe is built on common ground, values of dialogue, cooperation and compromise and a set of binding fundamental rights and liberties symbolized by the European Charter for Human Rights.

Today's assets stem from a rich, diverse but largely common history which makes Europe stand out in the world as beacon of freedom, justice, stability and relative prosperity. Our cultural heritage has brought us essential values and principles such as critical thinking, equality between men and women, democracy, independent justice, social protection, separation of state and religion, equality, solidarity, freedom of thought and speech, and, after two World Wars, peace.

Pressure on Europe is mounting, both externally and internally. Across the Atlantic, the Trump administration seems to withdraw from the tradition of transatlantic support and solidarity. Worse, the U.S. are openly seeking to divide the EU, forcing it to develop a more independent role in global politics. Russia in the East and huge (potential) migration flows due to the increased instability in the South of Europe underline even more the need for a united foreign and security policy, reduced dependency on foreign military capabilities and new coalitions. Other challenges such as the depletion of natural sources, climate change, an increasingly active China and destabilisation in Africa, only add to the imminent urgency of reinvigorating the position of Europe in the present and future global order. In addition, new oligopolies based upon digital platforms weaken our traditional industries whereas the absence of European critical mass and relevant public investment limit our capacity to innovate.

Internally, Europe is suffering from a crisis of trust and leadership combined with an increasing fragmentation between and within member states, between generations and richest and poorest. Brexit is a wake-up call, given by the (British) people choosing to leave the EU, a move which is unprecedented in history. In other Member States as well, public support for the Union is challenged, with populist and nationalist sentiments on the rise almost everywhere. 'Brussels', like international cooperation in general, has become a byword for political lethargy, the rule of an elite out of touch with the people, and faltering leadership, even if since the Brexit vote, polls show increasing support for the EU project in most member states but increasing distrust in leaders and media.



### \_ III \_

## WE EUROPEANS HAVE A CHOICE

As far as the future of the Union is concerned, four scenarios are possible:

- Dismantlement, following a Brexit domino effect;
- Status quo, which is set to lead to a rapid loss of influence of Europeans in the world;
- A limited new impulse, which could allow Europeans to keep their influence in the short and medium term, but not in the long term;
- A new ambition to make Europe a global mode of reference: a truly recognised democratic, political, economic, industrial, cultural and environmental power in the world.

That is the choice we face today. Assessing the consequences of each option and as far as we are concerned, we privilege the last one. It is the one which contributes most to stabilise a very uncertain world, to favour cooperative solutions to transnational challenges and to defend European interests and values. Doing that, it reinforces both Member states and the Union.

To implement it, Europeans have to develop a shared vision of their role in a completely changing world, equip themselves with relevant policies based upon adequate financial resources and means to save their unity, be more responsive, be heard and followed and consequently be able to bundle their resources and unite their voices.

This vision can imply a multi-speed or differentiated approach. These are the conditions to transform these different challenges into an opportunity for Europeans but also for the world.

Conversely, we fear that any other options would lead to a shrinking of European influence, ultimately leading to a world that would be more dangerous, with less balanced and less predictable equilibria.

We are calling on the leaders of Member States and institutions of the European Union to re-assert the project of the Union and write with its people a new ambitious agenda. Europeans should reinvent themselves, gain influence in a radically changing world, and equip themselves to face the new challenges ahead.

We request a swift acceleration towards a smarter, more creative, effective and tangible Union that takes into consideration the concerns and needs of its citizens, that involves citizens in its reshaping and become an inspiration for the rest of the world.

### \_ IV \_

## OUR UNION IS THE ONLY WAY FORWARD: A CONCRETE TIMELINE TO GO AHEAD IS INDISPENSABLE

Conducting a meaningful foreign and security policy, dealing with migration flows, creating good quality jobs for all Europeans, safeguarding our values, tackling climate change, governing efficiently the Economic and Monetary Union, making use of industrial and scientific challenges, negotiating trade agreements and conducting trade policy, ensuring mobility, reinventing our



social models, protecting Europeans from pandemics, cyberwar, terrorism and transnational movements.... All these challenges have one thing in common: they can no longer be tackled at nation state level only. On the conditions that it is reshaped and a true 'relance' to take place, our Union is the only way to defend our common interests, our values, and to enable our future common endeavours.

We should first of all assert the European specificities, reaffirm our European values without neglecting our interests and start to act on mutual commitment. Member States must commit to respect these shared values based on the rule of law. In this ever unpredictable world, Europe must more than ever remain open, ready to cooperate globally to reach out those who need help, to be able to build global coalitions and work together with other countries that are sharing the same values.

It is time to strengthen European unity on the basis of stronger economic, social, cultural and political cohesion and of a deepening of democracy. A new shared agenda should be set out at the Rome summit in March, building on the Commission's White Paper on EU future. A roadmap for common action to implement this agenda should be adopted in the wake of the Rome declaration.

Such a roadmap is a central condition to reconcile citizens with the European project, showing that the Union takes their concerns into account. We call on consequently the EU to present an ambitious, pragmatic but concrete roadmap that unlocks the potential already provided for by existing treaties and to work towards coherent implementation from now until the European elections in 2019.

The Rome declaration should outline both the achievements, challenges, shared ambitions of Europe but also the objectives and the methodology of the roadmap. This would be a concrete signal to Europeans that Europe can serve them.

The second step should be to turn reconciliation into involvement, to incentivize the European citizens in engaging them in a more participatory priority-setting process. Society and people expect to be more pro- and inter-actively engaged in co-shaping their shared Europe's future. This move must be initiated by the end of this year and could take the form of citizens' conventions organised everywhere in the Union.

On the basis of the previous process, the third step would be to prepare a common vision for our Union with the objective to adapt its institutions by 2022 at the latest.

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## TOWARDS A EUROPEAN DEMOCRATIC, SOCIAL, INDUSTRIAL, POLITICAL AND CULTURAL POWER

With all these objectives in mind, Civico Europa wants to rebalance the European project from what is essentially an economic and monetary project to a genuine community based on a systemic approach organised on seven pillars, capable of creating the conditions to empower Europeans and find solutions to the present and future transnational challenges.



\_ 1 \_

## DEMOCRATIC PILLAR ENGAGING CITIZENS

### NO EU CITIZENS WITHOUT A CIVIC EDUCATION COMMON GROUND

As a pre-condition for the proper operation of the Union, we need citizens to own the European project. Like in any other democracy, for people to take part in the policy process, it is essential to ensure all citizens to acquire sufficient knowledge, awareness of the rights and duties and to enhance 'civil ownership'. How can citizens feel European without a common civic education?

'Europe' needs to become an integral part of educational curricula in all Member States. As Europeans, we need to be aware of what unites us, our common values, but also our European common institutions, goods and interests. And alongside that, communication by/on the EU needs fundamental modernisation, made available and accessible to all Europeans, in a much more attractive and interactive way.

The citizens of Europe hardly consider themselves as European citizens, or, better: as citizens of the European Union. Yet a growing number of them benefit from Europe in their daily lives.

We also propose that the Europe day on May 9<sup>th</sup>, becomes a day of democracy celebration in schools and an opportunity to gather Europeans around cross-national dialogue sessions all over Europe.

### TRANSNATIONAL LISTS FOR EUROPEAN ELECTIONS, A CONDITION FOR A REAL EUROPEAN PUBLIC SPACE

There is a serious deficit of public space at the European level: we are dealing with different national civil societies with limited awareness of common interests and limited possibilities of interaction.

Initiatives should be launched to install a European public space where citizens can share concerns, dialogue, develop a common understanding of challenges and participate in priority setting. We recommend for instance the creation of a continuous debate platform.

Several conditions are required to make European elections' stakes concrete for citizens and promote a real democratic pan-EU debate:

- Member States should reaffirm that the future president of the European Commission will only be selected depending on the outcome of European elections;
- The establishment of real European elections with transnational lists. This is a key element for the equality of citizens before the European Law. European citizenship is meaningless if it is not concretely reflected in the Law.



In addition, rules regarding EU membership referenda should be clarified in order to avoid any future wheeling-dealing.

### TIME FOR A CIVIC CONVENTION PROCESS TO COMPLEMENT THE REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY

At a time when the knowledge gap between citizens and politicians is reducing, people are no longer satisfied with a political participation limited to an election every 5 years and potential national referenda. In this respect, we should complement the representative democracy with a deliberative brick, for example through regular citizens' conventions and other initiatives with a European dimension, where citizens can discuss political priorities with the perspective of the European common interests. Such a process will lead to increased ownership feeling. The outcomes of bottom-up debates should feed into the European policy process and put an end to the historical unease of the European project to deal with popular input.

### FACILITATING INFORMATION QUALITY, AS A CONDITION FOR DEMOCRACY

Last, democracy needs - more than ever - media pluralism and quality news. In the global digital and big data era, disinformation risks are booming. National and European institutions must create the conditions to grant a fully pluralistic and sustainable media sector, and favour stronger media R&D and innovation, cross-border cooperation and European training for journalists.



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## EDUCATIONAL & CULTURAL PILLAR FAVOURING EUROPEAN EXPERIENCES FOR ALL

### THE AMBITION OF A NEW EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL RENAISSANCE

Education and culture have been the “poor cousins” of the European construction. As long as a limited number of citizens can experience concretely Europe, the European project remains distant and theoretical for citizens. Last decades showed that economic benefits are not sufficient in themselves to create ownership. The democratic process is central but does not replace educational and cultural experiences.

### ERASMUS FOR ALL SHOULD BE THE RULE

Experiencing mobility and embracing cultural diversity is fundamental to allow people to adapt more easily to a changing world, to enlarge their horizons and to build confidence and trust towards a wider community.

In this respect, the challenge is quite simple but ambitious: making Erasmus for all a reality by generalising its access. It will not only broaden the cultural horizons of all young Europeans but also contribute to promote equality, curiosity and mutual understanding and respect.

Democratizing Erasmus has to become a top priority of the European commission. Any single young European must rely on proper grants and zero rate loans to allow her/him to go abroad and have a training period based on at least one “European mobility”.

We therefore recommend the creation of an “Erasmus for secondary schools”: one week spent abroad at a very young age can deeply change the perspective of one’s future.

Last but not least, Erasmus must be extended to all students, apprentices and young workers.

### PROMOTING CULTURAL AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Cultural and creative industries represent a major force for our common identity and Europe’s society and economy, representing around 3% of overall EU GDP. They also contribute to European influence and soft power beyond the Union.

Therefore, the European Union should further intensify and enlarge its funding programmes related to cultural and creative industries – from Creative Europe to Horizon 2020 or European Structural Funds – and focus them on stimulating European co-productions and exchanges (e.g. series, documentaries, investigations, exhibitions, theatre, opera, dance, music and other kinds of performing arts). Furthermore, it is also crucial to ensure a better access to these funding opportunities for smaller stakeholders.



In addition, interdisciplinary meetings between a wide range of operators (e.g. artists, designers, architects, heritage professionals, and in general scientists, intellectuals, teachers and students) should be encouraged through various forms of encounters and residencies in order to foster creativity, innovation and dialogue across Europe. Integrating the arts in education curricula should be promoted by the EU and its Member States both in primary and secondary schools in order to pave the way to the re-discovery of a common civilisation.

Excellence requires real R&D investment: we suggest that the next European Research and development program devotes 5% of its budget to creative and cultural industries, which matches their share of the EU GDP and the challenges they represent in terms of job creation and worldwide European cultural influence.

### (RE)DISCOVERING OUR SHARED HERITAGE

The entire European project is based on a shared civilisation which is reflected in our shared culture, shared heritage and shared history. Therefore, sharing such a model of openness and respect with other cultures and regions of the world has a significant added value in the current context. Not only can we boost much-needed awareness and sense of belonging to a wider community within and across Europe, but we can also make use of heritage as a catalyst to build bridges and foster dialogue between cultures across the globe.

The forthcoming European Year of Cultural Heritage in 2018 provides a unique opportunity to the EU institutions, Member States and civil society stakeholders to intensify their cooperation in this direction.

The EU and its Member states should invest in research, understanding and dissemination of the interconnected history of European arts, sciences and ideas, which are at the heart of our common culture. For schools, a 'European heritage canon' could be developed, covering various forms of heritage (literature, music, architecture, art) thus enhancing the knowledge and understanding of the European dimension of our shared culture and history. A network of European Houses of Culture could also be created to help achieving this ambition in a coherent way across the EU.

All this would help to develop a sense of multi-layered identity and multiple belonging as a true basis for a European citizenship, fostering mutual understanding, peace and stability in Europe.

### REINFORCING MULTILINGUALISM AND PRESERVING LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY

The diversity of languages is Europe's great cultural richness but it is often also a barrier for proper understanding, integration and therefore, mobility within the Single market and the circulation of European cultural productions. The European Union must invest in language education to enhance multilingualism. At the same time, adequate investments must be made in developing effective translation systems (with full use of newest technological developments), which will allow all citizens to have access in their own languages to a wider range of quality information and cultural contents.



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## SUSTAINABILITY PILLAR INNOVATING QUALITY OF LIFE

### A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

We strive for a low-carbon society that respects the limits of global natural resources and ensures decent living conditions for all citizens. We want to promote a holistic approach to sustainable development. This issue belongs to many interlinked policy areas: environment, energy, housing, transportation, health and sports, food quality and agriculture... Therefore, these processes should not be isolated from the normal political agenda. It is also crucial that we talk about sustainable development inside the EU and Europe and not only as something that happens outside of the continent.

### A TRANSITION PLAN TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY

The European Union must consequently adopt a sustainable development strategy comprising of all relevant components. A transition plan towards a sustainable European society mobilising all European tools must be clearly laid out. The commitments adopted during the COP 21 are therefore only some of the elements to be taken into account. The industrial policy must also serve this ambition. The latter must reflect better awareness regarding the impact of the ongoing revolutions, notably the digital, big data and Artificial intelligence ones, which allow for transportation optimisation, promotion of short circuits and of the circular economy, reduction in use of rare resources, decentralised local productions, and reliance on sustainable energy.

More specifically, in the environmental field, we should dedicate existing and future EU investment programs to energy saving measures and building renovation programs in order to create local jobs, generate cost savings and improving housing quality for consumers. Guidance for citizens to help them change their patterns of consumption and waste disposal should be generalised. We should also extend EU product requirements and the requirements on energy efficiency and resource efficiency labelling in order to display better the environmental life-cycle balance of products, from production to use, reuse, reparability, recycling and disposal.

We should increase European funds and incentives for private funding on innovative sustainable industrial practices that help European companies to be global front-runners in green and low-carbon development that triggers new jobs on levels of qualification and safeguards existing employment.

We should ensure an environmentally sustainable financial system by channelling more public and private investment towards green energy and climate friendly infrastructure and processes as well as introducing a warning mechanism for financial flows that harm sustainable development through investing in environmentally harmful structures such as fossil fuels.



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## ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL PILLAR DARING TO INVEST AND INNOVATE

### A STRONGER INVESTMENT PLAN FOCUSING ON KEY ENABLING TECHNOLOGIES

In an ever changing environment, the main challenge of the days, months and years to come, will be to ensure full employment and quality jobs for all. In this respect, we need to search the path towards a new prosperity.

It goes through:

- national competitive social market economies;
- the achievement of the Single market
- a stronger focus and coordination of both private and public investment on key industries and skills in order to maximise the impact on the EU growth potential and better support the adaptation of our economies to globalisation;
- and more widely an entrepreneurial, innovative and cooperative spirit.

EU enterprises should be in a situation to fully take advantage of the dimension of the EU single market and quicken their investment.

The EU and the Member States should consequently favour strong investment increase, while the U.S. administration continues its strategy of reindustrialization initiated by President Obama, implements a massive investment plan and China speeds up the globalisation of its industries.

It means that the single market and the Juncker plan must be strengthened. This investment plan should combine public and private investment in order to promote innovation and productivity in the EU economy.

A 'common industrial policy' needs to develop in the context of the global economy a stronger 'European economic sovereignty'.

Europe should dare to develop its own industrial strategy, much better leverage private and public investment. We call for a major investment focus on key industries of the future and key enabling technologies (KETs), which will create local jobs, favour new services, modernise our economies and enhance our competitive advantage.

### A FUNCTIONING SINGLE MARKET TO INCREASE GROWTH POTENTIAL

To increase their growth potential, a second major step is the achievement of the Single market. The Digital single market and the Energy Union will contribute, but it will be far from sufficient.

Cultural and political barriers, and fears subsist.



A minimum tax coordination is required to avoid the fear of a bottom race of our social systems.

As regards the way to further facilitate trans-European business activities, we recommend the active promotion of concrete initiatives such as a ‘common business code’ for the EU, which could gradually establish a legal framework for trans-European business relations based on a bottom-up approach, involving various stakeholders including businessmen and lawyers.

### TIME HAS COME FOR AN “AMBITIOUS COMMON INDUSTRIAL POLICY”

This investment plan must be part of an ambitious “common industrial policy” for a stronger European sovereignty. For example, a housing development and restoration plan, combining the use of advanced new materials, advanced manufacturing and digital technologies would improve both our citizens’ quality of life and give us a global leadership in the sector. Sustained investment enabling the digitalisation of our economy should also attract foreign capitals. We also recommend five other investment plans that should be targeted to areas such as transport, renewable energy, digital skills and platforms, health sector, and cultural and creative industries. Europeans are losing their edge in respect of industrial and scientific innovation as the Union struggles to capitalize on its areas of excellence, to create an interdisciplinary culture, or to invest substantially enough so to turn R&D efforts in concrete business opportunities. It is now time to wake up. The Europeans who were in the supercomputing top 5, and top 10 until 2016, are now only in the top 20, when though such technologies are key to exploit the potential of big data and artificial intelligence and continue to flourish in virtually all relevant sectors be it healthcare, finance, telecommunications, the creative arts, or internal and external security.

### AN EFFICIENT GOVERNANCE FOR BIG DATA

Big data can be a game changer for the European industries and services. Citizens wish a real protection of their private data. This is a European singularity which has to become a competitive advantage. In this respect, a fine-tuned European governance for data use and sharing granting privacy, innovation and better services for both citizens and consumers is indispensable and should be implemented as soon as possible. We recommend Big data should be used in order to improve public services and solve out general interest challenges particularly with regard to health, quality of food and sustainable development objectives. In this respect it should be a transversal dimension integrated in most EU R&D programs. Leveraging the Big data potential is a major condition to reinforce the competitiveness of our economies but also to sustain our social models and improve the quality of public services while optimising their costs.

### A EUROPEAN PUBLIC DEBATE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Artificial intelligence is a major society, political, industrial and economic challenge with considerable impacts on our lives. Its development is henceforth ultra-rapid and could quicken the rebalance of the world, marginalizing Europeans if we do not tackle the topic. We urge the EU and its members to organize a wide and in-depth public debate on its challenge, its impacts and how to seize quickly the opportunities it offers while respecting the values at the heart of our civilization.



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## FISCAL AND FINANCIAL PILLAR ADAPTING OUR RESOURCES TO OUR NEEDS

### INCREASING OUR INVESTMENT CAPACITY

The European commitment to a new growth model driven by Sustainable Development Goals and the ambition to make the EU a geo-political entity has clear implications for financial private and public means to be developed.

We need the financial and banking system to re-direct savings to some large, strategic, and European scale investment priorities. We also need stronger capacity for public investment to act as a catalyst of this large scale private investment at both European and national levels.

The potential of a Capital Markets Union can be better used once the Banking Union is completed and able to promote the channelling of available savings towards quality investment projects in the Eurozone and across Europe.

The European Fund for Strategic Investment (EFSI) needs to be underpinned by an ambitious investment strategy and industrial policy focusing on key priorities: KETS (key enabling technologies) projects, energy transition, digital and logistical infrastructures, urban renovation, social and health investments and cultural and creative industries as mentioned above. The investment platforms need to become innovation platforms and involve the relevant partners, enterprises including both large ones and SMEs, as well as R&D institutions and promotional banks. They also need to reach a European scale by organising transnational consortia covering several Member States of diverse level of competitiveness in order to strengthen production chains across Europe.

To complement the above investment plan, national and European public budgets need to be granted more room to invest in other strategic priorities that should be considered as European common goods, such as universal access to lifelong learning, defence and security, support to development and migration management in the European neighbourhoods. Finally, the Eurozone must be reformed to become the central engine driving such changes.

### ADAPTING OUR BUDGET PRIORITIES AT NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN LEVELS

The EU budget needs to be redirected to the new needs of the European project. Supporting European cohesion and competitiveness should remain central objectives, but other priorities must also be addressed, notably defence and security, neighbourhood development, managing immigration and re-skilling European citizens. In this context, the CAP budget should be reconsidered to address sustainable development goals in more comprehensive terms. The re-alignment of the Community budget towards new priorities should be underpinned by changing the income structure with a higher share of own resources replacing national contributions. To



this end, new own resources with EU-wide bases, used for the financing of EU-wide common goods, should be considered. European and national budgets should be thought in synergy to leverage the impact of public expenditure and avoid redundancy.

## A BUDGET OF A DEMOCRATIC EUROZONE

Without clear steps towards a Eurozone budget, the Eurozone will remain a space of systemic divergence undermining growth and global competitiveness as well as political support.

As Member States are committed to more stringent fiscal discipline, they should count on a Eurozone budget with different purposes:

- allowing automatic stabilisation in case of asymmetric shocks;
- favouring reforms and investments leading to upward economic and social convergence;
- providing European common goods (European strategic investments: defence, refugees integration...).

The first objective can be realized via the non-used potential of the current European Stability Mechanism. The last two objectives should be addressed by a new instrument to be included in the Community budget.

In addition, we recommend a better governance of Eurozone. In the very short term, Eurozone summits of heads of state and governments should be reinstated.

We also recommend a proper democratic control system for the Eurozone. It goes without saying that the Eurozone needs a new democratic governance granting common interests, transparency and efficiency.

## A EUROPEAN DEPOSIT INSURANCE SCHEME TO INCREASE CITIZENS' TRUST AND STABILITY

Finally achieving step by step the three pillars of the Banking Union should be a priority. For the citizens, its benefits in terms of confidence should be clear. In this respect, we recommend to set up a European Deposit Insurance Scheme and a sufficiently robust fiscal backstop. Deposit granting is a major concern for citizens and it will contribute to facilitate financial stability in the euro area.



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## SOCIAL PILLAR SECURING WORKERS

### A BASIC COMMON SECURITY THROUGHOUT OUR LIVES

New social rights and freedoms must be reinvented to enable all European citizens to cope with change while counting on basic security throughout their lives.

Reducing inequalities and supporting social participation and social dialogue is a fundamental condition to make the European project appeal again to citizens whose working lives are being deeply transformed by global competition and by technological change, notably the digital and Intelligence artificial revolution. The principle of equality of European citizens regarding European law should also include fundamental social rights and freedoms to be restated by a European Social Pillar.

With online platforms emerging in all sectors, welfare systems and labour market regulations need to be updated. Mobility, as a freedom, should be underpinned by a common set of transferable social rights.

This Social Pillar must ensure all those working, whatever kind of job or sector, can count a clear labour contract with fundamental rights as well as access to social protection. All employees should have a personal activity account where social entitlements to social protection or lifelong learning can be accumulated, as well as a European Social Security Card to increase transparency and transferability of accumulated rights to social protection. These instruments should also be extended to entrepreneurs and self-employed.

### SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE SHOULD BE THOUGHT TOGETHER

Furthermore, the social pillar should become an integral part of the economic governance: Europeans should not only better coordinate their economic and fiscal policies but also their social policies. The European Social Pillar should be translated into social targets to counterbalance economic targets when economic and social policies are defined or corrected at national and European levels. A Convergence code should make these targets even more precise for the Eurozone to prevent its Member States from competing through a reduction of welfare systems rather than by investing in the future. Divergence must be replaced by upward economic and social convergence.

The European social model despite its diversity has been since the beginning of the European project, one of the essential common values of the integration process. Today, this European social model is challenged not only by globalisation but also by the very broad technological transformations that produce both winners and losers and so inequality is on a rise in most of EU Member States, having not only a negative impact but above all, a political one.



The Fourth Industrial revolution has a growing impact on employment, on skills and on the organisation of work. A 'Digital Union' surely is an indispensable but not sufficient goal if we want innovative industries and business to flourish in the EU in order to create jobs. But this 'Digital Union' has to ensure that the social dimension is fully taken into account. In previous industrial revolutions, changes automatically created new jobs and huge productivity gains were redistributed in salaries. This virtuous circle is not certain to work anymore. A real reflection on the value creation repartition should be conducted to grant the cohesion of our societies but also our capacity to reform and change. The new ways of working should guarantee a level of security in terms of social and labour rights. The benefits and productivity gains of this fourth industrial revolution have to be equitably distributed.

Social dialogue as well as collective bargaining are fundamental elements of Europe's social model. Technological innovation should go hand in hand with social innovation, supported by policy of social investments. Inclusive growth reducing political impact by reconciling citizens who have lost trust in the European idea with a European Union committed to prosperity for all.

### A SPECIAL FOCUS SHOULD BE PUT ON YOUNGER GENERATIONS

They need to count on the European Social Pillar to make the best of the lives of youth in getting career and personal guidance, access to differentiated skills, support for job search, decent working conditions, access to housing, health services and social protection wherever they may choose to move.

Investing in children must also be a central priority of the European way of life underpinned by the Social Pillar: all children must be given universal access to proper education and health. Parents, both women and men, must be able to count on paid leaves and time flexibility to achieve good work life balance. Professional care services, including for the elderly can create millions of new jobs in Europe but will also create the time for parents to raise their children with stronger personal involvement.

The Youth Guarantee must be improved and reinforced. It is crucial to invest in our youth and its competencies, if we want to ensure young Europeans a smooth access to the labour market. By allowing a better cooperation between educational institutions, public and private employment services, youth NGOs and the social partners, the Youth Guarantee is a concrete European tool that requires further funding in order to be sustainable in all European territories that need such a scheme.

### THE SKILLS GUARANTEE, A NEW SOCIAL RIGHT FOR ALL EUROPEANS

A comprehensive skills strategy supported by EU funding is needed to train and retrain the workforce for the changing jobs. The Skills Guarantee needs to turn into a new social right for the 21st century for all European citizens, ensuring a free and regular update of skills, notably digital ones, for sustainable development or for European citizenship. New trends in the labour market, and particularly the gig economy, can create lots of new jobs and increase the transitions between them.



Active aging, by adapting working and living conditions should also be a key feature of the modern European way of life. Extended active lives should be supported to exchange experience between generations, sustain social protection for all, and use the potential of the senior generation to develop common goods for sustainable development goals: lifelong learning for all, town participatory governance, resources management, etc.



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## FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SECURITY & MIGRATION PILLAR ASSUMING OUR RESPONSIBILITIES FOR A BETTER WORLD

### TIME TO ASSUME OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

The multilateral system and international organisations are weakened by a continuously evolving global context, in which, alliances between democracies are diminished, and where Europeans must give themselves the means to ensure security, defence and protection to their citizens. The challenges that Europeans face today – for instance in the fields of terrorism, migration, economic globalisation, energy and climate change ignore national borders and call for an effective and united Europe. Member States are unable to tackle these issues alone. The security of the European continent needs efforts to be uplifted if we want to reinstate and modernise the global multilateral system so that we can manage conflicts and current and upcoming challenges.

In a world of unpredictability and uncertainty, we need to combine soft power to hard power - hard power conditioning the impact of soft power - and achieve consequently a U-turn in Security and Defence. Loose coordination among Member States is not enough and leads to both budgetary and operational inefficiencies. Integration is a must. Europe can no longer be anything more than a funder of humanitarian actions and crisis management operations. We must take on our global responsibility without delay.

### A SECURITY AND DEFENCE UNION TO PROTECT EUROPEANS

We therefore propose a Security and Defence Union to be established around four core tasks:

First, the reinforcement of the internal security conditions the free movement that citizens wish for themselves. Member States must also respect their engagement in matter of police and justice cooperation: reinforcing information exchange of police (Europol), justice (Eurojust) and intelligence services.

In addition, the creation of a genuine European Cyber-Security Agency is indispensable. Its mission: to detect, prevent and respond to cyber-attacks on Member States but also guarantee the confidentiality and security of our data. Putting at risk our networks and on EU critical infrastructures could potentially disrupt the entire functioning of our democracies. Attacks are often simultaneous and multi-national. The threats are volatile and permanent and could potentially offset the positive externalities of the digitalisation of the economy. The Union should also heavily invest in cyber-skills, software and hardware to reduce our external dependencies. The Union should also take the leadership for codifying the international framework for internet stability: cyber is yet the next strategic battlefield.

We ask for a precise roadmap to achieve these objectives.



Second, it is time to create robust a European Defence Force, supported by a European military and civil Headquarter, able to be quickly deployed in the direct neighbourhood of Europe to protect the most exposed countries but also intervene to protect our citizens. In the current geopolitical context, and even though a European coordination within NATO is crucial, the Union cannot only exclusively rely on NATO as its unique security provider. The Union needs to swiftly complete its own security architecture. Today we only deploy 5 000 troops under the European flag, whereas we have 1,5 million of military staff in Europe and while we face a very high threat level. This situation cannot last anymore.

In this respect, a key step is the establishment of a European Defence Fund to both catalyse the joint development and acquisition of defence equipment and enable the deployment of future EU military operations. The principle of European preference for Acquiring defence equipment is fundamental.

A second step is a common understanding of the challenges we have to face. To develop a common culture and vision, we propose:

- the creation of a Defence and diplomatic academy;
- a European centre for forecast and analysis of the international context;
- the redaction of a strategic White-paper, including the review of the overall global context assessment, alliances and the development of a soft-power influence plan.

Its redaction should associate citizens in the framework of the thematic civic conventions. Such a process could be launched the latest at the end of this year.

In addition, Europeans need to be able to answer transnational crises inside and outside the Union at a reasonable cost with a much better impact. These crises can be of different origin such as tsunami, earthquakes, fires, floods, terrorist attempts...

In this respect, we recommend the implementation of an operational European civil protection force.

## MIGRATIONS

A proper European management of the EU external borders is an essential expectation of European citizens. We need a robust European Coast-Guard Agency able to execute border management missions on its own and to better support front-line Member States in the management of massive influx of migrants. Yet, we do not believe in a walled Europe.

We therefore need an effective European asylum policy, managed by a European Asylum management Agency in charge of:

- (i) collecting and handling the asylum application,
- (ii) relocating of asylum applicants according to the targets, and ensuring a fair burden sharing considering also fiscal contributions,
- (iii) supporting financially and technically local authorities willing to host refugees and local structures and NGOs facilitating the integration of asylum seekers.

In complement, we also suggest to create an EU Migrations and Integration Council that will:

- (i) define and analyse upcoming challenges on the medium and long run in matter of



- refugees, migrations and integration,
- (ii) help sharing a common understanding of these challenges,
- (iii) identify best practices.

## TOWARDS A GLOBAL AND TRANSFORMATIVE POWER

Such a Security and Defence Union will strengthen the credibility of the European Union foreign policy that is needed to promote European interests and values at its borders, its neighbourhood and throughout the world.

A pacific global power policy is indispensable. It must be based on:

- a common diplomatic culture,
- a strategic reviewing of the international situation,
- a rethinking of our alliances,
- a soft power program.

Four major goals should be assigned to this renewed European enlargement and foreign policy:

**Stabilizing our neighborhood and support it** in its democratic and growth development. Special focus should be put not only to our Eastern and Mediterranean neighborhood but also towards the African continent which constitutes a challenge but also a major opportunity for Europe;

**Rehabilitating and modernizing the multilateral system** to better prevent / manage conflicts and tackle present and future challenges, notably advancing the sustainable development agenda; the EU strategic partnerships with global players and macro-regions should be used with the same purpose.

**Giving a new impulse to our commercial strategy** based upon trade agreements favoring the promotion of upward social, security, safety and environmental standards and better including citizens in their preparation.

**Enhancing and strengthening our enlargement policy** by being more ambitious in order to successfully achieve the proper implementation of the Copenhagen criteria's in the candidate countries. This must be based on a fair conditionality with a mutual and comprehensive dialogue and commitment towards an effective adherence to and transposition of European values, principles and rules in candidate countries. This will demonstrate the EU's transformative power and ensure the necessary political and economic reforms in candidate countries. The continuation of the enlargement process, especially in the Western Balkans, remains a key geo-political and security concern for the EU. We are aware that this is a long term process, which goes hand in hand with institutional strengthening and more effective decision-making.

In these uncertain times, where a clash of nationalisms might come back, the European Union must remain a central reference to promote a global order based on the fundamental values, multilevel democracy and international cooperation. The world is also expecting this message to come from the Rome Summit.



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